

Mid Murray Landcare SA Strategic Plan 2021



Mid Murray
Landcare
SA

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Executive Summary

The Mid Murray Region is endowed with significant natural resources and makes a notable contribution to both Regional and State economies.

The 2021 Mid Murray Landcare SA Strategic Plan is an update of the 2016 Strategic Plan, it is in part a blueprint for an ecologically and economically sustainable future. It has been developed by the Mid Murray Landcare Committee.

This plan is a continuation of the excellent work of the Mid Murray Local Action Planning committee and addresses key issues crucial to the Environmental Management of the Region and the strategies that are needed to address these issues. It encourages partnerships with interested groups and a direct investment of time, money and resources from local communities, industry, Local, State and Federal Governments.

This plan will be reviewed in 2026.

Background

The Murray-Darling Basin has over 1.8 million inhabitants, covers approximately 1/7 of Australia's mainland and encompasses all the ACT and parts of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

The Basin's natural resources provide a wide range of social, economic, and environmental benefits, however past and present land and water management practices have led to a slow but steady decline in the Basin's health, with the natural systems, and the myriad of life it once supported, now in crisis.

Local Planning

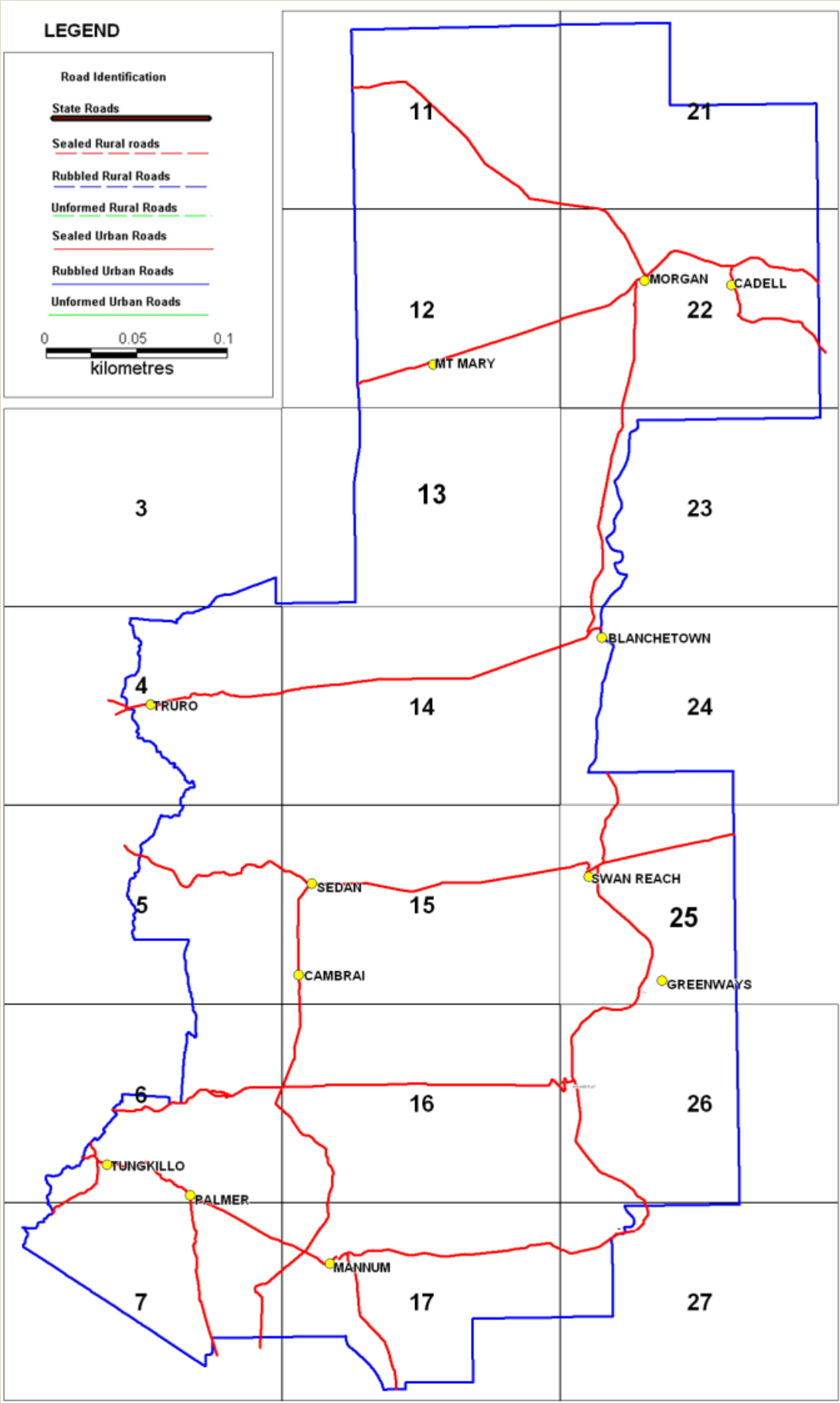
The complexity and interrelated nature of the issues in the Basin means it is not possible to isolate or focus upon single issues, but it is essential to ensure that any efforts to rectify them are orderly and coordinated.

