

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 3-25	
1 May 2025	
Start Time:	9.30am
Location:	Karoonda Institute Supper Room, 15 Peake Street, Karoonda
Present:	<p><u>Board:</u> Frances Simes (Chair), Andrew Biele, Samantha Blight, Tammy O'Malley, Jason Size (on Teams)</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Renata Rix (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Tom Mowbray (Water Resources Manager), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Helane Norman (Executive Officer),</p> <p>Items 5: Hannah Spronk (Team Leader, Riverland District), Casey Henderson (Team Leader, Murraylands District), Michael Cutting (Team Leader, Land and Water Management)</p>
Apologies	Greg Cock, Brian Lund, Scott Reardon (CEO District Council of Karoonda East Murray) and Mayor Caroline Phillips (District Council of Karoonda East Murray)

Item	Item Title
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Agenda check.</p> <p>Frances Simes, 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.</p>
2.	<p>Conflict of Interest – No new disclosures</p>
3.	<p>Board Calendar</p> <p>The Annual Calendar of board meeting items was provided to the board.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (2-25) held 27 March 2025</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 2-25 held 27 March 2025.</i></p>
5.	<p>Team Presentations</p> <p>District Teams – Hannah Spronk and Casey Henderson</p> <p>The Team Leader, Riverland District and the Team Leader Murraylands District, presented a summary of the District staff, their projects and the work undertaken.</p>


Item	Item Title
	<p>Land and Water Management – Michael Cutting</p> <p>The Team Leader, Land and Water Management provided an overview of the work of the Land and Water Management team, highlighting the diversity of funding arrangements for their team, and also the uncertainty and 18month delay prior to the RDP funding being finalised. Climate Smart Agriculture is a multi-year project for the team and would like to get feedback from the board on what could be included in the out years of that project at a future meeting.</p> <p>Michael expressed the need to promote the projects that they do better.</p> <p>ACTION: Michael to provide link to National Soil Monitoring Program website to Helane.</p>
6.	<p>PIRSA update</p> <p>Apology received.</p>
7.	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a written report, indicating there were a number of meetings with the General Manager and attended the State Landscape Strategy workshop in Adelaide, which was well attended by a variety of people.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Drought Resilience plan meeting – questioned if any drought initiatives were discussed. A meeting will be held in 3 weeks with wider representation (including councils) where this will be considered. <p>ACTION: SLS summary to be sent out in the weekly update</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's Report.</i></p>
8.	<p>Board Member's Report</p> <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mantung Community and Murray Zircon complimentary of Landscape's work. Disappointed that dry times have to impact all people (especially closer to Adelaide) before anything occurs to assist the broadacre people, response appears to have been very slow, difficult to work out what will actually help farmers in drought. It is likely that foreclosures will occur. Affected farmers have been receiving hay drops, PIRSA have been navigating the biosecurity issue with weed seeds as a result. Jason attended the YEL forum early in April with nearly 100 attending –a great event with lots of enthusiasm. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members' Reports.</i></p>
9.	<p>General Manager's Report</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>The General Manager provided his report, outlining the activities undertaken by the General Manager over the last month, along with the following attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly WHS Report • Risk Register • Communications Report • General Manager Position Description • Referrals Report <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of General Manager underway • Briefed Coorong Council, Little Corella issue was raised. Renata to take carriage of the corella issues with the General Manager's resignation. An invitation has been extended from Mid Murray Council to attend an upcoming meeting. Andrew thanked the Coorong Council for their active support. • Future organisation: Round 1 and 2 recruitment are complete but several positions to replace successful applicants are being advertised. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR DECISION	
10.	<p>Business Plan Update</p> <p>As required by legislation the board develops an Annual Business Plan, a draft of which has been provided to the board, for their endorsement for consultation with targeted stakeholders. An information exchange paper, which provides addition information for the board was also circulated to board members. Minor improvements to the draft plan were suggested by the board.</p> <p>The Manager, Corporate Services presented the 5-year budget projection to provide the board with likely scenarios for upcoming years.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <p><i>a. Endorsed the draft 2025-26 Annual Business Plan for consultation with targeted stakeholders; and</i></p> <p><i>b. noted the information exchange paper.</i></p>
11.	<p>Legislative Compliance Register</p> <p>The Manager, Corporate Services with the ELT, have reviewed the Legislative Compliance Register, and presented it with track changes to the Finance Risk and Audit Committee, who endorsed it, with minor wording changes, to come to the board for approval. New legislation currently being developed (Native Vegetation, Biodiversity and Biosecurity Acts) will be considered for inclusion when legislated.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <p><i>1. Noted the changes made to the Legislative Compliance Register</i></p> <p><i>2. Approved the Legislative Compliance Register for 2024-25</i></p>

