



# Annual Report

# Ngadlu Kaurna miyurna tampintheta. Parna yarta mathanya puki-unangku.

We acknowledge and pay our deepest respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters on which we operate, the Elders past present and emerging.

All South Australians who feel connected to this beautiful country must be grateful for our Traditional Owners who continue to share stories, and walk with us on the long road towards reconciliation.

As we strive to protect and enhance South Australia's nature, Conservation SA commits to listening better, learning more and working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure a just and sustainable future for all.

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# CEO's Message

This year has certainly tested our resilience and resolve. The planet is showing unmistakable signs of stress; with persistent Algal Blooms impacting nature and restricting access to some of our most wild and beautiful coastal spaces, sea surface temperatures far exceeding expectations and remaining higher for longer, and early signs of drought taking hold once again – all a sobering reminder of how climate impacts ripple through our landscapes and communities.

In moments like these, it can be easy to feel frustration at the slow pace of change. Yet as I reflect on the year that's been, I am filled with gratitude, hope and determination. Our collective strength – our staff, members, volunteers, and community – continues to inspire me. Together, we are more powerful than ever, and our shared achievements this year are proof of that.

We convened some of Adelaide's most influential leaders for a roundtable to share our vision for a new Sustainability Hub in the heart of the city and to establish a new home for Conservation SA and our members. We took to the streets to stand up for the Murray Darling Basin, amplifying the voices of those fighting for fair water use and healthy rivers. We empowered our grassroots organisations to host public candidate forums in the lead up to the federal election – making it clear that climate cannot and must not be ignored.

We also championed stronger nature laws, welcoming the introduction of a new Biodiversity Act for South Australia. Our sector played a pivotal role in shaping this reform – submitting the greatest number of submissions to the Act, a powerful demonstration that we cannot be ignored.

**“Together, we are more powerful than ever, and our achievements this year are proof of that”**

The people of South Australia have made it clear that they care deeply about nature and expect those that are impacting it to be held to account.

These are not small wins – they are proof of what's possible when we stand together for nature. Our movement continues to influence outcomes that matter, and we should take pride in that. BUT we know the task ahead is greater still, so to meet it, we will continue to grow – to build a broad, united coalition of people, determined to protect our future.



**Kirsty Bevan**

Chief Executive Officer

Conservation Council SA

# Fires, floods, droughts, extreme heat and algae: the effects of the climate crisis are here, on our doorstep.

An urgent and powerful movement is emerging: a broad coalition of people determined to protect our future.

This movement of people is diffuse and struggles to influence political processes that remain dominated by the colonial mindset, of seeing nature as a resource to be exploited.

There are many individuals who care but are disconnected, unsure who to turn to, who to trust or where to invest their energy. They may be feeling generalised eco-anxiety or tuning out because they don't know where to go.

At the same time, new and diverse groups have arisen to complement existing environmental organisations. These range from parents to doctors, and school children to business leaders, but in South Australia they largely operate independently.

**Now is the time to come together.**

# A healthy, biologically rich, and environmentally sustainable South Australia

powered by a vibrant, interconnected movement of communities, leaders, and partners, grounded in justice and aligned for long-term climate and nature resilience.

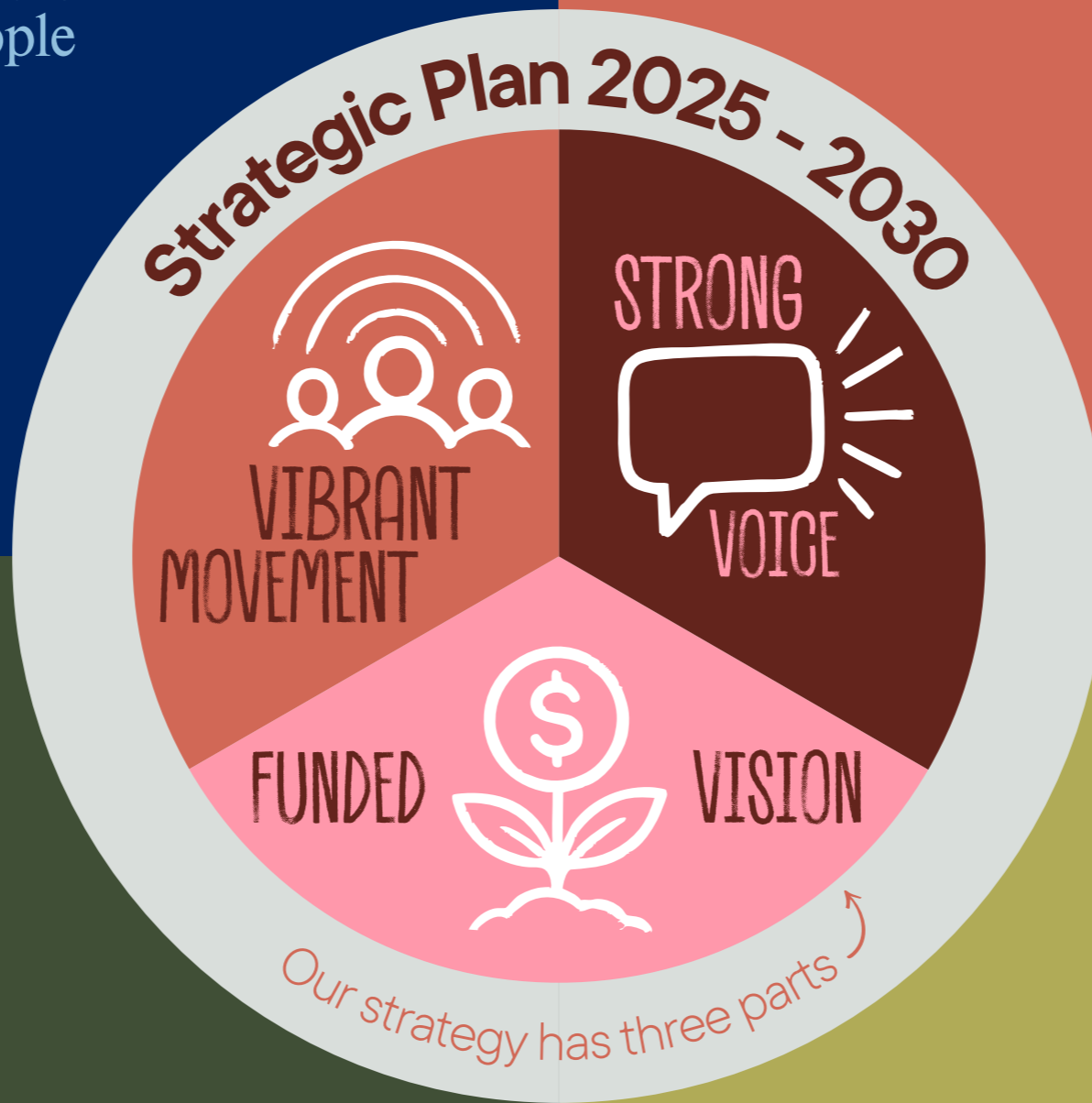
# Conservation SA is uniquely positioned to weave together SA's many voices for nature, uniting communities, cultures, and generations into a more powerful, connected, and vibrant movement.