In the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin, such an approach is orchestrated through a community driven initiative known as Local Action Planning (LAP) and provides an opportunity for anyone with an interest in the future health of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin to become involved.

The LAP process was established along the River Murray in early 1996. A Murray-Darling Basin Commission initiative, LAP enables communities, industry, and government to work together to address the big issues of environmental degradation in the Basin and help ensure that regional planning initiatives are translated into on ground action.

Mid Murray Landcare SA, which formally changed names on the 8th of April 2016, continues to build on this philosophy today.

Mid Murray Landcare SA Region



Communication Pathways

Mid Murray Landcare SA Webpages

- Mid Murray Landcare SA
- Meldanda
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

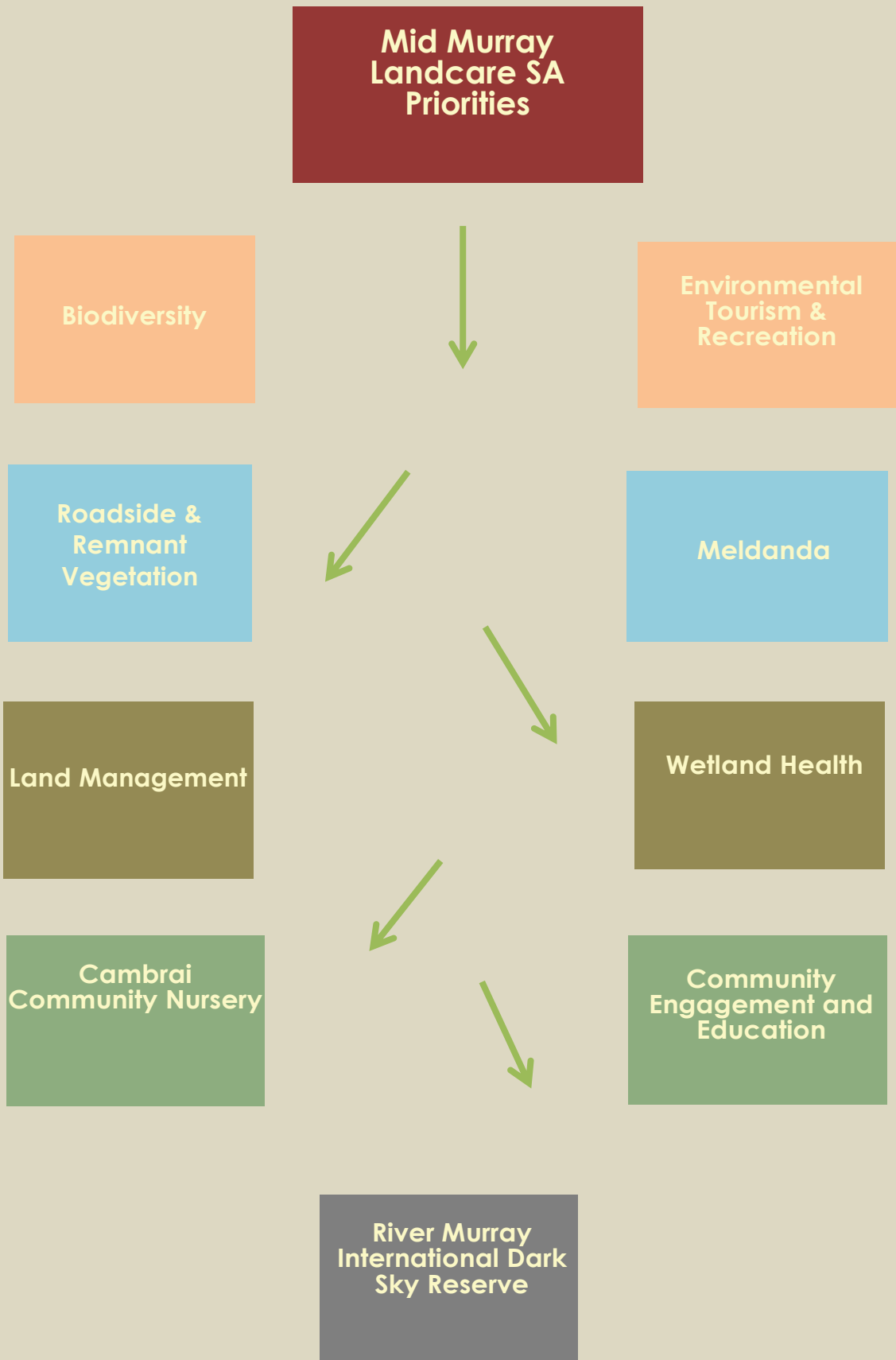
Social media

- Mid Murray Landcare SA Facebook page
- Meldanda Facebook page
- Dark Sky Reserve Facebook page
- Bats for Biodiversity Facebook page
- Western Pygmy Possum Facebook page

Other

- Email network to inform of monthly activities of group, flyers of upcoming workshops.
- Mid Murray Council Newsletter and other groups







Biodiversity

Concentrate efforts on rare and endangered species and habitats as well as the general health of the natural environment.

Goal:

Continue to increase community skills, knowledge and participation to protect 'rare and endangered plants and animals.

- Engage the community to undertake 'rare and endangered plant and bird' surveys.
- Promote citizen science projects like Echidna CSI app, Turtle Tracker.
- Support projects and workshops with community and school groups
- Supporting the Spiny Daisy Recovery Team and translocation site at Meldanda
- Supporting the Regent Parrot Recovery Team and its projects
- Seek funding and resources to continue protecting nature reserves in the region.
