

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 5-21			
Date: 24 June 2021			
Start Times:	9.30am		
Location:	Tailem Bend	Room:	Coorong District Council Chambers
Present	<p>Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Barb Cowey (<i>until end Item 12</i>), Jim Godden, Lisa Rowntree, Jason Size</p> <p>Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Business Services Manager), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Goodman (Manager, Strategy and Engagement), Helane Norman (Executive Officer)</p> <p>Staff: Wendy Stubbs (Team Leader, Landscape Resilience), Darren Williss (Team Leader, Floodplains and Wetlands) (<i>Items 1-6</i>)</p> <p>Guests: Giverney Rogers (Biosecurity Policy Officer, PIRSA) (<i>Item 4</i>)</p> <p>Sam Blight (Coorong LAP member) Brian Lund (Coorong LAP member), Bridget Mather (Coorong Council CEO) (<i>Item 13</i>) Paul Simmons (Mayor, Coorong Council) (<i>Items 13-17</i>)</p>		
Apologies			

Item	Item Title
PUBLIC MEETING – 9.30am	
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and agenda check</p> <p>Di Davidson, 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>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Further declarations:</p> <p>Greg Cock – no longer working with DEW funded project ‘Flows for the future’</p> <p>Jim Godden, involved with Moorook Field and Game who applied for a grassroots grant, so will remove himself from the discussion conversation on the agenda.</p>
3.	<p>Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (4-21) held 27 May 2021</p> <p>It was noted that Mallee Minders, based at Monarto Zoo are regularly planting in the Monarto area, which complement the plantings outlined in the Vegetation Management issue discussed in Item 9 last meeting.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 4-21 held 27 May 2021.</i>
Presentations	
4.	<p>PIRSA – Feral Goat Policy (Giverny Rodgers)</p> <p>Review of the Feral Goat policy) has occurred several times over recent years, the most recent being to include Landscape terminology and names and is with the Minister to approve now.</p> <p>Current legislation and policy is not reducing goat numbers, and along with a number of changes that have occurred, another review is being considered.</p> <p>The strong market for goat meat creates a disincentive for some land managers to desire a high level of control.</p> <p>Giverny presented options (which have not been able to gain unanimous support previously) if a review is supported:</p> <p>Option 1: Allow captured goats to be held for 3 months – currently 6 weeks, making allowable what is probably already happening.</p> <p>Option 2: Not relevant to our area</p> <p>Option 3: Managing impacts of goats together with sheep or cattle – sheep and cattle stocking rates may need to be lower to allow for additional goats</p> <p>Options 4: Allow goats as livestock in pastoral areas – this is to manage total grazing pressure through livestock systems and require fencing, tagging</p> <p>Option 5: Compliance with existing policy requirements – highlighted that current policy is not enforced and the aim is to increase compliance with existing requirements</p> <p>Option 6: Something else that would reduce the impact of goats</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy should outline the LSA Act protocols simply • Important to work with and learn from interstate counterparts • Consulting with farmers is really important to find what would work with farmers, what is achievable by farmers • Look at economic value for the goats, • Issue is goats are living in national parks and they can only be mustered or controlled when they come out of the parks. • Improving vector to market is the single best thing policy wise. • Concern if allowed to be treated as livestock. • River corridor where there is always water needs to be treated differently, to the biosphere where the water/dams have been removed.
5.	<p>South Olary Plains Landscape Priority Fund project – Wendy Stubbs</p> <p>The team leader, landscape resilience provided an overview of the successful \$700,000 Landscape Priority Fund project</p> <p>This land (850,000ha north of Berri) is owned and managed for conservation by a number of parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BirdLife Australia • Australian Landscape Trust • NPWS SA • NSW NPWS • Federation University • Australian Wildlife conservancy

