

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 2-21			
Date: 25 March 2021			
Start Time:	9.00am		
Location:	Loxton	Room:	Loxton Research Centre Conference Room
Present	<p>Di Davidson (Chair), Greg Cock, Jim Godden, Jason Size, Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Amy Goodman (Manager, Strategy and Engagement), Michelle Finch (Business Services Manager), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Helane Norman (Executive Officer)</p> <p>Item 5: Rachel Connell (First Assistant Secretary, Water Division, Dept Agriculture Water and Environment) Adam Sincock (DAWE) Michael Cutting (Water Efficiency Program)</p> <p>Item 5 and 6: Wayne Meyer (Chair, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia)</p> <p>Item 7 & 8: Cindy Kakoschke (Education Officer)</p> <p>Item 7: Chris Koolmatrie (Project Officer), Sheryl Giles (RMMAC Director), Shaymia Giles (Community member)</p> <p>Item 7, 8 & 9: Wendy Stubbs (Team Leader, Landscape Resilience)</p>		
Apologies	Barb Cowey, Lisa Rowntree, Andrew Biele		

Item	Item Title
1.	Prior to the Public Meeting an <i>in camera</i> session was held with the General Manager.
PUBLIC MEETING	
2.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and agenda check</p> <p>Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 10am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet. Although there were three apologies from Board members, there was a quorum enabling the meeting to proceed.</p>
3.	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>No further disclosures to report.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of <u>Minutes from the previous meeting (1-21)</u> held 25 February 2021</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 1-21 held 25 February 2021.</i></p>
Presentations	

Item	Item Title
5.	<p>Water Efficiency Program Update – Rachel Connell (First Assistant Secretary, Water Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologised for the delays in approvals and the way the program has been rolled out. • Discussion on the best way forward with the projects still awaiting approval. The Board's contract with DAWE is closed to new applications, but the contract is still in place to follow through with the old projects and applications. • Ms Connell suggested that perhaps the best way to proceed is to retain the overarching method in place at present; she advised that there is no impediment to the processing of applications received up until March 3. Ms Connell to confirm this in writing by Friday March 26th. • Discussion on arrangements for the new program - \$60m that was announced on the 3rd March. • By mid April, the best ways to deal with both the old and new programs will be confirmed. This is necessary to give some clarity to the program and staff.
6.	<p>Presentation – Adj. Professor Wayne Meyer (Chair, Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia Inc)</p> <p><u>Rabbit Free Australia</u></p> <p>Wayne outlined the impact rabbits have on primary production and the environment. Rabbit-Free Australia is committed to rebuilding productive Australian landscapes that support abundant native wildlife and its mission is to eradicate rabbits in Australia through research, awareness and on-ground works. Numbers have decreased since the 10 billion height in the 1950's, now estimated to be less than 1 billion.</p> <p>Rabbit Free Australia is now a registered environmental charity and is offering limited funding for relevant projects. Calls for proposals are out now. The Board could consider partnering in some way.</p> <p>Mr Meyer described early genetic research into rabbit breeding, noting that it is directed exclusively at the Australian Wild rabbit.</p> <p><u>Mallee Carbon and Water @ Calperum Station</u></p> <p>Wayne is also involved with the 'Carbon and water exchange of SA Mallee through fire and drought' program at Calperumstation, which is the only site in SA. The current extended drying (since 2015) means that there is no groundwater recharge and potential change in Mallee vegetation. The Board was supportive of providing a letter of support for the Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network (TERN) if requested.</p>
7.	<p>River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Sheryl Giles, Shaymia Giles and Chris Koolmatrie attended the meeting to speak with the Board. Since the native title consent determination in 2011 the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation administer the land on behalf of the River Murray and Mallee peoples.</p> <p>The corporation has developed several plans and spent a lot of time undertaking Aboriginal water assessments. These involve going out on country, and comparing it to what it used to be like, and if anything is of concern, notifying department staff.</p> <p>Also discussions have been had on first people Rangers, training through Growsmart, and funding applications have been submitted for the continuation of working on Country.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>RMMAC appreciated General Manager interest and attendance at a recent meeting.</p> <p>Important to continue conversation, and the invitation has been extended for board members to go out on Country with first peoples, and also be invited to upcoming Tour.</p>
8.	<p>River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) – Cindy Kakoschke</p> <p>Cindy Kakoschke works with around 12 students on the RMYC, many of them have been on the council for their secondary school years. They have recently worked with board staff to read and review the draft Landscape Plan. Council members were keen to provide feedback to the Board on their thoughts and they have done so by making a video as students could not attend meeting today.</p> <p>ACTION: Link for video to be provided to board members to listen to again.</p>
9.	<p>Terrestrial Ecology presentation – Wendy Stubbs</p> <p>The Team of 5 ecologists working on projects funded by RLP and some levy funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irongrass Native Grassland Project (INTG), collaborative project with landowners and aboriginal communities (Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri), surveying current communities, pest control, seed production areas, Major componet is 15 trials, with field days. • Improving habitat for Threatened Mallee birds - for 7 mallee birds, involves restoration and revegetation, grazing pressure control, Citizen science and volunteers • Living Landscapes project bid for funding (Landscape Priorities Fund) to manage 850,000 ha above Berri under conservation • Threatened flora and biodiversity hotspots • Biodiversity Awareness on Fungi, Youtube videos, booklet, fungi walks • Other work includes Landscape Assessment Framework, Referrals, and other technical advice and Landholder and site visits. <p>The team are encouraged to look at opportunities to look at day tours that might create interest in these projects, especially as people are looking to travel and learn locally.</p> <p>New Priorities have been focused on by the minister, but the ecology team is really stretched to undertake much more. Is this an opportunity for future RLP projects, dependent on what focus areas the federal government is focusing on. Partnering with an interest from a botany side.</p>
Items for decision	
10.	<p>Approval of Regional Landscape Plan</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board has approved out of session the adoption of the Draft Regional Landscape Plan, which has gone out to public consultation on March 15th.</p> <p>A 2-pager is also being developed for the plan for use in communicating to others. Final plan will be presented at the May meeting.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board ratified the out-of-session decision to approve the Draft Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Plan for consultation.</i></p>
11.	<p>SA Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>The General Manager gave an overview of the Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025 for South Australia and highlighted that there are areas that the landscape boards will be lead</p>


