A resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment and economy



Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Board Meeting #42

Minutes

Date:	26 August 2025					
Start Time:	10:04 am	Finish Time:	3:56 pm			
Location:	Clare 53 Stradbrooke Road, Stanley Flat	Room:	Clare Racecourse			
Present:						
Board members	Geoff White (<i>Chair</i>), Peter Angus, Sue Scarman, Holly Cowan, Leo Redden and Nicki Robins					
Staff	Rebecca Howard (Acting General Manager), Paul O'Leary (Landscape Operations and Compliance Manager), Libby Duncan (Projects Planning and Reporting Manager), Michelle Simes (Acting Manager, Business and Planning) and Paige Boylan (Executive Assistant/Officer; minute recorder)					
Guests	Ziggy Gelman and Mark Eigenraan (<i>IDEEA Group</i>), Angela Ruddenklau (<i>PIRSA</i>), Antony Lockyer and Alecia Wright (<i>Electranet</i>)					
Apologies	Erika Lawley (Community Board Member)					

Time	Meeting Standing Items	Туре	Action	Lead	Page No		
1.1	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies The Chair opened the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (NYLB) meeting at 10:04 am, welcoming members and NYLB staff, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land. The Chair nominated N Robins for providing a Welcome to Country at the next meeting. Community Board Member, E Lawley is an apology for this meeting.						
1.2	Additional agenda items – refer to Item 7 for the additional agenda items Hart Field Day Governor's Multi-Cultural Award On Farm Carbon Storage Grants						
1.3	Conflict of interest disclosures The Chair declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 8.1 - Northern Transmission Project; Electranet.						
1.4	Confirmation of minutes The minutes from board meeting number 41 held on 18 June 2025, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. L Redden / P Angus CARRIED / AIF						
1.5	Confirmation of actions The Action Register was reviewed and updated.						



2 Presentation

2.1 **PIRSA update** (A Ruddenklau)

PIRSA operations are currently focussed on drought and algal bloom issues.

Due to the drought, an extension on electronic tags was announced from the previous date of June 2025 to June 2026. It will be compulsory for electronic tags to be used in January 2027.

There is a drought support package totalling \$73 million with various initiatives available. Some statistics include:

- 2,000 farmers accessed 16,000 tonnes of hay from the fodder transport scheme
- Technical advisory services have offered to aid business planning and resilience building beyond the immediate fodder support
- Financial and welfare supports distributed; 6,000 students were assisted to attend camps/excursions. 550+ are recipients of the Rural Support Relief Fund and 96 community events held funded by various grant schemes
- Emphasising the fact that the visual green of the season doesn't mean that the drought impacts are over in regional areas

Algal bloom news:

- Grant support package is offering up to \$10,000 for small businesses being impacted
- \$100,000 toward fisheries licences due to the marine algal blooms; some program criteria revised after feedback and licence fees waived for aquaculture/fishing licences in the next quarter
- Forums being held with affected stakeholders to meet the need for more support
- There are plans to establish a local laboratory for marine toxin testing to speed up responses. Samples are currently being sent to New Zealand
- Ongoing monitoring and marine impact assessment is occurring with a dedicated website for public updates.

2.2 Clare Valley Deer Control

P O'Leary provided an update of the recent aerial deer control program which recently occurred in the Clare Valley Region.

- 623 deer culled over an 11 day program with over 38 flying hours with good results, considering the weather conditions
- Extensive consultation with landholder and stakeholders
- NYLB released media articles and notified councils
- High focus on safety standards and engaged expert shooters who met the requirements to complete the plan
- Expect to bridge gaps in future, bringing on new landholders
- Additional funding secured for further aerial and ground-based operations
- Reducing deer will require several years of sustained effort, with ground surveillance to supplement aerial campaigns as numbers drop.

3 Items for Decision

3.1 SA wild dog trapper program – 2025-26 report and funding request

PIRSA requested continued funding of \$18,750 from NYLB to contribute to the SA Wild Dog Trapper Program in 2025-26.

A report has been received covering the control work that has been completed in 2024-25, including:

- Barrier fence extension of 240km is underway and expected to greatly aid dog and pest management
- Ongoing upgrades and repairs to the historic fence



- Tracking data indicates reduced wild dog activity in targeted areas, attributed to consistent trapping and surveillance
- Discussions about opportunities for skill-building and on-ground involvement for farmers.

