

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010



**Government
of South Australia**

Natural Resources
Management Council

Natural Resources Management Council

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone National (08) 8463 6851

 International +61 8463 6851

Website www.nrm.sa.gov.au

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Paul Caica
Minister for the Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE
South Australia 5000

Date: 12 November 2010

Dear Minister

I am presenting you with the annual report of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Council for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. This report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and the *Public Sector Management Act 2009*.

This Annual Report includes the reports of each of the eight regional NRM boards and they are accompanied by reports of their NRM groups.

Thank you for the support you have shown the NRM Council during this financial year.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Starick
Presiding Member
Natural Resources Management Council

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PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

Natural resources management initiatives undertaken by the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Council are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity*, and with the State NRM Plan.

THE STATE NRM PLAN

A key function of the NRM Council is to 'prepare, and to keep under review, the State NRM Plan, and to keep under review the extent to which regional NRM plans, policies and practices adopted or applied by NRM authorities are consistent with the State NRM Plan' (Section 17(1)(c)).

The State NRM Plan identifies a 50-year vision for natural resources management in South Australia. The State NRM Plan contains four goals:

1. Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.
2. Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.
3. Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.
4. Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.

LINKS BETWEEN THE STATE NRM PLAN AND THE SA STRATEGIC PLAN

In developing the State NRM Plan the NRM Council has taken direction from the South Australian Strategic Plan.

The State NRM Plan will contribute to delivering all aspects of South Australia's Strategic Plan. In some cases, contributions to the objectives of the South Australia's Strategic Plan are indirect – for example, strategies under each of the four goals in the State NRM Plan provide for 'expanding opportunities' through education, training and Aboriginal employment. In other cases, the links are strong and explicit and these are shown in the table below, with ticks ✓ indicating the strength of these links.

State NRM Plan	South Australia's Strategic Plan					
Strategic Goals	Growing prosperity	Improving well-being	Attaining sustainability	Fostering creativity	Building communities	Expanding opportunity
<i>Goal 1</i> Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓	
<i>Goal 2</i> Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.	✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
<i>Goal 3</i> Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.		✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
<i>Goal 4</i> Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	

Further details of the key links of each goal to South Australia's Strategic Plan targets are contained within the State NRM Plan.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

NRM Council priorities

NRM Council conducted a strategic planning day on 4 December 2009, which resulted in the identification of strategic priorities for the 2010 calendar year. Further to our statutory responsibilities and ongoing priorities of volunteer and aboriginal engagement in natural resources management, NRM Council identified five priority areas that will be focused on for providing strategic advice in 2010. These are:

1. *The State NRM Plan*: Review, simplify, validate and promote
2. *Sustainable landscapes*: Ensuring sustainability and productivity of landscapes
3. *Social / Citizen dimensions of NRM*
4. *Climate Change and NRM*: Mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change through promotion/investment in NRM by communities
5. *Influencing integrated decision making in partnership with social and economic development organisations.*

Review of the State NRM Plan

The *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the Act) requires that the State NRM Plan (the Plan) be reviewed at least every five years (section 74(6)), and that the Natural Resources Management Council must monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the State NRM Plan and report to the Minister (section 17(1)(d)).

The inaugural State NRM Plan was released in 2006. The review of this Plan was completed in December 2009. The NRM Council has overseen a review of this plan and has agreed to a new framework for a revised State NRM Plan.

The NRM Council endorsed the terms of reference of the State NRM Plan Steering Committee who have the responsibility of governance arrangements for the revision of the State NRM Plan.

Bridging the Gap between Planning and NRM in a Changing Climate

NRM Council in partnership with the Premier's Climate Change Council (PCCC) is seeking to ensure that South Australia's natural resources sector and ecosystems are managed sustainably with optimum resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change. Furthermore the Councils are looking at ways to influence ways to enhance mitigation strategies for the sector.

The Councils identified five climate change priority areas of common interest for NRMC and PCCC collaboration. These areas are:

1. Assisting the Government in signing Sector Agreements
2. Adaptation to climate change
3. Education in its broadest sense
4. Research and development
5. Offsets.

