South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board

Management Plan to 2022

2021 Update

Government of South Australia
South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board

Prepared by

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Acknowledgements

The authors of this management plan acknowledge the assistance of the SEWCD Board and Department for Environment and Water (DEW) staff from South East Drainage Operations and Water and River Murray Division in the development of this document.

Welcome to the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board Management Plan to 2022

The South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage (SEWCD) Board Management Plan to 2022 (Management Plan) outlines the priority management measures to be undertaken by the SEWCD Board on behalf of the South East community of South Australia to 2022 to meet the objectives of the *South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992* (the Act).

The Act describes the purpose of the South East Drainage Network to provide for the conservation and management of water and the prevention of flooding of rural land in the South East of the State and for related purposes.

The Act specifies a number of objects to be achieved in its administration, which include:

- The prevention or minimisation of damage to agricultural production and the natural environment caused by flooding within the South East
- The improvement of the soil quality and the productiveness generally of rural lands in the South East
- The enhancement or development of natural wetlands and the natural environment generally in the South East.

A number of other inter-jurisdictional agreements, policies and legislation also influence and govern the management of the South East drainage system. These are identified in the Management Plan, along with associated stakeholders.

The SEWCD Board is required under the Act to prepare a Management Plan outlining key activities that will be undertaken to meet the Act's objectives. This updated Management Plan fulfils that requirement.

Vision

To balance the needs between sustainable and productive agriculture and healthy water dependant ecosystems across the South East (Limestone Coast) of South Australia.

Role of the SEWCD Board

To manage and conserve the quality and flow of water in the South East of South Australia by effectively managing flooding, redirecting water to areas of greatest need and reducing salinity.

Contents

East ern side of Lake George at sunset

Message from the Presiding Member

The SEWCD Board has had a long and successful history of managing flooding in the South East of South Australia. Since its inception in the 1870s, successive Boards have overseen the development of key infrastructure, comprising of over 2,500 kilometres of drainage network together with over 2,500 structures such as bridges, regulators, weirs and culverts. Infrastructure is managed with the objective of improving the productivity of the region, improving the soil quality and in more recent times, enhancing the natural wetlands and environment of the South East.

The Management Plan is required to be fully reviewed and revised every three years, with an update conducted annually. This is the second year update of the Management Plan.

This review of the Plan places an even greater focus on the potential impacts of climate change, coastal management and the maintenance of our structural assets. The Plan leverages on the previous Management Plans in regards to flows and land management, developing and maintaining our land and infrastructure assets and improving governance, finance and administration.

The 93 kilometres of the South East Flows Restoration Project (SEFRP) waterway completed in 2019, with a capacity to carry water in the range of 800 to 1,300 megalitres (ML) per day as it progresses northward, provides long-term environmental outcomes for the Coorong South Lagoon, wetlands in the Upper South East and the local marine environment near Kingston South East.

The SEFRP provides the ultimate objective of moving flows in a north westerly direction to the Salt Creek outlet and onto the Coorong South Lagoon when required (once other water undertakings (e.g. coastal lakes and wetlands) have been met) and to reduce marine discharge. Additional responsibilities for infrastructure assets are included in the Management Plan.

DEW prioritisation of its water agenda is recognised within this Management Plan and is complemented with increased involvement of Traditional Owners and additional management challenges associated with climate change.

The SEWCD Board looks forward to working with the South East Drainage Operations staff from DEW to continually improve the SEWCD Board's operations, respond to an era of managing water resources in a changing climate and attract funds to operate, maintain and upgrade assets and structures of this significant infrastructure network.

Brett McLaren

Presiding Member

South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board

Regional Overview

The Landscape

The South East region covers approximately 28,000 square kilometres, bound by the Victorian border to the east, the Southern Ocean to the south and the Coorong to the west. Commonly referred to as the Limestone Coast, due to its location and abundance of limestone under the soil, the region is an ideal location for work and play.

Landscape

The South East has many unique landforms originating from a long geological history. The region is characterised by a series of stranded dunes that rise between 20 – 50 metres above inter-dunal plains. These plains can be inundated over winter and host a variety of internationally recognised wetland systems, including the Ramsar listed Bool and Hacks Lagoons and part of the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Wetland. Wetlands in the South East have been reduced to less than 6 percent of their original area with only 10 percent of this area still considered intact. Wetlands and coastal lakes are important refuges for threatened species including the Yarra pygmy perch (*Nannocerpa obscura*).