Item	Item Title
	<p>agencies or key partners in, but with no additional funding. Landscape Boards will be the lead agency for 'Landscape planning will consider climate change mitigation and adaptation for natural resources and landscapes.'</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the South Australian Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 and, in particular, the actions for Landscape Boards to lead on or to participate in.</i></p>
12.	<p>Monthly Performance Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided the February 2021 Monthly Performance Report which provides a succinct snapshot of activities against the the regional priorities and focus areas of the 20-21 Transitional Business Plan. It indicated that all work is on track.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the February 2021 Monthly Performance Report.</i></p>
13.	<p>Draft Annual Business Plan</p> <p>The draft business plan, along with the detail underpinning the implementation program was presented to the Board by the Manager, Strategy and Engagement.</p> <p>A decrease when RLP funding ceases in 2023 is of concern.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed about how the Business and Regional Plans fit together and how to indicate quantifiable metrics.</p> <p>Programs deliver across multiple focus areas, which makes it difficult to quantify at a program level. Operational Plans are developed after the business plan has been adopted, which will indicate how each program connects to the Landscape Plan focus areas, and that will be measurable.</p> <p>The Strategic workshop in April will make this clearer.</p> <p>2021-22 business and operational budget</p> <p>The Manager, Strategy and Engagement provided the Draft MRLB Annual Business Plan. Due to an error, correction to the foundational programs table on bottom of page 73 where figures for communications and council collection are transposed, will be made. Customer and business services is an incorrect title. Changes to the document will be brought to the May meeting following refinement.</p> <p>Members are still struggling with the connection of expenditure to focus areas, but a sentence to link the two might suffice.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Noted the detail provided in this paper that underpins the implementation program presented in the 2021-22 Business Plan.</i> <i>Endorsed the draft 2021-22 Annual Business Plan with the changes noted on Pg 73 Foundation programs table.</i> <i>Endorsed targeted discussions with key stakeholders to finalise the Plan</i> <i>Noted the final 2021-22 Annual Business Plan will be tabled with the Board for approval in May.</i>
A short lunch break was taken.	

