

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 8-25	
25 September 2025	
Start Time:	9:30am
Location:	Murray Bridge Office, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge 5253
Present:	<u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair), Samantha Blight, Greg Cock (Teams), Brian Lund, Tammy O'Malley, Jason Size <u>Staff:</u> Bryan McDonald, Amy Lee (Manager Strategy and Engagement), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Michelle Finch (Manager Corporate Services, Tamika Parker (Business Support Coordinator, Murraylands), Tim Smythe (Program Manager, Mallee Sustainable Farming Item 6), Barb Cowey (Principal Regional Advisor, PIRSA, Item 7), Tom Mowbray (Water Resources Manager, Item 14)
Apologies	Andrew Biele

Item	Item Title
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check. 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.
2.	Bryan McDonald Introduction Bryan McDonald, the new General Manager of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, introduced himself to the Board Members. He spoke about his background and how he ventured into Landscape Ecology. He then explained why the environment matters to him and why he applied for the role with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.
3.	Conflict of Interest – No new disclosures River Reflections Committee to be removed for Tammy O'Malley.

Item	Item Title
	Samantha Blight will list the grants she works with in regards to the Grassroots Grants that are supplied by the board.
4.	Board Calendar The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board.
5.	Adoption of <u>Minutes from the previous meeting (7-25)</u> held 28 August 2025 <i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 7-25 held 28 August 2025.</i>
6.	Mallee Sustainable Farming The Board received a presentation from Tim Smythe on the operations of Mallee Sustainable Farming, this presentation was supplied to the Board Members
7.	PIRSA Update: Barb Cowey provided a verbal update: - Joined the meeting via teams in Kapunda for the Small Towns Conference. - Grant rounds have opened that support Thriving Regions Infrastructure and Community Grants. - The State Government Emerging Managers Program will be in Waikerie for 2026. - The Cross-border commissioner, Kelly-Anne Saffin, was in the Riverland two weeks ago, met with Penny Smith as chair of the Water Advisory Committee. - It has been raised by three Riverland CEO's that the costal management plan should include inland water management due to blue-green Alge outbreaks. - Lameroo has been through judging for Ag Town of the Year. - The Calperum Dark Skies Project is going to the next level. The application has been developed, and a community group will be formed. Julie Robertson has asked for it to be raised with the Landscape Board as it will be managed outside of Government with an Ecological Framework.
8.	Chairs Report The Chair provided a written report. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i>
9.	Board Member's Report A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. In addition to the written report the following has occurred: Brian Lund

Item	Item Title
	In addition to his report provided. - At the bottom end of the lake there is a little island which is full of boxthorn. Sam Blight: - The Narrung Jetty has been deemed unsafe and closed to the community. It will cost a minimum of \$600-\$700k to repair it. Tammy O'Malley - The Coorong Council and Tatiara Local Action Plan have received funding from the SA Drought Hub. The program will target early and mid-career farmers and encourage drought resilience information sharing, how they manage the farming business through good and bad times. The first session was a success and oversubscribed. The facilitator will pull the common themes of the day, and the next sessions will be focused on these themes. Jason Size: - The One Basin CRC Meeting Update: - The pre-emptive review is being undertaken. - Feedback on what is being achieved at the Loxton hub is being sought. - It has been outlined that if you are not included in the committees, you are unaware of what is being done. - Due to the loss of the node coordinator, Kym Walton, the One Basin CRC is looking at how the hub will operate. - A lot of project work and data analysis is being done currently. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i>
10.	General Manager's Report The General Manager provided their report, outlining the activities undertaken by the General Manager over the last month. Highlights of this report are: - Bryan gave a heartfelt thank you to the leadership team. - The Tri-state Alliance have held meaningful conversations around the next steps and are looking to reinvigorate the alliance by developing a statement of intent. - The ELT meetings have focused on strategic decision making, highlighting important topics. - The Senior Water Planner role that specifically looks after the Mallee Water Allocation Plan (WAP) and Peak Roby Sherlock WAPs has been filled by Kym Walton.

Item	Item Title
	- The Rural Resilience Coordinator role has been advertised and closes Monday 29 September 2025. MOAA with PIRSA around funding is being drafted. - New Minister, Hon. Lucy Hood MP, has been sworn in. Jodie Gregg-Smith is meeting with her next week. She has a strong connection within the regional communities. - Potential new board members might be delayed due to the change in Minister. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i>
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
11.	Annual Evaluation Report and Draft Highlights Report The board discussed the Annual Highlights report and the 2024-2025 Annual Evaluation summary. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i> <i>a) Approve the 2024-25 Annual Highlights Report for publication; and</i> <i>b) Note the findings of the 2024-25 annual evaluation summary</i>
12.	Development of a Workplan The Board discussed a 12-month work plan. The Executive Leadership Team will develop one which will be submitted at the next meeting. <i>ACTION – staff will create draft work plan which will be submitted to the board at a future meeting.</i>
13.	FRAC Independent Member The Board discussed the applications for the Finance Risk and Audit Committee independent member. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorse the appointment of Rob Gregory to the Finance Risk and Audit Committee.</i>
14.	Biodiverse carbon plantings – EMLR WAP amendment Tom Mowbray gave a presentation to the Board around biodiverse carbon plantings. Highlights from this presentation included: - When passed, the regulatory changes will be applied to our region. - If plantings are deemed for profit e.g. to offset carbon/used for carbon credits, they will be classified as commercial forestry. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i> <i>a. Note the Briefing; and</i> <i>b. Delegate the finalisation of comment to the General Manager</i>

Item	Item Title
15.	Regional Landscape Planning Update The Board discussed the regional landscape planning update. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the update on the review and amendment of the Regional Landscape Plan</i>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
16.	NRM Knowledge Conference Debrief The Board discussed the NRM Knowledge Conference and discussed Greg Cock's report. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the conference report prepared by Greg Cock</i>
17.	Summary Finance Reports The Board discussed the Summary Finance Reports. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position as at 31 August 2025</i>
18.	Correspondence The Correspondence list for September was presented to the Board. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i>
19.	Action List The action list was reviewed by the board.
20.	Other Business
	Next meeting details – TBC – Tailem Bend Water Advisory Committee – 9 October 2025 - Berri Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – 13 October 2025 - Lamerloo Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 18 November 2025 - Teams
	Meeting closed at 1:57pm

ENDORSED  Frances Simes (Nov 4, 2025 11:28:26 GMT+10.5)	Frances Simes Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 30/10/20254
--	---