Action

• P O'Leary to email Biosecurity SA and enquire as to how many times the committee meet and confirm that S Scarman is the representative to attend scheduled meetings.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- note the report from PIRSA on the 2024-25 SA Wild Dog Trapper Program
- approve a financial contribution of \$18,750 to the 2025-26 SA Wild Dog Trapper Program
- authorise the Presiding Member or delegate to respond to the funding request

S Scarman / P Angus **CARRIED / AIF**

3.2 **Draft meeting schedule for 2026**

The meeting dates and locations for the 2026 calendar year have been finalised. It was agreed meetings will alternate between Clare and Gawler.

Action

Meeting date changes:

- 19 November meeting amended to 5 and 6 November 2025 in Yorke Peninsula, including a visit to the Marna Banggara project area and Wild Dog Hill Road property
- Confirmed there will be a December 2025 meeting in the Barossa /12/25
- Governance and Finance Committee meeting date change from 14 January 2026 to 4 February 2026
- 18 March 2026 meeting to be combined with Green Adelaide in the Barossa instead of Clare

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- endorse the proposed meeting schedule for general board meetings and board advisory committee meetings (Governance & Finance and Five Nations Landscape) for the 2026 calendar year
- note the approved 2026 meeting schedule will be made available on the Board's website.

S Scarman / H Cowan CARRIED AIF

3.3 **Committee recommendations – Governance and Finance**

P Angus provided an update from the Governance and Finance meeting held on 23 July 2025, including but not limited to, the new budget policy endorsed by the committee to streamline budget flexibility within approved priorities, and explain carryover requirements.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

 note and approve the recommendations of the Governance and Finance Committee Meeting held on 23 July 2025.

S Scarman / P Angus CARRIED / AIF

3.4 **Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan – endorsement and letter of advice**This Plan has been a process over time and re-written to include water quality, how water

This Plan has been a process over time and re-written to include water quality, how water flows and other information. The Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) are pleased with the



content. Staff member, J Munro, reviewed the plan for the NYLB to endorse as a part of the approval process to meet legislative requirements.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- endorse the Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan; and
- approve the draft letter of advice to be sent to the Stormwater Management Authority.

H Cowan / N Robins CARRIED / AIF

3.5 New water affecting activities best practice operation procedure agreement

The Best Practice Operating Procedure (BPOP) is an agreement about undertaking works or activities in watercourses within the Northern and Yorke region. There are now updated and new existing BPOP agreements in place with a number of local councils and state government agencies.

New BPOP agreement will be established with the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council, District Council of Mount Remarkable and the Adelaide Plains Council.

Action

• R Howard to confirm if the BPOP is for a two or three year duration

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- note the content of this briefing and attachment
- approve the commencement of a Water Affecting Activities Best Practice Operating Procedures agreement as detailed in this briefing.

S Scarman / H Cowan CARRIED / AIF

4 Items for Noting

4.1 Independent community insurance update

28 groups have been awarded insurance cover for the 2025-26 financial year under the South Australian government's insurers. Specified activities to be undertaken by each group have been assessed to ensure there is alignment to the NYLB's strategic plan priorities and objectives.

It was noted there has been less recruitment of young volunteers, with the NYLB working on ways to involve youth in the future. S Scarman suggested youth engaged in school projects as a way of encouraging them to get involved in community events on their own behalf. H Cowan would like more information about the community group insurance scheme to share with others when the opportunity arises.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

 note the independent community groups that have been provided with insurance coverage while undertaking board related activities during the 2025-26 financial year

4.2 Nature Education Program; summary

Established in 2022, the nature education program continues to build strong links between education, culture and environmental action. Proposed improvements will be considered by the Regional Leadership Team for 2025-26.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

note the summary of the Nature Education program



4.3 **Draft 2024-25 Financial Statements**

The interim set of draft financial statements were lodged with Auditor General's office on 11 August 2025.

A considerable amount of analytical work has been completed to date, however an internal audit of the statements will continue prior to submission of the final statements to audit later in the calendar year.. The audited version of the statements will be included in the NYLB annual report and published on the NYLB website.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- notes and receives the draft 2024-25 statements submitted to the Auditor-General
- notes the internal audit process currently occurring
- acknowledges that it has the opportunity to make required changes to the interim set of 2024-25 financial statements
- once audited financial statements are received, authorises the Presiding Member,
 General Manager and/or delegate to sign and forward to AuditSA.