Since European settlement, 87 percent of the original native vegetation has been cleared in the South East and as a result of vegetation clearance, drainage of wetlands and agricultural practices, a number of plant and animal species are now extinct or considered threatened.

Despite only 13 percent of native vegetation cover remaining, the South East is still home to unique flora and fauna and diverse habitats, such as heath woodlands and forests, grassy woodlands, dry heathlands and mallee, scattered trees, open water swamps, wetlands and rising springs.

The South East also hosts an extensive network of limestone sinkholes and caves, including the World Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves.

Climate

The South East region experiences cool wet winters and mild to hot dry summers. Average annual rainfall varies considerably from approximately 820 millimetres (mm) in the South, to 450mm in the North.

Industry

With a favourable climate, suitable soils and underground water, the South East region is recognised as a highly productive area supporting a diverse industry base with key economic activities in the region including plantation forestry, wine/viticulture, agriculture, dairy, fishing/aquaculture and associated industries.

People

The South East region has a rich Aboriginal history and possesses many important sites, relics, artefacts and cultural material. The Aboriginal Nations living in and connected to the landscapes of the South East include the Boandik, Tanganekald, Meintangk, Ngarrindjeri and Ngarkat people. Stories such as the Boandik Craitbul tale and the Tanganekald Brolga and Emu stories share some insight into the formation of the landscape and fauna of the region.

The South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board Area

A History of Flooding

The South East has a history of both high primary productivity and flooding. The need for extensive drainage and flood mitigation systems is a result of the unique physical characteristics of the region combined with the requirements for agricultural development.

The topography of the region reflects a unique record of Quaternary sea level changes. One of the most prominent features are a series of 13 coastal dunes or ranges that extend parallel to the existing coastline in a north-westerly to south-easterly direction. This feature provides a rich diversity of soil types and complex water movement.

The region slopes from south to north as a result of volcanic activity in the Mount Gambier area while being generally very flat east to west.

Surface water in the region moves slowly west toward the coast until it is diverted northwards along the eastern side of each intervening range. As a consequence, the inter-dunal flats were often covered with watercourses, wetlands, swamps and lakes, all common features in the pre-European landscape.

The succession of coastal dunes acts as a natural barrier to surface water, resulting in few natural sea outlets.

In addition, the depth of groundwater in the region is a significant hydrological feature. During summer, groundwater is at an average depth of two metres. However, increased recharge during winter causes a rise in groundwater levels, bringing it to the surface in many areas. Water for irrigation is drawn from the unconfined aquifer and to a lesser extent the deeper confined aquifer which is primarily used for town water supply and industry.

Slow surface water movement, due to the lack of slope and high groundwater levels, often results in widespread flooding. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of the lands of the South East were seasonally inundated wetlands prior to drainage.

A Complex Drainage System

Since the first South East Drainage Act was passed in Parliament in 1875, the SEWCD Board has developed an extensive and complex drainage system to mitigate flooding and improve agricultural production for the region. Since that time, management of water in the landscape has also evolved in line with changing community expectations and needs of the region.

In 1992, the current Act was enacted increasing the statutory responsibility of the SEWCD Board to include water conservation and water dependent ecosystem management in addition to the South East Drainage Network (as outlined in Figure 1).

Figure 1: South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board area.

Today the SEWCD Board manages over 2,500 kilometres of drains, including 793 kilometres of the Upper South East network. Associated with these drains are significant infrastructure assets such as 329 regulator weirs, 321 span bridges, 1697 culvert crossings, 193 causeways and associated roads.

The drains are designed to account for one in ten year events, as a minimum.

There are eight discharge outfalls to the marine environment from Lake Bonney to the Victorian Border. Drain cleaning (removing silt and weeds/grasses) increases drain capacity significantly often solving inundation issues for adjacent landholders.

Priorities for flows from the drainage system are directed to wetlands, coastal lakes and to reduce salinity in the Upper South East. The Upper South East system was primarily developed under the Upper South East dryland, salinity and flood management program.