Climate Change Adaptation Framework

In partnership with the Premier's Climate Change Council (PCCC), the NRM Council have continued to develop an Adaptation Framework for South Australia. It is widely acknowledged that limits on emissions alone will not be enough to avoid all the impacts of climate change.

The Adaptation Framework aims to provide strategic high-level direction for adaptation to climate change in South Australia; it will guide State Government agencies, local government, non-government organisations, regional organisations and the private sector in developing adaptation responses that will increase resilience of South Australia's key sectors and regions.

NRM Council had oversight of targeted agency consultation of the draft Adaptation Framework.

Review of regional NRM Plans

Under the NRM Act the NRM Council is required to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on the consistency of regional NRM plans and water allocation plans with the State NRM Plan. NRM Council established the NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee (CASc) to evaluate regional NRM plans and to provide recommendations for Council's consideration.

CASc met in December 2009 to review three draft regional NRM Plans:

Review of the draft South Australian Arid Lands Regional NRM Plan.

Submission provided to the SA Arid Lands NRM Board during the public consultation period on 8 February 2009. Advice was then provided to the Minister for Environment and Conservation indicating that NRM Council supports his adoption of the plan.

Review of the draft South East Regional NRM Plan

Submission provided to the South East Regional NRM Board as part of the public consultation period on 8 February 2009. Advice then provided to the Minister for Environment and Conservation indicating that NRM Council supports his adoption of the plan on 25 March 2010.

Review of the draft Alinytjara Wilurara Regional NRM Plan

Submission provided to the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board on 8 February 2009.

The membership of CASc as at 30 April 2010 was:

Member	Specialist Knowledge
Ms Vicki-Jo Russell (Chairperson)	Biodiversity; NRM Council member; former member of State Assessment Panel
Mr John Leake	NRM Council member
Mrs Sharon Starick	Primary production and salinity; soil conservation, water

Member	Specialist Knowledge
	management; NRM Council member; former member of State Assessment Panel
Ms Anita Crisp	Local government; soil conservation; water management
Mr Ken Stokes	Biodiversity; science; experience in regional NRM
Ms Rachel Melland	Pest plants
Mr Chris Ball	Marine, estuarine and coast protection

CASc completed its terms of reference during this reporting period (by completing a review of all eight draft regional NRM Plans). The term of membership for CASc ended on 30 April 2010. NRM Council agreed that the future role of CASc would be investigated before determining whether to re-establish it as a sub-committee of NRM Council.

Aboriginal Engagement in NRM

The NRM Council continues to support the Aboriginal State-wide Advisory Committee (ASAC) that it established during 2004-05. ASAC met three times during 2009-10 to continue to advocate and give advice to NRM Council in relation to the engagement of Aboriginal communities in natural resources management.

ASAC met on the following dates during the reporting period:

- 1 July 2009
- 17 September 2009
- 10 December 2009.

The membership of ASAC at 30 June 2010 was:

Member	Region
Ms Karina Lester	Chairperson
Mr Chris Dodd	Alinytjara Wilurara
Ms Rosemary Lester	Alinytjara Wilurara
Ms Margaret Binell	Eyre Peninsula
Ms Michele Gollan	South Australian Murray Darling Basin
Mr Tim Hartman	South East
Ms Leanne Liddle	South Australian Arid Lands
Mr Fraser Vickery	Kangaroo Island
Mr John Chester	Aboriginal Lands Trust
Mr Klynton Wanganeen	Commissioner for Aboriginal Employment
Deputy Members	Region
Ms Carolyn Ireland	South Australian Arid Lands
Mr Haydn Davey	Aboriginal Lands Trust

Over the course of the financial year ASAC undertook a number of initiatives including:

- Provided leadership and guidance to the NRM Council on the recommendations from the Aboriginal NRM Forum held in September 2008

- Identified opportunities to integrate Aboriginal NRM priorities into the review of the State NRM Plan
- Reviewed the Committee's Terms of Reference and revising its work plan
- Provided advice on strategies to improve Aboriginal engagement in NRM.

Volunteers in Natural Resources Management

The NRM Council continues to support the NRM Volunteer Committee it established in November 2006. The NRM Volunteer Committee changed its meeting regime from six weekly to quarterly and its focus from being hands on in developing its State-wide recognition framework and its key stakeholder base to focus on policy and advocacy.