Conservation Council SA was founded to serve the 'true believer' environment sector, powered by a community of energetic and caring elders.

We are proud of that history, but as the times change, so have we. Our community now includes people of all ages and backgrounds — professionals, farmers, young leaders, Traditional Custodians, artists, and advocates

— all recognising that as Indigenous Wisdom has long told us, we are not protecting nature, we are a part of nature, protecting itself.

In our founding, it was recognised that a collective voice is a powerful voice. Fifty years down the track, we now have the opportunity to add more voices than ever before to our vibrant chorus, mobilising and supporting much greater numbers for much greater impact.



# To ignite and nurture a powerful, connected environment movement across South Australia

one that inspires, unites, and empowers diverse communities, to reshape our shared ambition, and story, and to take action on both climate, and conservation.

# Impact Report 24/25

SUBMISSIONS SUBMITTED 28

MEMBER GROUPS FORMED THE COUNCIL 47

180 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS IN 2025

OVER 450 BOOKINGS AT THE JOINERY

48 EVENTS DELIVERED BY GCSA

343 PARTICIPANTS IN REEFWATCH EVENTS

## Our campaigns

Climate action

Protecting nature

Caring for coast and sea

Healthy rivers

Living sustainably

Peak body/sector advocacy

# Climate action

Climate action remained at the heart of our work this year. South Australians know what is at stake — our wildlife, our landscapes, our way of life.

Our state has shown the nation what is possible through bold leadership in renewable energy, but leadership must be renewed, not rested upon.



While South Australia's clean energy achievements are a source of immense pride, the net zero targets proposed in the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024*, failed to match the ambition now set by other states and territories.

## The climate crisis demands urgency.

Conservation SA played a key role in shuttling between the Greens and the Labor Government to deliver several constructive legislative amendments to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024*, introduced to Parliament in August 2024, including:

- Requiring the reporting of emissions in annual reports by public sector agencies
- Elevating principles of transparency and public reporting into the Objects of the Act
- That the register of sector emissions reduction agreements be made a public register
- That the Department of Premier and Cabinet must ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the Premiers Climate Change Council to enable the Council to perform its functions under the Act.

The Act passed Parliament in March 2025.

We also campaigned for stronger laws to combat climate change, calling for:

- A more ambitious net zero target — by at least 2045, with our position remaining net zero by 2040 or sooner
- A ban on new residential gas connections from 1 January 2026, following Victoria's lead and honouring Labor's existing commitment to end mandatory gas in new developments
- Permanent protection for Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park, through upgraded proclamation to exclude future oil, gas and mining leases.

These asks were backed by powerful public advocacy and growing recognition of the need for real climate leadership.

## Community leadership shone brightly.

Our dedicated advisor and advocate Joanna Wells was nominated as a finalist in the SA Climate Leaders Awards for her tireless work protecting Adelaide's vital tree canopy. Tree cover is not just amenity — it is critical climate adaptation infrastructure. Through public meetings, media action, rallies, signage, lobbying and co-authorship of influential reports, our campaign helped build unstoppable momentum — resulting in new laws to protect South Australia's urban trees.

## We mobilised across the state and nation, including:

- A snap rally as part of the National Day of Action opposing gas expansion in the North West — standing in solidarity with conservation councils across Australia
- Community climate election forums in key federal electorates — two in Sturt and one in Boothby — giving voters the chance to directly question candidates and demand stronger action on climate and environment

Our message was clear: South Australians will not settle for half-measures. We expect courage from our leaders — and when it falters, we organise.

In 2026, we will push even harder. With state and federal policies still falling short of what climate science demands, we will escalate our advocacy, strengthen alliances across the community and continue amplifying the voices of those who refuse to accept a compromised future. The movement is growing — and we intend to keep it unstoppable.

