

MINUTES

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 9

☞ Day One ☜

Wednesday 27 October 2021 10:00am – 5:00pm

Location:	SAAL Boardroom Railway Office Stirling Rd Port Augusta SA 5700
Attendees:	Ross Sawers Chair Ellen Litchfield Deputy Chair Douglas Lillecrapp Board Member Kurt Tschirner Board Member Scott Michael Board Member (left meeting 3:25pm) Tim Flowers Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith General Manager (GM) Anne Dickin Executive Officer
SAAL Staff:	Item 9.7 Cherie Gerlach Team Leader Communication and Community Engagement Item 9.7 Matthew Westover Community Landscape Officer North Flinders Item 9.11 & 9.14 Melissa Boxall Manager Business Services Item 9.12, 9.13 & 9.14 Greg Patrick Team Leader Landscape Operations and Projects Item 9.14 Alison Skinner
Apologies:	Sanchia Treloar Board Member
1000 9.0	Pre-meeting discussion board and General Manager only.
1042	<i>At this time the Executive Officer joined the meeting.</i>
1042 9.1	The Chair opened the meeting. The apology received from board member Sanchia Treloar, due to a clash with the RFDS Board meeting, was noted .
9.2	The agenda for the meeting was accepted .
9.2a	Board Performance Review It was agreed to conduct the board performance review on agenda items - feral goats; General Manager's update including Aboriginal partnerships; the Landscape Chairs session; and the Water Advisory Committee topics. It was agreed Sanchia Treloar to be the reviewer for the December 2021 meeting. It was noted that the Governance Finance Committee items would be reviewed at the December 2021 meeting.
9.3	Conflicts of Interests The following declarations were made:- Ross Sawers Goats on property Scott Michael Goats on property; wild dog baiting Ellen Litchfield Goats on property; accounting for ground water; wild dog bounty recipient; wild dog baiting; Uncle, Peter Litchfield a member of the Dog Fence board and SAAL Water Accounting Advisory Group Douglas Lillecrapp Baiting outside the dog fence; wild dog bounty recipient It was agreed to include a list in the papers for each board meeting of all conflicts of interests previously declared by board members. Action: Include conflict of interest register within meeting papers as a standard item.
9.4	Minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting held 25-26 August 2021 were accepted .

9.5	Out of session board approval on 17 September 2021 for Memorandum of Administrative Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure & Transport was endorsed .
9.6	Board Action List
	It was agreed to remove action items 7.3 and 7.15 and to accept the board action list.
1100	<i>At this time Cherie Gerlach and Matthew Westover joined the meeting.</i>
1103	9.7 Building Pastoral Sustainability Program (BPS) - Property Management Planning (PMP)
	The board was provided with a presentation on the Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS) for pastoralists in the region, with the PMP currently in its second round. Discussion included the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program considered a flagship initiative of the board. - A highlight was the knowledgeable consultants for the different program modules. - Participants are selling the program to other pastoralists. - Interest in the program on a national level - Walk over weighing system one of several initiatives funded through the 2020/21 BPS Grants. - Video recording at Buckleboo for use at the field and sticky beak days. - Participants can provide their testimonials before and after the course (which could be presented as a flyer for promoting the program). - BPS PMP included as a session at the December 2021 field day. The field day is a deliverable of the BPS program. - Discussion about this being an ongoing initiative beyond this funding cycle and to explore extension funding through partnerships and NLP3 to sustain it.
	Action: Provide YouTube link of BPS PMP to board when short film completed at Buckleboo Station.
1145	<i>At this time Cherie Gerlach and Matthew Westover left the meeting.</i>
9.8	General Manager Update
	The board was provided further information on the topics included in the General Manager update that included:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful staff muster held 13 and 14 September 2021 by the General Manager and RLT with a full complement of staff in attendance, included an exercise to establish staff values in alignment with the public sector values. A graphic is being produced to formalise and promote the staff values. - Commencement of new Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator and Community Landscape Officer for the Port Augusta–Quorn landscape group. - Expression of interest submitted to Landscape Priorities Fund for wild dog project and goat project. - Application submitted to Future Drought Fund for feral goat project and two water projects. - Native Vegetation Council partnership proposal as a co-delivery partner (per application as a third party provider) for Significant Environmental Benefit programs/industry offsets.
	Conflict of interest declared by Ross Sawers a member of the Native Vegetation Council.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement of commitment endorsed by all Landscape SA boards to align with the DEW's Reconciliation Action Plan (due to be launched October 2021) and under which will sit the SAAL action plan. - Work on renovating new office premises continues by the landowner with some additional costs to the board identified i.e. government telephone and internet connection, office security and office dividers. All reasonable costs given the significance of the relocation, still waiting for DIT to provide MoAA for signing.

