

PASTORAL BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014



**Government
of South Australia**

Pastoral Board
Annual Report 2013-14

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

22 August 2014

Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
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Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 18 (A) of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (the Act), I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Pastoral Board for the year ended 30 June 2014.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Mills
Presiding Member
Pastoral Board of South Australia

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The Pastoral Board has been in operation in South Australia for 119 years. It is one of the oldest continually active statutory authorities in Australia.

The first Board, chaired by the Acting Surveyor-General William Strawbridge, was appointed in 1894 to help administer the *Pastoral Act of 1893*. The 1894 Board was given the power to determine lease areas, boundaries, rents and the duration of tenured occupancies.

In the 1930s the sustainability of the current grazing practices began to be widely and openly questioned. Short-term tenures, poor stocking practices and a run of bad seasons had all contributed to the malaise that was giving rise to these questions. *The Pastoral Act of 1936* introduced stocking controls on leases for the first time.

The Pastoral Board today and historically has been made up of appointees who are selected for having pastoral industry knowledge, extensive experience, State Government corporate knowledge and importantly good relationships with lessees and good communication skills. The Board is made up of experts in their field additionally informed by the Community. The Board's practical understanding of the complexity of managing pastoral lands sustainably, the economic sustainability of lessees and its firm but fair approach to its regulatory role has gained the trust and respect of pastoral land managers.

Today the sustainable management of pastoral lands subject to grazing, and the monitoring of the condition of these lands, are pivotal components of the work of the Pastoral Board and its support staff.

THE REGION

The rangelands of South Australia lie beyond the agricultural districts and occupy approximately 741 000 km². Rangelands encompass just over 80% of the State's land area. Within this area the Pastoral Board is mandated to administer and monitor 322 pastoral leases that collectively occupy 410 000 km². The balance of the rangelands is set aside as Aboriginal lands and parks and reserves.

The pastoral lands are divided into two zones by the 2 250 km Dog Fence. Cattle leases outside the fence collectively occupy 230 000 km². while sheep leases inside the fence occupy 180 000 km².

The individual leases that define the Pastoral Board's area of responsibility range in size from 20 km². to over 14 000 km². These leases are operated as 223 stations, runs, or management units.

Sustainable pastoral land use relies heavily on the availability of water. Rainfall is low and unreliable over most of the region. Averages vary from 275 mm in parts of the Flinders Ranges and in the Musgrave Ranges against the Northern Territory border, to less than 150 mm in the vicinity of Lake Eyre. In all areas extreme summer conditions contribute to evaporation rates greater than rainfall. This is a major issue with surface storage of stock water throughout the region. Stock water distribution on most pastoral leases comes from dams, earth tanks, bores (some into the Great Artesian Basin) and troughs along pipelines.

The more northerly and westerly country receives most of its rainfall in the summer months from storms and occasional monsoonal rains from the north and northwest. It is only the southern rangelands fringing the agricultural areas that receive any significant precipitation from major southwest weather fronts.

The characteristic saltbush and bluebush shrublands on leases south of the Dog Fence are indicative of the region's aridity. A diverse range of plants have adapted to these harsh conditions. Some are edible and provide a perennial fodder base for sheep.

The northern cattle country is more ephemeral in nature, responding to episodic rainfall events. Predominantly annual forage species respond quickly to rainfall events in the lighter sand dune and swale country whilst perennial and annual grasses of the stony tablelands require higher rainfall event to respond but generally persist longer in the landscape. Floodplains of the major rivers and creeks in the far north and north east portion of the cattle country also provide highly nutritious plant biomass for cattle.

PASTORAL DISTRICTS

There are seven pastoral districts in the rangelands:

- Marla-Oodnadatta
- Marree-Innamincka
- Kingoonya
- North Flinders
- Gawler Ranges
- North East
- Eastern Districts

These districts are based on the old Soil Conservation Board boundaries and are used by the assessment and inspection teams to group properties for the purposes of conducting the on ground evaluations and to help with assessments.

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

For 2013-14 the Board has been focussing and continues to focus on eight strategic priorities, as detailed below.