4.4 Appointment of responsible officers

The previous Responsible Officers, L Duncan and D Hughes, were thanked for their efforts.. Newly appointed representatives, A O'Shea Coulter and J Peet, have been accepted for a two-year term. They will be required to attend training to fulfil the role. A secure dedicated email address is available for staff and the public to use.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

- note the two-year term appointment of Responsible Officers (Mr John Peet and Ms Amy O'Shea-Coulter) pursuant to section 12(1) of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 and the South Australian Public Sector Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- note that mandatory training will be completed by designated Responsible Officers as soon as possible
- note that there is a dedicated email address to receive Public Interest Disclosure submissions and associated procedures are published on the Board's website for the public to access.

4.5 **Natural Resource Centre Project Proposal**

The General Manager has approved the Gawler Environment Natural Resource Centre (NRC) funding to restore the grasslands in Dead Man's Pass in conjunction with the Gawler Environment and Heritage Association (GEHA).

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

 note the 2025-26 funding grant approved by the General Manager to support the Gawler Environment Centre Natural Resource Centre (NRC).

Items 4.1 to 4.5

S Scarman / H Cowan CARRIED / AIF



5 Standing Reports for Noting (to be discussed only if required)

5.1 **Presiding Member**

The Chair, G White, provided an update on engagements:

- Attended the meeting in Angaston for the Water Planning Steering Committee public consultation
- Joined the Five Nations Landscape Committee meeting remotely
- Attended the Chairs Forum on 21 August predominately an administrative meeting, but interesting other Chair's challenges are similar, being mostly water and water management for most of the boards. Each board is working in different ways to meet their Strategic Plan objectives.
- Attended the round table as part of the country cabinet events in Clare on 25 August. One of
 the main topics was regarding water in the Clare region; salty groundwater, lack of surface
 water and limitations in sourcing via the SA Water pipeline. The Clare grape growers are looking
 at a climatic independent source of water.

5.2 **Board Members**

Nil to report

5.3 **Communications and Engagement**

Reviewed

5.4 **Correspondence**

Noted

5.5 **Board Forward Planner**

Reviewed

5.6 **Board Calendar of Events**

- Member attending the Hart Field Day Eve Dinner
- Members attending the Paskeville Field days

5.7 **RLT Report**

Reviewed and acknowledged the achievements and performance of the NYLB staff.

6 In-Camera minute approval

6.1 At 12:40pm the meeting was moved to '*In*-Camera' due to the information the disclosure (J) of which:

(i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official

(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest; (Ref :Section 23 (5) LSA Act)

G White / H Cowan CARRIED

Motion

 At 12:41pm the meeting moved out of 'In-Camera and back to the main meeting where the main board meeting continued.

S Scarman / H Cowan CARRIED

7 Other items

7.1 **Hart Field Day 16/9/25**

- Hart Eve Dinner 15/9/25 @ 6:30pm at the Clare Oval Precinct; P Angus to attend.
- The board are going to have a stall at the Hart Field Day, and support Hart with trial demonstration sites.

Governor's Multi-cultural Award

- S Scarman received a notice from the Governor-General advising that the Multi-cultural Awards were open for nominations.
- Discussion ensued on the board's consideration and the involvement required of staff.
- The award may be more appropriate for Landscape SA, rather than the board, with nominations due by 28 September 2025.



Action:

R Howard to review and respond

On-farm Carbon Storage grants

The agriculture sector is:

- adopting practices to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change.
- supporting carbon and biodiversity incentives and implement industry sustainability frameworks.
- supporting farmers to drive agricultural growth, while adopting sustainable natural resource management practices that protect and conserve natural capital and biodiversity.

Funds are available over two years for revegetation and three years for improved grazing management practices.

Motion

That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:

• support the release of the on farm carbon storage grant round.

H Cowan / S Scarman CARRIED / AIF

Lunch - 12:50

8 Presentation

8.1 **Northern Transmission Project; Electranet**

Electranet provided a project update on the planning and development of the new power connection between the Mid North of South Australia. The presentation included an overview of the potential transmission line route options.

8.2 **IDEEA Group**

Representatives from the IDEEA Group presented an overview on the natural capital approach; explaining what it is, how to implement, the opportunities and challenges faced, followed by the implementation and first steps. Board members were encouraged to provide input and share their perspectives to help build a natural capital roadmap for the Northern and Yorke region.

9 Meeting Closure

- 9.1 Invitations for next meeting
 - T Flaherty invited to attend the September board meeting
- 9.2 Next meeting

#43 17 September 2025 in Clare

9.3 Meeting closed at 3:56pm

Signed

Geoff White

Presiding Member