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29 Nov 2022



**Government
of South Australia**

PASTORAL BOARD
2021-22 Annual Report

PASTORAL BOARD

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To:

Hon Dr Susan Close MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, section 18A of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the PASTORAL BOARD by:

David Larkin AM
Presiding Member
Pastoral Board

Date 2 August 2022

Signature



From the Presiding Member

I am pleased to present the Pastoral Board's annual report for the year ending 30 June 2022.

I encourage the pastoral industry to review the work of the Pastoral Board as described in this annual report, and to make contact on any matter relating to the Board's operation.

David Larkin AM
Presiding Member
Pastoral Board

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Overview: about the Pastoral Board

Our strategic focus

<p>Our Purpose</p>	<p>The Pastoral Board is established under section 12 of the <i>Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989</i> (the 'Pastoral Act'). A primary role of the Pastoral Board is to ensure that all pastoral land, which covers over 40% of the State, is well managed and utilised prudently so that its renewable resources are maintained, and its yield sustained.</p>
<p>Our Vision</p>	<p>The Pastoral Board, in administering and furthering the objects of the Pastoral Act, acts with a focus on transparency, responsiveness, flexibility, competency, consistency and equity, and aims to support the growth of the pastoral industry in South Australia.</p>
<p>Our Values</p>	<p>Legitimacy - the Board will act in a manner which engenders amongst the pastoral community, an understanding, acceptance and acknowledgement of its legal role and responsibilities.</p> <p>Integrity - the Board will be committed to the highest standard and ethical conduct in its operations, and deal honestly, fairly and equitably with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Accountability - the Board acknowledges the responsibility it has for the decisions it makes in administering the Pastoral Act and being answerable to the Minister and the public.</p> <p>Transparency - the Board will ensure that information on its operation, policies and decision-making processes will be as far as practicable accessible to all stakeholders.</p> <p>Procedural fairness - the Board will act without bias and ensure procedural fairness when making a decision affecting an individual's rights, interests or legitimate expectations.</p> <p>Consistency - the Board will strive to act consistently in making decisions to administer the Pastoral Act.</p>
<p>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</p>	<p>The objectives of the Pastoral Board are based on the Board's statutory functions as per section 17 of the Pastoral Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively discharging its responsibility to the Minister for the administration of the Act. • Effectively advising the Minister on the policies that should govern the administration of pastoral land, and on other matters referred to the Pastoral Board by the Minister. • Effectively performing any other function assigned to the Board under the Act or by the Minister.

Our organisational structure

The Pastoral Board is established in accordance with section 12 of the Pastoral Act and consists of six members and six deputy members appointed by the responsible Minister, for a term of up to three years.

The current Board has in-depth experience in pastoral production and land management. Additional information about the Pastoral Board is available at: [Department for Environment and Water - Pastoral Board](#)

Through 2021-22, the Pastoral Board was supported by the Pastoral Unit who were located within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA).

Changes to the Board

On 24 March 2022, the responsibility for the Pastoral Board and the Pastoral Act transitioned from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, as result of a machinery of government change. On 1 July 2022 the Pastoral Unit also transitioned from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

During the term of this Annual Report there were the following changes to the Board's membership. On 15 September 2021, Mr Keith Slade, deputy to Mrs Jenny Treloar, resigned.

The current membership of the Pastoral Board is available at: [Department for Environment and Water - Pastoral Board](#)

Our Minister

For the majority of the 2021-22 reporting period, the Hon David Basham MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development was the Minister responsible for the Pastoral Act. On 24 March 2022 the Pastoral Act was committed to the Hon Dr Susan Close MP, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, who now has overall administrative responsibility of the Pastoral Act. Further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Minister is available at: <https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/the-team/susan-close-mp>

Legislation administered by the agency

Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 and associated regulations.

Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Not Applicable

The Pastoral Board's performance

Performance at a glance

The Pastoral Board assists the responsible Minister in administering 322 pastoral leases in South Australia. The Pastoral Board has various powers and functions under the Pastoral Act. Section 18 of the Pastoral Act enables the Pastoral Board to delegate many of the powers or functions to the responsible Department which for 2021-22 was PIRSA. The act of delegating powers does not derogate from the power of the Pastoral Board to act in any matter.

In 2021-22 the Board held 11 meetings in total, comprising of one in-person meeting and 10 video-teleconference meetings.

A key focus for the Pastoral Board in 2021-22 was to assist the former Minister, the Hon David Basham MP, in the development of new pastoral legislation, the Pastoral Lands Bill and its associated policy positions. The Board also participated in the development of policy and procedures to enable further development of alternative land uses on pastoral leases such as carbon farming.

The Board worked closely with PIRSA (as the responsible agency at the time) to accelerate and complete the remaining overdue on-ground land condition assessments required under section 25 of the Pastoral Act. The Pastoral Board continued to investigate fit for purpose technologies for future assessment and compliance programs.

Decisions made and actions undertaken by the Pastoral Board and by PIRSA as the responsible agency under delegation, pursuant to each section of the Pastoral Act, are summarised in the table below.

Agency response to COVID-19

Not Applicable

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

PIRSA contributed to the State's economic development and growth targets through facilitating pastoral production as allowed for under the Pastoral Act.