1. The Board provided advice to DEWNR on progress against SASP Target 70 - By 2020 achieve a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land (baseline: 2005-06, commencement 2nd round lease assessment process).
2. The Board recognises that various issues have arisen since the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* was enacted and the Board needs to ensure it continues to meet its responsibilities through the mechanisms of the Pastoral Act.
3. Overgrazing – pest animals and overabundant native animals.
4. Science, Research and Innovation, focussing on land condition assessment by remote sensing, particularly in the cattle country, the implications of increased mining and gas exploration in the Great Artesian Basin and financial drivers impacting on property management.

5. Climate Change
6. Management of Alternative Breeds of Sheep.
7. Aboriginal Engagement.
8. Property Management Planning.

This strategic work is in addition to the Pastoral Board's operational requirements under the *Pastoral Land Management Act 1989* (the Act).

HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC PLANNING

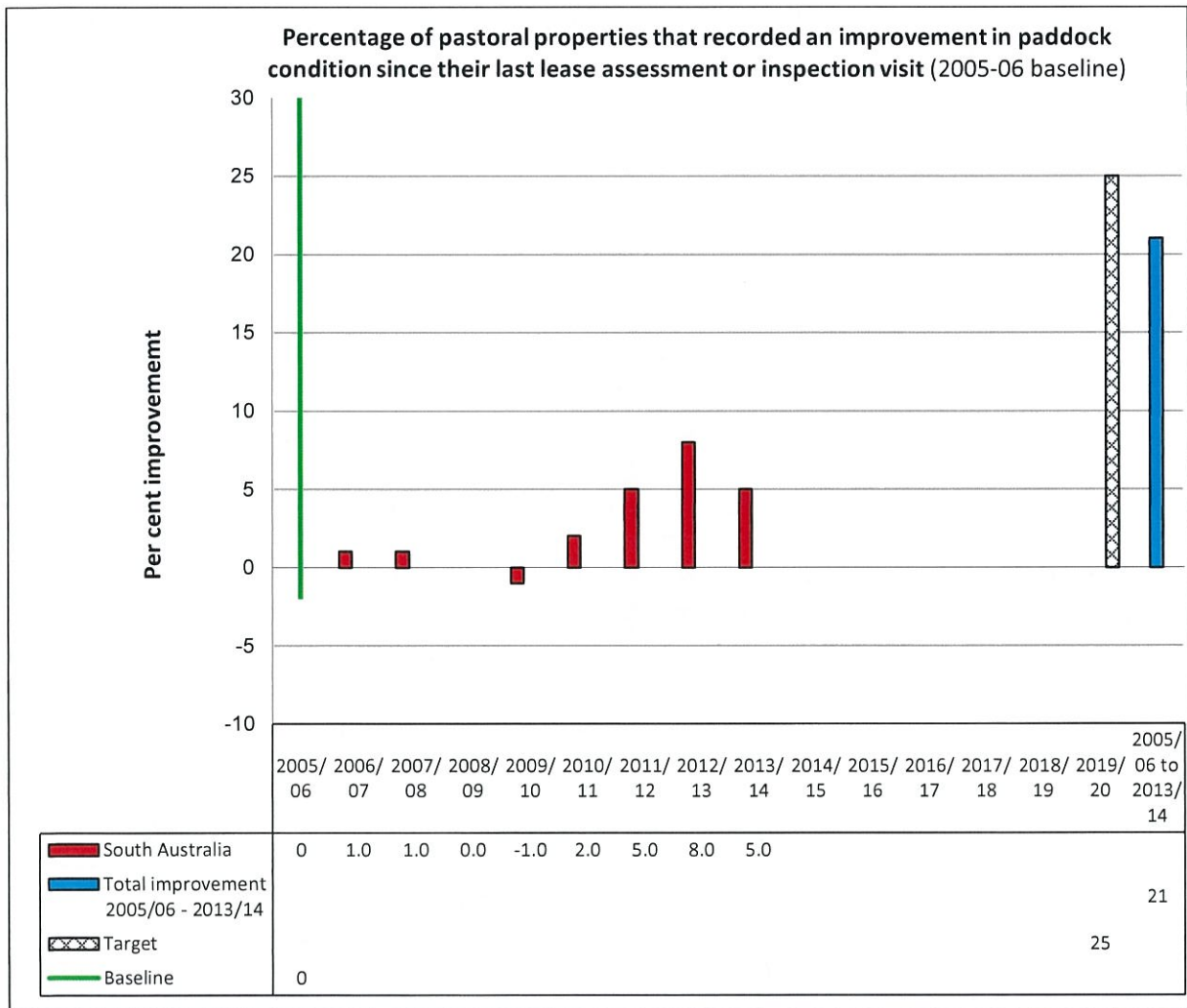
The Board's responsibilities and activities relate to two targets under the priority area of 'Our Environment' in South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) 2011:

- Target 69: Lose no native species as a result of human impacts.

