

## Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Board Meeting number 46

### Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	18 February 2026		
<b>Start time:</b>	10:06am	<b>Finish time:</b>	3:03pm
<b>Location:</b>	NYLB Gawler office 4/Seventh Street, Gawler South	<b>Room:</b>	River Room
<b>Present:</b>			
<b>Board members:</b>	Peter Angus, ( <i>Chair</i> ), Sue Scarman, Holly Cowan, Nicki Robins, Erika Lawley and Leo Redden		
<b>Staff:</b>	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> ) [ <i>Teams</i> ], Danielle Bone ( <i>Business and Finance Services Coordinator</i> ), Andrew Case ( <i>First Nations Partnerships Coordinator</i> ), Josh Strangways ( <i>Caring for Country Officer</i> ), and Paige Boylan ( <i>Executive Assistant/Officer; minute taker</i> )		
<b>Guests:</b>	Barry Gamble ( <i>World Heritage Consultant</i> ), Angela Ruddenklau ( <i>PIRSA</i> ), Tania Taylor and Eddie Sansbury ( <i>Five Nations Landscape Committee members</i> )		
<b>Apologies</b>	Geoff White		
<b>Item</b>	<b>1 Meeting Standing Items</b>		
1.1	<b>Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies</b> Acknowledgement of Country was delivered, recognising the deep connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country. Apology noted from Geoff White with Deputy Peter Angus, chairing in G White’s absence		
1.2	<b>Additional agenda items</b> Nil		
1.3	<b>Conflict of interest disclosures</b> Nil		
1.4	<b>Confirmation of minutes</b> The minutes from board meeting number 45 held on 3 December 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.  <span style="float: right;">N Robins / E Lawley : <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></span>		
1.5	<b>Confirmation of actions</b> The Action Register was reviewed and updated		
<b>2 Deputations and Presentations</b>			
2.1	<b>Australian Cornish Mining Sites – Barry Gamble</b> B Gamble, UK based World Heritage Consultant joined the meeting via Teams to present on the Burra and Moonta Australian Cornish Mining Sites world heritage bid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia can submit one preliminary assessment per year with Burra and Moonta being selected based on readiness, state endorsement and commonwealth support.</li> <li>• The expected World Heritage Committee timeline is July 2029, with the bid including First Nations values and stories - Ngadjuri in Burra and Narungga at Moonta.</li> <li>• He urged stronger state-level responsibility given Crown land is being advanced for an international nomination while councils/trust carry long-term liabilities.</li> </ul>		