- Support field identification and other educational workshops at nature reserves
- Support other groups and organisations in this region and individuals to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Actions:

Engage the community to become involved in activities to help protect but not excluded to.

- Brushtail and Western Pygmy Possums
- Murray Darling Carpet Pythons and other reptiles
- Echidnas
- Microbats
- Regent Parrots and other listed birds

Desired Outcome:

- Greater awareness and protection of native plants and animals.
- Increased preservation of remnant or ecologically significant ecosystems which support biodiversity.
- Greater understanding/appreciation of the region's native plants and animals



ROADSIDE AND REMNANT VEGETATION

Concentrate Efforts on Areas of Higher Significance including areas adjacent to Water and Nature Reserves

Goal:

- Protect and enhance natural roadside vegetation and nature reserves.

Actions:

- Work with the Mid Murray Council to improve the management of roadside vegetation.
- Works with the Mid Murray Council to protect and enhance native vegetation corridors from the Ranges to large tracts of Mallee and/or the river.
- Work with Mid Murray Council to educate Council staff and landowners about weeds, rabbits, wombats, off road vehicles, motorbikes, value of fallen branches as habitat.
- Support landholders and council staff with native vegetation enquiries

Desired Outcome:

- Preservation of natural roadside vegetation and enhancement of vegetation corridors from the Ranges to the Mallee
- Greater understanding/appreciation of roadside vegetation by landholders, community, and roadside workers
- Support the Council to implement the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, increase number of roadside protected areas and the management of weeds.



LAND MANAGEMENT

Goal

- Promote and support sustainable land use to address issues of overgrazing, pest plant and animal control, crop suitability and appropriate irrigation methods.

