

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Minutes

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to country and commit to working with the First Nations People of the SA Arid Lands as we undertake our business on this shared and sacred country.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 3	
Thursday 24 September 2020	
8:00am to 4:00pm	
Location:	SAAL Board Room Railway Station Office Port Augusta SA
Attendees:	Ross Sawers - Presiding Member Douglas Lillecrapp – Board Member Ellen Litchfield – Board Member Kurt Tschirner – Board Member Sanchia Treloar – Board Member (via MS Teams) Scott Michael – Board Member Tim Flowers – Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith – General Manager (GM) Anne Dickin - Executive Officer (EO)
Guests:	Item 9.1 Dylan Slape - General Manager Governance & Performance DEW Item 9.1 David Wearing - Manager Workplace Safety & Wellbeing DEW Item 9.2 Lisien Loan - Director Conservation & Wildlife DEW Item 9.2 Anthony Freebairn - Manager Wildlife Programs DEW
Staff as required	Michelle Smith - Manager Business Support Greg Patrick - Team Leader Landscape Operations & Projects Cherie Gerlach - Team Leader Communications & Community Engagement Alison Skinner - Project Officer Planning & Evaluation Aaron Smith – Senior Water Resource Officer Simone Stewart - Principal Policy Officer
Apologies:	Nil
0810	1. The Chair opened the meeting, read out the acknowledgement of country and confirmed that there were nil apologies to be recorded.
0815	<i>At this time Alison Skinner joined the meeting.</i>
	2. <u>Regional Planning Workshop</u> Following on from the discussion of the priorities, focus areas and projects of the board raised at the regional planning workshop held with representatives of the board’s Landscape Groups and the community landscape officers the previous day, the following points were noted.

Tourism With an increase in the number of tourists now due to the pandemic restrictions for overseas travel, and in the future with the sealing of the Strzelecki Track and the potential Ediacara fossil world heritage site at Nilpena, the resulting pressure and impact to the environment of the SA Arid Lands region would see the need for the board to partner strongly with the Outback Communities Authority and Regional Development Australia Far North and other partners to address any arising issues.

Climate change is the highest priority for the board and is intrinsically a part of all operations of the board. Looking forward assistance could come in the form of community grants, workshops, whole of landscape research and monitoring. The board should be a leader to address this issue from a scientific viewpoint while being aware of the varied attitudes attached to climate change within the community. A narrative that brings people along with the board is needed, noting also the language used in the Minister's climate change strategy. Other regions that have stable climatic conditions now, will in time be faced with the same issues as the SA Arid Lands region which already experiences the likely extremes of others in the future. The Vision Statement of the board should centre on climate change as a priority.

Pest animal and weed control is a priority for the board and a discussion with Dr John Virtue - General Manager Strategy, Policy and Invasive Species, Biosecurity SA (PIRSA) is required to ensure board resources are used in the most effective way and the board has a full understanding of its remit relating to pest plant and animal control under all Acts.

0905

It was agreed a strategic model for the 5 priorities of the board would be prepared for consideration and further discussion by the board.

Action: Prepare strategic model for the 5 priorities of the board for future discussion.

3. **It was agreed** that a board only discussion was not required for this meeting.
4. The agenda was **accepted** after the Chair advised that the request to discuss the review of the Pastoral Act would be tabled under Other Business on the agenda.
5. The Chair called for any conflict of interest disclosures, advising that board members may declare a conflict of interest at any time during the meeting.

A potential perceived conflict of interest was declared by Kurt Tschirner as an employee of Bush Heritage Australia and working with Graeme Finlayson (SA Arid Rangelands ecologist for Bush Heritage) and the submission made by Graeme, John Read and Fiona Garland for consideration by the Board for the Future Drought Fund program.
6. The minutes and *in camera* minutes for SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meeting 2 held on 28 July 2020 were **accepted** as a true and correct record.
7. The Board Action List was reviewed, updated and **accepted** by the board.
8. **It was agreed to note** the correspondence report.

Briefing Papers

Discussion was held on the papers provided for agenda items at board meetings with it being **noted** that if board members required clarification of items and associated reports provided in meeting papers these should be directed to the General Manager prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that briefing papers were to capture the important points of an agenda item and any additional information provided for context would appear as an appendix at the end of meeting papers.

Action: Additional information for briefing papers to appear as appendixes at the end of meeting papers.

0926 9.1 Work Health and Safety Presentation

The board were given an overview of the Regional Landscape Board Officers' Guide to the Work Health and Safety Act provided by the Department for Environment and Water and presented via MS Teams by DEW employee Dylan Slape (accompanied by David Wearing).

0950 *At this time Michelle Smith joined the meeting.*

0950 10.2 Work Health and Safety Report

Discussion was held on the 6 key Work Health and Safety Injury Management policies developed for all Landscape SA boards to consider and adopt, the Work Health and Safety Statement, and the inaugural meeting of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Work Health and Safety Committee on 3 September 2020.

