

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 11-24	
19 December 2024	
Start Time:	9.20am
Location:	Berri Landscape Office Conference Room
Present:	<u>Board:</u> Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Tammy O'Malley, Frances Simes, Jason Size (Teams from 11am) <u>Staff:</u> Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Lee (Manager, Strategy and Engagement), Renee Clark (Acting Manager, Business Services), Helane Norman (Executive Officer), <u>Board Appointee:</u> Sam Blight <u>Guest:</u> Jason Higham (Manager, Conservation & Threatened Species, DEW) Dara Frankel (PIRSA)
Apologies	Brian Lund

Item	Item Title
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check. Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 9.20am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	Conflict of Interest – No new Disclosures.
3.	Board Calendar The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board. A review of the Risk Register will occur by ELT, and then come to the board through FRAC.
4.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (10-24) held 28 November 2024 <i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 10-24 held 28 November 2024.</i> The Board discussed the position of WHS policies relating to working and travelling in hot weather. The General Manager advised of the Board's general policy that applies to Board Members (as well as staff) and the Fire Danger policy.

Item	Item Title
5.	Presentation - Biodiversity Act <p>Jason Higham (DEW) joined the board on Teams and provided an overview of the work that is being done on the development of the Biodiversity Act, which will open for public consultation early in 2025.</p>
6.	PIRSA update <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"> • Community Connect funding can include mental health first aid training. • Drought round table in early November, thanks to those that helped to pull it together • Drought package, DL brochure has been provided to Michael Cutting. • Fruit fly team is open to recruiting horticulturalist/ primary producers. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was raised that the on-farm drought infrastructure grants of \$5000 is unlikely to be taken up widely as funds have to be outlaid first before being reimbursed 75%. • Professional development workshop only in Loxton, suggested other venues could be considered. • Mental Health First Aid suggested for board members. <p>ACTION: Dara to investigate if professional development workshops can be rolled out in other localities.</p> <p>ACTION: Helane to look into Mental Health First Aid Course for 2025 for board members.</p>
7.	Chairs Report <p>The chair provided a verbal report, indicating that after 6 years of leadership, it is time for a change and will be resigning as Chair as of 31st January to allow for succession to occur.</p> <p>Di would like to give a sincere vote of thanks to the board members along with the members of the WAC and Finance, Risk and Audit committee, and staff, and sincerely thanks them for their support and efforts and hope they will continue to work well.</p> <p>The Chairs forum has also developed from a group with a diverse range of chairs and opinions, to a more vibrant group, and will develop further with strong leadership in a new chair.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i></p>
8.	Board Member's Report <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. Highlights:</p>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frances Simes - Pleasing media coverage of the Marne Saunders report card launch Andrew Biele – Gazanias are becoming an increasing problem. Mick Heyneham (Pinion Ag) and Ali Babar(Uni of Adelaide) co-working on the issue with a Loxton farmer group. Rain during harvest has downgraded the grain. Optical spraying is becoming more widespread. Tammy O'Malley – harvest is finishing, and increased amounts of bare ground, possibly due to harvest delay and sheep having to stay on non-cropped paddocks longer Noted increase in snakes Involvement in RDAMR Leadership Development program has led to receiving a scholarship to attend a Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative TRAIL Emerging Leaders Program in Canberra. Greg Cock – No longer working with PPSA. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
9.	<p>General Manager's Report The General Manager's report for November was presented to the board, along with the Communications report for November, the Referrals report for December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money has been received to offset the delay in water licences being issued. Invoices will now be sent starting 6 January 2025. Landscape Services Model – progressing to enable the Landscape boards to work more autonomously. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
10.	<p>Grassroots Grants Round 6 – 2025-26 The Manager, Strategy and Engagement provided information on the process and timeline for Round 6 of the Grassroots Grants, indicating that \$504,624 would be available to granting to community and volunteer groups and individuals.</p> <p>ACTION: Increase promotion with the agricultural sector and other sectors particularly in the Mallee to increase uptake for Round 6 in that area.</p> <p>ACTION: Look at multi-year funding for Round 7 and future years and explore at how this could be noted this year as being a option for future years.</p> <p>Andrew, Jason and Greg prepared to continue to assess grants for Round 6. If Greg is away, and not available Sam Blight will be happy to undertake this duty.</p> <p>ACTION: Include that previous recipients of Grassroots Grants are welcome to reapply in the FAQ</p>

Item	Item Title
	<i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the timelines and process for the Grassroots Grants Round 6 and noted that there will consideration of multi-year projects from Round 7.</i>
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	
11.	<p>Finance Risk and Audit Report</p> <p>The board was provided with the Finance, Risk and Audit committee meeting papers, along with the Risk Register. It was noted that the cash balance has been restored, which was caused due to the delay in issuing of Water levy invoices.</p> <p>Also noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patiently waiting for the SLA with DEW. • The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board notes the resignation of Rob Denton-Brown as Independent member of FRAC, and the Chair thanked him for his work with the FRAC over the last 18 months. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers.</i></p>
12.	<p>Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>The Chair of the Water Advisory Committee provided a verbal update on the meeting held 12 December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the WAC work program which will be presented to the board in 2025. • Informative reports are provided to the meeting. • Anne Jensen raised awareness on rising salinity, DEW are aware of it, and will be followed up. • Darryl Quinlivan OA is the new chair of the MDBA. • Monique White shared a slide on all that is happening around the Basin Plan review, it is difficult to follow what is open for comment and difficult for the board to keep up with commenting on them. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes of the WAC meeting held 12 December 2024.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
13.	<p>Annual Business Plan Process</p> <p>The Manager, Strategy and Engagement provided an overview of what to expect with the process for the 2025-26 Annual Business plan development.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Support the proposed process and timelines for the development of the 2025-26 business and operational plan; and</i> <i>Endorsed seeking retained earnings through the February impacting budget adjustment process for a small suite of projects.</i>

Item	Item Title
14.	<p>Evaluation of 2024 field days</p> <p>The Communications and Engagement Team prepared a paper outlining how the 2024 field days worked, and the recommendation for the two main events for 2025. Further information will be provided on how the Communications trailer will be utilised at which smaller events and by which team.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board notes the plan for Riverland Field Days and Karoonda Farm Fair 2025.</i></p>
15.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Correspondence list for December was presented to the board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
16.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The Action list was reviewed by the board.</p>
	<p>Next meeting details – 27 February at Murray Bridge</p> <p>Water Advisory Committee – 13 February at Berri</p> <p>State Landscape Induction Day – 17 February, 9am – 4.30pm</p> <p>Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 18 February</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 12 noon.</p>
	<p>Former board members, Caroline Phillips and Sandy Iosefellis were presented with gifts as a thank you for their work with the board, and they joined the board and Berri staff for lunch.</p>

<p>ENDORSED</p> <p><i>Frances Simes</i></p> <p><small>Frances Simes (Mar 4, 2025 17:07 GMT+10.5)</small></p>	<p>Frances Simes</p> <p>Presiding Member</p> <p>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>Date: 4-3-25</p>
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