

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 10-25	
27 November 2025	
Start Time:	9:30am
Location:	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Murray Bridge Office Units 5 & 6, Level 1, Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253
Present:	<u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair) Greg Cock, Tammy O'Malley (Teams), Andrew Biele (Teams), Jason Size (Teams), Samantha Blight, Karen Eckermann, Kylie Moritz <u>Staff:</u> Bryan McDonald, Jem Tesoriero (A/Manager Strategy and Engagement), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Michelle Finch (Manager Corporate Services, Tamika Parker (Business Support Coordinator, Murraylands), Eilidh Wilson (Senior Project Officer, Development Planning and Local Government (Items 1, 8 and 9) Miranda Leckie (Senior Project Officer, Strategic Planning Items 8 and 14), Marcela Rosero (Team Leader, Planning and MERI Item 8, 9 and 14), Htoo Aung (Project Officer, Reporting and Referrals Item 8) Tahlia Csono (Senior Project Officer Planning and Evaluation Item 8 and 9) <u>Visitors:</u> Grant Pelton (Deputy Coordinator, Algal Bloom Response DPC Item 6), Barb Cowey (Principal Regional Advisor, PIRSA, Item 7)
Apologies	Brian Lund, Amy Lee

Item	Item Title
1.	Site Visit to Woody Meadows with Rural City of Murray Bridge The Board went to the site of the Woody Meadows Trial in Murray Bridge.
2.	Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check. Frances Simes, declared the meeting open at 9:30am and welcomed all present and welcome Kylie Moritz and Karen Eckermann to their first meeting, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
3.	Conflict of Interest Karen Eckermann declares she is a member of the Animal Justice Party

Item	Item Title
	Tammy O'Malley declares her connection to the Coorong Tatiara LAP
4.	Board Calendar The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board.
5.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (9-25) held 30 October 2025 <i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 9-25 held 30 October 2025.</i>
6.	Algal Bloom Presentation The MR Landscape Board received a presentation from Grant Pelton on the Algal Bloom. The presentation has been shared with the Board Members.
7.	PIRSA Update: Barb Cowey provided a verbal update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIRSA Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jo Collins is the Executive Director for Major Programs and Regions ○ Thriving Regions Grants are being assessed currently • Drought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Northern Mallee – drought impacts are very challenging ○ The Kangaroo Management program is still open https://pir.sa.gov.au/regions-and-support/drought/drought-support/reducing-grazing-pressure-through-kangaroo-management ○ Continue to monitor the PIRSA website for grants - https://pir.sa.gov.au/regions-and-support/drought • Wine Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethephon – There are grants available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/business-and-trade/primary-industries/vineyard-resting-rebate ▪ Reimbursing \$40 per hectare for the cost of Ethephon ▪ Applications close at 5.00 pm on 31 January 2026, or when the 5,000-hectare cap is reached. ▪ Growers can apply for the chemical rebate for ethephon purchase from 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026. ○ Agave day ○ Finlayson's Road Show • Cross Border Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross Broder Industry Taskforce – Face to Face meeting in Merbein


Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 Cross Border Commissioners were present ○ NSW Welcome Experience - https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/makethemove/welcome-experience was a highlight how this coordinated approach is helping professionals not only relocate but also with job searches including for partners, and all family services that may be needed. ○ 10th Dec Kelly-Anne will be in the Riverland • Varroa Mite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New outbreaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gumeracha, Fleurieu and Limestone Coast ▪ 25km exclusion zone – Beekeepers are asked to contact PIRSA ▪ Importance of the registration of ALL bee hives currently in SA ▪ Series of Farm Business Resilience Apiary Workshops are being held across the state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naracoorte – 1-2 Dec 2025 • Murray Bridge – 3-4 Dec 2025 • Clare – 7-8 Dec 2025 • Good news story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EMERGING TECH - Morgan Hunter – 34MJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Morgan is looking for partnerships in the Riverland ▪ Circular economy project where vineyards and farms can grow canola to be made into cooking oils for the region, then the waste cooking oils would be transformed into Low Carbon Fuel and sold to the farms and community. ▪ 34MJ builds Low Carbon Fuel equipment for farmers and rural communities to produce their own fuel on site. ▪ Trials with different crops and growing methods. ▪ One with Tomich wines and now repeating in the McLaren Vale area, is growing canola and mustard varieties within mid rows of vines. ▪ Morgan's vision is for the vineyard to produce enough canola seed to fuel their operations.
8.	Planning and MERI Team Presentation The MR Landscape Board received a presentation on the operations of the Planning and MERI Team. The Presentation has been shared with the Board Members
9.	Climate Change Strategy