Item	Item Title
12.	<p>Finance Risk and Audit Committee – Proposed quarterly meetings The Manager, Corporate Services provided the proposed work plan of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, and requested that the Committee meet quarterly going forward.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Approved the change to quarterly meetings for the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee</i> <i>2. Noted the Committee's Annual Work Plan</i> <i>3. Approved the changes to come into effect from 1 July 2025</i>
13.	<p>Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) Terms of Reference review The Manager Corporate Services reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee in line with changes that have been proposed, and for consistency with other landscape boards. The FRAC Chair resigned due to personal reasons, and it was decided to approach the AICD for possible candidates for an Independent Chair/member for FRAC.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Noted the changes made to the Terms of Reference for the Committee</i> <i>2. Approved the change to quarterly meetings</i> <i>3. Approved the change in the maximum number of members assigned to the Committee</i>
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	
14.	<p>Finance Risk and Audit Committee April Report The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee met on 15 April, and provided the minutes of that meeting along with up to date information regarding the board's finances, noting that interest revenue is likely to be impacted if interest rates decrease.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers.</i></p>
15.	<p>Water Advisory Committee The Water Advisory Committee met on the 10 April and the minutes were provided to the board, and asked the board to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the proposed engagement approach for landholders and major licensees regarding investigating possible funding options and understanding the draw down impacts in relation to improving security of stock water in the PRS area. • Note concerns regarding the spraying of the reeds on the riverside of the LMRIA levees, as they are pivotal for erosion protection. • Reminder for the Department to look at the LMRIA community as a whole and not just focusing on levees that have had flooding • Consider their nomination of Penny Smith for the next WAC Chair

Item	Item Title
	<p>The Chair raised the issue of a rise in acid sulphate soils, and that the RMMAC representative Glenn Chisholm has resigned from the committee as he has taken on another role, and a new representative has been sought.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Water Advisory Committee minutes.</i></p>
16.	<p>Committee's Significant /Sensitive Items WAC Chair The General Manager provided the board with the nomination of Penny Smith for Chair of the Water Advisory Committee, since Frances Simes has taken on the role of Chair of the Board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board agreed to the appointment of Penny Smith to the role of Water Advisory Committee Chair for the period until 31 January 2027.</i></p> <p>Water Security for Peake, Roby, Sherlock Prescribed Water Resources area The Water Resources Manager provided background information on likely scenarios in the Peake Roby Sherlock area with expected increase in irrigation. Discussion occurred around the multiple options which need to be investigated in these scenarios.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i> <i>a. noted this summary of the water security issue in the Peake Roby Sherlock Prescribed Wells Area.</i> <i>b. endorsed continued landholder and licensee engagement; and</i> <i>c. support further exploration of potential funding options.</i></p>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
17.	<p>Karoonda East Murray District Council CEO & Mayor Apology received.</p>
18.	<p>Murray Mallee Regional Plan – State Planning Commission The General Manager provided the board with an update of the proposed review of the Murray Mallee Regional Plan. The General Manager was generally disappointed with the document that has been produced on our behalf by people that do not live and work in the region, with services for growth not being fully considered, including water. It is worth noting that Murray Bridge is included in the greater Adelaide plan, as well as the Murray Mallee plan.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the report.</i></p>

Item	Item Title
19.	<p>Karoonda Farm Fair Review</p> <p>The Team Leader Communications and Engagement provided an update on the attendance and display at the recent Karoonda Farm Fair. More tailored opportunities for smaller events are being undertaken. Evidence indicates that it is important to promote managing our landscape to young people for future benefits.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the landscape board display at the 2025 Karoonda Farm Fair.</i></p>
20.	<p>Grassroots Grants update</p> <p>The General Manager provided an overview of the applications received for Round 6 of the Grassroots Grants Program for 2025-26. Board staff are looking at other ways to fund some of the projects that might not receive funding otherwise</p> <p>Applications received totalled over \$1.39m with funding of \$499,268 being allocated by the board for Grassroots grants projects.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the summary of applications received under the 2025-26 Grassroots Grants program.</i></p>
21.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Correspondence list for March was presented to the board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
22.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The Action list was reviewed by the board.</p>
	<p>Next meeting details – 29 May at Murray Bridge Water Advisory Committee – 12 June Finance Risk and Audit Committee – 17 June Landscape Board's conference at Adelaide Oval – 13 and 14 May</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 2.05pm</p>

<p>ENDORSED</p> 	<p>Frances Simes Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date: 29 May 2025</p>
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