To facilitate this target the Board gives positive consideration to requests for changes of land use from pastoral purposes to conservation purposes.

- Target 70: Sustainable land management: By 2020, achieve a 25% increase in the protection of agricultural cropping land from soil erosion and a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land (baseline: 2002-03 and 2005-06 respectively).

The Board contributes to this target through its lease inspection, assessment and land condition monitoring program. The lease assessment information collected by DEWNR on behalf of the Board is used to measure improvement in the condition of pastoral land. Based on relevant data collected during lease assessments and inspections in the 2013/2014 financial year, 5% per cent of pastoral properties have recorded an improvement in paddock condition since their last lease assessment or inspection visit. The cumulative improvement for the period 2005/2006 – 2013/2014 is 21%. The target is to achieve a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land by 2020. This would equate to a net improvement in 56 of the State's 223 pastoral properties. A graph of the progress to date is shown below:



Furthermore, the Government has seven strategic priority areas being:

- Creating a vibrant city
- Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods
- An affordable place to live
- Every chance for every child
- Grow advanced manufacturing
- Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all
- Premium food and wine from our clean environment

The Board’s responsibilities and activities contribute to the priority “Premium food and wine from a clean environment”. The Pastoral Board contributes to this priority through its lease assessment, inspection and land condition monitoring programs, to ensure that the rangelands are used and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Most of the pastoral land in the State is within the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management (NRM) region. Relationships with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board were strengthened through joint meetings and partnership arrangements in policy, program and project development and delivery.

The Pastoral Board and SA Arid Lands NRM Board aim to have at least one joint meeting per year to discuss common issues, align policies and actions, share project information and build closer working relationships. The Pastoral Board met with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board in Glendambo on 25th June 2014.

Pastoral Board support staff from the Pastoral Program, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), collaborated with staff from the SA Arid Lands NRM region on a range of issues, including dingo management, control of large feral herbivores, and the role of the Native Vegetation Council within DEWNR.

The Pastoral Board is collaborating with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board on the development and alignment of relevant policies that relate to the management of pastoral leasehold land.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Native Vegetation Council has delegated certain powers and functions of the Council to the Pastoral Board in relation to clearance of native vegetation by grazing of domestic stock. Specifically:

- Section 25 of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* in relation to the development of guidelines for the management of native vegetation with respect to clearance of native vegetation by grazing on lands held under a pastoral lease, and
- Division 1 of Part 5 of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* in relation to application to clear native vegetation by grazing on land held under a pastoral lease.

The Pastoral Board applies the delegated powers in relation to the extension of stock water supplies into areas of pastoral country not previously provided with a permanent water supply and any proposals to change the species of grazing animal. In carrying out this responsibility the Board actively consults with the Native Vegetation Council and the SA Arid Lands NRM Board.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

In addition to its involvement with statutory groups, the Board is also represented on the State Kangaroo Management Reference Group. Through its membership the Board also has a close relationship with Primary Producers SA and the Conservation Council of SA.

OPEN FORUM WITH LESSEES

On Tuesday 24 June 2014 the Pastoral Board held an open forum with pastoralists at the Glendambo Motel. Attending the forum were representatives of Kokatha, Billa Kalina, Coondambo, Mount Vivian and Bon Bon Stations.

The lessees discussed with the Pastoral Board the impact of the current high wild dog numbers and concerns around lack of cooperation by some pastoral lessees when district baiting programs are proposed and conducted, in particular lessees associated with 'organic' properties and properties operating as un-grazed leases.

The lessees also discussed with the Pastoral Board the second round Lease Assessment process and how it differs from the first round assessment. The Pastoral Board was questioned about the financial implications of alterations to the lease stocking maximum resulting from lease assessment.