Item	Item Title
	<p>These parties along with Zoos SA, First Nations, Local community members and Trees for Life, ran a Conservation Action Planning process to manage the land for conservation outcomes.</p> <p>Six themes to be covered under the grant will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address total grazing pressure – remove standing water, rewatering the landscape and Aboriginal heritage • Increasing restoration capacity- seed collection, upgrading seed production area, restoration trials for low cost and best outcome. • Identify appropriate fire regimes – surveys to understand better and work on fire management timing and position of prescribed burns. • Advance indigenous engagement – reconnect first nations with landscape where this has been lost and facilitate workshop to find out what the priority actions would be and assist in delivering the actions • Enhance threatened Mallee Bird conservation • Investigate reintroduction of species that are no longer there. <p>Engagement will include pastoralists in the region.</p>
6.	<p>Water Infrastructure Operations Funding for Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement – Darren Willis</p> <p>The Team Leader, Wetlands and Floodplains provided an update on the work of the wetlands team and outlined the Wetlands program funding base. Included in the \$2.272m received is a recently negotiated amount from DEW through a Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement. This is for a range of services, technical expertise and monitoring provided by the board to enable DEW to effectively operate the water infrastructure along the SA River Murray and provide direction in wetlands management. The board has not previously been financially compensated for this work.</p>
In camera session with the General Manager	
<p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved under the provisions of Section 23 (5) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, an order be made that the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting with the exception of the General Manager, in order to consider, in confidence, matters on the grounds of Section 7(3) (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead); of the Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020.</i></p>	
Items for decision	
7.	<p>Grassroots Grants final funding allocations</p> <p>Jim Godden reported potential conflict of interest with Moorook Field and Game and grassroots grants.</p> <p>Board members were presented with the recommended allocations of funding to applicants of Grassroots Grants in our region, provided by the Grassroots Grants Panel.</p> <p>Discussion occurred around the decision not to fund one grant, with regards to possible reputational risk regarding funding of capital equipment that could later be used for personal gain. Support was received from all board members on the panel's recommendations.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the final allocations of funding to applicants under the 2021-22 Grassroots Grants Program, as proposed in Attachment 1.</i>
8.	Board performance report The General Manager provided a draft evaluation of Board performance following discussions at a workshop on 20 May. <i>The Board finalised the draft response on the evaluation of Board Performance, endorsed it and instructed the General Manager to provide it to Minister Speirs by 30 June 2021.</i>
9.	Water Literacy The Manager Strategy and Engagement provided the Board with options for the Boards Water Literacy Program after a Board workshop on 14 April and discussion with the Water Advisory Committee late in April. Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pg 29 continued activity by the Education team; information about the Murray Darling Agreement and the Murray Darling Basin Plan needs to be included. • Desire to include 'facilitate others telling the water story', would require additional resources, but some facilitation would be included as resources allow. • Water Literacy will be included on the Water Advisory committee workplan and considered several times throughout the coming year. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the recommended option (option 1) for its water literacy program.</i>
10.	South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 -2025 – Board commitments in the draft implementation schedule. The Board has received correspondence from the Department of Environment Chief Executive seeking endorsement on board's commitments in the Implementation Schedule of the recently developed SA Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the implementation schedule developed to accompany the South Australian Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025.</i>
11.	Policies and Procedures for approval The General Manager introduced the following policies to the board that had been approved by the General Managers recently. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MR FIN-02 KMP Related Parties Policy and Procedure 2. MR FIN-03 Asset Management Policy 3. MR GOV-07 Freedom of Information Policy 4. MR WHS-01 Work Health and Safety Policy for Board and Committee Members 5. MR WHS-01 Work Health and Safety Procedure for Board and Committee Members The Chair reminded board members to ensure they comply with the WHS policy and procedure for Board and committee members.

Item	Item Title
	<p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorse the following policies and procedures:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. MR FIN-02 KMP Related Parties Policy and Procedure</i> <i>2. MR FIN-03 Asset Management Policy</i> <i>3. MR GOV-07 Freedom of Information Policy</i> <i>4. MR WHS-01 Work Health and Safety Policy for Board and Committee Members</i> <i>5. MR WHS-01 Work Health and Safety Procedure for Board and Committee Members</i>
12.	<p>Service Level Agreement with DEW 2021/22</p> <p>The Business Services Manager presented the Service Level Agreement between DEW and the Board for the period April 2021 to June 2022. This supersedes the previous agreement and the following detail was highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEW information technology services and infrastructure will be used with a fixed cost per FTE employee and then additional licensing fees as required Other mandated costs include accounts receivable services, Department of Treasury and Finance services, Water Planning and Management costs, and administration fees for the Landscape Services branch of DEW; Limited additional services may be purchased from DEW on a fee-for-service basis; Reduction in the total expense of the SLA and increase in the Water Management charges (increase of 2.5% instead of 2%) will have a \$24,000 CR impact on the amount payable. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the Service Level Agreement with the Department for Environment & Water (DEW); and</i></p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Presiding Member to execute the final agreement for the period April 2021 – June 2022.</i></p>
	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Bridget Mather, Paul Simmons, Samantha Blight and Brian Lund joined the board for lunch.</p>
13.	<p>Coorong District Council - CEO Bridget Mather and Mayor Paul Simmons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coorong Council straddles the boundary or the Limestone Coast and Murraylands and Riverland Landscapae Boards, which makes for splitting the levy collected from ratepayers. Coorong Council welcome the return to basic agricultural services in pest plant and animal control. Important to have Austerised Officers build relationships with landowners and provide good advice on problems encountered. Coorong LAP Officers Tracey Strugnell and Sam Blight have a good working relationship with Landscape operational staff, and both having been involved previously with a NRM group of the previous board. Coorong LAP is a Section 41 committee of council, roles have slightly changed to now be doing more Landscape resilience, community engagement work, connecting with government and value adding grants programs Board is keen to partner and work with local government , utilising resources better, and keen to consult with/notify landholders of what the board are doing. Possibly look at joint projects, better funding opportunities if partner between RDA, LGA and Landscape Board.

