

# **PASTORAL BOARD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Pastoral Board  
Annual Report 2014-15

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

9 October 2015

Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
Parliament House  
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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 2015.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Mills  
Presiding Member  
Pastoral Board of South Australia

15/10/15

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY

The Pastoral Board has been in operation in South Australia for 121 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 km<sup>2</sup> while sheep leases inside the fence occupy 180,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The individual leases that define the Pastoral Board's area of responsibility range in size from 20 km<sup>2</sup> to over 14,000 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 events 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 2014-15 the Board has been focussing and continues to focus on nine 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and its impacts in the rangelands.
6. Management of alternative breeds of sheep.
7. Aboriginal engagement and how that may change into the future.
8. Property management planning as a useful resource to ensure sustainable pastoralism.
9. Wild dogs – supporting SAAL NRM Board in managing wild dog impact on livestock, both above and below the dog fence.

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:

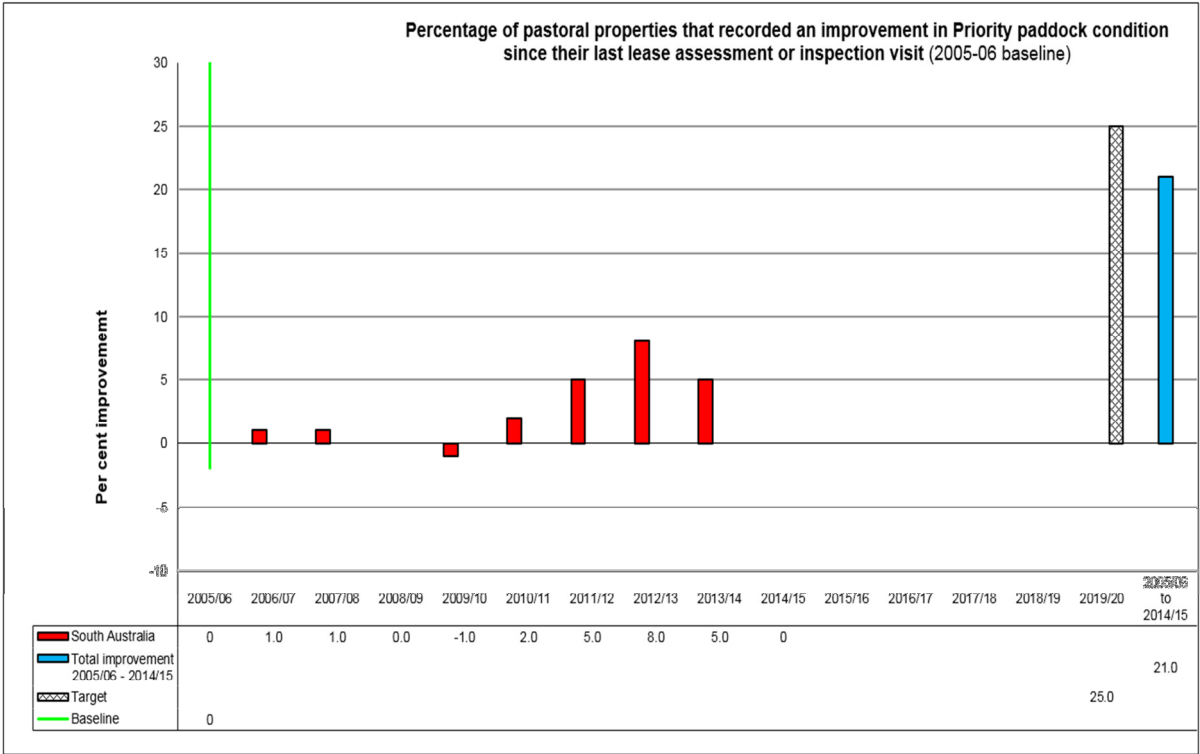
- Target 69: Lose no native species as a result of human impacts.

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 conducted during the 2014/2015 financial year, no pastoral properties showed an improvement in paddock condition since their last lease assessment or inspection visit. However the cumulative improvement for the period 2005/2006 – 2014/2015 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 217 pastoral properties. Previous annual reports stated 223 pastoral properties however compulsory acquisition and a merge of properties has reduced the total number of properties to 217. A graph of the progress to date is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Percentage of pastoral properties that have recorded an improvement in the number of priority paddocks since the 2005/2006 baseline



Furthermore, the State Government has seven strategic priority areas:

- 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, however some pastoral leases also exist within the Murray/Darling basin and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management (NRM) regions 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.