The Committee met four times during 2009-10, to continue to discuss, deliberate and give advice to NRM Council on issues concerning state-wide consistency in support for volunteers in natural resources management.

The NRM Volunteer Committee met on the following dates during the reporting period:

- 23 July 2009
- 22 October 2009
- 23 February 2010
- 7 May 2010.

The key outcome for 2009 was the delivery the Premier's NRM Awards which is a biannual event held conjunction with the South Australian Landcare Awards. The Premier's NRM Awards provide an opportunity to recognise South Australian NRM volunteers. The awards are an excellent opportunity for individuals or groups to showcase their projects and receive recognition and reward for the outstanding contribution they make to their community and the State. The 2009 Premier's NRM Awards and ceremony was very successful and the awards are strongly supported and recognised by the South Australian community.

The Committee extended its focus to motivate and protect the support and engagement of volunteers and stakeholders through policy and advice to the NRM Council on State issues on volunteering.

Committee members have been appointed for their specific knowledge, experience and skills in volunteer management including their ability to consider volunteering from a strategic, state-wide perspective. The Committee continued to provide strategic advice to the NRM Council on volunteer engagement in NRM. The membership of the Volunteer Committee at 30 June 2010 was:

Members	Knowledge, Skills and Experience
Ms Cecilia Woolford (Chair)	Eyre Peninsula farmer and specialist lecturer in business and volunteering. Current: member of Eyre Peninsula NRM Board, Eyre Regional Climate Change Advisory Committee, Uni SA Climate Change Communities & Environment Advisory Committee, Greening Australia SA Board, Greening Australia Limited (Nat) Governance Committee. Former: member of the National Maritime Museum Board, 2001 Paralympics Science

Members	Knowledge, Skills and Experience
	Congress Committee, the initial Business Arts Foundation and patron of the National Maritime Museum's volunteer program.
Mr Hume Macdonald	Director Landcare Australia Limited. Former: Chair of the South Australian Landcare Committee, Chairman Brukunga Mines Remediation Board, former Chair Mt Lofty Ranges Greater Adelaide Interim NRM Board. Committee Member, Banrock Station, Ramsar site management Advisory group.
Ms Allys Todd	Communications, Community Relations and Volunteer Manager for Greening Australia SA. Former volunteer for the Conservation Council of SA, the Wilderness Society, Royal Zoological Society of SA, Earth Sanctuaries, Trees for Life, and the Department for Environment and Natural Resources.
Mr Kent Martin	Farmer, Centre for NRM Management Board member, SA Farmers Federation (SAFF) Native Title Officer. Former: member SA Landcare Committee, chair of SAFF Horticultural Section and SAFF Natural Resources Committee, NRM Council
Mr David Mitchell	Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group member, President of Trees For Life, President and Secretary of Friends of Parks Inc, President of Friends of Cobbler Creek
Mr Fraser Vickery	Professional ecologist and archaeologist, environmentalist, member Kangaroo Island NRM Board (Chair of the KINRMB CEM Advisory committee), Member of the NRMC Aboriginal State Advisory Committee, Conservation Council of SA Board Member and Councillor, member TWS and ACF, President of Greening Australia SA.
Ms Leanne Liddle	SA Aid Lands NRM Board Member, Member Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee, Parks and Wildlife Aboriginal Programs Coordinator in Department for Environment and Natural Resources, Law Society of SA Member, Bush Heritage Australia Director.
Ms Janet Pedler	Ecologist, Land Management and Biodiversity consultant/educator, Director Bushland Conservation Co Pty Ltd. Former: farmer, member of SA Landcare Committee and SA Waterwatch Steering Committee, and Coordinator of Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network.
Mr Joe Keynes	Farmer Keyneton Valley SA, Member NRM Council, River Murray Water Catchment Management Board, SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, State Landcare Committee.

