

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Natural Resources Management?

Natural Resources Management, or NRM, is the term used to describe the management, protection and restoration of natural assets like soil, water, the marine environment, native plants and animals.

What is the NRM Levy?

The NRM levy is a State Government initiative under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004.

It provides additional funding to help take care of natural resources for the benefit of communities in your region and for future generations. It's not a new levy. It's a new name for contributions South Australian ratepayers made for many years through their Animal and Plant Control rate revenue contributions through local councils.

The funding from the levy is provided to the Northern & Yorke Natural Resources Management Board to supplement State and Australian Government funding to natural resources management activities in your region.

Why do I have to pay this levy?

Everyone who lives and works in the region has an impact on the environment. As such, we all share a responsibility to take care of our precious soil, water, landscapes, marine environments, native animals and plants and ecosystems. Your contribution through the NRM levy will help to fund the work needed to protect and enhance our environment.

Who pays the levy?

All council ratepayers in your region pay the regional NRM levy.

Is this a one-off levy?

The NRM levy will be charged annually through your Council rates.

Who collects the levy?

Local councils collect the levy from their ratepayers and forward the funds to your regional NRM Board. The levy is shown separately on Council rates notices.

I own more than one property; do I have to pay the levy more than once?

Yes. The NRM levy is charged to every rateable property in South Australia.

How is the levy calculated?

Levy contributions are calculated on the capital value of your land.

What is the Northern & Yorke NRM Board?

Northern and Yorke is one of eight NRM regions in South Australia set up under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 to provide a framework to help look after our natural assets.

The Board covers and includes parts of 16 council areas: Barossa, Barunga, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Flinders Ranges, Goyder, Light, Mallala, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Pt Augusta, Pt Pirie, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula. It is responsible for helping the region manage, protect and restore precious resources. It also supports farmers and other primary producers to make better use of land and water resources towards sustainable agriculture.

What happened to the soil board/animal & plant control board?

The Soil Conservation and Animal & Plant Control Boards are now part of the Northern & Yorke Natural Resources Management Board. All of the projects and activities that were in place and planned for under the old Boards now form the new NRM Board's plans and activities.

What happens to the levy money?

The levy provides funding and support for a wide range of sustainability initiatives such as:

- Animal and Plant Control Officers and programs;
- Water Allocation Planning processes;
- Technical support to natural resources managers, farmers and community groups;
- Monitoring ground water and surface water resources;
- Providing funding and support to farmers to fence creeks and rivers (such as the Broughton, Light and Wakefield Rivers), to improve water quality and river health;
- Protecting native vegetation in the region by helping farmers fence existing native vegetation and plant local native species;
- Managing salinity in areas like Yorke Peninsula, by undertaking catchment plans that identify the source of salinity. Technical support and funding is then provided to landholders to manage the salinity, plant native vegetation and fence salt scalds;
- Maintaining healthy soils in the district by providing technical support to landholders, promoting and funding the erection of contour banks and managing soil erosion through fencing.
- Protecting threatened plants and animals such as the spiny daisy and the pygmy blue tongue lizard;
- Removing boxthorns from agricultural land and native vegetation;
- Biocontrol of bridal creeper;
- Coordinating fox baiting programs.

How do I have my say about how the levy is spent?

Your region's NRM Plan, which directs where levy funds are to be spent, is developed through extensive community consultation. Community members can have their say through:

1. *Consultation for the region's next NRM Plan*

Opportunities to take part in consultation will be advertised in local newspapers.

2. *Attending NRM Board Meetings*

The Board's regular meetings are open to the public and the community is welcome to attend. They are held at 1pm on the fourth Monday of the month (see below). Further details will be advertised in regional newspapers.

**The dates of the meetings can be found at
<http://www.nynrm.sa.gov.au/AboutUs/TheBoard/BoardMeetings.aspx>**

3. *Writing, emailing, faxing or visiting*

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