Item	Item Title
14.	<p>Interim SLA between MRLB and DEW</p> <p>The Business Manager provided the Interim Service level agreement between the MRLB and the DEW for the current financial year to April 12 2021, and the background behind the agreement and what is likely to occur in the future.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noted the interim Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Board and the Department for Environment & Water (DEW); and</i> • <i>Authorised the Chair to sign and seal the Interim Service Level Agreement for 2020-21 on behalf of the Board.</i>
15.	<p>Legislative compliance Review</p> <p>A draft legislative compliance Register was provided to the Board by the Business Manager. There have been a lot of changes required to this document predominantly due to the new <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> legislation.</p> <p>A review will occur annually, beginning in February so completed by the end June.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the progress of the establishment of a Legislative Compliance Register for the Board; and will provide feedback for the continual development of this living document.</i></p>
16.	<p>Board Performance Report</p> <p>The Board has received notification regarding the requirement for an evaluation of the Board's performance. The General Manager outlined his intentions and the timeline to comply with this request.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>noted the correspondence from Minister Speirs relating to the evaluation of Board Performance;</i> b) <i>agreed to workshop the Board's performance at the Board meeting on 27 May 2021 or alternate session; and</i> c) <i>will consider a draft report at the Board meeting on 24 June 2021.</i> <p>ACTION: Plan for a board performance workshop in Mid May.</p>
17.	<p>Landscape Board General Manager Performance Agreement 2020/21</p> <p>The General Manager outlined the mid cycle review of the performance agreement, and circulated to Board members the outcomes of the mid-cycle review.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Performance Agreement and actions required to ensure statutory compliance.</i></p>
18.	<p>The board moved in-Camera to discuss Item 18.</p>
19.	<p>Board and Committee Remuneration Policy</p> <p>The General Manager presented a draft Board and Committee Remuneration and reimbursement policy which clearly outlines the Board and Committee members level of remuneration and what can be included in this.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the Remuneration and Reimbursements for Board and Committees Policy and Procedure.</i></p>