NRM Council submissions in relation to NRM Plans and Policies

During the 2009-10 reporting period, NRM Council provided the following submissions in relation to NRM Plans and Policies:

NRM Plan / Policy	NRMC Input	Date
Eyre Peninsula Regional NRM Plan	NRMC provided advice to the Minister regarding adoption of the	July 2009

NRM Plan / Policy	NRMC Input	Date
	Plan. The Minister adopted the Plan on 8 July 2009	
Kangaroo Island NRM Plan	NRMC provided advice to the Minister regarding adoption of the Plan. The Minister adopted the Plan on 2 September 2009	September 2009
Draft 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide	NRMC provided a comprehensive submission to the Minister in response to the Draft 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide	September 2009
NRM Principles	A working group of NRMC met and compiled NRM principles to be included in Industry Plans. These principles were put into the SA Food Plan.	October 2009
Adaptation to Climate Change Framework	NRMC in conjunction with the Premier's Climate Change Council held consultation sessions on the draft Framework with Government Agencies and Non Government Organisations. NRMC also provided feedback into this process	November 2009
Draft Marne Saunders Water Allocation Plan	Checked consistency with the State NRM Plan and effectiveness of the draft plan in furthering the objects of the <i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i> .	December 2009
Draft NRM Plans for South Australian Arid Lands, Alinytjara Wilurara and South East NRM Boards	The NRMC Assessment Subcommittee reviewed and provided feedback to the Minister on the draft NRM Plans	February 2010
Review of the State NRM Plan 2006	A review of the State NRM Plan 2006 was finalised and sent to the Minister. A document titled "Towards a New State NRM Plan" was sent to the Minister for approval prior to being distributed for targeted consultation	February 2010
NRM (Review) Amendment Bill 2010	NRMC provided feedback on the draft Bill to DWLBC	April 2010
Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Tatiara Prescribed Wells Area	Checked consistency with the State NRM Plan and effectiveness of the draft plan in furthering the objects of the <i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i> .	May 2010

Advice to the Minister on the administration and operation of the Act

NRM Council was pleased to acknowledge the Minister's support for a comprehensive reform agenda based around the review of the NRM Act being progressed.

Education and capacity building

NRM Council maintains a website through the NRM gateway which also gives the public access to the regional NRM Boards websites and NRM agencies.

Council operating structures and processes

At the end of each calendar year the NRM Council holds a Strategic Planning Day to determine the strategic items to be discussed the following year. The strategic items are entered into a document "key strategic discussion themes and underpinning activities" (the forward agenda). The forward agenda is updated on a regular basis as new issues arise or timeframes change.

NRM Council Representation on Relevant NRM Bodies

In order to assist Council in meeting its objectives, members were nominated to a range of bodies, there-by establishing a communication network to have input into strategies and to provide two-way dialogue about relevant NRM issues.

Members on nominated bodies during the reporting period are:

NRM Body	NRM Council Representative
Volunteer Committee	Joe Keynes
Engaging NRM Community Capacity Steering Group	Sharon Starick and Wendy Bell
Kangaroo Management Reference Group	Sharon Starick and Karina Lester (for ASAC)
Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee (ASAC)	Karina Lester (Chair)
Premiers Drought Taskforce	Dennis Mutton (until 30 April 2010) Sharon Starick (from May 2010)
NRM Research Alliance Board	Dennis Mutton (until 30 April 2010) Sharon Starick (from May 2010)
NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee (CASc)	Vicki-Jo Russell and Sharon Starick
Climate Change Adaptation Reference Group	Vicki-Jo Russell, John Leake, Dennis Mutton (until 30 April 2010) and Sharon Starick (from May 2010)
State NRM Plan Steering Committee	Roger Wickes, Sharon Starick and Vicki-Jo Russell
State Bushfire Coordination Committee	Chris Reed (on behalf of NRM Council)
Nature Conservation Legislation Project Steering Committee	Vicki-Jo Russell

NRM Planners Network Forum	Wendy Bell
Southern Water Information Management Board	John Leake
Development and Planning Sub Committee	John Leake and Felicity-Ann Lewis
Planning Institute of Australia – Environmental Planning Chapter	Wendy Bell

Presentations to NRM Council

Throughout the year NRM Council received presentations from NRM bodies and agency staff about natural resources management issues. These presentations included:

Presentation	Presenters	Agency
Unbundling of Water Rights	Claus Schonfeldt	DWLBC
Managing the Water Resource Impacts of Plantation Forests - a statewide policy framework	Christina Shepherd	DWLBC
30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide	John Hanlon and Jennifer Westacott	Department of Planning and Local Government
SA Agrifood Strategy	Geoff Knight and Simon Gierke	Primary Industries and Resources SA
Evaluation of NRM Investment in South Australia	Myles Graham	DWLBC
Human dimensions of NRM	Kathryn Bellette	DWLBC
South Australia's Strategic Plan – Community Engagement Board	Peter Blacker	Chair of the Community Engagement Board
Cultural access to water	Fred Tanner	DWLBC

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The NRM Council was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2009-10 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the NRM Act.