In response to a query relating to evidence that all staff had undertaken the necessary training to minimise the risk of an incident, the board were informed of the process undertaken for staff training. They were also informed that board members were now also included in the training register.

Action: Staff training matrix needs to provide verification that staff have completed all mandatory WHS related training and that the training is up to date.

It was confirmed that contractors and volunteers had to complete a work health and safety induction as part of the procurement process and that the induction was a precursor before conducting any work for the board.

It was noted that remote travel was a known risk for board staff and investigating alternative telematics options was a high priority issue.

Discussion was held on the risk to board members travelling in the region to attend group meetings and if a system should be implemented to track this type of travel.

Action: Determine if there is a responsibility to ensure board member vehicles are fit for purpose and insured; and if a reporting mechanism for board members travel should be introduced.

It was noted that any work health and safety issues would be reported to the Chair and the board at the discretion of the General Manager.

It was agreed to note the progress to date on work health and safety systems and procedures and endorse the signing of the work health and safety statement by the General Manager and in doing so reinforce the core value of the board to the health, safety and wellbeing of landscape board staff.

The General Manager signed the Work Health and Safety Statement.

Action: Provide link to MS Team site where all WHS related activities are to be stored.

1015 *Short break taken*

1025 *At this time Anthony Freebairn, Greg Patrick and Alison Skinner joined the meeting.*

1025 9.2 Kangaroo Management Considerations

Discussion was held on the board collaborating and partnering with 3 neighbouring Landscape SA regions for a joint submission to a new funding stream under the Landscape SA reform, the 'Landscape Priorities Fund'.

The fund is to resource research and trial programs to influence future funding and education options in managing kangaroos in the rangelands.

It was agreed to note the 'authorising environment' of the board relating to matters of over abundant kangaroos; and the preliminary work to develop an appropriate partnership where some elements of influencing and supporting responses to kangaroo management in the region may be funded by the Landscape Priorities Fund.

1040 *At this time Lisien Loan joined the meeting via MS Teams.*

1040 9.3 Kangaroo Management Presentations

DEW staff Lisien Loan and Anthony Freebairn were introduced to board members.

Lisien Loan Kangaroo Management Presentation Paper

The briefing by Lisien Loan included the following points.

A new object in the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, to promote the collaborative management of native animals that adversely affect the natural and built environments, people or primary production or other industries gives the board a new responsibility therefore it will be critical to work collaboratively, and develop a shared understanding in order to meet community needs and expectations.

Regional Landscape boards' role in assisting the management of these animals as well as facilitating action to mitigate or manage their impacts could include supporting educational initiatives; promoting mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs to manage the native animals; and providing information about the management of native animals in these circumstances.

All common kangaroo species are protected, and their management provided for, by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and associated regulations. However, kangaroos may also be managed commercially through the kangaroo industry by permitted kangaroo field processors, and non-commercially through Permits to Destroy Wildlife applied for by landholders.

Information to support landholders can be accessed on the DEW website. https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/plants-and-animals/Abundant_species/kangaroo-conservation-and-management

Opportunities for the board to consider in developing their Regional Landscape Plan and program priorities are:

- Supporting landholders to manage kangaroos as part of the sustainable management of their properties and providing them with information on their options and responsibilities.
- Facilitating landholders, and the commercial industry, to work collaboratively on kangaroo management issues.
- Facilitating research and improved understanding of kangaroo impacts.
- Consideration of a SA Arid Lands Landscape board member nominee to the Kangaroo Management Reference Group.

It was agreed to note the roles and responsibilities for DEW and Landscape Boards in relation to impact causing native animals and the current activities and reforms regarding the management of kangaroos by DEW.

1048

Anthony Freebairn Kangaroo Management PowerPoint Presentation

The second presentation provided a graphic history of kangaroo management in South Australia, the reforms introduced from 1975 to 2020, an overview of export markets, commercial harvesting industry structure and regulatory costs; non-commercial destruction and the barriers to the management of kangaroos.

The presentation ended with highlighting opportunities for Landscape Boards being:

- Developing a relationship with the kangaroo industry.
- Increasing access to training opportunities for kangaroo industry participants.
- Supporting land managers to better integrate kangaroo management into their business.
- Working with landholders and the kangaroo industry to address cultural barriers to improved kangaroo management.

1148

At this time Anthony Freebairn, Lisien Loan and Greg Patrick left the meeting.

1150

9.4 Project Status Report

It was noted that Attachment 1 of the Project Status Report, being the traffic light styled report, could be presented to the board twice a year and used for public facing reporting.

It was agreed to note the project/program status updates and that the preferred report format was Attachment 2 being the table format.

