

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 3-21			
Date: 22 April 2021			
Start Time:	9.30am		
Location:	Cambrai	Room:	Mid Murray Council Chambers, Cambrai
Present	<p>Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Barb Cowey, Jim Godden, 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>Item 4: Chris Tugwell (Chair Mid Murray Landcare Inc)</p> <p>Item 5: Kylie Moritz (Murraylands District Manager), Hannah Spronk (Riverland District Manager)</p> <p>Item 6: Cindy Kakoschke and Chirstina Liapis (Education Officers)</p>		
Apologies	Lisa Rowntree		

Item	Item Title
Prior to the Public Meeting an <i>in camera</i> session was held with the General Manager.	
PUBLIC MEETING – 10.30am	
1.	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 10.30am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	Declaration of Interest No further disclosures to report.
3.	Adoption of <u>Minutes from the previous meeting (2-21)</u> held 25 March 2021 <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 2-21 held 25 March 2021.</i>
Presentations	


Item	Item Title
4.	<p>Mid Murray Landcare – Chair, Chris Tugwell</p> <p>Chris Tugwell provided a written overview of the work undertaken by the Mid Murray Landcare in any one month and enlightened the members on the Dark Sky Reserve. Dark Sky Reserve is about 3500 square km in the Mid Murray Council area and came about to seek alternative funding sources for the Mid Murray Landcare, and to educate people on the beauty of the sky and light pollution.</p> <p>Wishlist: Reduce feral cats in the region with the use of the Felixer</p>
5.	<p>District officers on the Ground – Kylie Moritz and Hannah Spronk</p> <p>The District Managers from the Riverlands and Murraylands jointly provided a presentation on the work of the District Officers across the region. A wide variety of tasks are undertaken by the District Officers, but key to all of them is building relationships with landowners. Major special projects currently being undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Corridor first line of defence – only one in SA • African lovegrass trials and training • Eastern Hills corridor – woody weed control - 26 landholders along a creekline in eastern hills • Loxton Rabbits Program • Riverland Biocontrol – cochineal control of 3 types of opuntia - with PIRSA, schools • Built up areas pest plant and animal control – support for those who cannot use traditional control types, working with council on this • Invasion pathways – dealing with alert weeds that are not rampant within our region, working with councils and DIT regarding control on best control methods, • Cost Recovery – right control work happening at the right time, includes bait sales <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with councils is great – look for further collaboration opportunities • Need more promotion of the Loxton rabbit control • Queried the level of understating that landholders have on their responsibilities. • Compliance - boards appetite on how much compliance is a good amount • Staff and their work and the outcomes are all part of the project, not just disposable income. • Look at ways to connect with new landowners, or where land use changes, where landholders don't know how or don't have the capacity to manage. • Different ways to promote the work done.
6.	<p>Education Program update – Cindy Kakoschke and Christina Liapis</p> <p>The Education officers for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board presented an overview of what is included in their program.</p> <p>The program provides opportunities for students to get outdoors, working with other programs to provide learning experiences for teachers and students on the environment and land management. Includes Young Environmental Leaders, River Murray Youth Council, Professional Development sessions for teachers, work experience and school holiday sessions as well as working with classes in schools. Some sessions have also been done with other clubs and CWA groups.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to promote grassroots grants with young people too. • Ability to spin off of other programs

Item	Item Title
Items for decision	
7.	<p>Recommendations from Committees to the Board</p> <p>The General Manager presented a paper to the Board outlining the approach for dealing with recommendations and information flow from various committees to the Board. The Board has established two advisory committees to advise the Board, and the Board need to allow them to carry out their planned work (once the workplan has been approved), and have some means of communicating recommendations outcome and feedback to the committee. However they are advisory committees and all recommendations must be passed through the General Manager to the Board.</p> <p>The Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee are planning a Local Government forum in July, which is to include council operational staff.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted and endorsed the proposed approach for dealing with matters from various Board Committees.</i></p>
8.	<p>MRLB Instrument of Authorisation – Authority to affix Board Common Seal</p> <p>The Manager, Business Services explained that as a result of recent Machinery of Government changes, for some staff whose position numbers have changed, the Instrument of Authorisation – Authority to affix Common Seal is required to be updated and re-signed.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <p><i>a. Noted the change to position numbers for the Manager, Sustainable Landscapes and Manager, Business Services as a result of the Machinery of Government transfer to the Board on April 12, 2021;</i></p> <p><i>b. Approved the Chair of the Board to sign the Instrument of Authorisation – Authority to affix Common Seal.</i></p>
9.	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>The General Manager provided the Risk Register for consideration by the Board. The Finance Committee has suggested changes in regards to the risk in times of drought and other disasters, which has been added into Item 3. No further changes were necessary.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the updated Strategic Risk Register.</i></p>
Committees & Sub-Committees	
10.	<p>March Financial minutes</p> <p>Finance Committee papers along with the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 15 April 2021 were provided to the Board. Settlement of the NRM account into the MRLB account has occurred and the projected year end position is \$7.2m cash. Pleasing to note that 6 more approvals have been received for WEP projects.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the March Finance Papers and minutes of the meeting held 15 April 2021.</i></p>
	<p>Zoe Starkey, Joe Keynes and Chris Tugwell joined the Board for lunch, and members had the opportunity to visit the Cambrai Landscape Office.</p> <p>Joe Keynes (PPSA and Livestock SA Chair) addressed the Board, indicating that he was pleased with the direction of Landscape SA and the more balanced approach to conservation and productivity.</p>