Item	Item Title
	ACTION: Ensure that the single claim form is available on Teams for all members.
Committees and Sub-Committees	
20.	<p>February Financial minutes</p> <p>Finance Committee papers along with the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 16 March were provided to the Board.</p> <p>Information received on the budget breakdown has been very helpful. The future of the Water Efficiency Program is significant to the Boards current financial position, and will be clarified in coming days.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers and minutes of the Finance committee held 16 March 2021.</i></p>
21.	<p>Water Advisory Committee minutes – February and March</p> <p>The February and March minutes of the Water Advisory committee (WAC) meetings were provided to the Board for information.</p> <p>The WAC will be requested to furnish a workplan, indicating things that should be investigated/looked into over the coming year. The Board would like the committee to raise any issues they have and discuss at their meetings, and the minutes should reflect the consensus of the meeting. Individuals/the committee are not required to provide separate reports. Items from the committee's meetings that need to be included as a separate item at the Board meeting, will be put on the agenda by the ELT members.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes of the Water Advisory Committee meetings held in February and March 2021.</i></p>
22.	<p>Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee minutes from meeting 22/02/21</p> <p>The meeting papers for the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee along with minutes from their meeting on the 22nd February were provided to the board. The Manager, Sustainable Landscapes asked the board to note that the Tatiara District Council has not provided a representative to be on the committee, and that the committee will not be requesting funding support from the funding partners for the 2021-22 year, as they feel they have sufficient funds.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the papers and minutes of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating committee held 22 February 2021.</i></p>
23.	<p>Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee</p> <p>The Manager, Sustainable Landscapes provided a board paper on recent meetings and events held by the committee, the landholder brochure, and also requested approval on several upcoming events.</p> <p>Board members were impressed with the Landholder Responsibilities fact sheet and approved the brochure with minor changes to the Landscape Board Committees paragraph.</p> <p><u>Local Government meeting:</u> The Board have been urged to build relationships with all councils, and considered this to be what they, as a Board, need to do. This will be discussed further before a decision is made.</p> <p><u>Volunteer Celebration:</u> The board discussed the Mallee and Coorong Volunteer celebration, the fact that it would be held for only part of the region. There was some discussion as to whether it might be beneficial to have a whole of region Volunteer Celebration. This would</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>be instead of more than one event being held in the region, or only having part of the region invited to a Lower Murray event and nothing in the Riverland. No decision was reached.</p> <p><i>That the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noted the outcomes of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee (MCC) meeting held via MS Teams on 22 February 2021;</i> • <i>Approved the Landholder Responsibilities factsheet developed by the committee with minor changes to the paragraph on the last page(Attachment 1);</i> • <i>Noted the outcomes of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee (MCC) community forum held at Parilla on 2 March 2021, run in partnership with Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF).</i> <p>ACTION: Organise a meeting with GM, Board Chair, and two advisory committee chairs to discuss expectations of the advisory committees.</p> <p>ACTION: GM and Chair to meet with Andrew Biele.</p> <p>ACTION: Region-wide volunteer event to be investigated.</p>
Items for Noting	
24.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal report on her activities since the February Board meeting. Discussions with General Manager occur two to three times per week, usually in person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the minister on draft RM WAP • Unable to attend Chairs forum on 17 March. David Greenough is the new Chair of the Chairs forum, with changes to the forum including only meeting 3 times per year and a decision to be made on purpose of meetings. • Attended Water Planning and Steering Committee meetings • Greg Cock attended the State Landscape Strategy workshop in Adelaide on 16 March on behalf of the Chair as she was unable to attend. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i></p>
25.	<p>General Manager's Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided a report on the highlights and achievements of staff since the last report.</p> <p>Suggest that staff members names are included against the items in the report.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the February General Manager's Report.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Presentation with org charts to be put onto teams.</p>
26.	<p><u>Monthly update on Referral requests activity</u></p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the referral update.</i></p>
27.	<p><u>Grassroots Grants update</u></p> <p>An written update was provided by the Manager Strategy and Engagement on the 2020/21 grassroots grants.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>This would be useful information to provide on the website on completion of projects. Further media will be organised after April reporting.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the update on the 2020/21 grassroots grants.</i></p>
28.	<p>Landscape Priorities Fund Update</p> <p>The General Manager provided a verbal update on the second stage bids for the Landscape Priorities Fund.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) noted the update on the Landscape Priorities Fund.</i></p>
29.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p><i>The Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
30.	<p>Action List</p> <p>Mallee and Coorong Advisory committee to be invited to meet with the Board in April. All other actions have been completed.</p>
31.	<p>Member's contributions / Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Government, has provided funding to PIRSA and the General Manager is engaging with RDA and LGA to look at possible project funding within our region. Lack of presence north of the River by the Board, this area must not be overlooked. Irongrass Natural Temperate Grassland project works within that area, Rangelands Alliance, and new Landscape Priorities Fund bid are all working in that space. Tony Randall drafted a drought policy on the dryland farming sector, Greg Cock also worked to include more issues that are affected in drought. Questioned if the Board should consider a broader drought policy. <p>ACTION: General Manager to look into the drought policy.</p>
	<p>Next meeting details – April 22 – Lameroo Council chambers</p> <p>Strategic Workshop – April 14 at Karoonda Institute Supper Room at 1pm</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 3.10pm and Board members attended the Berri office to meet Riverland staff.</p>

<p>ENDORSED</p> 	<p>Dianne Davidson AM Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 22 April 2021</p>
--	--