Actions:

- Identify and promote training/land management programs on crop suitability, innovative crops, farming without chemicals, grazing management, land carrying capacity, irrigation.
- Promote current regional programs and officers who could support control of foxes, cats, goats, rabbits, and weeds.
- Encourage landowners to fence creeks and manage stock along creek lines.
- Seek financial incentives to support landholders with biodiversity plantings, shelter belts, windbreaks, and creek lines.
- Support landholders with projects to increase farm biodiversity and production –
- Support Saltbush planting projects with landholders to prevent soil erosion and increase production.
- Support and promote workshops to landholders to improve land management.
- Support other projects like the "Irongrass Native Grasslands Project" that seek to protect grasslands and inform land managers through the establishment of trials and educational workshops.
- Support other groups and organisations in this region and others to promote sustainable land use.

Desired Outcome

- More sustainable land management that prevents soil erosion, particularly along creek lines
- Low input systems that reduce the volume of chemicals used
- A more coordinated and integrated approach to pest plant and animal control
- No stock grazing in Remnant Vegetation or creek lines



Cambrai Community Nursery

Provide local native plants to increase local diversity and increase food, habitat, and shelter for native fauna.

Goal

- To support volunteers in activities at the Cambrai Community Nursery,
- Provide affordable tubestock for landholders and groups.
- Deliver workshops to educate the community.
- Explore opportunities to expand in other locations.

Actions

- Provide a safe and happy working environment for volunteers and staff.
- Support the delivery of workshops to educate the community on a variety of topics.
- Support seed collection activities for propagating at nursery
- Support other groups and organisations in this region or other individuals with revegetation projects
- Propagate local native tubestock with volunteers and assist landholders and groups in species selection for their projects.
- Seek funds when possible, to support activities at the nursery.

Desired Outcome

- That the Cambrai Community Nursery is recognized as a place where community can come together to learn about our natural environment, seek advice on plant species and purchase affordable tubestock.



Environmental Tourism and Recreation

Protecting our Natural Environment

Goal:

- Protect and promote our natural environment for recreational users.

Actions:

- Encourage and promote sustainable recreational use in partnership with Murraylands Tourism and local Progress Associations and private landholders, including Cycle Trek, Horse and Walking Trails, Kayaking, bird watching, Reserves and Boardwalks.
- Collaborate with state and federal governments to educate recreational users.
- Collaborate with state and federal governments to provide additional suitable areas for recreation.
- Educate recreational users in appropriate procurement and use of firewood.
- Work in partnership with relevant authorities to develop and implement revegetation projects along riverbanks to prevent erosion from recreational water activities including wakeboarding, jet skiing and houseboats.
- Support the Mid Murray Council Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Support other groups and organisations in this region and individuals to protect our natural environment.
- Seek funding and resources to continue protecting nature reserves in the region.
- Support field identification and other educational workshops at nature reserves

Desired Outcome:

- Protection of our natural environment in cooperation with recreational users



Meldanda

Environmental education and awareness

Goal:

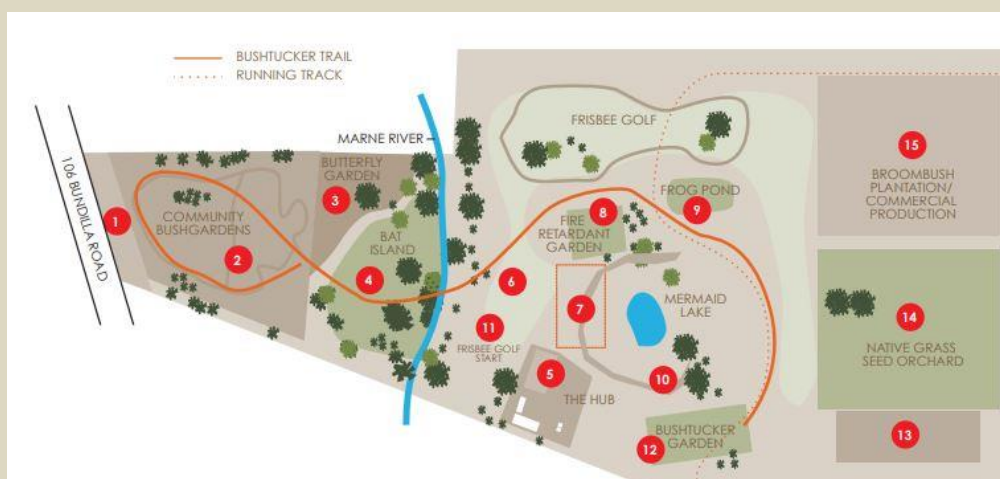
- Manage and maintain Meldanda on behalf of the Cambrai School Governing Council for environmental education and a camp site.
- To be financially self-sustaining
- Provide a varied recreation experience to encourage more tourism or use of site.