All flows are monitored by a sophisticated decision support system and telemetry system utilising adaptive management principles.

The Board and its responsibilities

The SEWCD Board consists of four members that are appointed by the Minster for Environment and Water, one member appointed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and three members elected to the Upper, Central and Lower South East electoral zones. The SEWCD Board is made up of local community representatives with the necessary skills and experience.

At the time of publishing this update of the Management Plan, current members of the Board are:

- Brett McLaren (Presiding Member)
- Michael Bleby (Deputy Presiding Member)
- Miles Hannemann
- Pip Rasenberg
- John Mullins
- Jane Fetherstonhaugh
- Alexander Thamm
- LGA Representative (vacant)

The Act outlines the functions and obligations of the SEWCD Board and includes the following responsibilities:

- Provide an effective and efficient system for managing the surface water of the non-urban lands in the South East, by conserving, draining, altering the flow of or utilising that water in any manner.
- Carry out works for the purpose of lowering the level of the water table of lands in the South East to manage dryland salinity.
- Undertake, assist or promote research in the fields of water conservation, drainage and management.
- Give advice and assistance to others in the fields of water conservation, drainage and management.
- The enhancement or development of natural wetlands and the environment generally in the South East.

Under guidance and direction of the SEWCD Board, the functions are coordinated and delivered by staff from the DEW. These staff are based at various locations across the South East region and Adelaide.

Diagram 1 describes the relationships between the SEWCD Board, the Minister and the delivery of the functions by DEW.

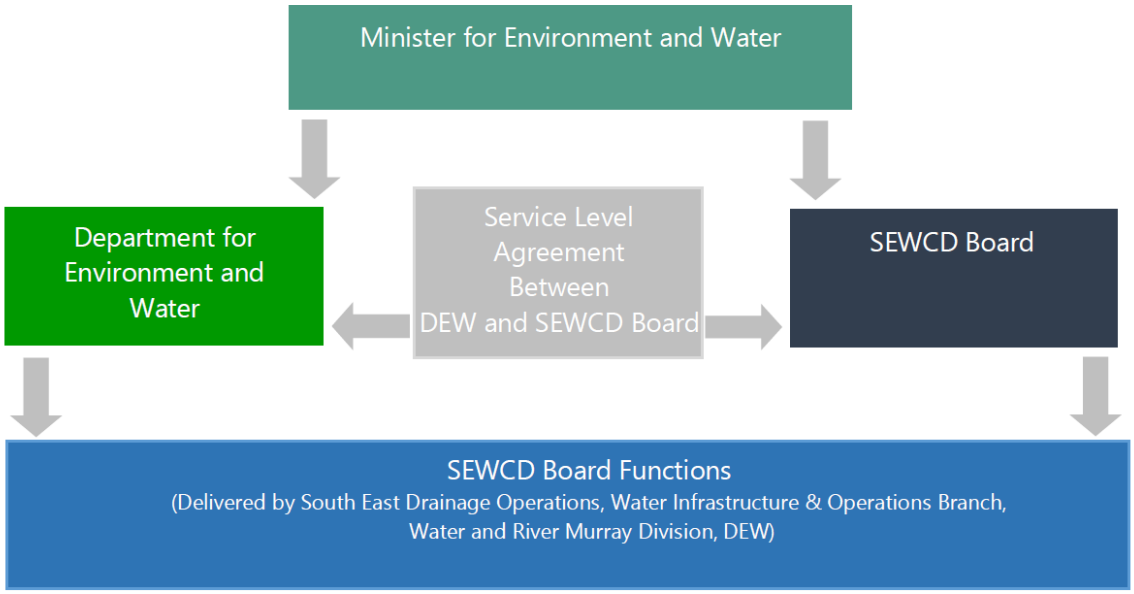

Diagram 1: The delivery of the SEWCD Board functions

Engaging the community

The SEWCD Board recognises that by working together with the community, government agencies, industries and organisations that the best outcomes for our natural resources, landscapes and community will be achieved.