# Protecting nature

Nature underpins life — our air, our water, our health, our identity. Yet across South Australia, ecosystems have been under relentless pressure from development, invasive species and weak legislative protection.

This year, we focused our efforts on securing stronger environmental laws, empowering communities and building the political momentum needed to turn the tide for nature.

## Driving stronger biodiversity protection

2025 saw the introduction of a new *Biodiversity Act* for South Australia.

Conservation SA worked closely with the Minister for Environment, The Department for Environment and Water, The Environmental Defenders Office, and our strong and vocal environment sector in the development of this act. Our review and advocacy was the main driver for ensuring the legislation delivers genuine, enforceable outcomes — not loopholes.

The efforts and support of the former Deputy Premier, Susan Close, as well as crossbenchers Tammy Franks MLC and Rob Simms MLC were critical to this success.

The key legislative achievements Conservation SA were successful in advocating for in the new act include:

- A new, independent Scientific Committee that – amongst other things – makes the decisions about the listing status of threatened species and threatened ecological communities (rather than the Minister as in most other Australian jurisdictions)
- The retention of the Conservation Council SA as a nominating body for a position on the Biodiversity Council (formerly the Native Vegetation Council)
- Keeping the setting of the environmental offsetting formula in the hands of the Biodiversity Council
- The addition of ‘third-party standing’, which allows individuals and community organisations to bring legal actions for breaches of the Act (excepting the general duty, see below)
- A new general duty for all South Australians and legal entities not to harm biodiversity, with a requirement to remedy the harm being an option for a court to order
- Increased penalties, including a ‘mid-range’ penalty for illegal clearance of native vegetation (previously this could only be a minor fine, or lengthy court proceedings)
- The Objects of the Act being framed about delivering positive outcomes for nature rather than on sustainable development
- The reversal of amendments which would have seen clearance due to changes in grazing in the pastoral estate being removed from the native vegetation clearance approvals process
- The inclusion of ‘critical habitat’ provisions which allow for the declaration of habitat by the Minister (on recommendation of the Scientific Committee) which is then much harder to clear or destroy
- As far as is practicable, the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the management of biodiversity, including via a new Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee.

WHAT NEXT? The passage of the Biodiversity Act in June 2025 sets the scene for conservation and environment gains in South Australia – now we need to get the coming Regulations and policies under the new Act right – this will be the next crucial opportunity for Conservation SA’s advocacy to ensure State laws deliver on protecting and restoring nature.

## Other key initiatives we led and supported for stronger nature laws:

- Co-hosting An Evening with the Minister: Strengthening Our Environment Laws — bringing community leaders, conservationists and policymakers together to demand laws that actually protect what matters.
- We joined the heads of Conservation Councils across the nation in Canberra to advocate for ambitious reforms ahead of the long-overdue *EPBC Act* overhaul, making sure that SA’s environment has a strong voice on the national stage.
- We co-convened a Nature Forum in October, in the Adelaide Parklands, with our partners the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservation Society. This was the second Nature Forum with the Deputy Premier where we sought to hold the government to account for its election commitments around nature. Uniting scientists, activists and policy advocates including the charismatic Bob Brown, we helped to declare and define the need for a strong decade of nature protection in South Australia.
- As a supporting partner in the global 30x30 campaign, we continued to advocate for 30% of land and sea protected by 2030, backed by First Nations leadership and science-based planning.

## Tackling invasive species head-on

Invasive species remain one of the greatest threats to biodiversity — and we made sure that issue stayed firmly on the political agenda.

- Advocating at the local government scale, and the state scale, for a Statewide Cat Management Strategy. We’ve engaged with councils, land managers and wildlife advocates to push together for consistent statewide action.
- We partnered with the Invasive Species Council to deliver Invasive Species and Our Environment: Management Nationally and in SA — a high-profile public event that elevated the urgency of tackling feral and pest species.

## Standing Up for Our Trees

Conservation Council SA played a leading role in opposing a proposed planning amendment that would have allowed private schools to remove legally protected trees — including those listed as “significant.” Featured in *The Advertiser* and on *The Project*, our advocacy highlighted the critical role trees play in cooling suburbs, providing habitat and maintaining South Australia’s unique character. The strong public response helped shine a national spotlight on the need to continue to strengthen protections for urban canopy and biodiversity.

We also acknowledge the exceptional contributions of volunteers Jane Preston and Georgie Hart, whose tireless work and community leadership were central to the success of our trees campaign. As passionate advocates and organisers, they helped mobilise supporters and keep tree protection on the agenda. While both have since moved on from Conservation SA, they continue to inspire our ongoing commitment to safeguarding SA’s trees.

In the year ahead, we will keep building unstoppable public demand for laws that protect nature — not just on paper, but in practice.

# Caring for coast and sea

South Australia's coastlines and marine environments are places of wonder and deep cultural and ecological significance.

This year, our work across land and sea continued to defend these living systems — from restoring the health of marine parks to championing citizen science and protecting the species that call these waters home.

## Protecting marine wildlife and coastal ecosystems

We continued our leadership representing the conservation sector on key recovery and management bodies, including: the Australian Sea Lion National Recovery Team; the Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group; and the Marine Scale Fisheries Advisory Group — ensuring that science and community voices are embedded in the decisions that affect these iconic species and communities.

Working closely with advocacy partners and government, we contributed to policy reform on vehicles on beaches, and shaping updates to the *Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Beaches) Amendment Regulations 2023*. These changes aim to better protect fragile coastal habitats and wildlife breeding areas, and we will continue to work with our member group Birds SA to be strong advocates in the area.