Actions:

- Continue to work with volunteers, Cambrai Primary School, and the Mid Murray Council to advance, promote and care for the Meldanda site.
- Promote Meldanda to the broader community to increase its use.
- Support the Spiny Daisy Recovery Team, monitor and maintain translocation site.
- Promote the use of native grasses in gardens and production systems.
- Explore opportunities for funding and project support.
- Promote the use of the Meldanda to observe and learn about the night sky.
- Collaborate with like-minded organisations.

Desired Outcome:

- To have Meldanda self-funded and increased capacity of accommodation options
- To have Meldanda as a place of choice for environmental education and camps.





River and Wetland Health

Promote and support projects that encourage improved biodiversity and health of our rivers, creeks, and wetlands.

Goal:

- To monitor, maintain and improve the health of our wetlands and river systems.

Actions:

- Support monitoring of frogs, tree health, groundwater, surface water, plant surveys, fish surveys, birds, photo points to better inform management actions.
- Support community education workshops to improve wetland health.
- Support delivery of weed control if funding available.
- Elimination of pests including feral animals and fish.
- Implement wetting and drying cycles at managed wetlands to maintain wetland health in conjunction with relevant organisations.
- Explore biological control options for feral species, support the National Carp Control Plan
- Work in partnership with other programs including TurtleSAT Community Program
- Support Water for Nature projects.
- Support other groups and organisations in this region and others to improve the biodiversity and health of wetlands and the river.
- Support the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc. to implement wetland management plan and other projects at the Swan Reach Wetland Complex.

Desired Outcomes:

- Improving natural biodiversity by maintaining wetland health at wetland sites
- Engaging landholders and community in wetland monitoring and other projects that improve the health of wetlands.



River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

Protect the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve (RMIDSR) for current & future generations to experience the unspoilt beauty of the night sky in a natural setting.

Goal:

- Support the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve Committee
- Maintain the accreditation of the RMIDSR.
- Protect the naturally dark environment of the Reserve and the flora and fauna that depend on it.
- Stimulate economic opportunities and facilities that capitalise on the unique potential of the Reserve.
- Advocate for the reduction of light pollution in this non-polluted rural region and surrounding areas
- Promote ownership, connection, awareness, and pride in the value of the dark sky among the Reserve community.
- Keep the Mid Murray Landcare Committee and local community informed of activities.

Actions:

- Continue to work with volunteers, Mid Murray Council, schools, and organisations to advance, promote and maintain the RMIDSR.
- Support the RMIDSR committee to promote the reserve and support the maintenance of websites and social media platforms.
- Explore opportunities for funding to support objectives of the RMIDSR Committee.

Desired Outcome:

- To maintain Dark Sky accreditation and make the Reserve darker.

PARTNERS, ALLIANCES & LINKAGES

Strategic Alliances

- Mid Murray Council
- Native Vegetation Council
- Murraylands Tourism
- Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated
- Aboriginal Lands Trust
- South Australia Police
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Trees for Life
- Greening Australia
- Australasian Bat Society
- Astronomical Society of South Australia
- International Dark Sky Association
- Recreational Fishing
- All Schools

Local Leverage

- Community Groups and Progress Associations
- Wetland Groups
- Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc
- Cambrai Primary School
- Swan Reach Area School
- Blanchetown Primary School
- Scout groups
- Private Land Conservation Groups and Landholders

Funding Partners

- Landscape SA

Cross – Regional Linkages

- Local Action Planning and Landcare groups
- Goolwa to Wellington LAP
- Murray Mallee Landholders
- Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Regent Parrot Recovery Team
- Spiny Daisy Recovery Team
- Seeding Natives Incorporated