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 2-26	
30 April 2026	
Start Time:	9:30am
Location:	Renmark Paringa Council Office 61 Eighteenth Street, Renmark SA 5341
Present:	Board: Frances Simes (Chair(Teams)) Greg Cock (Teams), Tammy O'Malley, Andrew Biele, Jason Size, Brian Lund, Samantha Blight, Karen Eckermann, Kylie Moritz Staff: Bryan McDonald (General Manager), Amy Lee (Manager Strategy and Engagement), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Michelle Finch (Manager Corporate Services) Jem Tesoriero (A/Manager Strategy and Engagement), Tamika Parker (Business Support Coordinator Murraylands), Tom Mowbray (Water Resources Manager (Items 6 & 7 Teams)) Miranda Leckie (Senior Project Officer, Strategic Planning (Item 8, Teams)), Marcela Rosero (Team Leaders Planning and MERI (Item 8 Teams)) Hannah Spronk (Team Leader, Riverland Districts (Item 9))
Apologies	

Item	Item Title
1.	**Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check.** Andrew Biele, Deputy 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, and acknowledged the significance of country and place to all Australian communities including First Nations.
2.	**1 hour meet and greet with Renmark Paringa Council** The MR Landscape Board together with the Renmark Paringa Council met and held a discussion. **ACTION: Both MR Landscape Board's Executive Leadership Team and Renmark Paringa Council's Leadership team to organise regular meetings**.
3.	**GM Letter of Attestation sign off**

Item	Item Title
	The MR Landscape Board together with its General Manager went over the letter of attestation.
4.	**Conflict of Interest** No new Conflicts of Interest declared.
5.	Adoption of **Minutes from the previous meeting (1-26)** held 26 February 2026 ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 1-26 held 26 February 2026***
	ITEMS FOR DECISION
6.	**Basin Plan Review submission** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Basin Plan Review Submission. The following changes were suggested: • Change the wording in the section relating to the Water Market Flaws. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Approves the Draft MRLB Submission to the Basin Plan Review as its response to the Basin Plan Review; and*** b) ***Delegates approval of any final changes to the Chair and General Manager***
7.	**Water Planning Reference Group TOR** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Water Planning Reference Group TOR The following changes were suggested: • Up to 12 ordinary members Chair and Board Members are an addition to these. • An induction to be created to the members of the committees so they can better understand their roles and responsibilities as a member. • In section 2.2.3 include the word ideally. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Approves the separation of the combined Mallee and Peak, Roby Sherlock Water Planning Reference Group into two reference groups focused on each water allocation plan (WAP); and*** ***b) Approves having common Terms of Reference for Water Planning Reference Groups after the suggested changes have been made; and*** ***c) Approves the draft common Terms of Reference provided at Attachment 1 as the Terms of Reference for:*** ***i. Peake, Roby Sherlock Water Planning Reference Group*** ***ii. Mallee Water Planning Reference Group***

Item	Item Title
	iii. Marne Saunders Water Planning Reference Group ***d) The Board to consider determining a maximum number of members, aligned with the typical size of Sub-Committees; and*** ***e) As an interim measure, approves the current memberships of each reference group, provided in Attachment 2; and*** ***f) Notes that it is intended to revise the members of the Reference Groups to:*** ***i. Improve the range of interest represented; and*** ***ii. To adjust the number of official members to better enable focused discussion.*** ***g) Notes that the revised membership of the three reference groups will be brough to the board for approval.***
8.	**Regional Landscape Plan Review** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Regional Landscape Plan Review. The following is the highlights of this discussion: • Staff will be adding attachment to the letter which will be a table outlining how we will meet legislative requirements. • Staff will be creating a video for the launch of the plan. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Approves the 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan; and*** ***b) Approves the 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan Consultation Report; and*** ***c) Approves the letter to Minister Bourke seeking endorsement of the Regional Landscape Plan.***
9.	**Draft Pest Animal Strategy** The MR Landscape discussed the Draft Pest Animal Strategy The following changes were suggested: • Have a paragraph to mention ethical pest animal control. • Look at the different font for the front page. • Tweak the title. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the draft action plan and endorse it for finalisation.***
10.	**Freedom of Information Statement** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Freedom of Information Statement. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Approve the reviewed Freedom of Information Statement for publication on the board's website; and***

Item	Item Title
	b) Note the key findings from the state records of South Australia's 2024-25 Annual Report on the administration of the Freedom of Information Act 1991
11.	**Draft Business Plan** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Draft Business Plan ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Endorses the draft 2026-27 Annual Business Plan for Consultation with targeted stakeholders; and*** ***b) Notes the information exchange paper.***
COMMITTEES	
12.	**Water Advisory Committee** The MR Landscape Board discussed the minutes of the Water Advisory Committee's meetings 31 and 32. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Note the minutes of meetings 31 and 32 for the Water Advisory Committee; and*** ***b) Endorse the recommendations of the Water Advisory Committee including:*** ***i. The minutes from previous meeting 30 held on 3 December 2025 have been approved as circulated.*** ***ii. Note and appreciate MDBA joint workshop with the board.*** ***iii. Note Rosalie Auricht retirement from the Renmark Irrigation Trust, Wish her well, and acknowledge that she will continue as a valued and contributing member of the WAC.*** ***iv. The Water Advisory Committee endorses the Marne Saunders WAP Review, as presented for submission to the Board.*** ***v. The Water Advisory Committee approved the adjustment to the bi-monthly meeting schedule, effective 26 March, with meetings to continue every second month thereafter.*** ***vi. Errol Lovegrove has been invited as the new Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) representative.*** ***vii. Denis Augus will be replacing Sheryl Giles as the representative of the River Murray Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC)*** ***viii. The minutes from previous meeting 31 held on 26 February have been approved subject to amendments to member reports.***