1200

At this time Alison Skinner left the meeting.

1200

Break for lunch

1212

At this time Michelle Smith joined the meeting.

1212

10.1 Corporate Services Transition

The board was briefed on a business support model for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, as delivery of corporate services through a service level agreement with the Department for Environment and Water was currently under review.

It was agreed to note the recommended option provided for information, in anticipation of a decision that will need to be made by the board, upon a Ministerial direction in the coming weeks.

1250

10.2 Governance and Finance Committee Overview and Recommendations

It was agreed to endorse the appointment of Kurt Tschirner as the Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee.

The Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee spoke to the recommendations being put forward to the board from the committee meeting held on 7 September 2020. With the following recommendations being agreed to;

Noting the minutes of the Governance and Finance Committee meeting held 7 September 2020 and the financial overview.

Endorsing the adoption of the Governance and Finance Committee Terms of Reference.

Endorsing the financial reports to be tabled at each board meeting as the financial overview report; balance sheet, profit and loss, predicted cash at bank, WHS report and preliminary/budget papers and business plans when applicable.

Noting the projected available funds and confirm expenditure priorities for 2021/22 of the preliminary board budget.

Approving to hold a workshop with an external risk management facilitator for the November 2020 board meeting and to hold a separate session for staff.

Action: Future agenda item risk management workshop with external facilitator for November 2020 board meeting. Hold separate session for staff.

Endorse the signing of the Work Health and Safety statement by the General Manager and **noting** the WHS report.

Noting the issue of accommodating staff as a risk.

Adopting the 6 Landscape SA Work Health and Safety policies and the policies for Sponsorship and Use of Landscape Group Funds as board policies.

Noting the contract execution report, and the sponsorship report.

Noting the 4 possible perceived conflicts of interest for board members and 1 for a Landscape Group member recorded in relation to Grassroots Grants and Building Pastoral Sustainability Program - Property Management Planning applications.

Noting the potential reimbursement of legal costs, where a board member engages a private lawyer to assist in investigations by the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption; and that there are certain criteria for this discretionary payment as outlined in Legal Bulletin 5 – Reimbursement of Legal Fees.

1314

At this time Greg Patrick joined the meeting

10.3 Compliance Policy - Procedure

Discussion was held on the board's responsibilities for compliance and enforcement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the Compliance Policy and Procedure prepared for the use of the board and board staff.

The principles for management of compliance issues was set out in the policy while the procedure detailed how to implement the policy, the roles and responsibilities, steps in the process and the framework and flow charts. It also identified that the responsibility for compliance rests with the relevant individual to who it applies and included the board's commitment to ensure the community are well educated around their obligations.

The board was advised that procedural fairness and natural justice would be maintained whilst delivering a professional and efficient risk-based approach to administering compliance responsibilities under the Act.

The board was advised that a new database Case Management Intelligence System (CMIS) should be available this year for board staff which would support good record keeping and the sound development of full prosecution briefs enabling enforcement for escalated compliance cases.

In high risk cases the board will be consulted before any compliance activity is initiated, in a low risk case the board will be informed of any compliance activity undertaken.

The preferred option is to seek voluntary compliance however if they fail to comply, the board has the power to perform the work required and choose to seek cost recovery. The board would need to be prepared to follow through with the action if a landholder chooses to ignore an order.

It was agreed to endorse the Compliance Policy and Compliance Procedure.

1332

At this time Greg Patrick left and Cherie Gerlach joined the meeting.

10.4 Landscape Group Model

It was agreed to endorse the proposed model for the establishment of the current NRM Groups under the *Landscape SA Act 2019*; with approval of the Terms of Reference and SA Arid Lands Landscape Group Charter; and to **endorse** the transfer the current NRM group members across to SA Arid Lands Landscape Groups as the core membership from which a call can occur to fill any present membership gaps to fill each of the new district Landscape Groups.

Action: Transfer current group members across to Landscape groups. Call can occur to fill membership gaps.

10.5 Successful Grassroots Grant Applications

The board was advised of the outcome of the Grassroots Grant submissions which closed on 24 August 2020 with 35 submissions received totalling \$271,000. Unsuccessful applicants were directed to other funding opportunities through the Building Pastoral Sustainability program and Biteback grants or advised how to strengthen their application for the next Grassroots Grant program. In total 15 projects were successful.

It was agreed to note the Grassroots Grants paper and approve the recommended grant recipients.

1345

Short break

1345

At this time Aaron Smith and Simone Stewart joined the meeting.

1355

10.6 Water Advisory Committee Overview

At the request of the Chair, Simone Stewart provided the board with a detailed explanation of the key topics in the letter prepared for the Minister to consider the draft Far North Prescribed Wells Area – Water Allocation Plan.

The board was advised that the Minister may refer the plan to other ministers for consideration however if he accepts the Plan without amendment it is then referred to the water group within DEW, who are prepared and ready to finalise the process.