A public meeting was also held at Glendambo on the same day with the Minister for Agriculture attending. This meeting focussed on the State Government provision of \$275,000 to help with water infrastructure and wild dog management for drought affected pastoralists

SEASONAL CONDITIONS 2013-2014

The 2013-14 financial year began with almost all pastoral areas in good condition. Beneficial rains throughout the central and southern pastoral areas had provided substantial winter pasture production but the Oodnadatta area and properties on the northern Birdsville Track were experiencing very dry conditions.

Dry and windy conditions during September/October caused paddock feed to dry off but most districts had sufficient standing feed for provision of stock feed over summer, with the exception of the Oodnadatta area and those pastoral properties south of Birdsville.

Widespread rains were recorded in February with most areas recording between 20-75mm, including patchy rainfall in the Oodnadatta area. Rainfalls of 75-175mm were recorded in some areas in late May but properties on the northern Birdsville Track and increasingly the far North East still remain extremely dry, reportedly the driest for many years.

COMMUNICATIONS

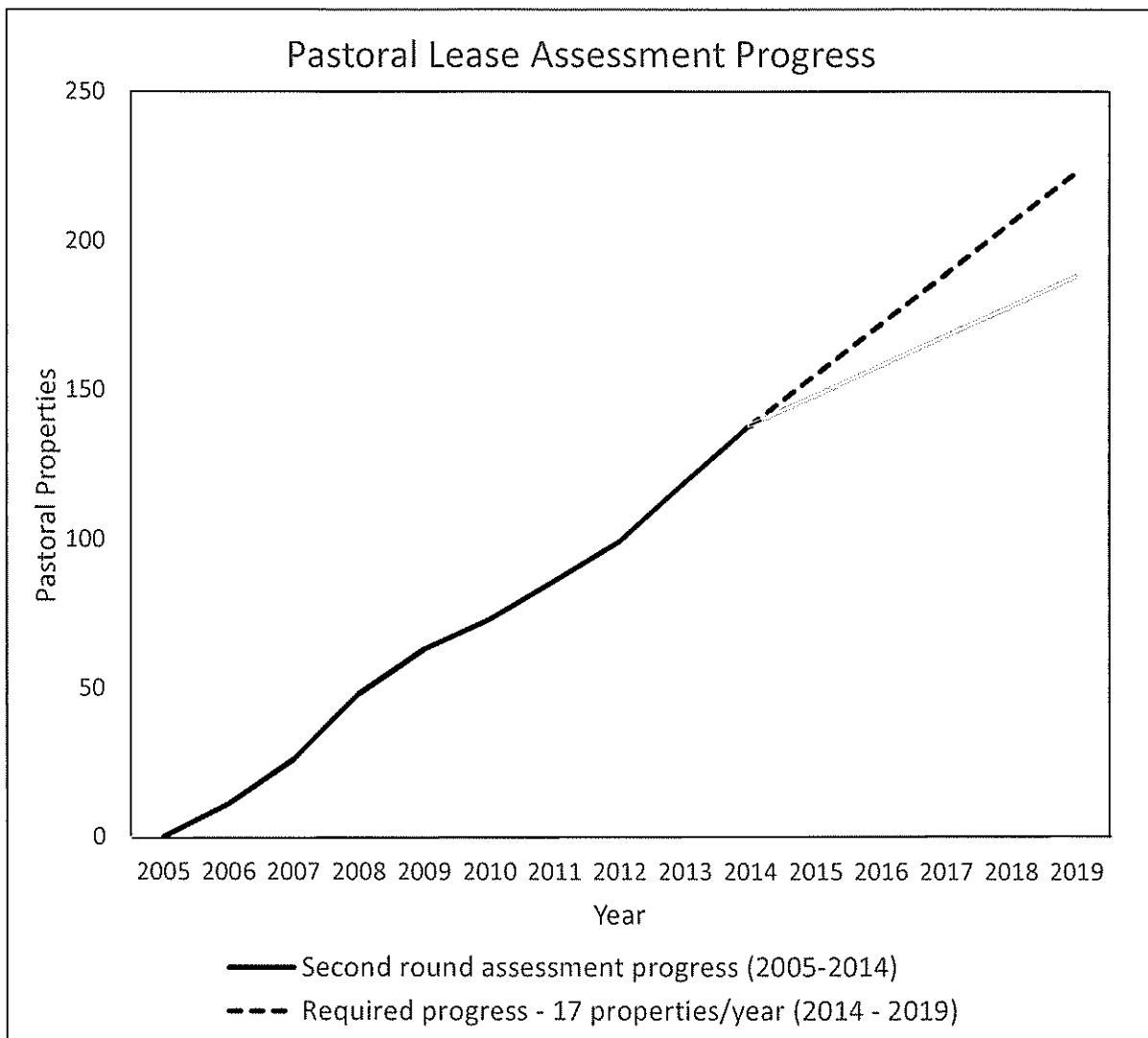
The Pastoral Board contributes articles to the “Across the Outback”, the newsletter that is produced every two months by the SA Arid Lands NRM Board.