The SEWCD Board has a Community Engagement Plan and its purpose is to:

- Provide consistent messages to key stakeholders and the community.
- Develop a reconciliation action process to move forward together with Traditional Owners.
- Ensure that the SEWCD Board's stakeholders are communicated with using the most effective tactics.
- Maintain the SEWCD Board's profile with landholders.
- Raise awareness of the water, conservation and drainage networks of the region with the South East community.
- Communicate the SEWCD Board's role in facilitating environmental outcomes.
- Raise awareness of the SEWCD Board's challenges and risks in balancing benefits of decisions and actions towards agricultural sustainability and environmental outcomes.

- Support mitigating the risk of community distress in response to SEWCD Board decisions.

Engagement activities comply with:

- The South Australian Government's *Better Together* Guidelines and Reforming Democracy policy that provide principles for involving the community in decision making.
- International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum and core values, ensuring the level of community influence in decision-making is clear and engagement appropriately reflects this level of influence. The belief that those who are affected by a decision are involved in the decision-making process and influencing decisions is at the heart of the Board's engagement practice.

The challenges and opportunities

Climate Change

Challenge

More intense rainfall and storms are being experienced and this correlates to previous modelling undertaken by the CSIRO Land and Water and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that indicate that climate patterns will vary greatly with:

- Reductions in recharge in groundwater.
- Extreme events that place pressure on the South East Drainage Network system.

Opportunity

South Australia's Climate Change Challenge and Opportunity Report (September 2020) identifies a number of relevant opportunities including prioritising infrastructure, water management and supporting the agricultural sector to innovate, build resilience and reduce emissions.

The operation of the South East Drainage Network now includes a rapid response to withhold water within drains and waterways to ensure that the landscape remains 'hydrated' for as long as possible during the drier months. This will ensure agricultural productivity and environmental benefits, whilst proactively reducing flood risk following intense or long term storm events. Over time, technological solutions including automation will be required for over 200 regulator weirs that are part of the drainage system. LIDAR (light detection and ranging) work will provide further guidance to retain water within the environment.

Managing Competing Demands for Water

Challenge

Considerations such as soil, groundwater, geological and climatic conditions and flows to benefit primary production (i.e. agriculture, horticulture and forestry) need to be balanced with the environmental, social and cultural requirements for wetlands, conservation bio-security and surface/ ground water quality.

Opportunity

Better use of technology and collaboration with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) and other agencies and stakeholders in developing a strategic approach to the sustainable use and management of our water resources with the development of the South East Drainage and Wetlands Strategy.

Knowledge Based Decision Making

Challenge

The coordination of the South East Drainage Network and decision-making principles are complex and require consideration of hydrologic, economic and social sciences to balance economic demands and environmental requirements.

Opportunity

Regulating structures provide the primary mechanism to manage flows. This can be supported by adaptive decision-making using the best available technology and information applied models and support systems.

Changing and Ageing Infrastructure

Challenge

The South East Drainage Network features in excess of 2,500 structures, including approximately 800 road bridges and occupational crossings on public and private properties. A substantial number of these bridges and crossings need significant and costly refurbishment or replacement. Most monitoring stations and regulating structures within the system are operated manually.

Opportunity

Apply best practice asset management principles and prioritise the replacement of infrastructure in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. Where replacement of monitoring stations and regulating structures is required, priority shall be given to installing automated systems to provide real time and less labour-intensive monitoring.

Securing Sustainable Funding

Challenge

The State Government commits $2.5 million per annum to the SEWCD Board. The SEWCD Board manages assets with a current replacement value of $260.5 million (excluding the value of the land).

Opportunity

To apply efficiencies in the operations and maintenance of the network. To explore raising additional revenue through the leasing of land assets and to seek additional funding through State and Commonwealth funding programmes for prioritised infrastructure maintenance, replacement and/or upgrade. This will involve ongoing consultation with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board.

Legislative and Governance Arrangements -

Strategic and Operating Context

Water management in the South East is directed by the following legislation:

- ***South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992*** - to manage the South East Drainage Network.
- ***Landscape South Australia Act 2019*** (*superseding the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 since 1 July 2020)* - to plan and manage natural resources management programs, including water planning.

In addition to these pieces of legislation, there are national, state and regional legislation, policies and strategies which the SEWCD Board and this Management Plan must take into account. These are described in Diagram 2.