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council currently doing a weed management plan – partnering opportunity
Committees & Sub-Committees	
14.	<p>Finance Committee – verbal</p> <p>The Finance committee met on 22nd June, and due to late meeting minutes will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair reported that there is a significant amount of funding coming in, which will lead to a significant net cash position at end of year.</p> <p>The General Manager and Chair acknowledged the work done by the Manager Business Services and the Finance Team on the SLA.</p>
15.	<p>Water Advisory Committee – verbal</p> <p>Committee meeting papers were circulated to the board. The Manager Strategy and Engagement provided a verbal overview of the meeting held on 17th June. Topics on the agenda were environmental watering plan, Delivery capacity and Water Security.</p> <p>Ideas raised at the committee will form part of a workplan which will be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>A response to the water Security statement has been drafted and will be circulated to board members.</p>
16.	<p>Significant or sensitive committee items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEW Service Level Agreement was the significant piece of work that came through Finance. Discussions have occurred with the chairs of the WAC and MCAC, with TOR to be reviewed in conjunction with the chairs. Clarified the approach with the WAC and the MCAC, and the TOR will be reviewed in the coming months in conjunction with the chairs. Workplans to be developed for each committee, with both committees needing more members.
Other items	
17.	<p>Chair's report</p> <p>Attended WAC meeting (17.6.21), Finance committee meeting (22.6.21), a 2 hour measuring success workshop (22.6.21) and the Murraylands Volunteer event in Murray Bridge (20.6.21) – was an excellent day attended by over 60 people with about half attending the Paiwalla Wetlands tour after the lunch and presentations.</p> <p>Landscape chairs are awaiting the state landscape strategy, finalised an MOU between PIRSA and Boards, which will come to this board separately.</p> <p>The Board acknowledge Roger Wicke's efforts and other involved staff in organising the Volunteer celebration at Murray Bridge</p>
18.	<p>General Manager's Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided a report on his undertakings along with the highlights and achievements of staff since the last report, and includes the Board referrals report for May along with the Strategic Risk Register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Monique White (MDBA) who will supply the board with a monthly update on MDBA activities. Briefed the MRLGA CEO's meeting on 21.6.21

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connector Environmental Impact study, unlikely to stop the connector, but have responded to the study, and will monitor the progress. Strategic Risk Register is updated every 2nd Month. <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the May General Manager's Report.</i></p>
19.	<p>Monthly Performance Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided the May 2021 Monthly Performance Report which provides a succinct snapshot of activities against the the existing regional priorities and focus areas of the 20-21 Transitional Business Plan. Quarterly reporting will continue into the future, next report in October, for the first quarter of the 21/22 year.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the May 2021 Monthly Performance Report.</i></p>
20.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The correspondence was presented to the Board.</p> <p><i>The Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
21.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The Action list was reviewed.</p>
22.	<p>Member's Contributions</p> <p><u>Inclusion with council rates notices:</u> The Southern Mallee Council made an offer to include information on the levy with council rates notices – queried if it is possible to do this across the region, possibly include a % breakdown of how much is spent on what.</p> <p><u>Thank you:</u> Di Davidson on behalf of the board would sincerely like to thank Barbara Cowey and Lisa Rowntree for their work and time on the board, which comes to an end at the end of this month, thereby establishing a pattern of succession for the board.</p> <p>Coming from a standing start at the middle of last year, we have achieved a lot in the last twelve months, appointing a General Manager, approved the MR Landscape Plan with a change of focus, given out \$660,000 in Grassroots Grants, established two advisory committees, and liaised with local government. Congratulations to the four board members whose terms have been extended to January 2023.</p> <p><u>July Workshop:</u> will be held on 16 July, 10am to 1pm followed by lunch.</p>
23.	<p>In Camera Items if required</p> <p>Not required</p>
24.	<p>Next meeting details – July 22 – Renmark Council Chambers.</p>
	<p>Closed at 2.46pm</p>

ENDORSED



Dianne Davidson AM

Presiding Member

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

Date: 22/07/21

