

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 4-25	
29 May 2025	
Start Time:	9.30am
Location:	Murray Bridge Office, Units 5 & 6, Level 1, Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253
Present:	<p><u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair), Andrew Biele, Samantha Blight, Brian Lund, Tammy O'Malley, Jason Size (on Teams), Greg Cock</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Amy Lee (Acting General Manager), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Tamika Parker (Executive Officer),</p> <p>Item 5: Tom Mowbray (Water Resources Manager), Stuart Sexton (Senior Project Officer), Rowland Boxall, (Senior Project Officer & Bec Gould (Water Assessment Officer)</p>
Apologies	Jem Tesoriero (Acting, Manager Strategy and Engagement)

Item	Item Title
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check.</p> <p>Frances Simes, Chair, declared the meeting open at 9.30am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.</p>
2.	<p>Conflict of Interest – No new disclosures</p>
3.	<p>Board Calendar</p> <p>The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (3-25) held 1 May 2025</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 3-25 held 1 May 2025.</i></p>
5.	<p>Team Presentation</p> <p>Water Resources – Tom Mowbray, Rowland Boxall, Bec Gould, Stuart Sexton</p> <p>The Water Resources Manager presented a summary of the Water Resources staff, their projects and the work undertaken.</p>

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6.	<p>PIRSA Update:</p> <p>In addition to the paper provided the following has occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIRSA Executives had a regional tour to the Murraylands region and went to various locations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altmann Farms (Dakara) - Toora South Australian Buffalo Farm – Mypolonga Parilla Premium Potatoes - Parilla Bowhill Engineering – Bowhill Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities – Murray Bridge River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve – Mid Murray Council, Mannum The executives also attended dinner with the Women of the LMRIA. Executives found the regional tour insightful hearing about many of the issues industries are facing currently including those related to market forces, drought implications etc Drought Support Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is still large uptake with the on-farm grants Many of these have been retrospectively funded Infrastructure items funded include items such as tanks, pumps, troughs, fencing to contain stock, pipework, fencing to store feed, and this is across the whole of the state. High volume of uptake also with the community connect grants With Victoria and New South Wales hay supplies running low, alternative states are being investigated.
7.	<p>Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee with Murray Zircon Mine</p> <p>Wendy Campana, Chair of the Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee with the Murray Zircon Mine gave a presentation to the Board Members.</p> <p>ACTION: Invite Ken and Wendy to another Board meeting to discuss the rehabilitation on the soils.</p>
8.	<p>MR Plan and Drought Resilience Discussion</p> <p>Alex Milner-Smyth and Michael Cutting will be attending the Drought Resilience workshop Friday 30 May 2025. The focus of these meetings are about preparedness not response.</p> <p>In addition to this the staff are working on developing a climate change strategy that will include soil health.</p>
9.	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a written report, indicating there were a number of phone conversations with potential candidates for the General Manager position, and a mixture of other meetings.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i>
10.	<p>Board Member's Report</p> <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board.</p> <p>Sam Blight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Reed Planting & Thukubi Protection Project Completed Stage 1 of the project at Mosquito Point, focusing on aquatic reed planting and the protection of culturally significant Thukubi nesting sites. • Coorong District Local Action Plan Committee Ran the committee meeting on May 6. The primary focus was on drought response strategies and identifying opportunities to support local communities. • Landscape SA Forum – Adelaide (May 12–14) Participated in forum sessions and field tours, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stage 3 remediation works of the River Torrens channel to the sea ○ Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) projects in the West Torrens area ○ Site visit to Botanic Park to learn about the resident grey-headed flying fox colony • CLLMM RCAF Meeting – Goolwa (May 15) Attended the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Research and Community Advisory Forum meeting. • Grassroots Grants Assessment – May 19 Participated in the MRLB Grassroots Grants assessment panel. • Coorong District Council Volunteer Recognition Event – May 21 Attended the celebration at The Bend Motorsport Park, acknowledging the vital contributions of local volunteers. • Resilience Breakfast – May 22 Attended the MR RDA-hosted event at the Bridgeport Hotel. Featured guest speakers included SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens and Barry Irvine (Bega Cheese), focusing on resilience and leadership in regional communities. • MR Regional Landscape Plan Workshop – May 28 Participated in planning workshop in Murray Bridge to contribute to the development of the next iteration of the Regional Landscape Plan. <p>Tammy O'Malley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape SA Forum 12 – 14 May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two-day conference landscape conference. Caught up with Sam Blight about day 2, as had to leave early. • Mannum, Peake, Roby and Sherlock – 23 May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attended the Community Meeting • Regional Leadership Program - 27 May

