

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board met in Port Augusta on 27-28 October 2021. Included in the meeting was a session with the chairs of the board's seven Landscape Groups across the SAAL region and a workshop to determine the priorities for the 2022/23 business plan.

Landscape Group District Action Plans

A meeting between the Landscape Group Chairs and the SA Arid Lands Landscape board was a valuable opportunity to share key issues across the districts for the board to consider.

This was timely as each group is presently developing its district action plans in line with the board's new Regional Landscape Plan.

From the discussion with the board it was agreed to increase the frequency of this meeting to twice yearly, in April and October along with some reviewed methods of communication between the board and the group members.

Shaping the Next Business Plan

A workshop facilitated by the General Manager provided key priorities to guide investment for the business plan for 2022/23. This was further supported by the input from the earlier workshop with the Landscape Group chairs. This will be the board's first business plan under the new Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026.

Building Pastoral Sustainability



The board was provided with a presentation on its Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS) project which includes the Property Management Planning (PMP) program ran by the project team.

Staff showcased outcomes and testimonials from the first 18 months of the program and demonstrated how investment is making a local impact through adaptation, innovation and diversification for local pastoral businesses.

The BPS project provides quality training that leads to practice change, and offers activities that engage the wider pastoral community with workshops, field days, grants for on-ground works and the development of communities of practice.

In the PMP, participating businesses commit fully to attend all sessions, and aspects of the process, share their learnings as well as take part in a pre and post evaluation.

The PMP project includes guidance for family business planning, financial and business management, property mapping and developing an action plan.



Pictured above are the participants for Round 2 of the program from the following properties/districts:

Corunna (Gawler Ranges)

Koonamore (North East Pastoral)

Lambina (Marla-Oodnadatta)

Thurlga (Gawler Ranges)

Upalinna (North Flinders)

Wilkatana (Gawler Ranges)

More than \$170,000 has been invested so far in a range of on-ground innovations through the program. The upcoming Pastoral Field Day is also one of the key events of the Building Pastoral Sustainability project. BPS is funded through the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

SIMEC Mining Presentation

SIMEC Mining presented to the board on the company's prime project for the expansion of magnetite mining and processing in the Middleback Ranges.

SIMEC provided a high level and whole of project description, regulatory pathways, key stakeholders, and current timelines.

The board discussed key areas of environmental sensitivity and undertook to remain engaged with the project through board staff.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement of Commitment

PARTNERSHIP
Meaningful
Authentic
Together

The board was presented with the final draft of 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement of Commitment' which has been developed and agreed to by all SA Landscape Boards and aligns with the government's Reconciliation and Closing the Gap principles.

An action plan is being prepared for the board to implement a range of practices and strategies to honour the principles and responsibilities within the Statement of Commitment.



The statement of commitment was also shared with the Landscape Group Chairs.



The board has nine Aboriginal landscape group members who will be instrumental in assisting the board to form a pathway to further engage and partner with the traditional owner groups in the SA Arid Lands region.

Water Accounting Project

As introduced in the previous board communiqué, the Accounting for Groundwater Take project is a key deliverable of the Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area (FNPWA).

The project has commenced with the call for expressions of interest in the Water Accounting Advisory Group. Recommended and appointed members of this project group include;

1. Donnagh Clarke (Allandale Station)
2. David Bell (Dulkaninna Station)
3. Randall Crozier (Willoway Farming Northern Regional Manager)
4. Jake Fennell (Wintinna Station)
5. Tony Williams (Mt Barry Station) and
6. Peter Litchfield (Mundowdna Station).

All members are land managers within the FNPWA with significant experience and interest in managing stock water infrastructure and supporting appropriate ways to account for water use in the pastoral context.

Board member Timothy Flowers is the SA Arid Lands Landscape board's nominee for the group.

Livestock SA is nominating an appropriate independent member from outside of the region who has knowledge and skills and is already required to meter/account for water use.

The group will hold its first meeting on 16 November 2021 with the aim to start work to identify potential accounting projects and technical expertise to support the projects.

Further meetings will focus on developing the water accounting trial projects in preparation for an expression of interest process to deliver trials, expected to open in December 2021.

Upcoming Events

- SAAL Pastoral Field Day 2 & 3 December
- SAAL Landscape Board Meeting Tuesday 14 December (*previously 15 December*)

Please use link below for details of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meetings.

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](#)