In 2013-14 the Pastoral Board published articles on the following topics:

- Pastoral Board members (October 2013)
- Pastoral Board meeting 138 (October 2013)
- Possible conversion of Lease Maximums to Dry Sheep Equivalents (October 2013)
- Farewell to Principal Scientific Officer, Craig Baulderstone (October 2013)
- Pastoral Lease Assessment Update (February 2014)
- Pastoral Board meets with lessees in Glendambo (June 2014)

MONITORING LAND CONDITION

The Pastoral Board, under section 25 of the Act, is required to assess the condition of the land comprised in each pastoral lease at intervals of not more than 14 years and, given a satisfactory assessment, restore the lease to a 42 year term with variations to the lease conditions as appropriate. The first round of lease assessments commenced in 1990 and saw all properties assessed within the 14 year interval. The second round of lease assessments commenced in 2005 meaning that all 223 pastoral properties are required to be assessed by 2019. Previous annual reports have identified resourcing as an issue. Currently, a rate of 17 properties per year is required to complete the second round of assessments by 2019. Under current resourcing levels, it is anticipated that the required rate of 17 properties per year will be difficult to achieve. When the lease assessment program progresses into the larger northern properties, it is estimated that about 10 properties per year is achievable. Based on this rate (as illustrated in the graph below), it is estimated that 188 properties will be assessed by 2019 (35 less than the required total of 223 pastoral properties).



The assessment field team structure previously comprised two experienced pastoral land assessment officers. In order to improve efficiencies and attempt to achieve the required rate of 17 properties per year to complete by 2019, volunteers will be used to assist pastoral lease assessment officers on field trips. To establish a flexible pool of suitable volunteers, an expression of interest has been distributed amongst a range of networks including universities, friends groups as well as an advertisement in SAAL's Across the Outback publication. Expanding the pool of suitable volunteers will be an ongoing procedure.

Assessment field work for 19 properties was completed in the 2013-14 financial year including the last Eastern District property and 18 of the 46 properties in the Flinders District. Eight reports were written and sent out to pastoralists for their comment of which two have been returned, the updated reports are then presented to the Pastoral Board for consideration.

LEASE INSPECTIONS

Pastoral leases are inspected for compliance with lease conditions and to effectively monitor and address any land management issues on individual leases. The inspection process involves land condition monitoring in conjunction with assessing impacts of the current grazing practices. Where grazing pressure is assessed to be excessive, inspectors develop strategies with the lessee to address the problem.

During 2013–14, 22 pastoral inspections (encompassing 28 individual pastoral leases) were conducted. These occurred in all districts except for the Kingoonya District. To ensure every property is inspected at least once every 7 years, 31 properties per annum are required to be the subject of an inspection. Of the 22 inspections, two leases were visited three times which required additional resources and reduces the overall number of properties completed. Of the two, one was in the Gawler Ranges and the other one east of the Flinders Ranges and Lake Frome.

One section 43 notice is in place on one property for the potential land degradation issues that can result from many water points installed less than 5 kilometres apart and for being installed without planning considerations or approvals being obtained for developing lease areas that were previously not considered watered.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES – NEW GAZETTALS

Section 45 of the Act provides for the establishment of Public Access Routes across lands held under pastoral lease. Public Access Routes provide public access over pastoral lease land to specific places of interest without the need to obtain the permission of the lessee. These routes link with the public road system in the pastoral areas.