Agency specific objectives and performance

Pastoral Board Functions (Pastoral Act)	Decisions/Actions 2021-22	Outcomes
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Compliance with lease conditions - sect 22.	PIRSA issued 23 notices, under delegation, to leaseholders regarding compliance with lease conditions - stock-proof boundary fencing and stock return submission.	Ensuring compliance with lease conditions.
Approving pasturing of other species - sect 22(6)(a)	The Pastoral Board received nil applications for the stocking of species other than sheep or cattle.	To allow for the diversification of grazing species on pastoral land.
Change of stocking level in excess of maximum specified on lease - sect 22(6)(b)	The Pastoral Board received 17 applications for temporary increases in stocking levels.	To support increases in pastoral production during favourable seasonal conditions.
Change of land use purpose - sect 22(6)(c-d)	The Pastoral Board approved twelve change of land use purpose applications.	Administering land use diversification on pastoral leases.
Pastoral lease rents (issuing invoices) - sect 23(7)	Lease rent invoices issued for all pastoral leases for the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.	Administration of lease rent.
Pastoral lease rents (hardship) - sect 23(10)	The Board received nil applications to waive or defer lease rent due to hardship.	Consideration of lease rent relief under exceptional circumstances.
Statutory lease assessments to monitor the condition of pastoral land - sect 25	Field assessments were conducted on 12 pastoral leases.	Monitoring of pastoral land condition to ensure compliance with lease conditions and to meet the objects of the Act.
Pool of persons' assistance to leaseholders - sect 25B.	Nil matters were referred to the 'Pool of Persons' for assistance.	Provide independent review of Board decisions relating to lease assessments.
Extension of term of pastoral leases - sect 26	PIRSA, under delegation, extended the term of 13 leases to a 42-year period.	Lease term extensions and security of tenure for pastoral leaseholders.
Alteration of boundaries - sect 31	There were nil recommendations to the Minister for the alteration of pastoral lease boundaries.	Pastoral lease boundaries realigned at the request of lessees.
Cancellation of lease or imposition of fines - sect 37	The Pastoral Board imposed nil fines to leaseholders. Nil leases were cancelled.	Penalties for non-compliance with lease conditions.

Verification of stock levels - sect 42	The Pastoral Board issued statutory declaration forms (stock returns) to lessees for annual reporting on stock levels.	Monitoring of stock levels on leases.
Gazettal and closure of Public Access Routes on pastoral land - sect 45	Nil new routes were dedicated, and nil existing routes were permanently closed. Fourteen routes were temporarily closed, by PIRSA under delegation, for public safety reasons.	Effective management of access through pastoral land to ensure public safety and maintenance of route condition.
SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal - sect 50	Nil matters were referred to the Tribunal.	Provide independent review of Board decisions or decisions made under delegation.
Stakeholder engagement	The Pastoral Board distributed two electronic Communiques to the pastoral community and other stakeholders. Nil public forums with pastoralists were conducted, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board members represented the Board at two pastoral industry events.	Community engagement to facilitate lease compliance, and sustainable management of pastoral lands

Corporate performance summary

The Pastoral Board operates in accordance with its Governance Charter which the Board prepared with the assistance of the Pastoral Unit and was adopted by the Board on 12 December 2019. The Board is supported by the Pastoral Unit which provides corporate, governance and administrative support.

Employment opportunity programs

The Pastoral Board does not employ staff. Those staff who undertake the delegated work of the Board were employed through PIRSA.

Agency performance management and development systems

Information on PIRSA performance management and development systems is presented in PIRSA annual reports, available at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

Work health, safety and return to work programs

The Pastoral Board operates in accordance with the relevant safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by the PIRSA to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.

Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0
Fatalities	0	0	0
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0

Executive employment in the agency

The Pastoral Board does not employ staff. Those staff who undertake the work on behalf of the Board to administer the Pastoral Act were employed through PIRSA. Information on PIRSA Executive employment is presented in PIRSA's annual reports, available at: https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

The Pastoral Board does not hold funds or manage an operational budget. The Pastoral Board was supported by the Pastoral Unit in PIRSA who undertake the financial management of the program. Information on PIRSA's financial performance is presented in PIRSA's annual reports, available at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

Consultants disclosure

The Pastoral Board did not engage consultants in 2021-22. Information on PIRSA's use of consultants is presented in PIRSA's annual reports, available at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The Pastoral Board did not engage contractors in 2020-21. Information on PIRSA's use of contractors is presented in PIRSA's annual reports, available at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

Data for previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/pastoralboard-annual-report-data>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts](#).

The website also provides details of [across government contracts](#).

Other financial information

Not Applicable.

Other information

Not Applicable.

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
	0

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to control and prevent fraud are specified in the DPC circular Honesty and Accountability for Members of Government Boards - March 2011

Strategies to Strategies to control and prevent fraud are also reported in PIRSA's annual reports, available at: https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

Data for previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/pastoralboard-annual-report-data>

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

0

Data for previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/pastoralboard-annual-report-data>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Not applicable

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Information on PIRSA's reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005* is presented in PIRSA's annual reports, available at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/annual_reports

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2021-22
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	Nil
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	Nil
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	Nil
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	Nil
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	Nil
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	Nil
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/environment poor standard; not accessible	Nil

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		to customers with disabilities	
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	Nil
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	Nil
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	Nil
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	Nil
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	Nil
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	1 complaint which was rejected by the Ombudsman
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	Nil
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	Nil
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	Nil
		Total	1

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	Nil
Number of negative feedback comments	Nil
Total number of feedback comments	Nil
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	N/A

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/pastoral-board-annual-report-data>

Service Improvements

The Pastoral Board aims to continually improve stakeholder relationships and governance performance and effectively administer the Pastoral Act.

Further information is available in the Board's Governance Charter at: [Department for Environment and Water - Pastoral Board](#) and in PIRSA's policies and procedures on customer service including complaint handling, available at: https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/about_us/corporate_policies

Compliance Statement

N/A

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2021-22

N/A