After years of persistence, building on the advocacy efforts of Sarah Devitt and Chloe Roberts, Conservation Council SA worked closely with PIRSA to develop recreational fishing regulations for sharks, rays, skates and stingarees, which were gazetted in December 2024. This is the first time that there are meaningful restrictions in SA on the fishing of these species. Highlights include:

- Commercial and recreational fishers will be prohibited from the intentional damage and mutilation of non-noxious aquatic resources that aren't being retained
- 'No take' for all skates (genus *Dipturus* or *Dentiraja*) and stingarees (genus *Urolophus*)
- 'No take' of all endangered species, with the exception of the School Shark which has had its bag limit reduced to 1.

— a testament to consistent advocacy and collaboration across the conservation community and the powerful individuals who drove this protection.

## Standing up for South Australia's marine future

In partnership with allies, we continued to call for the nomination of the Great Australian Bight as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, amplifying the campaign through national media to secure lasting recognition and protection for this extraordinary region.

## Whale Nursery Protection Areas

Conservation Council SA advocacy supported the declaration of two new Whale Nursery Protections Areas — one in Fowlers Bay and another in Sleaford Bay. Added to the pre-existing protection area in Encounter Bay, this brings the total number of Whale Nursery Protection Areas in South Australia to three.

## Reef Watch — Citizen science in action

Our flagship marine citizen science initiative, Reef Watch, continued to thrive in 2024–25.

The program delivered 23 events — including 20 Community Reef Rambles, two Volunteer Training Days, and a Special Interest Group Workshop — engaging 343 participants across the season

Together, participants contributed 285 biodiversity observations to the iNaturalist Reef Rambles Project, documenting 114 different marine species, with more than half recorded for the first time this year.

Reef Rambles continued to inspire new citizen scientists — 97% of participants said they would attend again, and 100% learnt something new about South Australia's rocky shores. The Reef Watch community also doubled its online engagement, with 153 members now contributing data to the project page.

Through education, exploration and empowerment, Reef Watch is deepening South Australians' connection to the Great Southern Reef and building the next generation of ocean stewards.

## Celebrating ocean advocacy and culture

We proudly supported Save Our Marine Life Australia's "Ice and Fire" Roadshow Tour in August 2024, highlighting the urgent need to protect Australia's remote Heard and McDonald Islands.

In partnership with Wild Earth Oceania, we supported the Adelaide screening of David Attenborough's OCEAN and joined the post-film panel discussion, sharing how local conservation efforts link to global marine protection.

We will continue defending South Australia's marine life and coastal habitats — growing citizen science, championing stronger legal protections, and amplifying the voices of those who live and care for our coasts. Together, we will keep our oceans wild, thriving and free.



# Healthy rivers

Healthy rivers are the lifeblood of our landscapes — sustaining wetlands, wildlife, farms, towns and cultures across South Australia.

Yet the pressures of over-extraction, industrial expansion and climate change continue to threaten the delicate balance of our waterways. This year, our advocacy for South Australia’s rivers and floodplains reached new heights.

## Standing up for river justice

Our advocacy extended nationally, as we joined key discussions on water reform and justice.

We took part in the SA Water Issues Roundtable with the Federal Environment Minister, pushing for stronger environmental water management and accountability in the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.

We also called for the protection of the Lake Eyre Basin rivers and floodplains, backing the growing movement to secure a fracking ban in Queensland’s Channel Country — recognising that what happens upstream profoundly affects South Australia’s precious desert rivers downstream.

## Championing First Nations water rights

In August 2024, we joined Save the Murray–Darling in Swan Hill, where over 80 community members and First Nations representatives gathered to discuss water justice and rights for Traditional Owners.

These discussions reinforced our commitment to embed a just and equitable approach in all our advocacy — one that respects cultural connections and supports First Nations leadership in river management.

## The Murray Darling Conservation Alliance — our flagship campaign for 2024

In the lead-up to the federal election, we spearheaded one of our most visible campaigns as a key partner in the Murray Darling Conservation Alliance.

We took to the streets, flooded social media and rallied communities under the banner of @save.themurraydarling, using powerful imagery, storytelling and art to highlight the risks facing our most significant river system.

The campaign captured attention across the country — reminding voters and politicians alike that the health of the Murray–Darling Basin defines the future of South Australia.

Our “River Murray Punch” campaign on Instagram became a standout example of creative, people-powered advocacy — turning art and humour into a rallying cry for river protection and accountability.

## Building community through storytelling and film

To launch our campaign, we hosted a World Rivers Film Screening in September 2024, celebrating global stories of river resilience and resistance.

We were joined again by many of our river supporters for our Eat the Invaders Film Screening in April 2025 — featuring the memorable Eat Carp episode, shining a light on invasive species and community-led solutions.

In May 2025, we joined a panel of experts for the Community Panel on Water at Brighton Parish, openly discussing the competing water needs of industry, environment and people — and, crucially, what everyday South Australians can do to protect our rivers.

## Storytelling for the future

Our multiyear partnership with SA Water, DEW and Fastbreak Films reached an exciting milestone this year, with the completion of Murray’s Mission — a beautifully animated story of connection to the river, designed to inspire young people and communities to care for our waterways. We are very excited about implementing Murray’s Mission through our local school system working with Uncle Moogy and the Aust. Education system.