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	Zoe Starkey (Regional Landcare Facilitator) also addressed the board, indicating that outside of work she is heavily involved with the Murray Plains Farmers Group, and farms 6000ac in the area.
Items for Noting	
11.	Monthly Performance Report The General Manager provided the March 2021 Monthly Performance Report which provides a succinct snapshot of activities against the the regional priorities and focus areas of the 20-21 Transitional Business Plan. It indicated that all work is on track, with a note of caution on the Water Efficiency Program. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the March 2021 Monthly Performance Report.</i>
12.	Chair's Report The Chair provided a verbal report on her activities since the March Board meeting. The State Landscape Strategy Day and the next Chairs forum will be in the first week of May.
13.	General Manager's Report The General Manager provided a report on the highlights and achievements of staff since the last report. A meeting with the CE of DEW to discuss an ongoing relationship has occurred. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the February General Manager's Report.</i>
14.	WHS Report The General Manager has provided to the Board, a Work Health Safety report received by the Executive Leadership Team monthly, that outlines incidents reported, and inspections/training undertaken which help to prevent incidents occurring. All incidents are reported through the MySafety incident reporting system. Propose to provide this report quarterly to the Board. <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the March WHS report.</i>
15.	Monthly update on Referral requests activity <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the referral update.</i>
16.	Control Track A paper was presented to the Board on the use (previously through DEW) of 'Control Track' which is a web based tool to identify risk to financial management and reduce those risks to an acceptable level. Staff will look at the merits to own its own licence and widen the scope of control included to other areas of the business to ensure compliance (as compared to working under the DEW licence). <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Noted the use of Control Track by the Board through DEW to measure the effectiveness of internal controls;</i> <i>Noted the issues identified through the latest Control Track Testing, and the subsequent action plans put in place;</i> <i>Noted the plan to continue using Control Track as the system to monitor internal controls post April 12, 2021.</i>
17.	Grassroots Grants & Landscape Priority Fund update

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	<p>The General Manager gave an overview of Grassroots Grants applications received, which are now being assessed by the Grassroots Grants Assessment Panel.</p> <p>The Board is awaiting Ministerial decision on the success of the two Stage 2 bids submitted for the Landscape Priority Fund.</p>
18.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p><i>The Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
19.	<p>Action List</p> <p>Meetings with Andrew Biele and committee chairs – in hand</p> <p>Drought Policy – ongoing</p> <p>Volunteer Event – Jason Size and Jim Godden will be attending Riverland event, and Di Davidson and Roger Wickes will be attending the Murraylands event</p> <p>All other actions have been completed.</p> <p>ACTION: H Norman to check that Mid Murray Landcare volunteers and Murray Plains Farmers Groups are included on the invitation list to volunteer event.</p>
20.	<p>Member's Contributions</p> <p>Jim Godden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the team members for the presentations that were given today, excellent to hear about the work that is being undertaken. <p>Andrew Biele:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rumour has it that rabbits are going to be abundant. • Concern that ARTC are not willing to allow control work on their rail line without ARTC personnel present, making work logistically difficult. Diminishing funding for rail line control work is similar to where funding decreased dramatically for Crown Land pest control many years go. <p>Di Davidson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Dogs should not be excluded as a feral pest on any presentation/media <p>Future Board meetings</p> <p>Dangalli Dam Removal</p> <p>May – possible WAC members, Lameroo staff, Media and Comms, Potential financial partners, Box Flat Wild Dog coordinating committee.</p>
21.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Nil</p>
Presentation / Discussion - 2pm	
22.	<p>Director Development and Environmental Services (Mid Murray Council) - Jake McVicar</p> <p>Mid Murray Council has recently endorsed its new strategic plan and one of the key stakeholders that Council needs to strengthen its relationship is the Landscape Board.</p> <p><u>Four largest issues:</u></p> <p><u>Riverbank Slumping</u> – problem in southern areas, a scenic route closed for nearly 10 years due to this. Shackowners not able to use public reserve. Has been downgraded from a state issue to a local issue for just 3 councils.</p> <p><u>Water and Water Security</u> – Mannum Waters has created a financial burden to cover evaporation from the Marina, cost to council \$1.1m to purchase permanent water to resolve. Council are keen to hear any strategies to manage this, as they are currently competing</p>

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	<p>against ratepayers by purchasing water on the temporary market. Tied in with this is not being able to use re-use water from Effluent ponds</p> <p><u>Soil drift in the agricultural area</u> – Currently grading sand drift from roads annually but council looking at getting involved at ways to prevent the problem before it becomes an issue and creates expense for the council.</p> <p><u>Corellas</u> – Mid Murray council spend \$15,000 a year on control, which is really just relocating the problem. Corellas are another item that needs a collaborative approach with Councils, DEW and Landscape SA and for someone to own/manage the problem.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage caused to roadsides, off road areas and crown and private land by illegal 4WD and motor bike riding. • SA Water Effluent Ponds on floodplain • Feral Cats <p>These issues require collaboration with multiple organisations for effective solutions.</p> <p>An invitation was extended to Jake McVicar to attend the Mallee and Coorong Local Government meeting in July.</p>
	<p>Next meeting details</p> <p>Next meeting: May 27th at 10am, at Southern Mallee Council Chambers, Lameroo</p> <p>Board Performance Workshop: May 20th 2021 8.30am – 12.30pm at Berri MRLB offices</p> <p>Grassroots Grants Assessment Panel: May 25th at Berri MRLB offices</p>
	The meeting closed at 3pm

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