No additional Public Access Routes were gazetted during 2013-14.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES CLOSURES

Three Public Access Routes were closed during the summer which is in line with the annual closures of Witjira National Park and Simpson Desert Reserve. Walkers Crossing and Warburton K1 PARs were closed between December 15 2013 and March 15 2014, due to the extreme temperatures in these areas over the summer period. All other public Access Routes within the South Australian outback have generally remained open during the last 12 months, with short closures due to local rainfall rendering some routes impassable.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance was carried out on several PARs during the year. The Halligan Bay PAR was graded twice and rubble used to cap a section of the track that traditionally breaks up into bulldust holes. Pedirka PAR has also been graded for the entire length with capping installed and a deviation included in the sand dunes approximately 20 kilometres east of Hamilton homestead. Additionally, the Tallaringa PAR was graded from Mabel Creek homestead through to the dog fence, as this route was extremely corrugated. PARs within the Flinders Ranges including Nuccaleena and Artimore were repaired with creek crossings washed out during heavy rainfall in early 2014. Where possible, local contractors have been engaged to carry out maintenance on these routes.

MINING DEVELOPMENT

The Board has continued to be consulted in the expansion of mining, both exploration and development of actual mine sites, in its statutory role of managing pastoral leases. The Board's interest in this activity extends into change of land use applications, commenting on specific proposals and ensuring proposed developments do not impair the ability of lessees to conduct their pastoral enterprises. Issues of particular interest to the Board are the impact of developments on local water resources, installation of haul roads and other infrastructure, and working with the Department for State Development to ensure that mining companies are acting responsibly in their interactions with pastoral lessees and their managers.

LEASE TRANSACTIONS CONSIDERED

Section 10 and 18 of the Act allow the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) and the Pastoral Board respectively to delegate a number of their powers under that Act. The power to approve transfers and sub-leases of pastoral leases provided they are being transferred and sub-leased for pastoral or associated purposes has been delegated to the Team Leader, Pastoral Unit, DEWNR.

During 2013-14, the following lease transfers were approved: Internal Restructure -Alton Downs, Andrewilla & Clifton Hills. Open Market- Yeltana and Umberatana

During 2013-14, the following sub-leases were approved: Tregalana and Lincoln Park

PASTORAL RENTS

Under section 23 of the Act the Board is responsible for issuing and sending to lessees annual rent accounts.

Pastoral lease rentals are payable annually in arrears. Rents collected in 2013-14 totalled \$1,459,405. Outstanding rents at 30 June 2014 totalled \$163,959, and debt recovery processes have been instigated.

DETERMINATION OF RENTS

Under section 23 of the Act, the Valuer-General determines pastoral rents as a percentage of the unimproved value of the land – the percentage to represent an appropriate rate of return relative to the purpose for which the land is used.

Section 23(4) obliges the Valuer-General to determine rents at least every five (5) years and in 2011-12 the Valuer-General provided the Pastoral Board with its determinations for each pastoral lease.

The Valuer-General had determined that the annual rate of return on pastoral leases would remain unchanged for the 2012 (1 Nov 2012 – 31 Oct 2013) rental period. The rates of return are:

- 2.7% (two point seven percent) for leases used for **pastoral purposes**
- 2.0% (two percent) for leases used for **conservation purposes**
- 0.0% (zero percent) for leases subject to a **Heritage Agreement**
- 5.0% (five percent) for leases used for **tourism purposes**
- 2.7% (two point seven percent) for **mining purposes**

The Pastoral Board issued the rent accounts as per section 23 of the Act.

Under section 56 of the Act, lessees dissatisfied with their rent determination can write to the Valuer-General for an informal resolution or, alternatively, can apply to the Valuer-General for a review of the determination by a listed independent valuer. A final right of appeal from both processes lies with the Land and Valuation Court and the Act allows a lessee to appeal directly to the Land and Valuation Court from the outset if he or she wishes.