In 2026, we’ll continue to fight for rivers that flow, wetlands that thrive, and justice for the communities and species who depend on them. We expect the review of the Basin Plan to be released and our role to advocate and drive bold reforms amplified throughout the next year.

From the Darling to the sea, our mission remains clear: a living river system, protected for all generations to come.

We would like to thank Anne Jensen, Bob Newman & Janette Brooks from Healthy Rivers Lower Murray and the many dedicated members of the Lifeblood Alliance volunteer group, Gloria & Julie Jones, Allison & Ray Rootsey and all the wonderful volunteers at the River Lakes and Coorong Action Group.



# Living sustainably

**Living sustainably is about more than reducing waste — it's about reimagining how we live, move and connect with each other and the planet.**

This year, our work spanned from waste reduction advocacy to climate-resilient transport planning, while our Adelaide Sustainability Centre continued to empower thousands of South Australians to take practical action for a greener future.

## Advocating for a circular and low-waste South Australia

As South Australia continued refining its world-leading Single-Use Plastics (SUP) legislation, we played an active role on the SA SUP Stakeholder Taskforce, advocating for strong and equitable outcomes that protect both communities and nature.

We pushed for clear implementation timelines, consistency across sectors and better support for businesses transitioning away from single-use products — ensuring the legislation continues to set the national benchmark for environmental leadership.

## Empowering community through the Adelaide Sustainability Centre

Hosted by Conservation SA and funded by Green Adelaide, the Adelaide Sustainability Centre (ASC) remains a vibrant hub of inspiration and action.

In 2024–25, the ASC delivered 37 events to more than 736 participants, including workshops, film nights, and discussion panels on sustainable living, waste reduction, novel gardening for small spaces, and nature connection.

The Centre's work continues to build community capacity for sustainability through programs such as:

- Quarterly Clothes and Fabric Swaps and textile mending workshops, in partnership with Sustainable Clothing Co. and Bulbosa, reducing waste and teaching practical repair skills
- Circular economy and community development events, including Plastic Free July activities and Community Development Practice workshops with Dr Peter Westoby
- A thriving Library of Things, enabling community members to borrow tools and equipment for sustainable living, gardening and repair.

Through these efforts, the ASC connects people with hands-on skills, local networks, and the belief that change starts in our own homes and neighbourhoods. Thank you to our wonderful event and workshop partners and volunteers throughout 2024/2025.

## Championing sustainable transport and systems change

We also represented the environmental sector at the Future of Transport Strategy Roundtable (October 2025), advocating for a transition to accessible, low-emission public transport and safer, walkable cities that prioritise people and the planet over cars.

Our message was clear: achieving climate targets demands systemic transformation in how we move — from active transport infrastructure to equitable access to electric and shared mobility.

## Linking environmental and social wellbeing

At the Civil Society Lunch with the Premier, we called for sustainability to be placed at the centre of South Australia's social and economic planning.

Drawing on the vision outlined in our address, we reminded decision-makers that “environmental concerns are social concerns — people and nature are inextricably linked”.

We urged government to invest in a just transition that strengthens both community wellbeing and our natural capital — ensuring the shift to a low-carbon economy also restores ecosystems, safeguards livelihoods and uplifts communities.

In 2026, we'll continue to champion circular economy innovation, sustainable urban design and transport reform — empowering South Australians to live lighter and lead the change toward a regenerative, climate-positive future.



# Peak body & sector advocacy

As SA’s peak environmental body, we champion the collective strength of our sector — uniting community, science and advocacy to ensure the environment remains central to the state’s decisions.

In 2024–25, our leadership was visible across every major environmental conversation, from legislative reform and climate justice to cultural change and creative outreach.

Alongside our legislative work, Conservation Council SA’s advocacy helped shape many of South Australia’s most significant environmental policy debates in 2024–25. We made 28 submissions, met regularly with ministers and briefed parliamentarians on key reforms — available to read on our website.

Our input strengthened the State Landscape Strategy Review, ensuring ecological integrity and community participation remain central to landscape planning. We supported the *Animal Welfare Act* to include cephalopods in the definition of ‘animal’ and persuaded government to allow its new Vehicle Parking Fund to support public bicycle infrastructure.

## Championing Collaboration and Public Engagement

We continued to build public momentum for nature. At WOMADelaide 2025, thousands visited our interactive stall and embraced our hopeful “No Future Without Nature” campaign merchandise. During Nature Festival: FLOW, we partnered in events celebrating the connection between art, water and the living world. Our CEO also led the Step Up for Nature Fundraiser, raising funds and awareness for frontline conservation efforts.

## Supporting Science and Wellbeing

In partnership with the University of Adelaide, we supported research exploring the mental health impacts of climate-related loss — reinforcing that the climate crisis is not only environmental, but also a public health and social justice issue demanding compassionate, evidence-based responses.

## Leading Conversations That Matter

Our Seminar and Q&A on Australia’s Nuclear Situation with Dr Jim Green and Dave Sweeney drew strong public engagement and robust discussion on nuclear alternatives. We maintained regular dialogue with the Deputy Premier and senior ministers to ensure nature remained a political priority, and joined the Sustainability Hub Roundtable to help shape a new collaborative home for South Australia’s environment movement.

## Engaging in Critical State and National Moments

From the State Budget Lock-Up to federal election advocacy, we worked to keep environment and climate at the heart of political debate. We renewed calls to ban duck hunting, citing both compassion and avian influenza risks, and continued our campaign for stronger cat confinement bylaws across local councils — with Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Payneham & Norwood, and Victor Harbor all progressing reforms.

