

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 9-20			
Date: 10 December 2020			
Start Time:	9.30am	Finish Time:	3.45pm
Location:	Karoonda	Room:	Council Chambers, 11 Railway Tce, Karoonda.
Attendees:	Board members Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Jim Godden, Jason Size, Lisa Rowntree (on Teams from 11.30am to 2.30pm)		
Staff:	Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Amy Goodman (Planning and Evaluation Manager), Michelle Finch (Business Services Manager), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Helene Norman (Executive Officer) Item 4.4 – Tony Randall (Team Leader, Sustainable Agriculture) Item 4.5 and 5.1 – Lyz Risby, (Water Allocation Planning Manager), Rebecca Freshwater (Senior PO, River Murray WAP), Melissa White (PO, Water allocation Planning)		
Visitors / Guests:	Item 5.4 – Matt Ward (Director Landscape Services) Item 5.1 – MDBA staff, Brent Williams (General Manager, Adelaide and Murray Bridge), Deana Mildren (Senior Engagement Officer) and Monique White (Assistant Director, Engagement) Item 5.1 – Water Advisory Committee members – Clem Mason, Greg McCarron, Anne Jensen, Rosalie Auricht, David Zadow, Rick Hartman and Jo Pfeiffer.		
Apologies:	Barb Cowey		

Item	
	An In-Camera discussion with the General Manager was held prior to the public meeting.
1.	Welcome
1.1	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.

1.2	Declaration of Interest No further disclosures to report
2	Strategic items
2.1	Chairs Report The Chair officially thanked Amy Goodman, acknowledging the tremendous work Amy has done in the 16 months as Acting General Manager, in the challenging time of transition from the SAMDB NRM Board to the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. The Chair had a satisfactory meeting with Minister Speirs on 9 th December.
2.2	General Managers Report The General Manager presented a comprehensive report prepared by the Regional Management Team. A discussion occurred on the layout of the report and tracking against the business plan. The depth of the report is really useful to learn the breadth of the work undertaken by board staff. ACTION: RMT/planning team to look at options for revising the GM report to reflect not only achievements, but also progress against Business Plan measurable.
2.3	Landscape Strategic Plan Update The Planning and Evaluation Manager provided an update on the progress of the phase 1 consultation in developing the Landscape plan. Virtual sessions are on the 14 th and 16 December which will be recorded to enable board members to hear all the feedback. Chair to attend consultation with aboriginal staff and Ngarrindjeri community on 19 th January. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the progress of the phase 1 consultation for developing the landscape plan.
3.	Items for Decision
3.1	Operational Protocol for and between the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Fire Management Program and Landscape Board staff The General Manager presented a paper outlining the formal operational protocol required for the continued involvement of landscape board staff in the DEW fire management program. Discussion still occurring regarding the minimum amount of training time that staff can contribute. Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the significant and long-standing contribution from landscape board staff to the DEW fire management program, and the Minister's expectations that this arrangement continue and be supported through a formal protocol; 2. Noted that any operational and administrative issues that arise before endorsement of the protocol by all parties, will be addressed between the DEW fire management program,

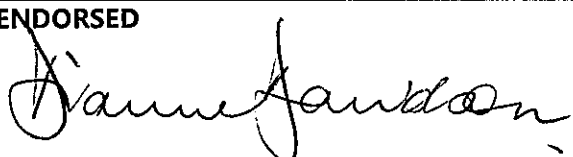
	<p><i>General Managers and board Chairs as required;</i></p> <p>3. Endorsed the approach taken in the Operational Protocol that outlines arrangements for the continuing involvement of landscape board staff in the DEW fire management program, subject to the finalization of a protocol broadly consistent with that found as Attachment 1; and</p> <p>4. Endorsed that the Chair's signature be applied to the final version of the protocol on behalf of the board, once endorsed by all parties.</p> <p>ACTION: Andrew Meddle to notify Tim Collins</p>
3.2	<p>Landscape Priorities Fund</p> <p>The Sustainable Landscapes Manager presented an update to board members on the planning and preparation undertaken by staff in preparation for the imminent Landscape Priorities Fund.</p> <p>After a discussion, comments were given to managers on things to consider with the proposed projects and member preferences, to take into account once the Landscape Priorities Fund guidelines have been received. Important for projects considered to have the ability to have an influence on a very large area, or use learnings in other areas of our region.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the project concepts developed in anticipation of the Landscape Priorities fund opening; and • Noted submission of the projects is subject to them meeting guidelines that are yet to be made available.
3.3	<p>Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Policy and Procedures</p> <p>The General Manager submitted a paper to the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board requesting adoption of the reviewed Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Policy and Procedure and associated declaration form.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the draft Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Policy, and the draft Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Procedure and noted the associated Declaration Form.</p>
3.4	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>The Finance Committee Chair presented the financial reports of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board for the period ending 30 October 2020.</p> <p>Due to underspend last financial year, currently expenditure is greater than income, and the cash on hand is decreasing, because the board is expending what should have been spent last financial year.</p> <p>Jason Size has been appointed to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the reconciliation between the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board original budget and the forward estimates; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approved the Finance report to 30 October 2020 as recommended by the Finance Committee; and</i> • <i>Approved the appointment of Jason Size to the Finance Committee.</i>
4.	Items for Discussion
4.1	<p>Contact Points for LG and Landcare</p> <p>The General Manager is currently working through who will be the single point of contact for local government and other organisations who might regularly contact the board. These contacts will streamline organisations connection with the board and will be made available when appointed.</p> <p>Engagement within the Region was discussed and is a priority for the board, Riverland Landcare Groups and their future, Local government engagement and other partnerships.</p>
4.2	<p>2021 Board Meetings</p> <p>The General Manager presented a meeting paper to the Board with proposed Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board meeting dates for the 2021 year, along with Finance Committee meeting dates for the 2021 year.</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the intended Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board meeting dates for 2021; and endorsed the intended Finance Committee dates for 2021.</i></p>
4.3	<p>Sustainable Agriculture Update – Presentation by Tony Randall</p> <p>Team Leader of the Sustainable Agriculture Program gave the board an overview of staff, activities and partnerships within the Program, which work to build skills and management of landholders and farms in the region. The program also manages the weather station network, soil moisture probes, dustwatch station, ETO forecasting tool and nrmFarm.</p> <p>Currently working on a drought policy which outlines board and organisations roles in differing scenarios that might arise.</p> <p>The Board thanked Tony for an informative presentation.</p>
4.4	<p>Water Issues</p> <p>Concern was raised at the need for urgently dealing with possible water supply shortages in summer during and after a heatwave which is being considered via a recent paper entitled Managing Delivery Risks in the River Murray system and which may well occupy further discussion at the forthcoming Water Advisory Committee meeting.</p>
4.5	<p>Water Planning Steering Committee</p> <p>The Water Resources Manager presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Water Planning</p>