The board was advised that an engagement strategy and quick reference guide for the lay person is being prepared for the launch of the Water Allocation Plan.

The Chair thanked both Simone Stewart and Aaron Smith for their commitment and work on finalising the draft Water Allocation Plan.

It was agreed to endorse the:

- Consultation Report, with appendices:
 - o Appendix A Consultation materials (Appendix A1, A2, A3 & A4)
 - o Appendix B Submissions and board analysis, including recommended amendments to the draft Plan (Appendix B1 & B2)

- Draft Plan incorporating recommended amendments
- Letter to the Minister
- Implementation Plan
- Water-Affecting Activities Control Policy

1440 The Chair proceeded to sign the letter to the Minister that asked him to consider the final draft Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

1442 11.1 Chairs Report

The Chair provided an update on his activities which included;

- Participating in the interview process for the role of General Manager for the SA Arid Lands, noting that board member Tim Flowers was also on the interview panel.
- Attended the Chairs Forum and a Partners Forum meeting with strategic partners.
- With the General Manager, met with the Presiding Member and General Manager of the Northern and Yorke region and local member Dan van Holst Pellekaan. In this instance the Far North Prescribed Wells Area - Water Allocation Plan was discussed and how some of the issues would be communicated. The meetings with the local member will be an ongoing regular occurrence.

The Chair expressed his concern on how the results of the review of the Pastoral Act will affect the Landscape SA Act.

11.2 General Manager Report

The General Manager advised of the successful outcome of a meeting held with the Port Augusta City Council, who approved a cochineal nursery to be built at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden with funds provided by the board and that board staff will provide training to monitor and harvest the cochineal.

It was agreed to note the General Manager's report.

11.3 Board Member Updates

Board members advised the Landscape Group meetings that they had participated in;

- Douglas –Marree Innamincka September 2020 meeting with a face to face meeting planned for 21 November 2020 in Innamincka.
- Ellen – Marla Oodnadatta meeting that included speaker Katherine Tuft from Arid Recovery who spoke about a program to test different grade steels for fencing.
- Tim – Introduced himself at the North Flinders meeting and was pleased to meet some of the members in person at the board's planning day.
- Kurt and Sanchia – North East Pastoral meeting. The Group are now short 2 members with the appointment of both of them to the SAAL Landscape Board.

Discussion was held on the General Manager providing board members with up to date information to share with the Landscape Groups at their meetings.

Action: Provide board members with latest news for sharing with Landscape Groups.

12. Paper for Noting

It was agreed to note the DEW Fire Management Brigade report.

Action: Investigate if board members are able to participate in DEW fire training.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Board nominee for South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group

The board was advised that the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) had requested representation of the board for this group. Previously former SAAL NRM Board member Leonard Nutt had continued as the board nominee and Ellen Litchfield had been the other representative of the board on SAWDAG. The discussion about a new member from the board was welcomed with Scott Michael being the Board's nominee, with one sheep and one cattle representative from the Board, both next generation pastoralists.

It was agreed that dependent on a discussion with Leonard Nutt, Scott Michael would be nominated as the new sheep rep of the Board, or proxy to Ellen, and Ellen Litchfield to remain as the board's representative as the cattle representative.

Action: Nominate Ellen Litchfield, and Scott Michael as either a proxy or full member dependent on a discussion with Leonard Nutt in accordance with his plans.

13.2 Pastoral Act Review

Discussion was held on the Pastoral Act review, noting that submissions were due by 18 October 2020 and board members were encouraged to submit a personal response in addition to the board response. The General Manager advised that she would be contributing to the DEW response to the review.

A board response to the review of the Pastoral Act will be distributed to the board for comment with any changes to be tracked within the document and returned to the General Manager.

It was agreed to approve for the Chair to meet personally with Minister Speirs to alert him to potential issues and concerns with the draft Pastoral Act.

Action: Chair to meet personally with the Minister to discuss the Pastoral Act.

Action: Send submission for Pastoral Act review to board members who will track any changes in the document then return to the General Manager.

14. Public Comment

Not applicable.

15.1 Board Communique

It was agreed to include the following items in the board communique:

- Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan to be sent to Minister Speirs for his consideration.
- Successful first tranche of Grassroots Grants.
- Kangaroo Management presentation - the board's role in managing over abundant species.
- Landscape planning day held with representatives from the Landscape Groups.

- Upcoming meeting for the new Port Augusta-Quorn district.
- Pastoral Act Review.

1530 15.2 Sitting Fees

Board members confirmed that they had travelled the usual arrangements with the exception of Douglas Lillecrapp who did not need to claim travel costs for this meeting.

1530 **Meeting close**

Approved _____ **Date** ____/____/2020

Ross Sawers - Presiding Member
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board