Item	Item Title
	The MR Landscape Board received a presentation on the Climate Change Strategy. The Presentation has been shared with the Board Members
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
10.	<p>Final Review Draft Annual Report</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the Draft Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Contents page needs to be updated. <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>a. Approve the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Annual Report 2024-25; and</p> <p>b. Note the potential delay to receiving the audited financial statements, and as a result they may not be included in the report and sent to the Minister of November 30, 2025</p>
11.	<p>Contract Execution, Payments and Disbursements</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the delegations for the General Manager.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>a. Approves the increase to the General Manager's Contract Execution and Payments and Disbursements Delegation from \$1.5m to \$5m; and</p> <p>b. Note that use of the delegation, when it exceeds \$1.5m will be reported to the Board through the quarterly Finance reporting.</p>
12.	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviews the Risk Register.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>a. Notes the proposed changes to Risk ID ENV.01 and ENV.02; and</p> <p>b. Provides feedback on the changes to Risk ID ENV.01 and ENV.02; and</p> <p>c. Approves the staged approach to the review of the Strategic Risk Register.</p>
13.	<p>Budget Sustainability</p> <p>Greg Cock Moved that this item will be discussed in-camera. Tammy O'Malley Seconded this motion.</p> <p>Frances Simes, Chair, advised the returning members after the in-camera discussion that:</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>a. Notes the budget pressures and risks to future operation; and</p> <p>b. Approves the application of CPI to the landscape levy and water levy at a rate of 2.4% for the 2026-27 financial year; and</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p><i>c. Provides in-principal support of a CPI increase to the levies for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 financial years; and</i></p> <p><i>d. Approved the allocation of funds to the 2026-27 Grassroots Grants program at a rate of 2.9 of the total levy revenue (water + landscape levy). If CPI is applied to the total levy amount of \$14,098,289 at 2.4% the amount allocated to Grassroots Grants will be \$408,850.</i></p>
14.	<p>Draft Regional Landscape Plan</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the and provided potential changes to the Draft Regional Landscape Plan. A suggestion was made for the consultation of the Draft Regional Landscape Plan that an open day be held in both the Main offices in Murray Bridge and Berri.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p><i>a. Approves the text version of the draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan with the minor amendments noted by the Board; and</i></p> <p><i>b. Endorses the proposed engagement plan for public consultation of the draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan</i></p>
15.	<p>First Quarterly Performance Report of 2025-26</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the First Quarterly Performance Report of 2025-26</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approves the Quarterly Performance Highlights Report for the first quarter of 2025/26</p>
16.	<p>Finance, Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board reviewed the Draft Minutes and Finance Reports for the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p><i>a. Notes the Minutes of meeting 53-25; and</i></p> <p><i>b. Note the associated Reports</i></p>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
17.	<p>Chairs Report</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"> Had lunch with Sophie Thompson, on 20 November 2025, Sophie is liaising with Landcare and Board staff regarding her property in sedan. <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chairs Reports.</p>

Item	Item Title
18.	<p>Board Member's Report</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>Andrew Biele</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest is underway, but has seen issues with the constant wind, farmers are trying to keep what little crops they have in the ground. • The yields are above expectation, and there is going to be some bare ground going into summer. • Hay is getting cut. • Gazanias are continuing to be a hot topic <p>New Member – Kylie Moritz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has worked in this region on and off for over 20 years. • Previously worked for the Board as the District Manager Murraylands. • Has worked as an authorised officer as well as in the National Parks team. • Some of the projects the board is currently undertaking Kylie has been a part of in the past. • Has worked on large scale landscape restorations. • Has previously lived in the Riverland, and Kangaroo Island • Has worked with Vic Ag with integrated pest management. • Left the Board 4 years ago to start working in the carbon industry. • Currently working for the Nature Conservancy, which is the biggest NGO in the world that operates out of 70 countries and has 5,000 staff. • Spends 1 day a week supporting a project in Papua New Guinea where working with Indigenous communities 680,000ha will be made into a marine protected area. <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
19.	<p>General Manager's & ELT Report</p> <p>The General Manager and ELT provided their report, outlining the key focus areas over the last month.</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
20.	<p>2024-25 Financial Management Compliance Framework Review</p> <p>The MR Landscape Board review the 2024-25 Financial Management Compliance Framework Review</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Note the 2024-25 Financial Management Compliance Project findings; and</i> <i>Note an action plan will be developed as a result of the findings.</i>

Item	Item Title
21.	Correspondence The Correspondence list for September was presented to the Board. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i>
22.	Action List The action list was reviewed by the board.
23.	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review will be open for 12 weeks of consultations, The Board and WAC will hold a combined meeting, possibly in February 2026, to discuss the review and potential submission/s. Kylie Moritz and Karen Eckermann will undertake a Board Induction in the near future.
	Next meeting details – 18 December 2025 – Berri Water Advisory Committee – 03 December 2025 - Loxton Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – 16 March 2026 Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 17 March 2026 – Teams
	Meeting closed at 3:33pm

ENDORSED  <small>Frances Simes (Dec 24, 2025 09:46:36 GMT+10.5)</small>	Frances Simes Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 18 December 2025
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Final Audit Report

2025-12-23

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