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, over abundant native animals and control of large feral herbivores, and with Native Vegetation Council staff within DEWNR.

The Pastoral Board is collaborating with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board, the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and the Native Vegetation Council 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:

- 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 Livestock Producers SA and the Conservation Council of SA.

### **OPEN FORUM WITH LESSEES**

On Thursday 18 June 2015 the Pastoral Board held an open forum with pastoralists at Wilpena Resort in the Flinders Ranges. Attending the forum were approximately 35 pastoralists from the North Flinders and nearby leases.

The lessees discussed with the Pastoral Board the current lease assessment program and the associated lease renewal process, stocking maximums and inclusion of improvements to infrastructure in the assessment report.

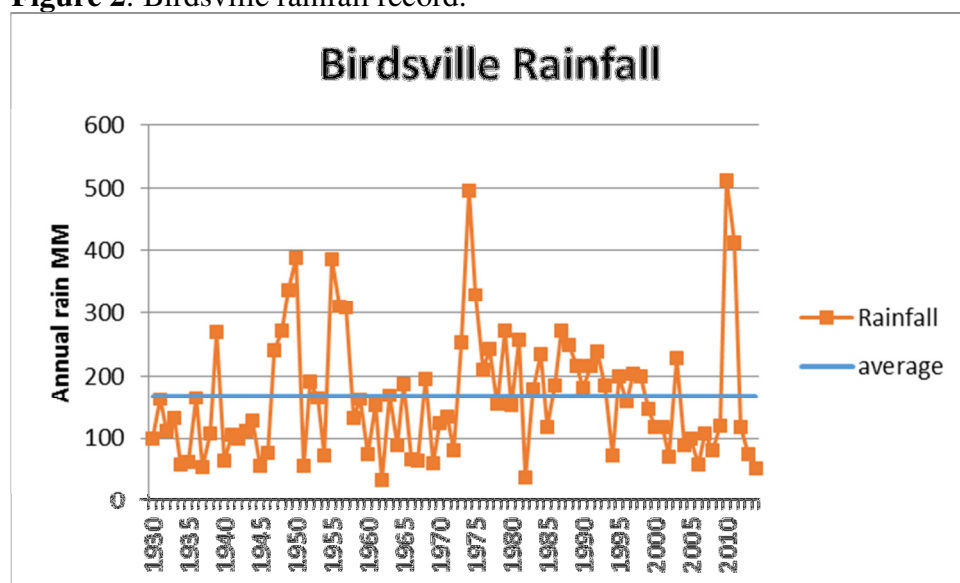
The lessees also discussed with the Pastoral Board the current kangaroo harvesting program and the implication on lease condition of male-only harvesting, and questioned the Board on the responsibility of conservation leases for overabundant native species.

### **SEASONAL CONDITIONS 2014-2015**

At the beginning of the 2014-15 financial year all pastoral areas were in good condition for stock feed and water, with the exception being properties on the northern Birdsville Track. These properties had very little surface water and stock feed as rainfall for each of the three

years from 2012 to 2014 was well below the annual average as indicated by rainfall recorded at Birdsville where only 52mm was received in 2014.

**Figure 2:** Birdsville rainfall record.



All pastoral areas received substantial rains in early January 2015, including the northern Birdsville Track which received 80-100 mm. The north east and eastern districts received rains from a southerly change in mid-April 2015 and the north west and north flinders districts received rain from thunder storms in late May 2015. As a result of these rains all pastoral districts ended the report period in very good condition with ample stock water and feed available.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

In 2014-15 the Pastoral Board published articles on the following topics:

- Feral Goat Holding Paddock Policy (October 2014)
- Pastoral Rents (December 2014)
- Proposed abolition of the Pastoral Board (December 2014)
- Seasonal Conditions Report (April 2015)
- Update on Pastoral Board Future (April 2015)

