

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.

The traditional owners in the Southern Mallee District Council area are the **Ngarkat** people of the mallee. This is one of the traditional groups that comes under the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC).

The board works closely with RMMAC on a range of projects in the mallee including undertaking cultural assessments of significant soaks and rock holes, and the Mallee and Peake, Roby and Sherlock WAPs.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 2-26	
25 June 2026	
Start Time:	9:30am
Location:	Southern Mallee District Council Office Railway Terrace North, Lamerook SA 5302
Present:	<u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Teams) Andrew Biele (Deputy Chair), Tammy O'Malley, Andrew Biele, Jason Size (Teams), Brian Lund, Samantha Blight, Karen Eckermann. <u>Staff:</u> 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 (Teams)), Tamika Parker (Business Support Coordinator Murraylands), Tom Mowbray (Water Resources Manager (Items 5, 6 & 7, Teams)), Stuart Sexton (Senior Water Policy Officer (Item 5, 6 & 7 Teams)), Visitors: Jedda Morgan (Project Officer, Department of Primary Industry and Regions South Australia), Trevor Pocock (Councillor Southern Mallee District Council), Jason Beaton (CEO, Southern Mallee District Council), Ron Valentine (Mayor, Southern Mallee District Council)
Apologies	Kylie Moritz

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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.
2.	1 hour meet and greet with Southern Mallee District Council The MR Landscape Board together with the Southern Mallee District Council met and held a discussion.

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	Councillor Trevor Pocock wished to highlight the following: • African Love Grass is in abundance in the region. • Water modelling has not been made available for the Mallee, and Peak, Roby, Sherlock Water Allocation Plans. Mayor Ron Valentine wished to highlight the following: • The number one issue in the region is water security. • Roadside verges are looking bare. ACTION: MR Landscape Board to hold a workshop with Southern Mallee District Council on the Mallee WAP and Peake, Roby Sherlock WAP, Focusing on Hydrological Data.
3.	Conflict of Interest No new Conflicts of Interest declared.
4.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (2-26) held 30 April 2026 Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 2-26 held 30 April 2026
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
5.	Marne Saunders WAP Review Approval The MR Landscape Board discussed the Marne Saunders Water Allocation Plan review approval. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: a) Approves the review of the water allocation plan for the Marne Saunders prescribed water resources area: June 2026 (Attachment 1), as a comprehensive review undertake under s.54 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), including the reviews assessment that: i. 'On the basis of the evidence presented, and pursuant to s. 54(2)(b) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 it is determined that The Water Allocation Plan for the Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resources Area no longer remains appropriate for achieving its stated objectives under contemporary conditions and that amendments is required'; and b) Approved the development of a project plan for the amendment of The Marne Saunders prescribed water resources area water allocation

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	plan (the WAP), including workplan, responsibilities, risk analysis and resourcing requirements. c) Approves the board to write to the Minister to notify them that the review has been completed and the board are supportive of the outcome and will further notify the Minister once they move into the amendment phase.
6.	SA Water BPOP Agreement The MR Landscape Board discussed the SA Water BPOP (Best Practice Operating Procedure) Agreement. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: a) Provides in principle approval for the SA Water BPOP; and b) Delegate final approval for the SA Water BPOP to the General Manager
7.	WAC Governance The MR Landscape Board discussed WAC Governance. ACTION – at the Board's Strategic Planning Workshop hold a session on WAC and how it serves the Board Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: a) Endorses the need to hold a workshop to review the scope and function of the WAC to ensure service alignment to Board priorities and need; and b) In the interim, approves the Draft WAC 2026-27 Workplan (Attachment 1); and c) In the interim, notes and approves the updated WAC ToR recommended by the WAC noting future amendment can be made if necessary (attachment 2); and d) Extends the terms of expiring WAC members for 6 months; and e) Recruits 2 First Nations representatives to the WAC to replace recent resignations.
8.	Finance. The MR Landscape Board discussed the Boards Finance papers. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: a) Note the Finance Papers. b) Approves:

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	<i>i. The Presiding Member of the Board, sign the instruments of Authorisation on behalf of the Board, to be executed under Common Seal;</i> <i>ii. Delegation of powers as per the Instruments of Authorisation and the delegation of those powers to the offices listed in the attached schedules including;</i> <i>1. Contract Execution Delegations;</i> <i>2. Debt write-off and small debt underpayment;</i> <i>3. Disposal of assets;</i> <i>4. Procurement – contract pre-approval, procurement, payment and disbursements;</i> <i>5. Contract Executions Delegations – Purchase Cards.</i> <i>iii. General Manager to sub-delegate powers of authorisation to staff employed by the Board.</i> <i>c) Notes that no feedback was received on the draft 2026-27 Annual Business Plan; and</i> <i>d) Approves the 2026-27 Annual business Plan as presented.</i> <i>e) Notes:</i> <i>i. The Draft Risk Management Framework;</i> <i>ii. The Draft Risk Management Policy;</i> <i>iii. Draft Risk Management Appetite Statement;</i> <i>iv. Draft Strategic Risk Register.</i>
9.	PIRSA Update Jedda Morgan from PIRSA gave an Update on the Murraylands and Riverland Region. Key points from this update are: • Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) (H5): ○ The First case has been detected in SA, with the public urged to report sick or dead birds. ○ The South Australian Government is also working with equivalent agriculture, environment and health agencies at a state and national level to coordinate emergency animal disease response activities, and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to lead the state's preparedness for H5 bird flu. ○ The community is encouraged to report any dead or sick birds or wildlife showing signs of bird flu. • Locusts ○ There is a current increased locust risk with monitoring and control activities underway. ○ Plague Locusts are regarded as a notifiable pest, landowners or producers are required to report any sightings of Australian Plague Locusts activity by either contacting PIRSA through the Exotic Plant

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	Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or via PIRSA's online plant-pest reporting - Australian plague locust - PIRSA • Wild Dogs ○ Wild dog attacks on livestock have increased since the protection order in the Victorian Council was reviewed, including a recent attack where five sheep were mauled south-east of Ngarkat Park. Wild dog sightings have been recorded in Ngarkat Conservation Park consistently since October 2024. ○ DEW is updating its baiting plan for Ngarkat, which will likely see double the baiting undertaken in the park, in line with the DEW Chief Executive's Control Notice. • Industrial Hemp Industry Trials ○ The State Government is investing \$500,000 to support industrial hemp production in South Australia through new trials and industry support grants - New trials to boost emerging hemp industry - PIRSA • Sustainable Communities Program ○ Round 1 of the program closed on 31 March 2026, with assessment currently underway and outcomes expected to be communicated to applicants in June 2026. • Consolidated Co-operative Winery (CCW) ○ Technology-Driven Transition Workshop & Expo: During April CCW held a "Farming for the Future with Confidence – Workshop & Expo" focussed on bringing together growers, industry, technology providers and partners to explore transition pathways for the Riverland. The event was designed to support growers considering diversification and alternative farming systems, with a focus on commercially viable, future-focused opportunities. ○ CCW Cooperative Limited & Northern Adelaide Plains Food Cluster (NAPFC) Riverland Protected Cropping Expo & Workshop: To be held 20 August 2026. The expo is designed to support growers exploring diversification and alternative production systems, with a strong focus on protected cropping technologies and commercially viable opportunities. • Drought Support Events ○ The "<i>Mates Meals and Mental Health: Talking About What Really Matter</i>" event, was held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 at the Loxton North Sports Club. The event drew strong attendance with some of the best numbers recorded for recent events. The event was supported by the SA Drought Support Wellbeing Initiative as part of the State Government's \$117 million Drought Support Package,