- A discussion was held relating to the concerns raised by staff and community re the PIRSA bounty scheme administered north of the dog fence where they are not having an impact, nor a declared pests, but native animals under the NPW Act. A full discussion with the board has occurred with escalation of this matter to the Minister.
- **It was noted** that a bounty that encourages the shooting of dingoes in areas where they are not a declared pest is not a preferred policy position or program of the board, but where reasonable management in hotspots and data of their existence is the preferred approach to management.

December 2021 Meeting

It was agreed to reschedule the December board meeting to 14-15 December 2021 (previously 15-16) which will include a staff Christmas barbeque on the Tuesday evening.

Action: Invite staff to board barbeque at 6:30pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

1234 9.10

Water Advisory Committee

Discussion was held on the time taken for the completion of the groundwater model for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area, now expected to be completed in the first half of 2022 after multiple changes of completion dates to this point.

A project proposal is being developed for the Australian Government Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat to protect and manage LEB springs in partnership with Aboriginal community members, landholders and scientific partners. This opportunity will see some progress to further protection of the SAAL springs in line with the letter of commission – if successful.

9.10a

Water Accounting Project

The board was updated on the progress of the Accounting for Groundwater Take in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area project that sees SAAL working with DEW for a Water Accounting Implementation Plan.

- A Water Accounting Advisory Group has been established, with Tim Flowers as the board's representative and six volunteer land holders and/or managers within the Far North Prescribed Wells Area with significant experience in managing stock water infrastructure.
- The Water Accounting Advisory Group will provide advice on the identification of water accounting projects, contribute to project assessment and assist in overseeing the conduct of trials and be overseen by the SAAL Water Advisory Committee, who will make recommendations to the board and provide strategic guidance and direction.
- First meeting of Water Accounting Advisory Group scheduled for 16 November 2021.
- Funding for the project has been applied for from the Future Drought fund and is also being supported by the IGABDR program.

It was agreed for Douglas Lillecrapp to attend the first meeting of the Water Accounting Advisory Group.

1255 9.16

Project Status Report

Project Status Report was **noted**.

1259

Kangaroo Partnership Project

The board was provided an update on the process for appointing the coordinator of the Kangaroo Management Project being 'Sevenses Creative' who are to commence early November 2021.

The board was advised that the General Manager has been nominated to represent the SAAL Landscape Board and Landscape General Managers on an Agriculture kangaroo taskforce set up by PIRSA.

1315 9.19

Presiding Members Report

Presiding Members Report **noted**.

1335		<i>Break for lunch</i>
1347		<i>Melanie Boxall joined the meeting.</i>
1348	9.11a	<p>GFC - Financial Overview</p> <p>Governance and Finance Committee (GFC) Chair spoke to the financial overview reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Statement of Financial Position tabled to the earlier papers discovered to include DEW data. - The board was briefed on the collection of 'out of council' levy, with this the first year that SAAL was responsible for processing the invoices internally (previously DEW). <p>It was noted that the data provided by DEW was not up to date making the out of council levy collection very time consuming however the process in future years will be more streamlined once addresses and the status of ownership of properties were corrected and a full handover of a manual was handed over by DEW.</p> <p>Financial overview and associated reports were accepted.</p>
	9.11b	<p>2022/23 Preliminary Board Budget</p> <p>Projected available funds and expenditure priorities for 2022/23 were noted.</p>
	9.11c	<p>Allocation of Carryover Levy Funds</p> <p>The allocation of carryover levy funds for future years in addition to the carryover of \$1,544,213 for 2021/22, with the amounts being \$300,000 for 2022/23, \$409,940 for 2023/24 and \$500,000 for 2024/25 was approved.</p>
	9.11d	<p>2020/21 Annual Report</p> <p>2020/21 SAAL Landscape Board Annual Report excluding financial statements was endorsed with the inclusion of the names of board and committees members and the Chair authorised to sign the report once the audited financial statements are available.</p> <p>It was noted that the Annual Report, once amended as per the minutes, did not need to be resubmitted to the board.</p>
	9.11e	<p>Work Health and Safety Report</p> <p>Work Health and Safety Report noted.</p>
	9.11f	<p>Governance and Finance Committee Meeting Recommendations</p> <p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note minutes of GFC meeting held 13 October 2021; ▪ Adopt WHS Policy for Landscape Board and Committee members; ▪ Adopt Use of Common Seal policy; ▪ Approve 2022 Meeting Schedule; ▪ Note Out of Council Levy Collection; ▪ Note nil Contracts or Grants executed; ▪ Note Related Party Transactions report; ▪ Note nil sponsorship applications received.
1421		<i>At this time Melanie Boxall left and Greg Patrick joined the meeting.</i>
1422	9.12	<p>Wild Dog Regulations and Funding Application</p> <p>Conflict of interest declared by Ellen Litchfield due to the Litchfield property being organic. The board was provided an update on the requirement for mandatory baiting levels based on location and wild dog activity per the new Wild Dog Regulations under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> and enacted 8 August 2021.</p> <p>Discussion was held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-engaging with landholders and connecting with organic properties to help them understand the requirements under the new regulations;

