

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 1-25	
27 February 2025	
Start Time:	8.45am
Location:	Rural City of Murray Bridge Offices, 2 Seventh St, Murray Bridge
Present:	<p><u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair), Andrew Biele, Samantha Blight, Greg Cock, Brian Lund, Tammy O'Malley, Jason Size</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Lee (Manager, Strategy and Engagement), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Helane Norman (Executive Officer),</p> <p>Items 9 & 10: MRLB Leadership Team (Alex Milner-Smyth, Jem Tesoriero, Marcela Rosero, Hannah Spronk, Michael Cutting, Casey Henderson, Simon Lease, Renee Clark, Wendy Stubbs, Sandy Gunter)</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Dara Frankel (PIRSA), Nick Whiterod (CLLMM Research Centre, Goyder Institute), Gemma and Louise (Office of Public Integrity).</p>
Apologies	nil

Item	Item Title
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check.</p> <p>Frances Simes, Chair, declared the meeting open at 8.45am 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</p> <p>Sam Blight noted the following potential conflicts of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coorong District Council employee • President of the of the Friends of Coorong National Park • Member of the CLLMM RCAF
3.	<p>Board Calendar</p> <p>The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board.</p>
4.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (11-24) held 19 December 2024

Item	Item Title
	<p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 11-24 held 19 December 2024.</i></p>
5.	<p>PIRSA update</p> <p>Dara Frankel presented a report on happenings in the Murraylands and Riverland region within PIRSA highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought conversations still occurring with the two grants still available, but close to being fully exhausted, • CE Medhi Doroudi– visited the Riverland last week • Happy to take questions between meetings if anything comes up • Feedback from community indicated that having to pay up front is not helpful to those with poor cash flow. • Karen Hollamby (Drought Hub) has met with the GM and greater integration will occur with PIRSA drought preparedness and recovery work at a future meeting with the MRLGA and RDAMR.
6.	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a written report, and indicated she has had numerous discussions with members of the public around the levy being increased, and provided a radio interview.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i></p>
7.	<p>Board Member's Report</p> <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction day - worthwhile day, good as a new member, good networking opportunity, and all learnt something new. • Andrew Biele –Would like to see support for landowners with baits subsidy or similar (as been done by Councils previously), as dry times are a really good time for pest control. There is bare ground around, but most have done some destocking. • Concern was raised about support for the Browns Well Landcare Group. • Jason – Fruit fly coordinator trying to work with landscapes with prickly pear. • Sam – Coorong District Council receiving pressure on Corella damage, and Council adopted their rural hardship policy, to allow ratepayers to postpone the payment of rates. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
8.	<p>CLLMM Research Centre Presentation (Nick Whiterod)</p> <p>Nick Whiterod from the Goyder Institute joined the board and provided background on the CLLMM Research Centre in Goolwa, established to collectively understand</p>

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	impacts and response to Climate change, and provide a regional platform for research, sharing knowledge and building capacity in the region.
9.	<p><i>The Leadership team joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>Fraud and Corruption Training</p> <p>Louise and Gemma from the Office of Public Integrity provided an overview of Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration, what each involves, and who it needs or can be reported to.</p>
10.	<p>Team Presentations</p> <p>Organisational Rationale – Amy Lee</p> <p>The Manager, strategy and Engagement provided context to presentations which will occur over the coming months meetings, where Team leaders will present an overview of their teams, their program funding, their projects and why they matter for the best regional outcomes, which will help the board to understand the process that leadership take in deciding what projects will be implemented.</p> <p>Wendy Stubbs (Team Leader, Ecology)</p> <p>The Team Leader, Ecology provided an overview of the Ecology Team.</p> <p>The board noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variances in funding from year to year • Excellent work in the decommissioning of 44 dams • Questioned why Corridors of vegetation aren't considered more, rather than sections of remnant vegetation • Noted less being done in the Southern Mallee, this has been because partners and funding has lined up in the northern mallee. • The Board recognises that the presentation was inclusive of some of the strategic thinking that underpins the current program design. <p><i>Team leaders left the meeting</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 two months. The mid-year performance review was also submitted after a meeting with the previous Chair, Di Davidson, and has now been signed off by the DEW CE.</p> <p>The Quarterly WHS report for the October to December quarter, Communications report for December and January and the Referrals report for January and February were also presented.</p> <p>An invitation to the upcoming Rubric Workshops to, was extended to board members for internal evaluation of progress of the Regional Landscape Plan since the baseline workshop. They will be held between 20 March and the 10 April.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral on Biodiversity Bill was not shared with the board due to time constraints, the Board will be provided with a copy of the Board's response

