LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTHERN AND YORKE

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

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Board Meeting number 48

Minutes

Date	Wednesday, 20 May 2026		
Start time	10:02 am	**Finish time**	3:22 pm
Location	Gawler Office – 4 Seventh Street, Gawler	**Room**	River Room
Present	Board: Geoff White (*Chair*), Peter Angus, Erika Lawley, Sue Scarman, Leo Redden and Nicki Robins		
	Staff: Tony Fox (*General Manager)*, Rebecca Howard *(Manager, Business and Planning)*, Paul O'Leary *(Landscape Operations and Compliance Manager)*, Derek Sandow *(Marna Banggara Project Manager)*, Libby Duncan *(Projects Planning and Reporting Manager)*, Danielle Bone (*Business and Finance Coordinator)*, Jessica Cavallo and Tim Howard for item 2.1, Joshua Strangways, Sarah Johnson and Samantha Johnson for item 3.12 and Michelle Simes *(minute recorder*)		
Apology	Holly Cowan		
Guests	Nick Secomb (Director Invasive Species and Plants, PIRSA), Annelise Wiebkin (Senior Biosecurity Officer, PIRSA) [via Microsoft Teams]		
Public Gallery	Nil		

Item	**1 Standing meeting items**
1.1	**Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies** G White declared the board meeting open at 10:02 am, welcomed all present and acknowledged the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the land, banks of the Para River, on which the meeting was taking place. An apology was noted from H Cowan.
1.2	**Agenda check** No additional items for the agenda.
1.3	**Conflict of interest – new disclosures** No new disclosures.
1.4	**Acceptance of previous minutes** The minutes from board meeting number 46 held on 18 February 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. N Robins / S Scarman: ***CARRIED / AIF***
1.5	**Action register** The Action Register was reviewed and updated: • 3.2 6/11/2025 – In progress: Wild Dog Hill Road property proposal. Two quotes for demolition work have been received. Need to relocate barn owls and remove bees from structure. Then can proceed with demolition. • 3.2 20/02/2025 – On hold: Water levy reform. Discussing at a statewide level, resource intensive.
10:09 am - P Angus joined the meeting	
3.4	**Green Adelaide joint meeting – results** A joint planning meeting was held with board members and staff of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and Green Adelaide on 26 March 2026. Information was shared on ways to improve work already happening, initiation of new concepts and ideas for collaboration (e.g. Green

	Adelaide have developed a Restoration Guide which could be implemented in the Northern and Yorke region; enhancing the service level agreement that exists to outline the accountability of cross-boundary services). A visit to the Barossa Bushgardens (i.e. natural resource centre) highlighted one area that can be strengthened and improved. Specialised skillsets (e.g. urban planning) that exist in Green Adelaide and resourcing for development planning were topics of conversation. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Note the results of the joint planning meeting between Green Adelaide and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.*** E Lawley / L Redden: ***CARRIED / AIF***
2 Deputations and presentations	
2.1	**PIRSA: Review of the SA Goat Policy** *10:23 am Jessica Cavallo and Tim Howard joined the meeting* Nick Secomb (Director Invasive Species and Plants, PIRSA) and Annelise Wiebkin (Senior Biosecurity Officer, PIRSA) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams and introduced themselves to the Board. A presentation was given on managing goats in the pastoral zone for landscape boards. Nick highlighted that there has not been a significant impact in the reduction of feral goat population (300,000-400,000 goats in South Australia – majority exist south of dog fence in pastoral zone). Current policy settings aren't working signalling a need for change. A proposed model (comprising four scenarios) for implementation over ten years was discussed. PIRSA are seeking feedback on the scenario modelling as presented. Indicative timelines were mentioned, which include the formation of a stakeholder review group and public consultation for two months. PIRSA are planning to finalise the policy and seek ministerial approval in June 2027. **Action:** • M Simes to provide summary of discussion to board member to consider. • Consolidated feedback to be provided to PIRSA by 3 June 2026 regarding the preferred model and reasons why.
2.2	**Marna Banggara Project update** D Sandow, Marna Banggara Project Manager, presented an update on the Marna Banggara Project. The Board noted the progress of the Marna Banggara Project. The presentation will be shared with board members. Key points of the presentation were: • 20-year journey • Governance and advocacy structure (three parts) – 1-executive steering committee (membership), 2-project management group (project team, translocation team, communications and engagement team) and 3-advisory group (conservation, translocations, community reference group) • 'Shovel ready' project listing shown (e.g. Marna Banggara school education web page) • Project funding secured until 2028 • Prospectus has been developed: Rewilding for a better future. Commenced initial concept in 2024. To be released in conjunction with 10-year Marna Banggara Strategic Plan (2026-2035) • Prospectus launch will be held on 25 June 2026, 5-7pm, Adelaide Zoo (all board members have been invited). The aim is to attract potential new partners and celebration project achievements.