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attended Tuesday night, funding will cease November 2025. <p>Brian Lund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape SA Forum 12 – 14 May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attended the two-day conference in Adelaide <p>Greg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIL to report <p>Andrew Biele</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding still ongoing in northern mallee region. • Dust storm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bare paddocks fared worse than paddocks that had stubble ○ Seeds were not lost too much in the storm however it is likely that germination may be staggered due to topsoil movement and pre-emergent chemical erosion. ○ Only positive to take out of the storm is that people now understand that South Australia is in drought. • Rabbit and Fox activity is increasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance to get another baiting program underway including bait subsidies and ripping both farms and road verges will have a great impact to numbers while there is no food source to compete with. <p>Jason Size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots Grants Assessment 19 May 2025 • Attended the PIRSA cross Grain Sector meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussing how to support the grains industry through tools and decision making • General PIRSA Biosecurity fruit fly response. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attended workshop in Sydney around national response for Biosecurity. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
11.	<p>General Manager's Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided his report, outlining the activities undertaken by the General Manager over the last month, along with the following attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Report • Referrals Report <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.1 – SAAL preferred has declined the offer of employment, as a result the board are now approaching the second recommended applicant.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1 – the response back from the department concerning the zero-entitlement water levy discussion, this has seen a realised loss of income of around \$30,000. <p>ACTION: Letter to be drafted and sent to Frances for signing outlining the Board disappointment on the decision made.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
12.	<p>Quarter 3 Performance Report</p> <p>The board were provided with a copy of the quarterly performance highlights report for the third quarter of 2024/2025</p> <p>A suggestion was made to change the on-track a tick icon to make the completed and on track projects easier to differentiate.</p> <p>ACTION: Invite Mel Burford to give presentation to the Board Members about the Murray-Darling Carpet Python Project.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approve the quarterly performance highlights report for the third quarter of 2024/2025</i></p>
13.	<p>Grassroots Grants</p> <p>The board were provided with the list of approved projects received through the grassroots grant's application process for 2025-2026.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Endorse the list of projects approved by the Grassroots Grants assessment panel</i> <i>Note the requirement for further negotiation with some applicants</i>
14.	<p>Business Plan Update</p> <p>The board were provided with an overview of the feedback received from the annual Business consultation activity.</p> <p>On Page 13 in the Karoonda East Murray District Council area add in the word "allocation" after water.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Notes the feedback received on the draft 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan</i> <i>Approved the 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan after the amendments that were suggested are made.</i>
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	

Item	Item Title
15.	Finance Risk and Audit Committee May Report The Manager Corporate Services presented the Finance Reports to the end of April 2025. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the attached statement of Comprehensive Income Statement of Financial Position as at 30 April 2025.</i>
16.	Committee's Significant /Sensitive Items Board Membership on FRAC This item has been deferred to the next meeting
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
17.	Volunteer Celebration The board were provided with a summary of the proposed volunteer celebrations for June 2025. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the proposed volunteer celebration events for June 2025.</i>
18.	Future Board Members The Board Chair has over the last 6 weeks have discussions with 7 people who have been put forward as potential board members. ACTION: Frances arrange to have CVs emailed to Board Members for their review.
19.	Landscape Forum Verbal Feedback and Brainstorm The Board Members discussed the Landscape Forum and provided feedback to the Acting General Manager to pass on. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the feedback form.</i>
20.	Correspondence The Correspondence list for April was presented to the board. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i>
21.	Action List The Action list was reviewed by the board.
22.	Other Business, Coonalpyn Show There is potential to have stall at the Coonalpyn show, showcase to the public we are interested in hearing from them, and collaborate with the Limestone Coast Landscape Bord. Karoonda Office The Karoonda Office has officially been returned to the council, and an opportunity now presents itself to have Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board branded handouts in the centre of the front office.

Item	Item Title
	Next meeting details – 26 June at Berri Water Advisory Committee – 12 June Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 17 June
	Meeting closed at 2:54pm

ENDORSED 	Frances Simes Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 26 June 2025
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