## Navigating the State Development Coordination and Facilitation Act 2025

Although the Act introduced mechanisms to fast-track major developments, we successfully negotiated tighter environmental protections, preventing development over protected areas, requiring Environment Minister concurrence for law variations, and restoring judicial review rights.

## Responding to the Algal Bloom Crisis

Warmer ocean temperatures in late 2024 triggered one of South Australia’s most severe algal bloom events. We worked alongside First Nations and community groups to raise awareness and advocate for stronger protections for sea Country and marine biodiversity. This collaboration underscored the urgent need to understand the cultural and ecological impacts of a changing climate on our coasts.

## Looking Ahead

In 2026, Conservation Council SA will continue to lead with courage and connection — amplifying community voices, influencing policy, and holding decision-makers to account. Together, we’re building a movement strong enough to meet this critical moment and shape a nature-positive future for South Australia.





# 2025 SA ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Since 1998, the annual SA Environment Awards have celebrated South Australians who dedicate their time, expertise, and passion to protecting our precious natural environment.

Held each year to coincide with World Environment Day on 5th June, the awards honour those leading the way in nature protection, climate action, sustainability, and care for Country. Across six categories, the event shines a light on the inspiring individuals, groups and initiatives making a real difference for our state's environment.

## SA Environment Hall of Fame.

Each year, we also pay tribute to an extraordinary group of south Australians with the Lifetime Achievement award – inducting them into the SA environment Hall of Fame.

These remarkable activist, community organisers, and conservationists have shaped the environmental movement in SA. Their vision and determination build the foundations of the organisations, strategies and ideas that continue to drive environmental action today.

## 2025 Lifetime Achievers



**Peri Coleman**



**Terry Reardon**



**Georgina Williams**  
(awarded posthumously)

## 2025 Award Winners

Jill Hudson Award For Environmental Protection: **Mary Heath**

Working Together Award: **Ozfish Unlimited 'Seeds For Snapper SA'**

Innovation Award: **Dr Jake M. Robinson & A/Prof Martin Breed**

Leif Justham Young Achiever Award: **Django Lewis Westmoreland**

Green Adelaide's Pelzer Prize: **Dr Phillip Roetman**

Conservation Science Prize: **Dr Alice Jones**



# Change-making fellowship

Conservation SA, 2024 Creating Positive Change (CPC) Fellowship. The program was a resounding success and built on the inaugural 2022 program, continuing to empower a new generation of South Australian changemakers. We delivered transformative experiences for participants, equipping them with the skills, networks, and confidence to lead impactful climate and environmental action.

The fellowship was delivered from July and August 2024 thanks to a grant from the Dana Abadi Foundation. This year brought together a diverse and vibrant group of 39 individuals, including students, emerging leaders, junior professionals, academics, and more.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many stating the program exceeded their expectations—and ours!

The fellowship's primary goal is to build the capacity of our member groups and the broader environment sector in South Australia to engage in more impactful change-making.

Over the course of eight weeks, the program explored a wide range of critical topics to enhance changemaking efforts across South Australia.

The program was structured around a movement ecology-informed framework, drawing from multiple theories of change. Participants gained insights into changemaking 101, power in changemaking, how change happens in Australian political system, effective campaigning, decolonising the mind, mobilising for change, influencing public opinion and persistent changemaking and self care.

## Some of our 2024 changemakers told us:

*"I came in unsure of how I could contribute to the climate movement. I left with a project, a support network, and the confidence to step into leadership."*

*"This program gave me not only tools, but people. I've never felt so connected to a group of passionate, brilliant changemakers."*

*"It was the first time I felt seen and respected in an environmental space as someone with a disability. That's huge."*

# Farewell to the joinery.

After a decade at The Joinery — our much-loved community hub — we began the monumental task of moving to a new home, closing one chapter and preparing for the next.

Since opening its doors in 2014, The Joinery has been so much more than a building. It has been a living, breathing space where South Australians came together — united by a love of nature, sustainability, action and community. From the welcoming hum of the café to the thriving community garden tended by Common Ground, from Bikes for Refugees to countless events, workshops and conversations, The Joinery has been a place where ideas grew, friendships formed and change took root.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make this vision a reality — those who worked here, volunteered, hosted events, shared the space, or simply dropped in for a coffee and connection. The Joinery's legacy remains a powerful reminder of what's possible when collaboration and vision come together.

The Joinery closed its doors on September 30, 2025. We honour all who have been part of its story and thank the incredible community that brought it to life. While this chapter closes, our new home at 55 Exchange Place opens a fresh and exciting chapter for Conservation SA — one that will continue the spirit of The Joinery and carry its energy, warmth and purpose into the future.



# Finance report

## Audited Financial Report – Year Ended 30 June 2025

The 2025 budget forecasted a small loss. However, through proactive measures, including extra grant submissions and a significant restructure that reduced wages and payroll costs, CCSA achieved a strong turnaround. Below is the audited financial performance summary:

- **Total Trading Income:** \$1.22M, driven by substantial grant funding (\$874K total), PEW Management Fee (\$67K), donations (\$128K), and steady venue hire and sponsorship income.
- **Operating Expenses:** \$1.06M, with notable savings in staffing costs compared to budget due to restructuring, wage recoveries, and reduced leave accrual liabilities.
- **Net Profit:** \$163k surplus, a significant improvement from the 2024 financial year (loss of \$183k).