OBJECT OF THE *NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT*

The objects of the Act include assisting in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources in a manner that—

- (a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and
- (b) seeks to protect biological diversity and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, to support and encourage the restoration or rehabilitation of ecological systems and processes that have been lost or degraded; and

- (c) provides for the protection and management of catchments and the sustainable use of land and water resources and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, seeks to enhance and restore or rehabilitate land and water resources that have been degraded; and
- (d) seeks to support sustainable primary and other economic production systems with particular reference to the value of agriculture and mining activities to the economy of the State; and
- (e) provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community; and
- (f) promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT

The Minister for Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. Pursuant to section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994*, certain functions and powers of the Minister for Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board have been conferred on the Minister for the River Murray.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Section 17 of the NRM Act 2004 sets out the functions of the NRM Council:

- (a) to provide advice to the Minister on the administration and operation of this Act; and
- (b) to audit, monitor and evaluate the state and condition of natural resources across the State, and to evaluate and report on—
 - (i) the performance of the NRM authorities established under this Act; and
 - (ii) the integration of natural resources management practices on account of this Act; and
- (c) to prepare, and to keep under review, the State NRM Plan, and to keep under review the extent to which—
 - (i) regional NRM plans; and
 - (ii) policies and practices adopted or applied by NRM authorities,
 are consistent with the State NRM Plan; and
- (d) to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of—
 - (i) this Act; and
 - (ii) the State NRM Plan; and
 - (iii) other natural resources management policies initiated by the Government,
 and to provide reports to the Minister, and to other relevant persons and bodies, in relation to these matters; and

- (e) as far as reasonably practicable and appropriate—
 - (i) to promote the implementation of integrated natural resources management practices and principles under other Acts; and
 - (ii) to contribute to the adoption of sound natural resources management policies under the Planning Strategy under the *Development Act 1993*; and
 - (iii) to ensure that natural resources management issues are considered when reports on the state of the environment are being prepared at State level; and
 - (f) to assist in the coordination of natural resources management initiatives across 2 or more regions and to resolve any issues that may arise between regional NRM Boards; and
 - (g) to convene forums on a State-wide basis to discuss natural resources management issues, and to promote public awareness of sound natural resources management practices; and
 - (h) at the request of the Minister, or on its own initiative, to advise the Minister on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within the State, or on the management of those resources, to conduct any inquiry or audit, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (i) such other functions assigned to the council by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) If the Minister assigns a function to the NRM Council under subsection (1)(i) (other than a function that is not, in the opinion of the NRM Council, a significant extension to its current functions), the NRM Council must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.
- (3) In performing its functions, the NRM Council should seek to work collaboratively with—
- (a) other State agencies, agencies of the Commonwealth, and agencies of the other States and Territories, that have functions that are relevant to those of the council; and
 - (b) local government; and
 - (c) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 13 of the NRM Act provides for the appointment of the NRM Council.

Each of the appointed members of the Council is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the standards stipulated by Section 13 of the NRM Act for the appointment of members. Members appointed are:

Sharon Starick (Presiding Member)

Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011

Vicki-Jo Russell	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Karina Lester	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Wendy Bell (reappointed member)	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013
Roger Wickes (reappointed member)	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013
John Leake	Appointed 10.9.2009 to 29.4.2011
Anthony Cheshire	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Joseph Keynes	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
Felicity-ann Lewis	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
David Morcom (deputy to Felicity-ann Lewis)	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013

During the reporting period the following members terms expired:

Dennis Mutton (Presiding Member) 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2010
Rosalina Bouchee 4.10.2007 to 29.4.2010
Graham Gates (deputy to Rosalina Bouchee) 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2010