Diagram 2: Strategic and Operating Context for the SEWCD Board

*The Drainage and Wetland Strategy is an important document that was completed in 2019. Jointly developed by the SEWCD Board and the then SE NRM Board, the Drainage and Wetland Strategy recognises the challenges of maintaining productive land and water in the landscape for environmental value in a much drier landscape, which are both dependent on and impacted by the availability of water and our management of it. The Drainage and Wetland Strategy helps to balance the episodic impact of too much surface water on productivity, and the need to keep water in our landscape for longer to recharge groundwater and support wetlands of the South East.

Stony Creek Gauging Station near Lake Bonney used for education programs

Principles for Management Plan Development

All actions and decisions of this management plan are in line with South Australia's economic priorities, the SA 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy, DEW Corporate Plan, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan 2020-21 and other strategic documents.

To meet the goals of the management plan, the SEWCD Board will:

- Apply good governance, financial management and administration.
- Meet the statutory requirements of:
    - *South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992*
    - *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
    - *Work, Health and Safety Act 2012*
    - *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
- Monitor membership of the SEWCD Board and the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee (GFAC).
- Apply best practice financial management (a three year revenue and expenditure forecast from 2020/21 is provided in Appendix 1).
- Monitor and revise Service Level Agreements including Information and Technology.
- Maintain a complaints register and a stakeholder list for response to customer enquiries.
- Encourage community participation in decision making. Genuine engagement is undertaken with agencies, landowners, the community and other stakeholders (see Appendix 2) to provide a better understanding of the risk and consequences of decisions that are likely to affect nearby landholders or the community.
- Undertake risk-based decision-making. For instance, consideration of the allocation of capital or operating resources by developing matrices in the assessment of:
    - The need (i.e. serviceability, together with upstream and downstream impacts and operating regimes);
    - Legal or regulatory impact (compliance with legislation including Work Health and Safety); and
    - Sustainability (asset management principles, triple bottom line) impacts.
- Conduct an annual review of the Operational Project Plan, to ensure that the South East Drainage Network is managed to achieve multiple benefits for agricultural, environmental, social and economic advantage. Accordingly, all actions will be quantified and qualified based on investigation, monitoring and understanding community values.
- Report on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in accordance with, SEWCD Board, DEW and annual reporting requirements.

Aerial view across Barnett's Swamp near Biscuit Flat (2016)

Goals, Strategies and Actions

Goal 1: Manage the drainage network to minimise flooding to agricultural land and retain water to benefit agricultural production, connected groundwater systems and wetlands

Priority Strategies	
1.1	Develop a regional water balance by quantifying and monitoring the extent of flows entering and exiting the South East Drainage Network (SEDN) (i.e. coastal environment).
1.2	Operate the SEDN by applying adaptive management principles of using regulators and weirs to manage water flows.
1.3	Flooding, inundation and dryland salinity is mitigated through a well-designed, maintained and integrated drainage system, whilst planning for the effects of climate change.
1.4	Implement the South East Drainage and Wetlands Strategy priorities and objectives for the movement of surface water in the region in collaboration with Limestone Coast Landscape Board projects.
1.5	Provide ongoing advice on managing the SEDN to boost landscape productivity including agricultural productivity and healthy water dependant ecosystems.

Specific Actions

- Provide annual flow data to demonstrate water balance and flows to receiving environments.
- Develop a program utilising best available technology for regulating flows and automation of the SEDN, and prepare for the effects of climate change (i.e. intense storm events and rising sea levels).
- Refine operating principles and procedures for effective control of regulator weir structures.
- Undertake cost effective ecological, hydrographical and hydrological monitoring for seasonal flows in the SEDN in conjunction with DEW monitoring of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM).
- Update the Operational (capital and recurrent) Project Plan.
- Develop operating guidelines to assist with balancing Drain M flows between the Upper South East, Bakers Range and Lake George.
- Implement the South East Drainage and Wetlands Strategy that is overseen by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board and completed within the term of this plan.

Related Key Performance Indicators

- Provide annual flow data into receiving environments (i.e. Lake Bonney [Millicent Drainage Network], Lake Frome, Drain M, Drain L, Kingston SE, Blackford Drain and from Morella Basin).

