

# 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 1-26	
<b>26 February 2026</b>	
<b>Start Time:</b>	9:30am
<b>Location:</b>	Murray Bridge RSL 2 Ross Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253
<b>Present:</b>	<u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair) Greg Cock, Tammy O'Malley, Andrew Biele, Jason Size, Brian Lund, Samantha Blight, Karen Eckermann, Kylie Moritz <u>Staff:</u> Bryan McDonald (General Manager), Amy Lee (Manager Strategy and Engagement), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Tamika Parker (A/Team Leader, Business and Governance), Ernest Van Niekerk (Team Leader Finance and Investment Item 16)
<b>Apologies</b>	Michelle Finch (Manager Corporate Services) Jem Tesoriero (A/Manager Strategy and Engagement)

Item	Item Title
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check.</b> Frances Simes, 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.	<b>Basin Plan Review – WAC/Board/MDBA Workshop</b> The MR Landscape Board together with its Water Advisory Committee, the Hills and Fleurieu Water Resources Steering Committee and representatives from the Department for Environment and Water was presented a workshop by the MDBA on the Basin Plan Review and how to put in a submission.
3.	<b>Basin Plan Review – South Australian Priorities</b> The MR Landscape Board together with its Water Advisory Committee and the Hills and Fleurieu Water Resources Steering Committee received a presentation from the Department for Environment and Water on the South Australian Priorities of the Basin Plan Review.
4.	<b>Basin Plan Review – MRLB Priorities and Submission focus areas.</b>

Item	Item Title
	<p>The MR Landscape Board and its Water Advisory Committee discussed the Murraylands and Riverland Priorities and submission focus areas of the Basin Plan Review.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The information provided in the submission is not only relevant to the basin plan review but other reviews as well.</li> <li>• A Strong submission is required.</li> <li>• The discussion paper isn't strong enough, there is no "new" water to be added to the system. There is no water to support the continued expansion rate. This needs to be a really strong message as it is going to continue to put pressure on the system.</li> <li>• There needs to be context that just adding water is not the answer, the Basin Plan is also constrained by the Water Act and the jurisdiction that the authority has, could the Water Act be something like a catchment management act?</li> <li>• States need to be smarter with the water we do have access to; Storm water and wastewater can be recycled and used as an additional water resource? Movement away from water is a universal solvent is needed. We need to do better with what we already have.</li> <li>• What is being done to stop the current constraints? Operating is the main problem at the moment.</li> <li>• Get some examples that adding water to the system isn't the disaster it is currently perceived to be.</li> <li>• There needs to be a strong point of advocacy across the state, what are the priorities in the SA environment, we need to be on an agreeable direction.</li> <li>• Concerning constraints part of the issue with this is the people who are responsible for the delivery of this are state government organisation, and they do not have the consequences for not achieving the targets, place the responsibility back in the hand of people who will have those consequences on them, they haven't pushed the projects as hard as they should have.</li> <li>• There has been lots of blame on irrigators upstream, they are frustrated with their own state government. They have asked to be contacted directly and bypass their state governments to get things moving in this space.</li> <li>• Move away from just add water and have more of a catchment management approach, in addition to maintain the strength around the SDLs and see no undermining or relaxation of the SDLs</li> <li>• Being silent of the Marne Saunders and the Eastern Mount Lofty Rangers is not the approach. Ensure this is mentioned in the submission.</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One small catchments decline is reflective across the broader catchments; water is reducing everywhere.</li> <li>• We must advocate for the smaller water resources.</li> <li>• Ensure the other sub committees such as the Mallee, Peak Roby and Sherlock and Marne Saunders community reference groups are included, this can be as simple as a consistent email communication to the group members.</li> <li>• There are real risks present. There is a SA Responsibility to ensure others care about the basin as a whole.</li> <li>• Our 3 RAMSAR listed sights (Riverland, Banrock and Coorong and Lower Lakes) should be utilised. Highlighting the new regulator at Banrock to increase the flows can help this message.</li> <li>• The fact the Coorong and Lower Lakes have been listed as critically endangered should also be utilised.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> <i>Tamika to email Jem's contact information to all Board and WAC members so they can send their submission ideas through.</i></p>
5.	<p><b>Conflict of Interest</b> No new Conflicts of Interest declared.</p>
6.	<p>Adoption of <b>Minutes from the previous meeting (11-25)</b> held 17 December 2025.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 11-26 held 17 December 2025</b></p>
<b>ITEMS FOR DECISION</b>	
7.	<p><b>2026 Board Meeting Locations</b> The MR Landscape Board discussed the proposed meeting locations for the 2026 Calendar year.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the recommended locations for the 2026 calendar year.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Changes to Annual Monitoring and Reporting Framework</b> The MR Landscape Board discussed the proposed changes to the Annual Monitoring and Reporting Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Board members agreed with the proposal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the proposed changes to the Annual Monitoring and Reporting Framework.</b></p>