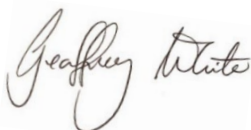
2.2	<p><b>PIRSA update – Angela Ruddenklau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New drought loans scheme offers up to \$250 000 per loan, 10-year term, with a \$200 million funding cap for working capital only (not for refinancing an existing debt).</li> <li>• Three regions have been identified as the most drought affected - Murray Mallee, Riverland and Upper North.</li> <li>• It is encouraged for adjacent zones to register to help inform future eligibility expansions.</li> <li>• 2025/26 crop and pasture report notes rainfall well below average, late seasonal break, and low subsoil moisture causing early changes.</li> <li>• Recreational fishing restrictions eased in December, with catch limits for blue swimmer crabs, southern garfish returning to normal.</li> <li>• Virtual fencing for cattle has been approved under updated animal welfare regulations.</li> <li>• Varroa mite queried, with no new updates available – information to be forwarded as new data becomes available.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p><b>Five Nations Committee Update – Tania Taylor and Eddie Sansbury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC) have all held their Annual General Meetings, with several changes to Board members across the Northern and Yorke region.</li> <li>• Governance Training has been delivered to the Five Nations Landscape Committee (FNLC) with ten members attending.</li> <li>• The first FNLC meeting has been held on Nukunu Country at Port Pirie on 11 and 12 February.</li> <li>• Moving forward, the committee, commits to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve engagement and attendance at FNLC meetings;</li> <li>- Better identify outcomes with a solution-based approach;</li> <li>- Improve interactions across Nation boards;</li> <li>- Continue to build capacity with the committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.4	<p><b>Project Update – Libby Duncan</b></p> <p>Provided an update on ongoing and completed projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water-wise Farming project funded by two sources: SA drought Hub and Landscape Priority Funds.</li> <li>• Complexities of managing dual funding streams, with late contract signing causing a condensed delivery window.</li> <li>• Key activities occurring are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Livestock exclusion fencing;</li> <li>- Dam management;</li> <li>- Water reticulation systems;</li> <li>- Dam evaporation trials;</li> <li>- Financial analysis of various water solutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Field days are planned to showcase technology and engage both local and larger agribusinesses with a priority given to local suppliers.</li> <li>• Carbon Farming Outreach Program extended with a shift to online webinars due to workshop challenges and being very active with the additional sessions.</li> <li>• Now or Never project has multiple feral pest control operations with ground and aerial culls in collaboration with PIRSA. There has been improved public acceptance due to strong landholder relationship building.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Board members to investigate opportunities within their community and put project ideas forward. L Duncan emphasised that her team is available for support to implementation future projects.</p>
<b>3. Items for Decision</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Financial Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking of project expenditure, with some projects under budget due to timing or limited activity. Project underspends offsetting increased operating and administration costs, with wage increases after the enterprise agreement.</li> <li>• Year-to-date grant revenue on track; main variances in Stronger Country and Marna Banggara due to invoicing cycles.</li> <li>• No significant financial or governance risks identified.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>That the Northern &amp; Yorke Landscape Board receive and endorse the YTD January 2026 Financial Analysis</i></b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">S Scarman / L Redden: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
3.2	<p><b>Mid-Year Budget Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NYLB Budget Policy requires that a mid-year budget review be conducted using budget and actuals to 30 December. This review provides an opportunity to re-align unspent funds, identify savings or emerging priorities requiring investment. The mid-year forecast process includes reviewing actual spend to 30 December and forecasting expenditure and revenue for the remaining 6 months, predicting the end of financial year position.</li> <li>The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), over the last few years have enforced changes to the budget process and how funds (levy or external) are considered in the state budget context. DTF have advised carry over of levy funds will not be supported and therefore accurate budgeting, forecasting and expenditure management is required to ensure that levy is utilised within the year it is received.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b><i>The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>note the results of the year-end carryover request; and</i></b></li> <li><b><i>approve the budget adjustments requested as part of the mid-year budget review process.</i></b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">H Cowan / E Lawley: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
3.3	<p><b>Landscape Plan – update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan is near completion with some additional changes to be made regarding formatting and layout, prior to printing.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p><b>Joint meeting with Green Adelaide</b></p> <p>Workshop on collaborating a joint meeting with the Green Adelaide (GA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthen inter-regional partnerships around urban Natural Resource Management (NRM)</li> <li>- water-sensitive urban design</li> <li>- broader biodiversity objectives, and region-wide compliance enforcement.</li> <li>- share expertise for coping with rapid regional growth and development</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The board discussed the ongoing need for more staff expertise and better resource sharing, especially to support regional responses to rapid peri-urban development and ensure sustainable outcomes in new housing and infrastructure. Challenges include integrating sustainable practices into new developments and compensating for council resource limitations.</li> <li>Advocacy continues for updating or expanding urban planning codes to ensure adequate green infrastructure, heat management, and public open space allocations, reflecting latest best practice in sustainable development. Discussion highlighted both the growing pressures created by government priorities (such as rapid housing delivery) and the reality of council under-resourcing for compliance and landscape management.</li> <li>A renewed emphasis was placed on the strategic role of Natural Resource Centres (NRCs) as hubs for regional engagement, skills development, and delivery of landscape board priorities. Ongoing board advocacy seeks to secure long-term program funding and maintain Green Adelaide investment in supporting NRC activities and service delivery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from board members on consideration of potential support from GA by the end of February</li> <li>Categorise Agenda items</li> <li>Meet with GA to work through the agenda</li> </ul>