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was raised that communications regarding recently advertised positions were advertised only in Berri and Murray Bridge, and it was not mentioned that they can be worked from some of our smaller offices. Would like to see the offices remain open at Karoonda and Lameroo to best support the mallee communities, and assist some that might be looking for off farm income. WHS incidents – questioned what actions are put in place. <p>ACTION: Board members to notify Helene Norman which Rubric sessions they will be attending.</p> <p><i>That the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i></p>
12.	<p>Rural City of Murray Bridge Rural City of Murray Bridge CEO Heather Barclay and Mayor Wayne Thorley joined the board.</p> <p>Wayne thanked the board for the opportunity to discuss any shared issues and reiterated the importance of having a good relationship and for councils to have a good understanding of Landscape Board's business. Wayne noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest plants – would like to see encouragement for control by landowners across the whole region, especially education for the lifestyle properties who change owners more regularly Corellas – A real challenge, it will come down to some hard decisions to cost effectively control them. Feral Cats in the fringe areas, Lack of state Strategy on cat management. The council may develop a Cat Management strategy, as expected by the community, but it would entail ensuring your cat remains on your property. Public River Environment getting severely eroded by watercraft. Biodiversity Bill – limited resources in the council environmental area to determine impact of the way Native Vegetation management is included. <p>The Mayor and Ms Barclay joined the board for lunch.</p>
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
13.	<p>Quarterly report – 2nd Quarter The General Manager presented the 2nd Quarter quarterly report to the board for approval. The board resolved that the summary would be provided to Councils and investigate if a link can be included to direct people to the full report.</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>approved the Quarterly Performance Report for the second quarter of 2024/2025.</i> <i>noted the Performance Report Highlights for the second quarter of 2024/2025</i>

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14.	<p>Where do we want to be in 2025?</p> <p>The Manager Strategy and Engagement led a workshop type session on what the board feel is important and needs to be considered in 2025 and 2026. The ideas will be sorted into what staff can do and what the board can do.</p>
15.	<p>Board and Committee performance</p> <p>The General Manager provided a summary of the assessments undertaken by the board and the committees on their performance.</p> <p>A discussion occurred on what committees the board can have, and need, and how the board can provide clear direction to the board management and what does clearer strategic management look like?</p> <p>Various suggestions were made, considering the new chair and will be considered over the coming months.</p> <p>ACTION: Managers to check if a 'Save' feature can be turned on for future surveys.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the self-assessments undertaken by the board and committees and provided direction as to future steps.</i></p>
16.	<p>Board vacancies</p> <p>The General Manager provided the board with background on the board's membership numbers and opportunities for a deputy chair. With the statewide call for board members completed, the board looked at the options for its continuing membership.</p> <p>Important for members are good connections in the community, leadership, business skills, geographical mix, industry mix. Also need First Nations knowledge, Finance knowledge and water knowledge.</p> <p>ACTION: Board members to provide the chair with names of prospective board members, their skills and location.</p> <p>ACTION: Helane to send matrix list out as a separate sheet to board members.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Approved to recruit board members to return to a membership of 9;</i> b. <i>Appointed Andrew Biele as Deputy Chair;</i> c. <i>Provide the skills needed to be found and supply these names to the board Chair;</i> 2. <i>The Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and General Manager to recommend future Board Members to the Minister and to appoint members to committees, for a period not exceeding 31 January 2027.</i> 3. <i>The Board noted Greg McCarron's resignation from the Water Advisory Committee and agreed to appoint Amy Goodman to the vacancy, noting the Central Irrigation Trust's wish to continue to support the committee.</i>

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17.	<p><u>Pest Control fee pricing</u></p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes provided background information and an updated price list for pest control work and sales following a review.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the changes to the Pest Control Pricing Schedule.</i></p>
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	
18.	<p>Finance Risk and Audit Committee Reporting</p> <p>The minutes of the FRAC meeting held 18 February were provided to the board along with the report to the end of January. The Manager Business Services highlighted that the YTD underspend was about \$31,000.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers.</i></p>
19.	<p>Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>The draft minutes of the Water Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 February were presented to the board, along with the proposed work program for this financial year. The Chair of the Water Advisory Committee highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over long term decline in health of the Murray Darling Basin • Good discussion around the PRS WAP – issue around lower water levels in bores, and need to look at cost sharing arrangement for deepening <p>ACTION: Board members to consider who could possibly be chair of the WAC, before a decision is made.</p> <p><i>The board noted the Water Advisory Committee minutes and workplan.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
20.	<p>2025 Event Schedule</p> <p>The Manager Strategy and Engagement provided the plan of events that the board will be hosting or attending during 2025. More events undertaken will be included in the communications report at each meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Brian will provide a list of events occurring in the Meningie area that may be considered by the staff.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the proposed attendance at the Karoonda Farm Fair and the calendar of upcoming events and activities for 2025.</i></p>
21.	<p>Climate Ready Government</p> <p>The General Manager provided information received from the state government about the expectations from government and agencies in relation to reducing their</p>

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	<p>emissions and managing climate related risks.</p> <p>A briefing was received by ELT yesterday, indicating that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding was not yet available, • plan to establish clear responsibilities for office level by the end of this financial year, • report what we have done by the end of next financial year. <p>Reconvening a new form of the Carbon Action Committee, which will oversee some of the small projects that need to occur. An opportunity to showcase good work and encourage others to do some too.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the information on Climate Ready Government and the requirements affecting the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.</i></p>
22.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Correspondence list for January and February was presented to the board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
23.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The Action list was reviewed by the board.</p>
	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board wish to acknowledge the retirement of Russell Norman, acknowledging his work in the mallee area over many years. • Greg Cock will be away from 10 March until mid-June.
	<p>Next meeting details – 27 March 2025 at Berri Water Advisory Committee – 10 April at Murray Bridge Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 15 April Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – 17 March</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 3.40pm</p>

<p>ENDORSED</p> <p><i>frances simes</i></p> <p><small>frances simes (Apr 1, 2025 13:26 GMT+10.5)</small></p>	<p>Frances Simes</p> <p>Presiding Member</p> <p>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>Date: 27 March 2025</p>
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