

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Board Meeting number 45

Minutes

Date:	3 December 2025		
Start time:	1:08pm	Finish time:	5:17pm
Location:	Barossa Regional University Campus; Chateau building 30/38 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa	Room:	Meeting Room 4
Present:			
Board members:	Geoff White (<i>Chair</i>), Peter Angus, Sue Scarman, Holly Cowan [<i>Teams</i>], Nicki Robins, Erika Lawley and Leo Redden		
Staff:	Tony Fox (<i>General Manager</i>), Rebecca Howard (<i>Manager, Business and Planning</i>), Libby Duncan (<i>Projects Planning and Reporting Manager</i>), Samantha Johnson (<i>Manager, Communications and Engagement</i>), Danielle Bone (<i>Business and Finance Services Coordinator</i>), Andrew Case (<i>First Nations Partnership Coordinator</i>), Josh Strangways (<i>Caring for Country Officer</i>), and Paige Boylan (<i>Executive Assistant/Officer; minute taker</i>)		
Guests:	Grant Pelton (<i>Deputy Coordinator, Algal Bloom Response</i>). Angela Ruddenklau (<i>PIRSA</i>), Patricia Waria-Read (<i>Chair of Five Nations Landscape Committee</i>)		
Public gallery	one		
Item	1 Meeting Standing Items		
1.1	<p>Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies</p> <p>The Chair opened the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (NYLB) meeting at 1:08pm, welcoming members, NYLB staff, gallery visitor, and guest Aunty Pat Waria-Read.</p> <p>P Waria-Read welcomed the Board to country and offered her best wishes for a constructive meeting and an enjoyable time on Ngadjuri Country.</p>		
1.2	<p>Additional agenda items</p> <p>Nil</p>		
1.3	<p>Conflict of interest disclosures</p> <p>Nil</p>		
1.4	<p>Confirmation of minutes</p> <p>The minutes from board meeting number 44 held on 6 November 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P Angus : L Redden: CARRIED / AIF</p>		
1.5	<p>Confirmation of actions</p> <p>The Action Register was reviewed and updated</p>		
2 Items for Decision			
2.1	<p>Committee Recommendations: Five Nations Landscape Committee</p> <p>The Minutes from the 14 November 2025 meeting and the updated Terms of Reference will be supplied at the next board meeting in February 2026.</p>		

	<p>Motion That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note and approve the recommendations of the Five Nations Landscape Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2025 <p style="text-align: right;">Note: S Scarman : L Redden: CARRIED / AIF</p>
2.2	<p>Five Nations Landscape Committee update Chair, P Waria-Read and A Case provided an overview of the year’s Five Nations Landscape Committee meeting achievements for 2025.</p> <p>P Waria-Read will attend future board meetings to highlight key points to The Board and address current and future projects.</p>
2.3	<p>Financial Analysis (YTD October 2025) D Bone summarised the previous months financial analysis with no significant financial or governance risks identified.</p> <p>Motion That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board receive and endorse the YTD October 2025 Financial Analysis</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E Lawley : N Robins: CARRIED / AIF</p>
2.4	<p>Application of CPI: land and water levies Annual application of CPI to land and water levies was discussed with a recommended 2.4% increase in line with other boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about inequities between water levy rates in different areas, especially for Clare Valley growers Land levy structure means expanding populations does not equate to an increase in levy. Consensus to explore options for equalizing water levies. Discussions around the legislative and practical challenges in restructuring levies, with a motion to apply CPI at this time. <p>Action Investigate ways of equalising the water levies across prescribed water resource (PWA) areas.</p> <p>Motion That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the setting of the Landscape Levy and Water Levies for the 2026-2027 year including application of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). <p style="text-align: right;">S Scarman : P Angus CARRIED / AIF</p>
2.5	<p>Climate Ready Government The Climate Ready Government initiative is underway with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) being identified as the lead agency across the public sector.</p> <p>The Landscape boards working group has been established to manage climate related risks and opportunities to ultimately reduce emissions.</p> <p>Motion That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the requirement to meet the obligations of the Climate Ready Government Initiative outlined in Premier and Cabinet Circular 007; and Approve the NYLB Climate Ready Government Policy for implementation <p style="text-align: right;">E Lawley : H Cowan : CARRIED / AIF</p>