Pursuant to Section 13(10) of the NRM Act the Minister may also authorise a person or persons to attend any meeting of the NRM Council in order to represent the interests of the Commonwealth, the State or local government. In this capacity, the following persons attended and participated in meetings of the NRM Council:

Mr Scott Ashby	Chief Executive, DWLBC
Mr Geoff Knight	Chief Executive, PIRSA
Mr Allan Holmes	Chief Executive, DEH
Ms Helen Fulcher	Chief Executive, EPA
Mr John Howard	Head of Water Quality and Environment, SA Water
Ms Sally Troy	General Manager, Australian Government NRM Team

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Nine general NRM Council meetings were held during the 2009-10 financial year. One special meeting was held during in December 2009 (strategic planning day).

Meetings of the NRM Council are usually held monthly, on the first Friday of each month, except January. The NRM Act states that the meetings of the NRM Council must be accessible to the public. NRM Council must give public notice of its intention to hold a meeting, stating the time and place at which the meeting will be held.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Dennis Mutton	6	-	Leave and term ended on 29 April 2010
Karina Lester	8	-	Family
Vicki-Jo Russell	8	-	Family
Sharon Starick	8	-	Leave
Rosalina Bouchee	6	-	Illness and term ended on 29

			April 2010
John Leake	5	Appointed 10 September 2009	Business
Wendy Bell	8	-	Leave
Anthony Cheshire	7		Business
Roger Wickes	5		Leave
Graham Gates	2	Deputy to Rosalina Bouchee	Term ended on 29 April 2010
Felicity-ann Lewis	1	Appointed 6 May 2010	N/A
Joseph Keynes	1	Appointed 6 May 2010	N/A
David Morcom	1	Deputy to Felicity-ann Lewis – appointed 6 May 2010	N/A

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, the Department for Environment and Heritage, SA Water, Primary Industries and Resources SA, the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Planning and Local Government and the Australian Government are all represented on NRM Council.

The NRM Council have signed a “Delivering NRM Together” document which outlines the commitment of the NRM Council, NRM Boards and NRM agencies to work together to deliver natural resources management outcomes for South Australia.

NRM Council and the Regional NRM Boards have signed a Statement of Intent. The document is a statement of our collective intent to work together to achieve and deliver the objects of the NRM Act. Our common goal is the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in South Australia through an integrated approach to the use and management of the State’s natural resources.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

NRM Council has a number of policies that guide staff and members in their responsibilities including:

- Meeting procedures and member obligations
- NRM Council decision making framework
- Policy development
- Guidelines for presentations
- Guidelines for distribution of correspondence

STAFFING

The NRM Council utilises the services of the staff and facilities of the DWLBC. Reporting on this matter is contained in the Department’s Annual Report 2009-10 under section 6A of the Public Sector Management Act.

Assigned staff during the reporting period:

Vicki Jacobs	Acting NRM Council Business Manager
Fran Stropin	Acting NRM Council Business Manager (from 2 February 2010 to 13 April 2010)
Cherie O’Neill	Project Officer (until 4 October 2009)
Aubrey Thomas	Project Officer (from 2 November 2009 to 29 January 2010)
Sara Bann	Administrative Support
Hannah Pitcher	Executive Assistant
Deb Rav	Project Officer

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO NRM COUNCIL BY MINISTER

No function was assigned to the NRM Council under Section 17(2) in the reporting period.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Members of the NRM Council received the following remuneration as set by Cabinet:

- Presiding Member: \$258 per four-hour session. The Presiding Member also receives an annual allowance/retainer as part of the remuneration package.
- Member: \$206 per four-hour session.

NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four-hour session
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session

Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four-hour session
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session

Volunteer Committee:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four-hour session
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

The gender balance of the NRM Council was taken into consideration when members of the skills based council were appointed.

The NRM Council consisted of five females and four males (plus one male deputy member) at the end of the 2009-10 reporting period.

Members are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and the equal opportunity policies and programs of DWLBC. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE NRM COUNCIL

The below Financial Statement of NRM Council includes the costs associated with the three sub-committees of NRM Council – Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee, NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee and NRM Volunteer Committee.