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

Item	Item Title
	ix. Approved the separation of the combined Mallee and Peak, Roby, Sherlock Water Planning Reference Group into two reference groups focused on each water allocation plan (WAP). ***x. Approves the proposed common Terms of Reference for Water Planning Reference Groups.*** ***xi. Approved the draft Common Terms of Reference provided at attachment 1 as the Terms of Reference for:*** ***1. Peake, Roby, Sherlock Water Planning Reference Group*** ***2. Mallee Water Planning Reference Group*** ***3. Marne Saunders Water Planning Reference Group*** ***xii. Recommends that we ask the Board to consider determining a maximum number of members, aligned with the typical size of sub-committees.***
13.	**Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee** The MR Landscape Board discussed the minutes of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee's meeting 40. Highlight of this discussion were: • National Parks will review their monitoring and baiting to align with the control notice. • Wild dog activity going unreported. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Note the minutes of meeting 40 of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee; and*** ***b) Endorse the recommendations of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee:*** ***i. An action sheet will be sent to the Boards to keep them updated on progress and ongoing actions*** ***ii. Updated Wild Dog Policy and Control notice will be sent to the Boards*** ***iii. Casey to work with Chelsea on a shared communication strategy and maintain ongoing liaison to support consistency between the Boards and the Committee.*** ***ACTION – Organise how to spot a dingo vs Wild Dog for a future date to ensure the Board is educated in this topic.***
14.	**Finance Risk and Audit Committee** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Finance Risk and Audit Committee Papers ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the Finance Papers***

Item	Item Title
	ITEMS FOR NOTING
15.	**Water Levy Debt and Invoicing** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Water Levy Debt and Invoicing. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board notes the Water Levy Debt and Invoicing Report.***
16.	**Chairs Report** The Chair provided a written report to the board members. In addition to this written report the following was noted: • 12-April attended the Marne Saunders Report Card launch. • 20-April attended the FRAC meeting on teams. • 22-April met with Bryan McDonald, Penny Smith & Emma Carmody re Basin Plan review ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chairs Reports.***
17.	**Board Member's Report** A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. In addition to the written reports the following was noted: Andrew Biele • Vermin are numbers increasing. • Normal baiting programs weren't run this year. • Farmers are not putting crops in this year, unless they have financial payments to make. • The livestock price is hold well and viable, you will see more livestock grazing the land. Kylie Moritz: • Attended the Ecology Teams webinar on the Murray Darling Carpet Python • Spent 3 days kayaking through Chowilla Karen Eckermann: • The Woody meadows project is being well received by the public, and the environmental officers for the council are gaining great knowledge on what to plant around the town. • This weekend the Rural city of Murray Bridge is holding a free native tree giveaway 10 plants per 500m2 blocks.

Item	Item Title
	Brian Lund • 10 March 2026 – Had meeting with Nick Whiterod, CLLMM to provide informal introduction between Nick and Joern Kristenson, Chief Executive of Mekong River Commission (MRC) 99-23. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.***
18.	**General Manager's & ELT Report** The General Manager and ELT provided their report, outlining the key focus areas over the last month. In addition to the report supplied: • Met with Jo Collins the Deputy CE for PIRSA. Currently working on connecting the MR Landscape Board through to the Riverland Wine Industry and how to manage Feral Pigs in the landscape. • Meeting with the Commissions that are in the environmental space such as Emma Carmody, Commissioner for the River Murray and Jelly-Ann Saffin, Cross Border Commissioner. • CCW Farming held an Expo in Berri on 29 April 2026, Approx 100 to 120 people attended. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.***
19.	**Legislative Compliance Register Review** The MR Landscape Board discussed the Legislative Compliance Register Review • ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a) Note the changed made to the legislative Compliance Register*** ***b) Approve the Legislative Compliance Register for 2025-26 (attachment 1)***
20.	**Correspondence** The Correspondence list for September was presented to the Board. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.***
21.	**Action List** The action list was reviewed by the board.
22.	**Other Business** Bryan given thanks to Greg for his contribution to the Board for the last 6 years.
	Next meeting details – 25 June 2026 – Lameroo Water Advisory Committee – 21 May 2026 – Murray Bridge Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – TBA – October 2026 - Lameroo

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

Item	Item Title
	Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 16 June 2026 – Teams
	Meeting closed at 2:30pm

ENDORSED Frances Simes Frances Simes (Jun 26, 2026 16:52:13 GMT+9.5)	Frances Simes **Presiding Member** **Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board** Date: 25/06/2026

Minutes MRLB 2-26 30 April 2026

Final Audit Report 2026-06-26

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