## MONITORING LAND CONDITION

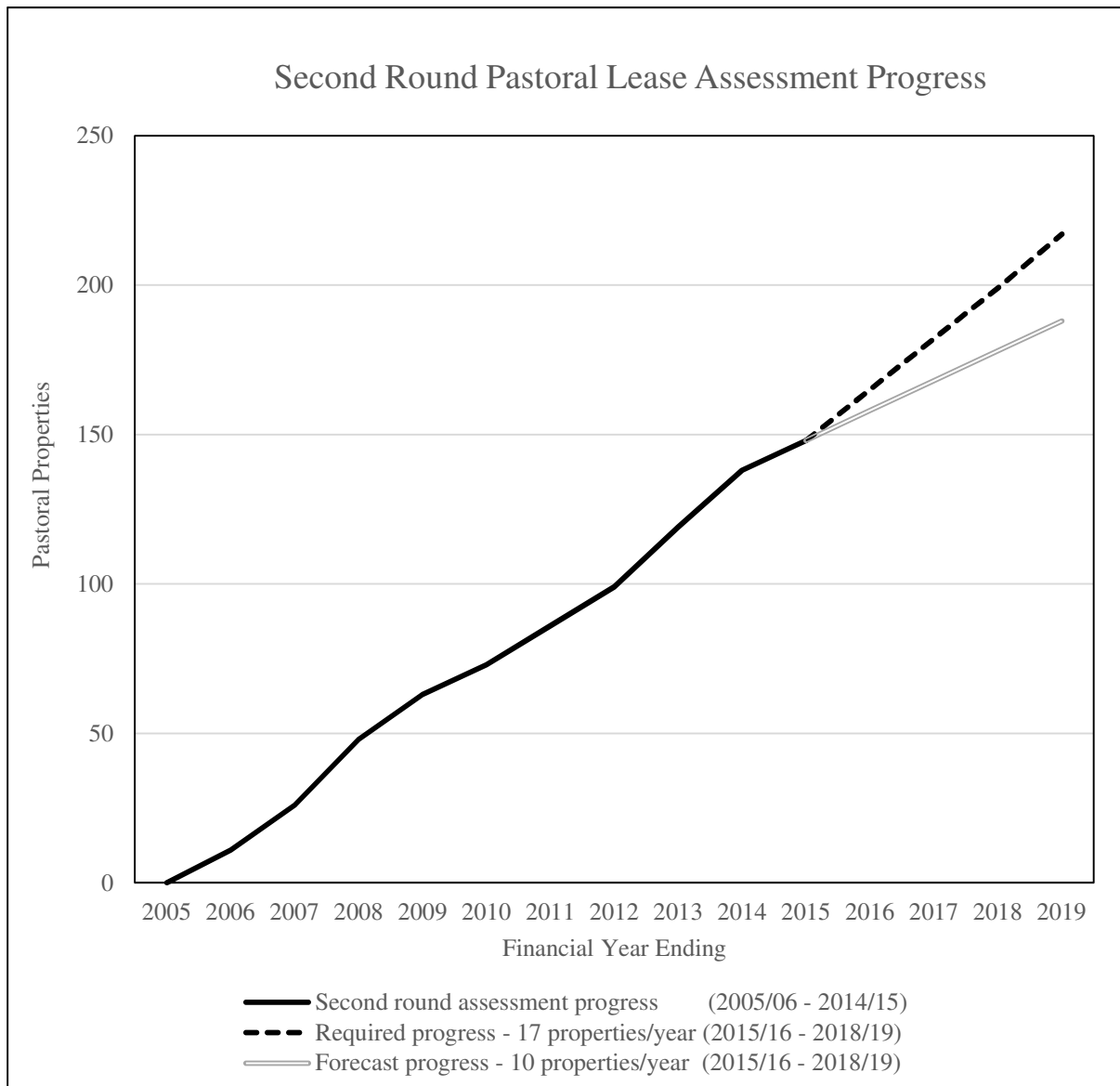
The Pastoral Board, under section 25 of the Act, is required to assess the condition of the land comprised in each pastoral lease at intervals of not more than 14 years and, given a satisfactory assessment, restore the lease to a 42 year term with variations to the lease conditions as appropriate. The 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 217 pastoral properties are required to be assessed by the financial year ending June 2019. Previous annual reports have stated 223 pastoral properties however compulsory acquisition and a merge of properties now equates to 217 properties. Currently, 148 properties have been assessed as part of the second round of assessments. A rate of 17 properties per year is required to complete

the second round of assessments within the required 14 year interval. Recent annual reports have identified resourcing as an issue inhibiting the likelihood of meeting the required 14 year interval. Under current resourcing levels, 17 properties per year is not achievable with progress forecast to be approximately 10 properties per year. Based on a rate of 10 properties per year (see Figure 2 below), it is estimated that 188 properties will be assessed by the financial year ending June 2019 (29 less than the required total of 217 pastoral properties).