NRM COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009-10

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	ITEM	\$ (GST excl)
<i>Employment Costs:</i>		
	Allowances Paid	10 237
	Superannuation	7 861
	Payroll Tax	4 980
	Sitting Fees	80 564
	Fringe Benefits Tax	2 509
	<i>Total</i>	<i>106 151</i>
<i>Goods & Services:</i>		
	Advertising General	2 629
	Advertising WRPC	0 592
	Consumables	0 014
	Courier/Freight Charges	0 075
	Postage	0 910
	Stationery	1 165
	Sundries	0 075
	Meeting/Conference expenses	1 900
	Conference/Seminar expenses	11 867
	Service Level Agr. Expenses	0 048
	Entertainment (Non FBT)	0 048
	Desktop Telephones	0 015
	Printing/Publishing	4 927
	Minor Hardware - IT	0 521
	<i>Total</i>	<i>24738</i>
<i>Contractors:</i>		
	Contractors Fees (Non-SA Gov)	0 000
	<i>Total</i>	<i>0 000</i>
<i>Motor Vehicle Expenses:</i>		
	Motor Vehicle Hire	0 000
	Taxi Fares	2 378
	Fuel Costs	0 000
	Mileage Expenses	21 676
	Parking Reimbursement	0 588
	<i>Total</i>	<i>24 642</i>
<i>Travel & Accommodation:</i>		
	Airfares - Local/Interstate	07 448
	Accommodation & Meals	08 218
	<i>Total</i>	<i>15 666</i>
<i>Grants and Subsidies</i>		
	Grants and Subsidies	10 000
	Total	10 000
	<i>Total Expenditure 2009 - 2010</i>	<i>181245</i>

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the NRM Council.

Financial services are provided to the NRM Council by DWLBC and reporting on strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE (OHS&W)

There were no OHS&W incidents reported by the NRM Council in the reporting period.

As a user of DWLBC facilities and equipment, the NRM Council is aware of and abides by DWLBC's OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING EXPENDITURE

Training and Development	Total Cost	% of Total Salary Expenditure
Total training and development expenditure	\$0	0%
Total leadership and management development expenditure	\$0	0%

ACCREDITED TRAINING PACKAGES

ACCREDITED TRAINING PACKAGES BY CLASSIFICATION

Classification	Number of Accredited Training Packages
None undertaken	N/A

CONSULTANTS

Throughout 2009-10, the Council engaged one consultant who undertook the following work on behalf of the Council:

- In December 2009, Natalie Fuller of Natalie Fuller and Associates was engaged to facilitate NRM Council's planning day at a cost of \$2970.00 plus GST

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The NRM Council did not enter any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

DWLBC provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the NRM Council. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

DISABILITY ACTION PLANS

Promoting Independence – Disability Action Plans for South Australia provides a framework of action for agencies to meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *SA Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

Members of the NRM Council are aware of and abide by their obligations under the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *State Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS

The NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DWLBC. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

The government adopted the South Australian Urban Design Charter as whole-of-government urban policy. The Charter was publicly released in November 2004.

The Urban Design Charter aims to promote the benefits of good urban design, embed the principles into government processes and record the South Australian Government's commitment to good urban design.

The NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DWLBC. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DWLBC. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

As the NRM Council usually meets on Kaurna land, the NRM Council begins each meeting with the following reconciliation statement:

“The NRM Council would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The NRM Council also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.”

In fulfilling its functions, the NRM Council is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

For meetings held in other parts of South Australia the following recognition is given:

“We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to Country. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting / attending from other areas of South Australia / Australia present here.”

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

As a DWLBC controlled entity, the NRM Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DWLBC Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The NRM Council undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2009-10.

GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK

The Greening of Government Operations Framework (GoGo) Framework was approved by Government in February 2006 to provide the implementation framework for South Australian Government agencies to progress greening programs.

GoGO Priority Area 1: energy management

GoGO Priority Area 2: water Conservation and Wastewater Management

GoGO Priority Area 3: waste management

GoGO Priority Area 4: built facilities management

GoGO Priority Area 5: travel and fleet management

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC 2009-10 Annual Report.

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

There were no instances where public interest has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The NRM Council appreciates the support and encouragement it has received from the Minister for Environment and Conservation and staff from the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

PUBLICATIONS

Towards a new State NRM Plan.