	Action: • D Sandow to provide board members with a copy of the presentation and list of 'shovel ready' projects. • P Helbig to circulate an expression of interest to board members presenting an opportunity to join the Marna Banggara executive steering committee.
3. Items for decision	
3.1	**Landscape Plan 2026-31 – public consultation results** Public consultation for the draft 2026-31 Landscape Plan has now closed. Constructive feedback has been received from many partner organisations. Staff were also given the opportunity to provide comment. Board members identified the following: • Environmental health focus and pests & agriculture to be incorporated • The Plan strengthens the Board's position for funding opportunities A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan is currently being developed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan. The final version of the Plan will be presented at the June 2026 board meeting for approval. Then the review summary, consultation report and final Plan will be provided to the Minister. **Action:** • Board members to provide R Howard with any further changes to the Plan that are required as soon as possible. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Consider the feedback received on the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Draft Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031.*** E Lawley / P Angus: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.2	**Draft 20-year Aspirational Plan** The Board received a draft version of the 2026-2046 Aspirational Plan developed by the SA Futures Team. This vision for the future has been based on feedback received from community and stakeholder planning sessions. It is envisaged that information will be grouped into five-year periods and made available on the Board's website. **Action:** • R Howard to forward an editable version of the draft 20-year Aspirational Plan to board members to provide comment by 12 June 2026. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Consider the draft 20-year aspirational plan 2026-2046 as developed by the SA Futures Team and provide feedback by 12 June 2026.*** P Angus / S Scarman: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.3	**Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27** The 2026-27 budget is currently a work in progress. A final version will be presented at the June 2026 board meeting. Imminent cost pressures were flagged for next year. It was agreed that a 5% overspend is acceptable and will be reflected in the 2026-27 budget. A potential project idea for the Board was raised regarding assessing of nature repair grants on behalf of external funding providers. Do we have a role to be the conduit for these grants? This

	could become an extension of the Carbon Farming Pilot Program. L Duncan advised that there are plans for the Board to take on an advisory role and incentivise landholders in the next phases of the project. The Chair commended the dedicated work of project and reporting staff acknowledging the complexities involved. **Action:** • R Howard to forward a copy of the 2026-27 budget to board members to provide feedback by 12 June 2026.
12:05 pm – The meeting adjourned for lunch	
12:35 pm – The meeting resumed	
3.5	**Financial Analysis (YTD April 2026)** The Finance and Business Coordinator gave a presentation of financial performance year-to-date April 2026. The following items were highlighted: • $195k deficit currently – forecasting a $782k deficit at end of the financial year (less than budget due to external projects, factoring in carryover expenditure to next year) • Income analysis for non-project information (new report) – water levy income behind on current and prior year collections (i.e. $47k 2024-25, $30k 2025-26); now receiving reports to show what's outstanding • Regional Delivery Partner externally funded projects are on track • Levy funded expenditure – predicting an overspend of $300k • Equity is in a strong position • Current risk is the economic volatility we are experiencing and is being accounted for in business operations. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Receive and endorse the YTD April 2026 Financial Analysis.*** S Scarman / E Lawley: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.6	**Weed control service panel contract extensions** The Landscape Operations Team have recently conducted performance reviews on the panel of weed control service contractors. Based on a result of satisfactory performance, a contract extension letter has been issued to extend the contracts for 17 suppliers. 14 contract extensions have been executed, 3 suppliers have not yet responded. The new contract expiry dates will be 30 April 2028. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Note the weed control supplier performance review process that has recently been undertaken*** • ***Ratify the contract extension letters signed by the General Manager for re-engagement of 17 weed control suppliers for an additional two-year period.*** S Scarman / L Redden: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.7	**Consolidation of funding agreements** An internal audit has been conducted and the findings have resulted in a need for the Board Chair to counter sign four executed funding deeds. This reflects a gap in our internal controls. To address this, we will ensure in future that board approval is obtained before signing any funding deeds where the total value exceeds the General Manager's delegated contract execution authority.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
Note the internal audit of funding deeds undertaken
Approve a counter signature by the Board Chair on four executed funding deeds
Endorse that the delegated authority for the General Manager be increased upon request to allow for the signing of funding deeds as required. P Angus / E Lawley: CARRIED / AIF </td></tr>
<tr><td>3.8</td><td>Strategic risk register update
An updated Strategic Risk Register was presented for review to include additional controls around future financial risks.

The “Services as defined within the Landscape and Business Plans are not delivered” risk has been updated to a medium risk, with the following additional controls:
Medium to long term (3 to 5 year) financial forecasting will accompany the annual budget approval process, forecasting potential impacts to equity and service levels.
- To reflect cost of inflation and cost of living increases
Cost saving strategies will be documented and applied should the equity position of the Board be estimated at $3m or less.
- The areas of strategic asset planning and long-term ownership, management of leases and vehicle analysis will be targeted to determine if any cost savings can be realised.
No new risks were identified by board members.