Assessment field work for 10 Flinders District properties was completed in the 2014-15 financial year. A further 21 properties require assessment to complete the Flinders District before assessments progress into the northern Marla Oodnadatta and Marree Innamincka Districts.

**Figure 3:** Second round pastoral lease assessment progress for 14 year period of 2005 – 2019.



## 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 2014–15, 18 pastoral inspections (encompassing 33 individual pastoral leases) were conducted. These occurred in all districts except for the North Flinders District. To ensure every property is inspected at least once every 7 years, at least 31 properties per annum are required to be the subject of an inspection, however inspections are also carried out on an as needs basis in response to high risk or issues being identified on individual properties. Of the 18 inspections, two leases were visited three times which required additional resources and reduced the overall number of properties completed.

One section 43 notice is in place on one property for the potential land degradation issues that can result from multiple water points being 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 2014-15.

### **PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES CLOSURES**

Public Access Routes that access desert regions are annually closed in line with the summer closures of Desert Parks. The Pedirka, Walkers Crossing, Halligan Bay and Warburton PARs were closed from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 through to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015 due to summer Desert Park closure. The Pedirka PAR remained closed until May 2015 due to significant heavy rainfall causing many washouts along the length of the route.

### **PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES MAINTENANCE**

Significant repairs to the Pedirka PAR were carried out in conjunction with track maintenance in the Witjira National Park. Local contractors have been engaged to complete grading of the Pedirka, Level Post Bay and Halligan Bay PARs. The Nuccaleena, and Warraweena PARs in the Flinders Ranges have been repaired by local contractors during 2014-2015.

### **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 2014-15, the following lease transfers were approved:

Internal Restructure- Lockes Claypan, Todmorden, Corunna, Holowiliena, Oulina Park, Dulkaninna/Saltpparuna.

Open Market- Wintinna, Parcoola, Coondambo/Paraklyia South, Mabel Creek and Pine Valley/Lords Well.

During 2014-15, the following sub-leases were approved: Wallerberdina, Mulgaria/Pt. Mulgaria

## **PASTORAL RENTS**

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

Pastoral lease rentals are payable annually in arrears. Total amount of rents invoiced representing (1 Nov 2013 – 31 Oct 2014) rental period was \$1,452,075. The total amount of rent funds received in 2014-15 totalled \$1,426,563. Outstanding rents at 30 June 2015 totalled \$110,271 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 2014 (1 Nov 2013 – 31 Oct 2014) 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 2014-15 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 2014-15.

## **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 LESSEES 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 2014/2015 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.

### **OBJECTS 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 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.

### *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

Keith Slade

Deputy to Mould



Ann Oldfield  
Fraser Vickery  
Greg Cock

Deputy to Lillecrapp  
Deputy to Bellette  
Deputy to Johnson

### MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of six general Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

A special out of session teleconference meeting was held on 24 July 2014 with all Board members present. The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a written response to a letter from the Premier regarding the reform of the South Australian Boards and Committees, in which the Pastoral Board had been identified for abolition.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Number of meetings attended	Comments
Geoff Mills	6	
Vicki Linton	5	Apology at December 2014 meeting
Julie-Ann Mould	3	Apology at August 2014, April 2015 and June 2015 meetings
Douglas Lillecrapp	5	Apology at June 2015 meeting
Kathryn Bellette	5	Apology at June 2015 meeting
Andrew Johnson	3	Apology at October 2014, December 2014 and April 2015 meetings
Deputy Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Brenda Anderson	1	Attended in her own right as invited deputy at April 2015 meeting
Stephanie Williams	1	Attended for Vicki Linton at December 2014 meeting.
Keith Slade	1	Attended for Julie-Ann Mould at June 2015 meeting.
Ann Oldfield	nil	
Fraser Vickery	nil	
Greg Cock	4	Attended in his own right as invited deputy at June 2015 meeting and attended for Andrew Johnson at October 2014, December 2014 and April 2015 meetings.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Natural Resources SA Arid Lands, 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 2014-15.

## **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 2014-15.

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 2014-2015:

- 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 2014-15.

## **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 2014-15 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](http://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 2014-2015.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The Board did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2014-15.

## **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.