Overall, strategic funding efforts and expense management resulted in a positive financial outcome, strengthening the organisation's position going into the next year. At 30 June CCSA secured \$341k in term deposit.

## 2025 CCSA Revenue

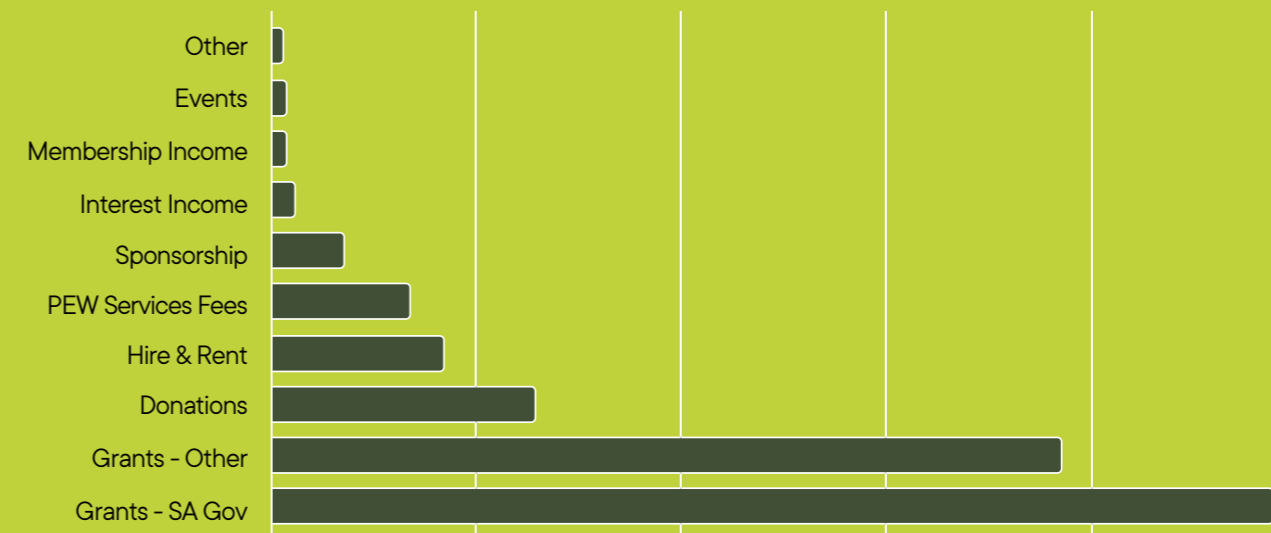
In 2025, CCSA's income was largely grant driven, with \$488k from the SA Government and \$385k from other grants, secured through multiple submissions. Additional revenue came from donations (\$128k), venue hire and rent (\$83.8k), PEW Services Fees (around \$70k), sponsorship (\$35k), and interest income (\$11k). Despite challenges, CCSA maintained a stable funding mix and is actively seeking to diversify revenue streams to improve financial stability.

## Liquidity Ratio Analysis – 2025 vs 2024

- Current and Quick Ratios improved modestly, indicating stronger coverage of short-term obligations.
- Cash Ratio declined slightly despite the overall liquidity improvement.
- Working Capital more than doubled, showing a healthier buffer between current assets and liabilities.

One reason for the lower Cash Ratio in 2025 is the timing of a major grant. The \$302,500 grant from the Department of Environment and Water was raised in June 2025 and received in July 2025, compared to the previous year when it was received by June 2024. This timing difference reduced the reported cash balance at year-end, despite the underlying liquidity position being strong.

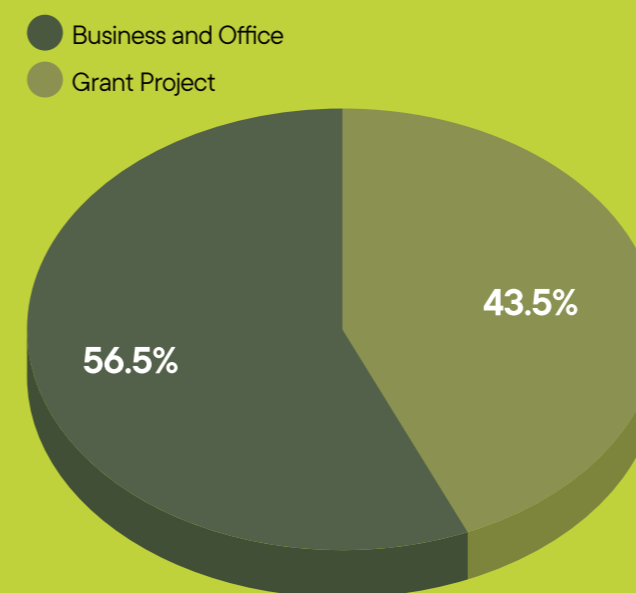
## 2025 Revenue by Category



## 2026 Budget Overview

For 2026, CCSA has budgeted \$1.09 million in income, with \$450k expected from project-based grants and \$639k from various other sources to support operations. Total costs are projected at \$1.04 million, resulting in an anticipated net surplus of approximately \$45k. The running costs of the new premises are not yet fully confirmed, and income from hire space remains uncertain at this stage. As a result, the budget has been prepared with a conservative approach to ensure financial stability.

## Budgeted Salaries Allocation



## Operational Costs

Operational costs for 2026 are budgeted at \$1.04 million, with the largest share allocated to Staff Wages & On-Costs at \$595k, 44% being allocated to the grant based projects.