- Negotiating and monitoring property management plans;
- Compliance to be initiated the following year;
- Applying for funds for a compliance officer role who would provide support to landholders;
- Accessing the trapper program.

New requirement for mandated wild dog baiting levels and Landscape Priorities Fund expression of interest for wild dog management was **noted**.

9.13 Feral Goat Policy Project Update and Funding Bid

The board was advised that if an expression of interest submitted with the Future Drought Fund to support feral goat management is successful, a grant will be applied for by late November 2021.

An expression of interest has also been submitted to the Landscape Priorities Fund and if successful a stage two application will be developed with notification of approval expected late December 2021 for the project to commence mid-January 2022.

The board was advised that the Chief Executive Notice provides clear obligations on a landowner for both legitimate goat farms and feral goats requiring that goats are kept within enclosures sufficient to prevent escape. The Livestock Act 2013 also requires domestic goats to be identified with a permanent identification device and the property is also to have an identification code.

Landowners who have feral goats, are to take all reasonable steps to ensure the goats are captured and within six weeks either removed from the land or destroyed. The board will have powers to deal with the landowner whether or not the goat is owned by the landowner or feral.

The discussion that followed included:

- Livestock SA has formed a working group where ideally a landscape board can be represented;
- Future options in engaging with community may include introducing a permit system, and if landowner is not doing the right thing cancel the permit;
- Minister describes *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* as an economic enabler. Need to consider a political, economic and environmental outcome that is evidence (science included) based and not ideological.

Funding applications under the Landscape Priorities Fund and Commonwealth Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Innovation Grants Program was **noted**.

The update on legal advice for goat policy development was **noted**.

1525 *At this time Scott Michael left the meeting due to a personal emergency.*

Short break taken

1547 *At this time Alison Skinner, Melanie Boxall and Greg Patrick joined the meeting.*

1547 9.14 Project Planning workshop – Concepts for next Business Plan

Conflict of interest declared by Ellen Litchfield as working with 'Farmers for Climate Action' nation-wide organisation based in NSW.

A workshop was held to establish concepts for the next business plan. Topics discussed included: climate resilience and carbon accounting; water management; sustainable land management; protecting and enhancing biodiversity; people and partnerships.

Action: Present paper at December 2021 meeting from input provided at project planning workshop.

1658 *At this time Alison Skinner, Melanie Boxall and Greg Patrick left the meeting.*

9.15 Correspondence **noted**.

1700 Day close

Location:	SAAL Boardroom Railway Office Stirling Rd Port Augusta SA 5700
Attendees:	Ross Sawers Chair Ellen Litchfield Deputy Chair Douglas Lillecrapp Board Member Kurt Tschirner Board Member Scott Michael Board Member (arrived at 9:45am) Tim Flowers Board Member (left at 12:30pm) Jodie Gregg-Smith General Manager Anne Dickin Executive Officer
SAAL Staff:	Item 17: Cherie Gerlach Team Leader Communications and Community Engagement
Guests:	Item 17: Landscape Group Chairs/Proxy Gawler Ranges Chair Kate Greenfield Marree Innamincka Chair Josh Haynes Marla Oodnadatta Caroline Thomas (proxy) North East Pastoral Chair Richard Williams North Flinders Chair Ian Ferguson Port Augusta-Quorn Chair Renata Shepley Item 18: SIMEC Chris Smyth Group Manager Environment, Regulatory & Stakeholder Peter Woods Denise Sharp
Apologies:	Sanchia Treloar Board Member Leila Day Kingoonya Chair
0845	Meeting reconvened.
0900 9.17	Landscape Group Chairs Session Following an introduction to the board the landscape group chairs/representatives were provided with the history of the district groups and the current scenario under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> . The board requested the chairs to raise any concerns on behalf of their landscape group and were provided feedback. Items discussed included the perception of the general public to the issue of over abundant kangaroos, the role of a Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator, the Landscape Priorities Fund, showcasing successes, wild dog management, baiting and the significant cultural values, feral pigs, camels and horses, tourism and the sealing of the Strzelecki Track, carbon farming and measuring carbon footprint, diversification, board members attending group meetings, COVID-19 changing how business is done, landscape group district plans, increasing Chair and board meetings frequency from one to two meetings a year, emailing board meeting agendas direct to all group members. Conflicts of interest declared by Ross Sawers as working with carbon farming group 'Australian Integrated Carbon' and the General Manager who sits on the Pastoral Board in the role of a deputy. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement of Commitment was distributed to and discussed with the landscape group chairs. Action: Board meeting agendas to be emailed to all landscape group members. Establish process for distributing communiques to landscape group members.