- Management of regulators (i.e. Bool Lagoon, Callendale, Mt Bruce, Magarey's Lane, Hogan's Lane, Lake Omerod Weir, Lake George Outlet, Reedy Creek, Narrow Neck, Hurst Weir, Miegels Weir, Heinrich Weir, and Milsteads Weir).
- Specified environmental water needs are met by ensuring wetlands are actively managed.

Goal 2: Maintain infrastructure assets

Priority Strategies	
2.1	Apply asset management framework and principles for the whole region with prioritisation of investment for infrastructure upgrades.
2.2	Develop and implement the Asset Management Plan including the commissioning of an Asset Management software system for the SEDN, to apply risk management and due diligence for infrastructure that includes all bridges, culvert crossings, fords, regulators, weirs, drains and waterways.
2.3	Develop and implement the annual Capital Works Program in accordance with the DEW Asset Management Framework with prioritised works for inclusion within the Operational (capital and recurrent) Project Plan extending over a period of three years
2.4	Support the Premier's Climate Change Council strategies through innovation, building climate resilience and reducing emissions.
2.5	Operate and maintain assets across the SEDN.
2.6	Pursue funding opportunities.

Specific Actions

- Develop, populate and maintain Asset Management software system with fixed and physical assets recognising all bridges, culvert crossings, fords, regulator weirs, drains and waterways.
- Prioritise asset replacement and upgrades with increased monitoring and automation of control structures in strategic areas and identify suitable crossing locations for emergency vehicles to improve response times during intense or extreme weather events.
- Identify critical infrastructure for improved infrastructure development including the 13 sea outlets including Blackford, Butchers Gap, Beachport, Southend, Cape Douglas, the Karst Rising Springs area from Port MacDonnell to Eight Mile Creek.
- Pursue funding opportunities for infrastructure from Australian and State Governments with consideration of partnerships with other organisations e.g. Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA), RDALC.

Related Key Performance Indicators

- Completion of Capital Works Program in accordance with annual Operational Project Plan.

Goal 3: Maintain land and drainage corridors

Priority Strategies

3.1	Complete annual drain maintenance - spraying, slashing, silt removal and fencing program, and drain patrols (documentation of condition of landholdings, gates, tracks and structures).
3.2	Ongoing review of the management of drain reserves, equipment and structural assets.
3.3	Reduce costs of land and pest plant management for SEWCD Board owned (freehold) land through the ongoing review and implementation of grazing leases.
3.4	Maximise opportunities to improve land management by engaging with landholders to be involved in the management of the system, including carbon farming or revegetation works, drain clearing and/or monitoring.

Specific Actions

- Develop an annual and weekly works schedule and assign appropriate resources for the completion of the annual operations and maintenance program, including spraying, slashing, silt removal and fencing.
- Implement and maintain occupational licences for grazing, access and recreational use.
- Undertake drain patrols to document condition of landholdings, gates, tracks and assets.
- Maintain equipment inventory for major plants including a replacement program.
- Implement revegetation in drainage areas as recommended in the "Blue Print for revegetation of Drainage Corridors" (Rural Solutions 2009).

Related Key Performance Indicators

- Completion of Works Schedule in accordance with annual Operational Project Plan.
- Number of kilometres of drain sprayed/aerial spraying.
- Number of kilometres of silt cleaning.
- Number of kilometres of routine patrols.

Drain M, Beachport/Penola Road

Key Reporting Criteria

Related Key Performance Indicators are as follows:

- Annual Report in accordance with Section 24 of the Act.
- Number of occupational licences issued per annum and area of land licensed.
- Number of private works approvals per annum.
- Financial Report approved by the Auditor General in accordance with Section 24 of the Act.
- Management Plan updated in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.
- List of memberships and partnerships with other organisations.
- List of research programs that benefit the management of the South East Drainage Network.
- List the number of Information Bulletins available on website.
- List the number of public queries reported and followed up that are tabled at SEWCD Board meetings.

