Our vision

An exceptional state because we look after our natural capital.

Our purpose

To help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper.

Our roles

To achieve our purpose we’ve adopted four complementary roles:

• A facilitator of community involvement in and taking responsibility for the environment.

• A steward of the state’s natural resources to enable sustainable development.

• The custodian of public parks, gardens, heritage places and crown lands for public benefit and enjoyment, and for their intrinsic value.

• An authority on the state’s environment and natural resources to help governments, businesses and individuals make good long-term decisions.

Sustainable management of water resources in South Australia supports irrigated agriculture worth $1.43 billion and mining development of $4.4 billion annually.

25% of SA’s landmass is managed by DEWNR.

At least once a year, 2 out of 3 South Australians visit a botanic garden, and 60% visit a national park.

60,000 South Australians volunteer each year on natural resource management projects.

To conserve, sustain and prosper.
Our approach

For our vision to be achieved, people need to be able to make a living in ways that enhance rather than diminish our natural capital. To be sustainable and prosperous as a community we must balance people’s needs with those of nature. If we get this balance right, the land, water, plants and animals of our state will endure in a way that can benefit the whole community, now and into the future.

In South Australia we have a unique system of natural resources management boards that work in partnership with us to fulfil our roles and deliver services across eight natural resource management regions. They are community boards made up of people with local knowledge, expertise and networks - people who understand their community’s needs.

Through the boards, we develop meaningful relationships with the community and increase our shared knowledge and understanding about natural resources. We encourage debate and share the decision-making and accountability for choices made.
Our strategic context

Our work is guided by the current and future needs and priorities of the State’s citizens. These needs and priorities are expressed through government priorities, legislative and policy mandate and direct input from affected communities.
Our values

Guided by the values shared across government, and the public sector code of ethics, we have chosen to emphasise and pursue four values that shape how we work as an organisation:

1. **We believe that people matter**
   - We treat each other, our customers and partners with respect and openness. We recognise the special role of Aboriginal people as first people, and seek to increase the recognition and use of their traditional knowledge. We will keep people safe and healthy in our workplaces.

2. **We are collaborative, and believe in teamwork**
   - We understand that working together will result in better and more enduring solutions. We get the best results through seeking out alternative perspectives, building trust with colleagues and partners, and collaborating genuinely.

3. **We participate and learn from doing**
   - We are active participants within our organisation and in the communities we serve. We always ask how we can do better, and learn from our experiences.

4. **We get the right things done**
   - All of our work is designed to have the most impact. We do the things we say we are going to do, and we make a difference.

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Our priorities for 2014-16

1. **Meet our obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan and keep other jurisdictions honest and accountable in meeting their obligations.**

2. **Ensure that the impacts of climate change are considered in the development of public policy across all of government.**

3. **Bridge the gap between farmers, local government and the natural resource management system.**

4. **Overhaul the water allocation planning process to make it simpler, quicker and more pragmatic.**

5. **Increase public support for, and involvement in the new marine parks network.**

6. **Build internal and external support for greater public awareness, access, enjoyment and benefit of our national parks, reserves and botanic gardens.**

7. **Deliver the government’s election commitments.**

8. **Improve the prescribed burning program through productivity gains in technology, equipment and the deployment of staff.**

9. **Achieve our budget savings.**

10. **Build on our foundations to achieve outstanding organisational performance, by living our values and concentrating on a few important actions.**
What we do

**Sustainability**
- Ensure the management of natural resources is sustainable
- Ensure that animals are treated humanely
- Help South Australia prepare for climate change

**Water**
- Manage water for economy, society and environment
- Deliver a healthy working River Murray

**Parks and public assets**
- Curate high quality Botanic Gardens
- Improve management of public and listed assets
- Enhance visitor experiences at parks and places
- Help mitigate the impacts of bushfires

**Corporate**
- Achieve a modern and effective organisation

**Our programs**
- Strategic planning and statewide policy for natural resources
- Administration of native vegetation legislation
- Administration of coast protection legislation
- Administration of pastoral land legislation
- Administration of wildlife legislation
- Delivery of NRM programs
- Statewide policy and administration of climate change legislation
- Delivery of climate change programs
- Administration of animal welfare and cat and dog management legislation
- Animal welfare regulatory services
- Delivery of water programs
- Delivery of River Murray programs and operations
- Contribution to MDBA
- Administration of built heritage legislation
- Management of the State Herbarium
- Science and knowledge management and coordination
- Strategic planning and business development for the Botanic Gardens
- Botanic Gardens maintenance and visitor services

**Our goals**
- Ensure the management of natural resources is sustainable
- Ensure that animals are treated humanely
- Help South Australia prepare for climate change
- Manage water for economy, society and environment
- Deliver a healthy working River Murray
- Curate high quality Botanic Gardens
- Improve management of public and listed assets
- Enhance visitor experiences at parks and places
- Help mitigate the impacts of bushfires

**Our services**
- Regional NRM governance, planning and evaluation
- Strategic planning and statewide policy for natural resources
- Administration of native vegetation legislation
- Administration of coast protection legislation
- Administration of pastoral land legislation
- Administration of wildlife legislation
- Delivery of NRM programs
- Statewide policy and administration of climate change legislation
- Delivery of climate change programs
- Administration of animal welfare and cat and dog management legislation
- Animal welfare regulatory services
- Delivery of water programs
- Delivery of River Murray programs and operations
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- Science and knowledge management and coordination
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**Our outcomes**
- People taking responsibility for their environment
- People benefitting from their use of and interaction with the environment
- Sustainable management and productive use of land, water, sea and air
- Improved condition of the natural environment
How we work

Strong teams and great collaboration are central to the way we work. We have put in place five principles to inspire and equip all staff to think and act as one team.

Share the big picture
Everyone and every team knows and plays their part in a bigger picture.

Share the reality
We are open and honest about what is happening.

Share the air
Everyone gets a chance to contribute.

Share the wins and losses
Win, lose and learn together.

Share the load
We all do our fair share together.