In 2013-14 there were nil lodged objections by lessees with the Valuer-General

RENT RELIEF

The Board can consider applications for rent relief on a case-by-case basis. As a matter of general policy the Board recognises the joint Federal / State Drought Assistance process and Farm Help as the most appropriate mechanism for Government assistance to pastoralists in hardship due to prolonged drought. The Board will consider applications for rent deferral where Federal and State support is not available due to non-viability of the lessee.

No applications for rent relief were received in 2013-14.

PASTORAL LAND APPEAL TRIBUNAL

The Tribunal is appointed pursuant to section 50 of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act, 1989*. It consists of a District Court Judge and two experts chosen by the Judge from a panel appointed by the Governor.

It considers appeals from lessees relating to variances of conditions of a pastoral lease; decisions not to extend a pastoral lease; decisions to cancel a lease or fine a lessee for breaches of lease conditions; property planning decisions; public access route establishments and refusals to consent to transfers, mortgages, assignments, subleases and other dealings with a lease.

During the year under review, there were no matters referred to the Pastoral Land Appeal Tribunal.

ASSISTANCE TO LESEES VIA ‘POOL OF PERSONS’

Section 25(A) of the Act provides for the establishment of a ‘pool of persons’ available to assist lessees with their dealings with the Board in relation to their lease assessments.

There were no matters referred to the “Pool of Persons” in the 2013/214 year.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Pastoral Board of South Australia is established under section 12 of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*.

The Pastoral Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own.

OBJECT OF THE *PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT 1989*

The Pastoral Board’s overriding goals and objectives are set out in section 4 of the Act. The Board may develop its own strategic planning goals and operational policies, within the framework of resource sustainability outlined in the Act.

The Objects of the Act (section 4) are:

- (a) to ensure that all pastoral land in the State is well managed and utilised prudently so that its renewable resources are maintained and its yield sustained; and
- (b) to provide for –
 - (i) the effective monitoring of the condition of pastoral land; and

- (ii) the prevention of degradation of the land and its indigenous plant and animal life; and
- (iii) the rehabilitation of the land in cases of damage; and
- (c) to provide a form of tenure of Crown land for pastoral purposes that is conducive to the economic viability of the pastoral industry; and
- (d) to recognise the right of Aboriginal persons to follow traditional pursuits on pastoral land; and
- (e) to provide the community with a system of access to and through pastoral land that finds a proper balance between the interests of the pastoral industry and the interests of the community in enjoying the unique environment of the land.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board is primarily to ensure that all pastoral land in the State is well managed and utilised prudently so that its renewable resources are maintained and its yield sustained.

To focus the Board on the coordination of its activities with other statutory groups operating in the pastoral lands, section 5 of the Act requires the Minister and the Board to act consistently with, and have regard to, plans and guidelines established by government agencies, resource conservation authorities and planning authorities. The Board must also have regard to the terms of any relevant Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA).

FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

Section 17(1) of the Act states that the Board is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act, and in discharging that responsibility is subject to the control and direction of the Minister. Subsection (2) describes the other functions of the Board as:

- (a) to advise the Minister on policies that should govern the administration of pastoral land;
- (b) to advise the Minister on other matters referred to the Board by the Minister; and
- (c) to perform any other function assigned to the Board by or under this Act by the Minister.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the eighth Pastoral Board appointed for a three-year period expiring on 11 August 2013, pursuant to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act, 1989* was

Presiding Member

Geoff Mills

A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister, wide experience in administration of pastoral leases, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

Members

Vicki Linton

A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister for Environment and Heritage, a wide knowledge of ecology, and experience in the management, of the pastoral land of this State, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

Julie-Ann Mould

A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce sheep on pastoral land inside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.

Douglas Lillecrapp	A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce beef cattle on pastoral land outside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.
Iris Iwanicki	A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons submitted by the Conservation Council of South Australia Inc.
Roger Wickes	A person who, in the opinion of the Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development, has had wide experience in the field of land and soil conservation of pastoral land, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

Deputy Members

Brenda Anderson	Deputy to Mills
Lisien Loan	Deputy to Linton
Helen Lamont	Deputy to Wickes
Ann Oldfield	Deputy to Lillecrapp
Fraser Vickery	Deputy to Iwanicki
Jock MacLachlan	Deputy to Mould

The membership of the ninth Pastoral Board appointed for a three-year period expiring on 28 August 2016 is:

Presiding Member

Geoff Mills	A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister, wide experience in administration of pastoral leases, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.
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Members

Vicki Linton	A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister for Environment and Heritage, a wide knowledge of ecology, and experience in the management, of the pastoral land of this State, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.
Julie-Ann Mould	A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce sheep on pastoral land inside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.
Douglas Lillecrapp	A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce beef cattle on pastoral land outside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.
Kathryn Bellette	A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons submitted by the Conservation Council of South Australia Inc.
Andrew Johnson	A person who, in the opinion of the Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development, has had wide experience in the field of land and soil conservation of pastoral land, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

Deputy Members

Brenda Anderson	Deputy to Mills
Stephanie Williams	Deputy to Linton
Greg Cock	Deputy to Johnson
Ann Oldfield	Deputy to Lillecrapp
Fraser Vickery	Deputy to Bellette
Keith Slade	Deputy to Mould

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of six general Board meetings were held during the 2013-14 financial year.

No special Board meetings were held during 2013-14.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Number of meetings attended	Comments
Geoff Mills	5	Apology at August 2013 meeting.
Vicki Linton	5	Apology at June 2014 meeting due to accompanying Minister for Agriculture on drought assistance visit
Julie-Ann Mould	5	Apology at April 2014 meeting
Douglas Lillecrapp	3	Apology at October 2013, December 2013 and April 2014 meetings
Iris Iwanicki	nil	Apology at August 2013 meeting.
Roger Wickes	nil	Apology at August 2013 meeting,
Kathryn Bellette	5	
Andrew Johnson	4	Apology at June 2014 meeting due to accompanying Minister for Agriculture on drought assistance visit
Deputy Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Brenda Anderson	2	Attended in her own right as invited deputy at October 2013 meeting and attended for Geoff Mills at August 2013 meeting.
Lisien Loan	nil	
Helen Lamont	1	Attended for Roger Wickes at August 2013 meeting.
Ann Oldfield	1	Attended for Douglas Lillecrapp at April 2014 meeting
Fraser Vickery	nil	
Jock MacLachlan	nil	
Stephanie Williams	2	Attended in her own right as invited deputy at October 2013 meeting and attended

		for Vicki Linton at June 2014 meeting.
Greg Cock	3	Attended in his own right as invited deputy at February 2014 and April 2014 meetings and attended for Andrew Johnson at June 2014 meeting.
Keith Slade	2	Attended in his own right as elected deputy at October 2013 meeting and attended for Julie-Ann Mould at April 2014 meeting.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Conservation and Land Management Group, DEWNR provides support to the Pastoral Board by provision of the services of an Executive Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-14.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Pastoral Board members (other than those that are also government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by his Excellency the Governor in Executive Council:

Members \$206 per 4 hour session + \$51.50 per hour for out of session work

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Pastoral Board employs no staff and utilises the services of DEWNR through the Pastoral Unit. Reporting on this information is included within the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-14.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Pastoral Board from existing DEWNR resources.

Section 12(3) of the Act requires that at least one Member of the Board must be a woman and one a man. The gender balance of the Pastoral Board is three male and three female Board Members and three male and three female Deputy Members.

The following matters are also contained in the DEWNR annual report 2013-2014:

- Superannuation contribution by the Pastoral Board.
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work, Health, Safety and Injury Management

- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Action Plans
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Pastoral Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements during the reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-14.

CONSULTANTS

The Pastoral Board did not engage any consultants during the reporting period.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

No members of the Board travelled overseas for Pastoral Board purposes in the reporting period.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2013-14 that required the Pastoral Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Pastoral Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. The Freedom of Information statement is published on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website accessible via the following address www.environment.sa.gov.au

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during 2013-2014.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Board did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2013-14.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

In carrying out its functions, the Pastoral Board is fully aware of the cultural and natural heritage connections of the many traditional owners of the extensive pastoral lands in which it operates. As a matter of strategic policy the Board strives to achieve positive outcomes whenever addressing issues concerning the aspirations of the traditional owners.

The Board continues to strongly support and participate in processes that lead to the development of Indigenous Land Use Agreements over lands held under pastoral lease, recognising the advantages to all parties of an agreed outcome over protracted and expensive litigation where land is subject to native title claim.