Future Agenda Item: Hold two Landscape Group Chairs meetings a year. Next meeting due in six months i.e. April 2022.

1108

Short break

1117

At this time the Landscape Group Chairs left the meeting.

1119 9.18

SIMEC Presentation

The board was provided a PowerPoint presentation by SIMEC via MS Teams on the future of magnetite mining in the Middleback Ranges.

1215 9.23

Any Other Business

Recap of Landscape Group Chair Session

The Chairman sought board members feedback on the session held with the landscape group chairs which was discussed. It was considered a valuable and worthwhile activity given the significance of the landscape groups and their role in supporting the delivery of the boards business.

9.20

Board Member Updates

Board members provided updates for their allocated Landscape Groups with the Chair enquiring on the attendance numbers for the meetings.

Action: Include attendance numbers at Landscape Group meetings in the Project Status Report.

9.21

Public Comment

Not applicable.

9.22

Forward Agenda Items

- Tour of Sundrop – proposed for June 2022 meeting.
- Tri-Star update deferred until next year.
- Staff update on Coongie Wetland Wonders project.
- Board and staff BBQ on Tuesday 14 December 2021.
- Business Plan for final sign-off.
- Funding applications update.
- Introduce Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator at December 2021 meeting.

9.24

Meeting Appraisal

From the findings and board discussion of the board meeting performance review (completed by Kurt Tschirner) the following was noted:

- Valuable to have staff providing presentations followed by a Q&A session;
- Would have liked more time to discuss the structure of a permits system for goats which will be explored more fully with stakeholders and partners;
- Reporting on projects kept concise;
- Reiterate the four areas of the review to focus on i.e. belonging; passive; composure; purposeful/visionary at the commencement of the meeting.

Overall the performance of the board at the meeting was rated well with the Landscape Chairs session a positive highlight.

9.25

Board Communiqué

It was agreed to include the following items in the board communiqué:

- Aboriginal Statement of commitment
- Landscape Group Chair session and District Action Plans
- Water accounting trial project
- Building Pastoral Sustainability update
- Shaping the next business plan workshop
- Presentation provided by SIMEC

9.26 **Board Member Travel Arrangements**

It was noted that Douglas Lillecrapp and Ellen Litchfield had driven from and to home for this meeting.

1300

Meeting End

Approved *S. Treloar* Date 14 / 12 / 2021
 Ross Sawers – Chair *Sanchia Treloar A/Chair*
 SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

PRIORITY FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS			
Identified	Item	RO	Meeting
Mar 2021	Tour of Sundrop Tomato Farm	GM	Jun 2022
Feb 2021	Tri-Star Group update on Simpson and Pedirka Basin Project	GM	TBD/2022
Jun 2021	Tour of Dog Fence	GM	2022/23
Aug 2021	SAAL staff member presentation at each board meeting	GM	Dec 2021
Aug 2021	Combined board and staff end of year function	GM	14/12/2021
Oct 2021	Include GFC agenda items in board performance review	ST	Dec 2021
Oct 2021	Wild Dog Update a standard item on board meeting agendas	GP	Ongoing
Oct 2021	Projects for consideration for business plan	GM	Dec 2021
Oct 2021	Business Plan for sign-off	GM MB	Apr 2022
Oct 2021	Funding applications update	GM	Dec 2021
Oct 2021	Introduce Kangaroo Management Coordinator	GM	Dec 2021