Bald Hill Drain, downstream BH14

Appendix 1:

Three year revenue and expenditure forecast (from 2020/2021)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Recurrent	1,894,930	2,086,000	2,137,000
Capital	637,070	509,000	523,000
Total Appropriation	2,532,000	2,595,000	2,660,000
Other Revenue	30,972	31,000	25,000
Total Revenue	**2,562,972**	**2,626,000**	**2,685,000**
Recurrent			
Board Members Salaries and Expenses			
Utilities – Phone, Water, Power			
Office Expenses/ Reports/ Financial/ Audit			
Employee Training			
DEW Service Level Agreement			
	425,051	*430,000*	*543,855*
Other Services provided by Board			
Technical/Hydrographic/Environmental			
	409,226	*410,000*	*292,173*
Infrastructure Expenses/ Overheads			
Insurance (SAICORP)			
Emergency Service Levy			
Asset Management			
	276,101	*280,000*	*387,198*
Operational Maintenance Projects			
Chemical Drain Spraying Activities			
Removal Silt and Obstructions			
General Maintenance on Reserves			
Control Water Flows			
Board Equipment and Depot Maintenance			
	815,524	*877,000*	*931,137*
Total Recurrent Expenditure	1,925,902	1997,000	2,154,363
Capital			
Replacement of Plant and Equipment			
Bridge Replacement Program			
Flood Mitigation & Water Conservation			
Fencing			
Total Capital Expenditure	*637,070*	*629,000*	*530,637*
Total Expenditure	**2,562,972**	**2,626,000**	**2,685,000**

**Actual revenue & expenditure in italics*

Appendix 2:

SEWCD Board Stakeholders

Agency	Role/ responsibility
Department for Environment and Water (DEW)	DEW supports the delivery of the SEWCD Board functions though the provision of staff and resources. In particular, DEW provides strategic, financial, corporate, scientific and operational services through a Service Level Agreement. In addition to this formal support, DEW's responsibilities include: • managing the State's water resources • managing the environment and natural resources across the region • developing vegetation policies which apply to drainage corridors • environmental protection • coastal protection • managing parks, reserves, wildlife and native vegetation • crown lands management • monitoring and science
Limestone Coast Landscape Board	The Limestone Coast Landscape Board will continue to develop policies and practices that set the basis for sustainable management of natural resources in the region. The policies for management of water and the associated formal regulations and rules (e.g. Water Allocation Plans, Water Affecting Activities and weed control) have a significant influence on the SEWCD Board's approach to managing the drainage system. The former SE NRM Board prepared a Drainage and Wetland Strategy for the South East. This strategy identifies the strategic requirements of the system to meet the needs of the community and the environment.
Landholders	Contact with landholders is usually made as a consequence of operational issues associated with the drains, particularly with regard to leases and the current requirement on landholders to obtain SEWCD Board approval for any private drainage works in the region. The current membership of the SEWCD Board includes three elected landholders who bring their experience and knowledge to the group.
Local Government	There are six local council areas within the SEWCD Board area. Councils manage stormwater within township areas and road access. There is a common interest with regard to managing stormwater drainage together as well as road bridges and crossings. The membership of the SEWCD Board includes a representative from the Limestone Coast Local Government Association.
Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)	DIT is the lead government agency for management of the State's roads, bridges and associated assets. The SEWCD Board is responsible for a substantial number of bridges and utilises the knowledge and expertise within DIT to assist with assessments and asset management program.
Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC)	RDALC outlines five key areas to address in building a more prosperous future for the region. These are: 1) Economic development and diversification 2) Infrastructure 3) Human capital development 4) Promotion of the region 5) Community well-being In the RDA Regional Roadmap (2013-2016) there are numerous references to the benefits of advocating for the maintenance of the South East drainage schemes for regional transport, industry and agriculture. In particular, bridge and culvert upgrades.

Traditional Owners	The South East is the traditional home of the Meintangk, Potaruwutj, Bungaanditj, Tatiara / Ngarkat and Tanganekald First Nations' language groups. The SEWCD Board will work towards the use of existing agreements established between the former SE NRM Board, the South East Aboriginal Focus Group (SEAFG), and the Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, and will work with the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement and others to develop a reconciliation action process with Traditional Owners.
Tertiary Bodies	Ongoing research work will continue, particularly with the Goyder Institute of Water Research - a partnership between the South Australian Government, the CSIRO, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia.
Other State Government Agencies	Ongoing liaison with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to assist with broad acre cropping and livestock productivity (new Horizons Program), together with bio-security and other emergency preparedness.