Action
R Howard to send invite to board members to attend an artificial intelligence training session, to be facilitated by Dr Nici Sweaney (Ethical AI Strategist & Founder), on the morning of 10 or 17 June 2026. N Robins is unable to attend and will be forwarded a copy of the recording if available.
Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
Endorse the Strategic Risk Register, including the new controls applied. N Robins / L Redden: CARRIED / AIF </td></tr>
<tr><td>3.9</td><td>Managing conflicts of interest
An information update regarding identifying and managing conflicts of interest was provided to the Board. Disclosure of conflicts of interest is an ongoing obligation and the duty of board members to decide if they have a conflict of interest.

Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
Note the requirements and implications of the conflict of interest provision of the Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995
Endorse that board members understand their obligations under, and will comply with, the Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Policy and Procedure for Landscape Boards. E Lawley / L Redden: CARRIED / AIF </td></tr>
<tr><td>3.10</td><td>Water levy rates 2026-27
Water levy rates are set to increase in 2026-27 by 2.4%. A gazettal notice will be prepared for the Minister.

Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</td></tr>
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	• ***Approve water levies for the 2026-2027 year.*** N Robins / P Angus: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.11	**Sponsorship request – Nharungga Cultural Day** A request for ongoing sponsorship of the Nharungga Cultural Day has been received from the Yorke Peninsula Council for the next three years. The annual amount being asked for is $10,000. $5,000 was previously given by the Board over three financial years, ceasing on 30 June 2026. It was acknowledged that this expanding community event is extremely worthwhile and the idea of delivering an interactive workshop at such an event would align with the Board's external funding requirements. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Approve to provide annual funding of $7,500 (over a period of three financial years) towards delivery of the Nharangga Cultural Day, subject to provisions discussed around securing a prominent site location to provide better engagement and partnering opportunities.*** P Angus / S Scarman: ***CARRIED / AIF***
3.12	**First Nations artwork** Joshua Strangways (in person), Sarah Johnson and Samantha Johnson (via Microsoft Teams) joined the meeting to present some visual representation concept ideas (e.g. vehicle wraps, polo shirts, web content) to promote cultural recognition, build relationships and show the Board's commitment to working alongside First Nations people. A procurement process is going to be undertaken to engage an artist to develop a First Nations piece of artwork. It was highlighted that the artwork needs to be culturally appropriate and will help to tell the story of how we engage and deliver partnerships with First Nations. The artist would retain copyright and the Board would need to enter a licence to use the artwork for a five-year period. Next step in the process is to consult with the Five Nations Landscape Committee as agreement is needed from the Five Nations representatives regarding showcasing one nation's artwork. Concerns were raised about symbolism versus action (i.e. combines both a cropped approved generated artwork and accompanies photo of the Board in action). **Action:** • R Howard to factor $10,000 additional funding into the 2026-27 budget. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Support the development of a first nations artwork.*** E Lawley / N Robins: ***CARRIED / AIF*** • ***Approve the procurement process for commissioning a First Nations artwork and a budget of $10,000 as outlined in the briefing.*** S Scarman / P Angus: ***CARRIED / AIF*** • ***Nominate N Robins to chair the First Nations artwork expression of interest assessment panel, which will convene after the quarterly Five Nations Landscape Committee meetings have been held. G White to be proxy. Five First Nations representative to also be in attendance.***
3.13	**Out of session: Marna Banggara Strategic Plan and Prospectus** The Board noted an out of session resolution. Feedback given by the Board during this process has been addressed.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
Ratify the approval of the Marna Banggara Strategic Plan 2026-2035 and Prospectus, and intention to brief and invite the Hon Emily Bourke MLC for the Prospectus Launch 25th June 2026 at Adelaide Zoo. S Scarman / E Lawley: CARRIED / AIF </td></tr>
<tr><td>3.14</td><td>Committee recommendations – Governance and Finance meeting 15 April 2026
The Board noted the:
Governance and Finance Committee met on 15 April 2026 and draft minutes as provided.
Risk conversation was constructive and different scenarios were put forward to assess.
Target date for implementation of the Oracle finance system has been changed from 1 September 2026 to 1 December 2026.
Additional steps to be included in the project grant assessment process.
Motion
That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
Note and approve the recommendations from the Governance and Finance Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2026, which include:
- Receive and endorse the YTD March 2026 financial analysis.
- Note the policy reviews undertaken and approve the suggested changes made to the Freedom of Information Policy, Referrals Management Policy, Work Health and Safety Policy for Landscape Board and Committee Members and Key Management Personnel and Related Parties Policy/Procedure.
- Adopt the Family and Domestic Violence Guideline of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.
- Note summary details of all committed contracts and grants for the third quarter of the 2025-26 financial year reporting period, in accordance with delegated authority.
- Note the gifts and benefits register summary report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- Note the update on the Finance Reform Program.
- Note the potential risks and mitigation options offered for invoicing of the 2026-2027 water levy revenue. S Scarman / P Angus: CARRIED / AIF </td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">4 Items for noting</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.1</td><td>Referrals report
A new report was presented to inform the Board of all referrals that have been received since the end of 2024 until now (e.g. request for comment/feedback on development applications, native vegetation clearance and renewable energy). This report will be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis for noting, where a response has been provided.