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	with additional support from PIRSA, Elders Limited, West End Draught and the Adelaide Footy League. ○ Free Family Fun Fair - Riverland families can enjoy a free day out at the Barmera-Monash Football Club Family Fun Fair on Sunday, June 28, from 10am to 2pm at the Barmera oval. Sponsored by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions' Family and Business Support Program as part of the \$97 million Drought Support Package, the fair supports local families doing it tough and aims to bring the community together for a fun and accessible day. ● Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP) 2026 ○ A new RLDP is planned for 2026, continuing its focus on empowering participants to drive positive change and contribute to long-term social and economic outcomes across the region.
COMMITTEES	
10.	Water Advisory Committee The MR Landscape Board discussed the most recent of the Water Advisory Committee. <i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i> <i>a) Note the Minutes of meeting 31 for the Water Advisory Committee; and</i> <i>b) Endorse the recommendations of the Water Advisory Committee Including:</i> <i>i. WAC has reviewed its terms of reference and recommends that the terms of reference be adopted with an amendment as provided in attachment 1 of the briefing paper; and</i> <i>ii. Note that First Nations Membership to be confirmed due to recent changes in board membership in First Nations Organisations; and</i> <i>iii. The following member whose appointments expire on 30 June 2026 be appointed for a further 6 months:</i> <i>1. Anne Jensen;</i> <i>2. Rosalie Auricht</i> <i>3. Clem Mason</i> <i>4. Joanne Pfeiffer</i> <i>5. David Zadow</i> <i>iv. Renmark Irrigation Trust to be invited to nominate a member; and</i>

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	v. <i>Note the SA Water Best Practice Operating Procedure version 0.5 draft agreement (attachment 2) and that there are minor issues being resolved; and</i> vi. <i>Approve the final version of the SA Water Best Practice Operating Procedure version agreement and delegate the General Manager authority to sign the agreement; and</i> vii. <i>Notes that the WAC are disappointed that the Basin Plan Review Submission was not able to be lodged.</i> viii. <i>Note the Water Resources Update</i> ix. <i>Re-affirms its resolution of 26 February 2026 that it endorsed the Marne Saunders WAP Review for submission to the Board.</i>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
11.	Grassroots Grants Funding Approvals Update The MR Landscape Board discussed the Grassroots Grants Funding Approvals Update. Link to previous Grassroots Grants projects since 2021 Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: a) <i>Notes the list of Projects approved for funding by the Grassroots Grants assessment panel; and</i> b) <i>Notes the requirement for further negotiations with some applicants.</i>
12.	Implementation Planning Update The MR Landscape Board received a presentation on Implementation Planning.
13.	Chairs Report The Chair provided a written report to the board members. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chairs Reports.
14.	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: Tammy O'Malley: • Attended boxthorn removal at Peake 19 June 2026 Brian Lund • 19 to 20 May 2026 - Attended National NRM Chairs Forum in Canberra. • 17 June 2026 - Attended Landscape SA Chairs Meeting

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	<i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i>
15.	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: - At the GM & Chairs forums: - There was a session on the statement of commitment and closing the Gap. There is a live document for South Australia and is being revisited and the Chairs will have minor editing to contribute. - There was a presentation from new CEO from NRMs Australia - The Minister will be meeting with the Board and staff to tour the region, the dates are still fluid at this stage and are set to be on 7 and 8 July 2026, this may change due to H5N1 Bird Flu. As soon as an itinerary is available it will be shared with members. <i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i>
16.	Correspondence The Correspondence list for September was presented to the Board. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i>
17.	Action List The action list was reviewed by the board.
18.	Other Business H5N1 Bird Flu: - South Australia has now confirmed its first detection of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu) identified in a vagrant migratory seabird found on the Fleurieu Peninsula (Knights Beach at Port Elliot) - PIRSA Animal Biosecurity and DEW are the lead on the response. Landscape South Australia staff will be available for monitoring and surveillance as needed. - A National Plan will be developed which will feed into a state plan. - Training for staff will begin, this will include landholders and volunteers. - It has been recommended that if you are exposed to the H5N1 bird flu you are to isolate for 7 days. - Hotspots and increased risk areas will be closed to the public when required. - The hotline is the most effective method of reporting – 1800 675 888

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	There is no commercial stock that is affected at this time. <i>ACTION: H5N1 Bird Flu update will remain a standing item on the agenda until further notice.</i>
	Next meeting details – 27 August 2026 - Loxton Water Advisory Committee – 30 July 2026– Berri WPSC – Still being decided. Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – TBA – October 2026 - Lameroo Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 4 August 2026 – Teams
	Meeting closed at 2:30pm

ENDORSED 	Andrew Biele Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 13 October 2026
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