3.5	<p><b>Water Affecting Activities BPOP</b></p> <p>Best Practice Operating Procedures (BPOP) covering water-affecting activities in the Barossa region were reviewed and renewed, with infrastructure and development managers scheduled for further engagement and training to ensure smooth application.</p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b><i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Note the content of this briefing and attachments;</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Approve the commencement of a Water Affecting Activities Best Practice Operating Procedures agreement as detailed in this briefing.</i></b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">S Scarman / N Robins: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
3.6	<p><b>Governance &amp; Finance committee</b></p> <p>The Governance &amp; Finance Committee endorsed updated financial forecasts and approved changes to key board policies, including the creation of a comprehensive legislative compliance register.</p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b><i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>note and approve the recommendations of the Governance and Finance Committee Meeting held on 4 February 2026.</i></b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">H Cowan / E Lawley: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
3.7	<p><b>Grassroots Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grassroots Grants policy was updated: allocated funding for First Nations projects will, if uncommitted, be available to other grassroots grants after a set period, allowing greater flexibility without reducing support for original priorities. The board called for new assessment panel volunteers to ensure ongoing transparent and representative grant decision-making</li> <li>• Assessment panel of board members remains the same as 2025. E Lawley and L Redden to be available in May 2026 for the assessments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b><i>That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board approve:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>the recommended allocation of funds.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>nomination of one new Board member to the grants assessment panel.</i></b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">P Angus / S Scarman: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
<b>4 Items to note and carried as one motion</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Minutes</b></p> <p>The board are provided with the WHSW minutes as the NYLB place a strong emphasis on the health and safety of staff in ensuring a positive organisational culture, with each of the offices being aware of their responsibilities.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Natural Resource Centre Grants</b></p> <p>This year's Natural Resource Centre (NRC) grants were awarded to Mount Pleasant NRC to restart a native nursery, run First Nations-led workshops, and provide tube stocks.</p> <p>The Barossa Bush Gardens plan to launch a new art/cultural program in partnership with local First Nations communities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H Nichol / L Redden: <b>CARRIED / AIF</b></p>
5.1	<p><b>Presiding Member</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
5.2	<p><b>Board Members:</b></p> <p>H Cowan provided an update on the Copper Coast and upcoming projects.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Communications and Engagement</b></p>

	The communications team launched a new strategy for improving the board's digital presence, prioritizing expansion into Instagram and Linked In, supplementing Facebook, and increasing the use of engaging content (such as dynamic photos, quotes, and infographics). All board members and staff are encouraged to share, like, and promote digital content, and performance metrics will be monitored monthly to drive ongoing improvements.
5.4	<b>Correspondence</b> Tabled
5.5	<b>Board Forward Planner</b> Reviewed
5.6	<b>Board Calendar of Events</b> S Scarman to attend the Waterwise field day in Melrose on the 12 March 2026.
<b>6 Board In Camera</b>	
6.1	At 2:35pm the meeting was moved to 'In-Camera' due to the information the disclosure (J) of which: <i>(i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official;</i> <i>(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest; (Ref: Section 23 (5) LSA Act.)</i> N Robins / S Scarman : <b>CARRIED</b> It was noted staff: T Fox, R Howard, and P Boylan remained in the room.  <b>Motion</b> • <i>At 3:02pm the meeting moved out of 'In-Camera and back to the main meeting for the board meeting to continue.</i> E Lawley / L Redden : <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>7 Other Items</b>	
	Nil
<b>8 Meeting Closure</b>	
8.1	Next meeting: <i>Joint meeting with Green Adelaide #47 26 March 2026 – Barossa Cellars</i>
8.2	Meeting closed at 3:03pm

Confirmed on 20 May 2026, as a true and correct record



Geoffrey White  
**Presiding Member**