The Regional Leadership Team also receive a similar report to assess and determine what will be responded to (i.e. what can we influence). An internal referral working group has been established and meets every fortnight.

It was pointed out that the submissions that the Board have completed relating to windfarm developments have been noted and looked upon favourably by the federal government.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.2</td><td>Annual firearms use report
A record of firearm usage from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026 was presented to the Board and the following was noted:
An additional rifle has been purchased and registered.</td></tr>
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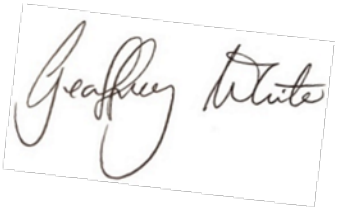
	• Ownership has been transferred from the Department for Environment and Water's Corporate Firearms Unit to the Board.
4.3	**Work Health Safety and Wellbeing (WHSW) Committee – draft minutes 4 March 2026** The Board noted the Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Committee's draft minutes for the meeting held on 4 March 2026. Joshua Strangways is the new chair of the WHSW Committee.
4.4	**Marna Banggara prospectus launch** Already discussed under item 2.2.
4.5	**Kangaroo Partnership Project update** The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board provided a briefing to update the Board on recent activities of the Kangaroo Partnership Project.
4.6	**Coastal Access Strategy update** The Board noted the update provided on the Coastal Access Strategy. The following items were highlighted: • A workshop is scheduled for 11 June 2026 in Wallaroo with local council Chief Executives and Chairs or Mayors of partner organisations. • After the workshop, the Coastal Access Strategy will be revised and then presented to the Minister in preparation for the implementation phase. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***Note items 4.1 to 4.6.*** G White / E Lawley: ***CARRIED / AIF***
5 Reports for noting	
5.1	**Presiding Member** Nil
5.2	**Board Member** In addition to S Scarman's written report on the Waterwise Field Day, she provided a summary of matters from the last Wild Dog Meeting.
5.3	**Leadership team priorities report** The General Manager and Regional Leadership Team provided their report, outlining the key focus areas from December 2025 to April 2026. Podcasts have been well received in the community. The Board Chair extended his congratulations on behalf of the Board to employee Molly O'Dea for achieving a Doctor of Philosophy academic qualification.
5.4	**Communications** A communication report was reviewed and noted by the Board. Digital footprint graphs look very appealing and appear to indicate a rapid increase in the Board's reach. Social media presence is increasing.
5.5	**Correspondence** The list of correspondence for the last three months was presented to the Board.
5.6	**Board forward planner** The annual calendar of board meeting items was provided to the Board.
5.7	**Board calendar of events** Reviewed and updated. • G White and N Robins are planning to attend the Bats, Owls and Better Vineyards – a sustainable pest management workshop in the Barossa on 28 May 2026. • The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board are holding a catchment community drop-in session on 24 June 2026, 3-6pm. Board members are unable to attend as this event coincides with the next scheduled board meeting.

	• All board members have been invited to attend the Marna Banggara Prospectus Launch on 25 June 2026. • E Lawley will attend the Hart Winter Walk on 21 July 2026.
6 In-camera session	
6.1	**At 2:59 pm 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 / P Angus: ***CARRIED*** It was noted that staff (T Fox, R Howard and M Simes) remained in the room. All other staff left the room. **Motion** ***At 3:16 pm the meeting moved out of 'In-Camera and back to the main meeting where members of the public may be present.*** G White / S Scarman: ***CARRIED***
7 Other items	
7.1	Nil
8 Meeting closure	
8.1	Invitations for next meeting: • Angela Ruddenklau, PIRSA - update • Anita Thomas, Nature Conservancy – shellfish reef constructions Briefings for next meeting: • Algal bloom • Regional Alliance – partner contributions to the Five Nations Landscape Committee
8.2	Next meeting: #49 on 24 June 2026 in Clare
8.3	Meeting closed at 3:22 pm

Confirmed on 24 June 2026, as a true and correct record



Geoffrey White
Presiding Member