	<p>Steering Committee, which has a targeted purpose to deal with issues that arise as a result of the board drafting the Water allocation Plans, and the Department for Environment and Water implementing the plan.</p> <p>An update on consultation of the draft River Murray WAP, which has now closed, was also given to the Board, with a huge response received. Majority of feedback was supportive, but the majority of the comments were opposing the changes.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed the draft Water Planning Steering Committee Terms of Reference; and • Noted the update, and closing of statutory consultation on the draft River Murray Water Allocation Plan for the Prescribed Watercourse.
5.	Reports
5.1	<p>Murray Darling Basin Authority – Update</p> <p>Brent Williams (General Manager, Adelaide and Murray Bridge), along with Deana Mildren (Senior Engagement Officer) and Monique White (Assistant Director, Engagement) provided an update to the Board and Water Advisory Committee members.</p> <p>Current Issues highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Basin Plan and Climate Change • 2020 Evaluation of the Basin Plan on all environmental, social and economic outcomes in the Basin • SDL adjustment projects – deliver state government commitments to offset 605GL • Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) projects • State Water Resource plans - SA QLD, VIC accredited, NSW received and being assessed. <p>The Board thanked the staff who attended in person and via electronic means for their contribution to the meeting.</p>
5.2	<p>One Basin Cooperative Research Centre</p> <p>The General Manager, after receiving an overview of the One Basin CRC bid for funding last week, presented a paper outlining the proposed collaboration to develop policy, technical and financial solutions to support and reduce exposure to climate, water and environmental threads in the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>Proposed support for the bid will provide a good opportunity for partnerships and provide the board with the possibility of having input into projects.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the progress made with the One Basin CRC bid; 2. Endorsed the allocation of \$10,000 per annum for the ten years of the One Basin CRC; and 3. Endorsed the allocation of 0.2FTE as an in-kind contribution to the One Basin CRC.
5.3	Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee Community Forum

	<p>The Manager, Sustainable Landscapes presented a paper to the Board, on a recent planning meeting of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee for the annual forum they are planning for March 2021 in partnership with Mallee Sustainable Farming.</p> <p>The committee are requesting the board to provide some funding for some catering and associated costs for the event. Opportunity to get some information from the community on what they think/need the landscape board to do for landholders.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the report from the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee and agreed to financially support the proposed forum (anticipated to be in the order of \$1200 - \$1500).</i></p>	
5.4	<p>Landscape Services Office Update Matthew Ward, Director Landscape Services, DEW, attended the meeting and presented an update to the board on how the DEW Landscape Services office can support landscape boards and General Managers. Matt also provided some detail on the State Landscape Strategy and the Landscape Priorities Fund.</p> <p><i>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the update by Matthew Ward and thanked him for his attendance.</i></p>	
4	Consent Schedule	
4.1	Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 8-20 held 19 November 2020	<i>The Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 8-20 held 19 November 2020.</i>
4.2	Board update on monthly activity of referral requests	<i>The Board noted the referral update.</i>
4.3	Correspondence	<i>The Board noted the correspondence.</i>
	<p>The correspondence will no longer be included in the meeting papers, and a weekly/regular email with correspondence will be emailed to members.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the recommendations within the consent schedule.</i></p>	
7	Other Business	
7.1	<p>Action List All actions are in hand.</p>	
7.2	<p>Members Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-million dollar Murray-Darling Water and Environment Research Program for River Communities - Board is keen to learn more about this. Are there projects or work of staff that have a strategic emphasis that Board members could have input into? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Cock will be attending the climate change presentation with Ross Garnaut, Board is a key partner. • Reminder to Board members to undertake mandatory training. <p>ACTION: Helene to send status of individuals training, follow up and Bridge issues.</p>
7.3	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>Nil</p>
7.4	<p>Next meeting – Thursday 25th February 2021 at the Murray Bridge Council Chambers starting with a joint meeting with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 3.45pm</p>

<p>ENDORSED</p> 	<p>Dianne Davidson AM Presiding Member Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Date:</p>
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