Of the total 2026 budgeted expenses, approximately \$380k is allocated to grant-based projects such as Boundless, Reefwatch, MDCS, and ASC. The remaining \$650k covers the costs of running core operations, including awards programs, premises, joinery, PEW management, and other operational activities.

The above and the below charts are outlining the cost allocation for 2026, distinguishing between expenses related to grant-funded projects and those incurred for other business operations and office-related activities, providing a clear view of how resources are distributed across the CCSA's work. Around 63% of our total costs relate to core operating expenses that keep CCSA running and cover essential functions such as staff wages and on-costs, insurance, audit and accounting, IT systems and software, and the day-to-day operation of our premises, including electricity, cleaning, security and maintenance. They also include reasonable investment in communications, subscriptions, training, and compliance.

## PEW Agreement

We have signed an extended PEW contract through to March 2026, with the potential to continue beyond this period. PEW (The Pew Charitable Trusts) is an international philanthropic organisation that partners with us to support environmental advocacy and conservation work in South Australia. PEW funds are held in our bank accounts as restricted cash, with a matching payable recorded in current liabilities. To give an accurate picture of our underlying financial report, both the PEW cash and PEW payable are excluded from our liquidity ratios.

Prepared by:  
Chelsea Bojnoordi  
Treasurer, Conservation Council SA





# Our people

Integral to all of our work for nature are the people behind it. We thank all of our volunteers, staff and board members for their tireless commitment throughout 2024 and 2025. Every campaign, event and policy win is made possible by your passion, expertise and generosity of spirit.

This year, we also extend a heartfelt thank you to Kirsty Klose, who finished her time with Conservation SA in April. Kirsty's contribution was immense — from her leadership

and efforts for the SA Environment Awards to her vital role in nurturing our community space at The Joinery. Her care and dedication helped make The Joinery a true hub for environmental collaboration and connection.

To every person who has given their time, energy and heart to our shared mission — thank you. You are the driving force behind everything we achieve for South Australia's nature and communities.

## Staff

<b>Kirsty Bevan</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Ana Duarte</b>	Admin and Facilities Manager
<b>Charlotte Nitschke</b>	Campaign Coordinator
<b>Darcey McNamara</b>	Nature Campaigner (started in December 2024)
<b>Annabelle Schuttloffel</b>	Nature Campaigner (until November 2024)
<b>Kirsty Klose</b>	Customer Relationships Manager (until April 2025)
<b>Erin Sauter</b>	Adelaide Sustainability Coordinator
<b>Mollie Barker</b>	Marketing, Design and Communications

## Board

<b>President</b>	David Bacon
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	Michael Cornish
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	Sue Richardson AM
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chelsea Bojnoordi
<b>Board Member</b>	Hugo Hopton
<b>Board Member</b>	Miriam Lumb
<b>Board Member</b>	Michelle Holian

## Volunteers

<b>Margaret Capel</b>
<b>Stuart Chandler</b>
<b>Dylan Cooper</b>
<b>Sally Francis</b>
<b>Georgie Hart</b>
<b>Aumio Ishaat</b>
<b>Jane Preston</b>
<b>Joanna Wells</b>



# Our members

*Thank you to all of our members for their continued support.*

To become a member contact: [general@conservationsa.org.au](mailto:general@conservationsa.org.au)

- Adopt-a-spot
- Aldgate Valley Landcare Group Inc
- Australian Association for Environmental Education SA
- Australian Centre For Sustainable Development, Research & Innovation
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (SA Group)
- Australian Plants Society (SA Region) Inc
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition SA
- Bike Adelaide
- Birds SA
- Brownhill Creek Association Incorporated
- Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia
- Community Alliance SA Inc
- Eco-Action Kangaroo Island Inc
- Economic Reform Australia (SA Division) Inc
- Extinction Rebellion SA
- Field Naturalists Society of SA Inc
- Fossil Free SA
- Friends of Gulf St Vincent
- Friends of Parks and Nature Inc
- Friends of the Earth Adelaide Inc
- Friends of Willunga Basin
- Gawler Environment and Heritage Association Inc
- Greening Australia SA Inc
- Landcare Association of SA Inc
- Landscape Partnerships Inc
- Wombats SA / Natural History Society of South Australia Incorporated
- Nature Conservation Society of SA Inc
- Orienteering Association of SA Inc
- People for Public Transport SA Inc
- Permaculture Association of SA Inc
- Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group
- River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group Inc
- Scientific Expedition Group Inc
- South Australian Rogaining Association
- St Agnes Bushwalking & Natural History Club Inc
- Sustainable Communities SA Inc
- Sustainable Population Australia SA Branch
- Tennyson Dunes Group Inc
- The Wilderness Society (South Australia) Inc
- Toyota Landcruiser Club of Aust (SA Branch) Inc
- Trees for Life Inc
- Vegetarian & Vegan Society (VegSA) Inc
- Walking SA
- Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc
- Zoos SA
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators
- South Australian Grassroots Ecosystem (SAGE)

# The year ahead

## 2025-26

Basin plan review

COP31 bid

Algal bloom – risks and impacts

Biodiversity Act implementation

Our new home

Our brand refresh



# Donate to Conservation Council SA

The Conservation Council of South Australia is a vibrant community of passionate individuals dedicated to protecting our state's extraordinary natural environment—and we invite you to join us.

For over 50 years, Conservation SA has worked tirelessly to safeguard, restore, and conserve South Australia's unique and beautiful landscapes while championing a truly sustainable future for all.

**Together with our members and supporters, we are a force for nature.**





## The xchange

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