2.6	<p>Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Best Practice Operation Procedure (BPOP) Agreement</p> <p>R Howard addressed the Best Practice Operation Procedure (BPOP) with Light Regional Council, who have worked with the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board's Water Officer on the renewal of this BPOP.</p> <p>Motion</p> <p><i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note the content of this briefing and attachments; and</i> • <i>Approve the commencement of a Water Affecting Activities Best Practice Operating Procedures agreement for the Light Regional Council</i> <p style="text-align: right;">P Angus : E Lawley: CARRIED / AIF</p>
2.7	<p>Livestock Water Quality Project</p> <p>The Livestock water quality project with SARDI supports innovation in water monitoring and livestock welfare. Some of the funds have been allocated for technical trials including Hydra smart and camera monitoring.</p> <p>The NYLB will be acknowledged as a project partner on media and materials created.</p> <p>Motion</p> <p><i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approve the allocation of \$53,842 from the NYLB levy funds in 2025-26 and \$53,842 from the NYLB levy funds in 2026-27 to grant SARDI to support a Livestock Water Quality project to commence in December 2025 and conclude June 2028.</i> <p style="text-align: right;">P Angus : E Lawley: CARRIED / AIF</p>
3 Deputations and Presentations	
3.1	<p>Algal Bloom response</p> <p>G Pelton presented a detailed scientific update on the Algal Bloom response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a reduction in the cell counts observed, but impacts on marine life and boating continue • Harmful algae is present in low numbers and can bloom in optimal conditions. They swim and rapidly reproduce with the impact of fish being suffocated • Causes; extra nutrients from 2022-23 river Murray flood; a cold water upwelling in summer 2023-24 (largest in decades) and a marine heatwave – water 2.5% warmer than normal • Testing and monitoring is occurring along 92 coastal and 37 offshore sites across the state, with weekly testing across metropolitan Adelaide, the Coorong, plus routine monitoring across aquaculture production areas
3.2	<p>PIRSA update</p> <p>PIRSA update delivered by A Ruddenklau with some key points:</p> <p>Algal Bloom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the previous presentation, PIRSA are very involved in Algal Bloom management. Fishing restrictions have been introduced (until June 2026 at this stage), due to the severe decline in fish stocks (calamari, garfish and whiting), which is having an impact on tourism. <p>Varroa mite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are encouraged to register their hives, so detection of the mite can be traced. To avoid spread, the hives need to be kept still, which bee keepers are finding problematic <p>Bird flu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a rapid response with a state-of-the-art mobile lab, which travels to where the unwell birds are detected. Diagnosis is occurring quicker. <p>Crop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rain in October, early November have improved grain production and are on par with the five year state average • Hay estimates have risen due to early cuts • The increase of mice numbers has been predicted <p>Lameroo was awarded the Agricultural Town of the Year Award</p>

4 Items to note	
4.1	<p>Unauthorised dam compliance</p> <p>The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board are running an education campaign and triage approach to addressing unauthorised/illegal dams and working with Landholders on voluntary compliance. An educational video is presently being finalised and will be provided to the Board to review.</p> <p>Motion <i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>progress to date, to identify and prioritise cases for compliance actions, and</i> • <i>undertake increased education and communication programs in relation to unauthorised dams in the Northern and Yorke Landscape Region.</i>
4.2	<p>Update to DEW Annual Report</p> <p>The Auditor-General's office has provided a supplementary report regarding the Department for Environment and Water audit findings. No adverse findings for the Board, with the financial statements Independent Audit Report provided in time for inclusion in the Board Annual Report.</p> <p>Noting</p>
4.3	<p>Landscape Plan</p> <p>New Plan structure for The Board's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term direction, including 2050 vision; Strategic Objectives, • Medium-term, five-year plan; Priorities with Focus Areas, and • Annual business plan; Program and projects; annual targets <p>The Board discussed the inclusion of corporate performance as a way to demonstrate a commitment to good governance and organisational performance.</p> <p>Noting</p>
4.4	<p>SA Government Caretaker Period Conventions</p> <p>The Board's responsibilities adhering to the State Government's Caretaker Conventions ahead of the March 2026 election and for NYLB to avoid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making major policy decisions • Entering into major contracts, projects or undertakings <p>Motion <i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Board's responsibilities in adhering to the State Government's Caretaker Conventions ahead of the March 2026 election.</i>
4.5	<p>Northern and Yorke Landscape Board - Annual report</p> <p>The final (submitted) version of the NYLB 2024-25 Annual Report was provided for noting.</p> <p>Motion <i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note the completed Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Annual Report for 2024-2025</i> <i>items 4.1-4.5</i> <p style="text-align: right;">S Scarman : E Lawley: CARRIED / AIF</p>
5.1	<p>Presiding Member</p> <p>Tabled</p>
5.2	<p>Board Members:</p> <p>Tabled</p>
5.3	<p>Communications and Engagement</p> <p>Tabled</p>
5.4	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Tabled</p>
5.5	<p>Board Forward Planner - Reviewed</p>

6 Board In Camera

6.1	<p>At 4:45pm the meeting was moved to 'In-Camera' due to the information the disclosure (J) of which:</p> <p>(i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official</p> <p>(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest; (Ref :Section 23 (5) LSA Act)</p> <p>P Angus : L Redden : CARRIED</p> <p>It was noted staff: T Fox, R Howard, L Duncan, D Bone, and P Boylan remained in the room</p> <p>Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At 5:15pm the meeting moved out of 'In-Camera and back to the main meeting for the board meeting to continue <p>G White : P Angus : CARRIED</p>
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7 Other Items

Nil

8 Meeting Closure

8.1	Invitations for next meeting: presentations To be confirmed
8.2	Next meeting #46 18 February 2026 - Gawler
8.3	Meeting closed at 5:17pm The presiding member thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Confirmed on 18 February 2026, as a true and correct record

Peter Angus

Peter Angus (Feb 20, 2026 16:48:52 GMT+10.5)

Endorsed

Peter Angus

Deputy Chair

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Final Audit Report

2026-02-20

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