Item	Item Title
9.	<p><b>Retained Earnings Bid</b></p> <p>The MR Landscape Board discussed the retained earnings bid to support Water Allocation Planning.</p> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board supports the development and submission of a budget bid to Treasury requesting authority to access and expend \$1 million of retained earnings over four financial years (2026/27 to 2029/30) to enable continued delivery of Water Allocation Planning (WAP) activities in the region.</i></b></p>
10.	<p><b>Pest Management Products and Service List</b></p> <p>The MR Landscape discussed the proposed changes to the Pest Management Products and Service List.</p> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board;</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>a. Note the changed to the Pest Control Pricing Schedule; and</i></b></li> <li><b><i>b. Approve the changed to the Pest Control Pricing Schedule</i></b></li> </ul>
11.	<p><b>Quarter 2 Performance Report</b></p> <p>The MR Landscape Board discussed the second quarter performance report of 2025-26.</p> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approves the Quarterly Performance Highlights Report for the second quarter of 2025/26.</i></b></p>
<b>ITEMS FOR NOTING</b>	
12.	<p><b>Operational Planning</b></p> <p>The MR Landscape Board received a presentation on the Operational Planning of the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board discussed the contents of the presentation.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board notes the presentation on Operational Planning.</i></b></p>
13.	<p><b>Chairs Report</b></p> <p>The Chair provided a written report to the board members. In addition to this written report the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bryan and Frances attended a meeting with SADA, HF Landscape Board general Manager and Chair and the LC Landscape Board General Manager and Chair.</li> <li>• A letter will be sent to SADA, this will be shared to ensure a consistent message is sent in relation to the planning process of the boards.</li> <li>• It was a productive meeting and SADA felt heard.</li> <li>• Brenton Fenwick has been approached to head a project as a connector for the Wine Grape Industry. The Board is not the lead on the project, they are just partnering and assisting where possible.</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks to Sam Blight to attend the March workshop conference in Brisbane.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chairs Reports.</i></b></p>
14.	<p><b>Board Member's Report</b></p> <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. In addition to the written reports the following was noted:</p> <p>Jason Size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has briefed the Deputy Chief Executive on MDBA and WAP issues.</li> </ul> <p>Tammy O'Malley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended 25/02 introduction to carbon and carbon counts workshop delivered by LC Landscape Board</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Biele</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has seen another 25 mms of rain, this is the most rain fallen since November last year.</li> <li>Mindarie Mines has gone into recess; they have not shut down and are still undertaking the rehab. They currently are not going into the new proposed area. The Commodity prices aren't at a viable level to sell at the moment. The committee is still up and running, just not as often as they were. The mine can start again very quickly if required.</li> <li>Wanted to shout out Casey Henderson for the work on the GRDCGazania workshop, this is facilitating a better connection with Industry groups.</li> </ul> <p>Sam Blight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>05/02/2026 Attended GRDC Research Update in Waikerie.</li> <li>08/02/2026 Chair the Friends of the Coorong National Park AGM at Meningie.</li> <li>09/02/2026 Viewed online the MDBA Discussion Paper Webinar.</li> <li>12/02/2026 Viewed the Menindee Lakes Review online.</li> <li>13/02/2026 Viewed SDL assessments Webinar.</li> <li>19/02/2026 Attended SA Aboriginal Heritage Act Training with the Coorong District Council.</li> <li>23/02/2026 Initiated Conservation Detection Sogns to search for River Murray Turtle nests at fox exclusions sites.</li> <li>25/02/2026 Presentation on Revegetation on the CLLMM region to RLCAG.</li> </ul> <p>Kylie Moritz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19/02/2026 Completed Board Induction.</li> <li>Attended a Webinar by the Murray Darling Conservation Alliance, there were over 200 attended</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that may be of interest to the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yorke Peninsula Reef Partnership Announcement and Funding – TNC has received funding from DEW to lead the construction of a large-scale limestone shellfish reef, delivered under the state’s Summer Plan initiative. The project will restore up to 16 ha of native oyster reef habitat off Yorke Peninsula, supporting improved water quality, marine habitat complexity, fisheries productivity, and strengthened cultural and community connections to Sea Country. TNC brings extensive global restoration experience to the project.</li> <li>○ UN World Restoration Flagship Award – Reef Builder Project – In December 2025 the Reef Builder initiative, a partnership between TNC’s Oceans team and the Australian Government, was recognised as a United Nations World Restoration Flagship. Since 2021, the project has restored native oyster and mussel reefs at 21 sites nationwide—reviving ecosystems that once lined one-third of Australia’s coastline. A 13-minute video overview is available: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ji88_cBSPfo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ji88_cBSPfo</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Karen Eckermann:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19/02/2026 Completed Board Induction.</li> <li>• Gave brief background on herself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Her dad grew up in Murray Bridge Her Grandfather was the Lutheran Minister there of 20 years throughout the 40s and 50s.</li> <li>○ She grew up in VIC.</li> <li>○ Was in the Snow Mountains of NSW for 6 years.</li> <li>○ Her younger adult years were in Melbourne.</li> <li>○ Moved back to QLD specifically Toowoomba and Brisbane for her husband’s work.</li> <li>○ Moved back to VIC to Macedon Ranges, this is where her interest in environmental issues was piqued. It was a lovely pristine environment there and pretty well managed she thinks, for now anyway. It also started her obsession around mitigating climate change.</li> <li>○ Also lived in Darwin for a few years, and then in Murray Bridge where had retired, she came to care for them.</li> <li>○ Has been around and lived widely in some of Australia’s most stark variations.</li> <li>○ She trained as a social worker a long time around and worked in Centrelink, and the Sudden Infant Death Foundation in grief counselling which was very rewarding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amidst the moving they had two children, her daughter, 27 has a podiatrist PhD and her son, 24 has just started a plumbing apprenticeship.</li> <li>○ She has always been interested in animal welfare; she was an active member of the Animal Liberation in her early 20s.</li> <li>○ She did run for the Animal Justice Party in the 2019 federal election, representing the Barker electorate.</li> <li>○ She is in her 12<sup>th</sup> year in council, and is always pushing the greening and river, biodiversity and climate readiness in that role. Living with Little Corellas rather than fighting against them is one of her more controversial platforms.</li> <li>○ Has just finished writing a novel about the end of the natural world based in a regional town, like Murray Bridge. It is currently with the publisher now and is hoping it might appear on the shelves next year.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></b></p>
15.	<p><b>General Manager's &amp; ELT Report</b></p> <p>The General Manager and ELT provided their report, outlining the key focus areas over the last month. In addition to the report supplied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently working on recognising partnerships as a resource and focusing on the linkages between the board and these groups. Over the next 4 weeks there will be more meetings focusing on this.</li> <li>• Shout out to Tammy O'Malley for suggesting the drop-in sessions for the Regional Landscape Plan Consultation. Whilst we had few people attend it was good to get in the room with staff and board members to discuss this further.</li> <li>• Concerning the GRDC rolling out their workshops on roadside weed management, they are not familiar with the statutory responsibilities within SA on the Landholder, they are approaching this as a cross-country management piece. Casey Henderson is having conversations with their facilitators ensuring they have the right information.</li> <li>• There has been a response to the Soil Drift, the MR Landscape Board are currently working with the two councils affected. It is still in its early stages.</li> <li>• The Cactus Bio Control trials are happening in Cambrai, and are working on different species, there will be more trails to come.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i></b></p>
16.	<p><b>Finance Summary Reports</b></p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the Finance Summary Reports</p>

Item	Item Title
	<b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position as at 31 January 2026</b>
17.	<b>GRDC Research Update</b> The MR Landscape Board discussed the GRDC Research Update. <b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the update as requested.</b>
18.	<b>Grassroots Grants Update</b> The MR Landscape Board discussed the Grassroots Grants Update. <b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the information included in this paper.</b>
19.	<b>Correspondence</b> The Correspondence list for September was presented to the Board. <b>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</b>
20.	<b>Action List</b> The action list was reviewed by the board. <b>ACTION: Tamika to remove the 2025 completed items from the list</b>
21.	<b>Other Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassroots Grants assessment panel will be:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Andrew Biele</li> <li>○ Jason Size</li> <li>○ Greg Cock and if he is unavailable, Sam Blight will attend.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Next meeting details</b> – 30 April 2026 – Renmark Water Advisory Committee – 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Berri Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – 16 March 2026 Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 17 March 2026 – Teams
	<b>Meeting closed at 3:05pm</b>

<b>ENDORSED</b>   <u>Frances Simes</u> <small>Frances Simes (May 4, 2026 14:25:32 GMT+9.5)</small>	Frances Simes <b>Presiding Member</b> <b>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</b> Date: 30/04/2026
---	--






# Minutes MRLB 1-26 26 February 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-05-04

Created:	2026-05-04
By:	LandscapeSA - Murraylands and Riverland - Tamika Parker (Tamika.Parker@sa.gov.au)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAABAKD88pZfqsHFdm0XqTsY6vGLEAhVUjFoh

## "Minutes MRLB 1-26 26 February 2026" History

-  Document created by LandscapeSA - Murraylands and Riverland - Tamika Parker (Tamika.Parker@sa.gov.au)  
2026-05-04 - 1:51:49 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Frances Simes (frances.simes@bigpond.com) for signature  
2026-05-04 - 1:51:53 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Frances Simes (frances.simes@bigpond.com)  
2026-05-04 - 4:55:04 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Frances Simes (frances.simes@bigpond.com)  
Signature Date: 2026-05-04 - 4:55:32 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2026-05-04 - 4:55:32 AM GMT