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

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live, play and work upon and we pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection, and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Board Meeting		**NY Landscape Board Meeting # 36**	
Date: 20 November 2024			
Start Time:	1.03pm	**Finish Time:**	3.46pm
Location:	Nuriootpa	**Room:**	Barossa Council Chambers
Present:	Geoffrey White (Chair), Peter Angus, Jenny Loftes, Bruce Michael, Erika Lawley, Sue Scarman, Adrian Shackley and Sam Germein – MS Teams,		
Staff in Attendance:	Tony Fox (General Manager), Rebecca Howard (Manager Business and Planning), Samantha Johnson (Team Leader, Communications and Engagement), Derek Sandow (Marna Banggara Project Manager), Libby Duncan (Projects Planning and Reporting Manager), Chris Martin (Business and Finance Coordinator) and Rosemary McDowell (Executive Assistant / Minutes)		
Guest Speakers:	Alexi Kentish – Barossa Improved Grazing Group Ang Ruddenklau – Principal Regional Advisor, PIRSA		
Public Gallery:	Nil		
Apologies:	Russell Johnstone, Mayor Bim Lange and C Kartinyeri (Chair – Five Nations Landscape Committee)		
Note:	The meeting commenced with a site visit at 10.30am, followed by a Strategic Plan workshop, prior to the main meeting.		

Item	Meeting Standing Items
1.1	**Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies**
1.2	**Additional agenda items** Nil
1.3	**Conflict of Interest Disclosures** Nil
1.4	**Minutes from the previous meeting** The minutes from meeting No 35 held on18 September 2024, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. S Scarman / E Lawley **CARRIED**
1.5	**Action List** Reviewed and updated.
2. Deputations and Presentations **Guest Speakers**	
2.1	**Five Nations Landscape Board Chair** – Cyril Kartinyeri, not present Discussed at item 3.5
2.2	**Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG) –** Alexi Kentish A Kentish is the new Executive Officer for BIGG which is a community driven network comprising of 400 members. • BIGG was established in 2012 having evolved from a number of Barossa based agricultural groups. • Four weather stations for BIGG were recently upgraded to the 4G network following a successful Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (NYLB) Grassroots Grant application. • The Organisation has a strong governance structure and is operated through a board, providing education, research trials and assistance to members. • A sponsorship prospectus will be sent to the NYLB.
2.3	**PIRSA update** – Angela Ruddenklau • Drought roundtable meetings have been organised in regional areas with various concerns raised including de-stocking, value of land and mental health. A link to PIRSA's drought assistance package is available here. Trained PIRSA staff are available to offer one to one support. • All sheep and goats born after 1 January 2025 must have mandatory electronic tagging (EID). By June 2027, all animals must be tagged. • Varroa mite detection response for beekeepers was raised. Eradication is not possible, however there have been no reports in South Australia to date. • Deer eradication program – 20,000 deer have been removed from the State's landscape. • Mapping of vineyard areas affected by frost damage may become available and the Board will be informed.

	(1.53pm A Kentish left the meeting)
3. Items for Decision	
3.1	**Financial Analysis YTD October 2024 -** Business and Finance Coordinator The Statement of Comprehensive Income illustrates a minor surplus, though the water licence levy payment is yet to be received (due to DEW website issues). A first payment and work order for the Federally funded *Stronger Country* has now been received and the project can proceed. <u>Levy funded project expenditure</u> Some costs currently assigned to the Five Nations Landscape Committee will be reallocated to Board sponsorship project funding to better reflect the nature of the expenditure. The water projects budgets will be assessed against the likelihood of achieving expenditure in this financial year given they are currently well behind. A number of other water related activities have been proposed and this may be a chance to deliver some of these. **Action** Water projects be assessed against likelihood of delivery this financial year and alternatives presented to the Board at the December meeting. Options discussed include some "no regrets" work ahead of the Clare WAP review, further work on the regenerating catchments project and other water related work on unprescribed resources. Issues around resource capacity will need to be addressed. The Board is well positioned to continue to achieve the objectives of the 2021-2026 Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan ***That the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board*** • ***receive and note the YTD October 2024 Financial Analysis*** P Angus / S Scarman **CARRIED AIF**
3.2	**Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation – Training Program** The Board previously funded some residents of the Point Pearce community to assist with the Djulda wawa Badja project work. A request to approve 12 months further funding was discussed and it was agreed to fund the training program for two years. It was noted that one of the community members from the program has recently been successful in obtaining a ranger position at Para Wirra Conservation Park.

	Motion ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***consider and approve a continuation of the program to support Point Pearce Community members participation in works led by Farrin Miller, up to one day a week until June 30 2026.*** • ***endorse funding of up to $10,000 for each financial year for Point Pearce community members to be paid through a reimbursement arrangement with Point Pearce Aboriginal Council.*** G White / E Lawley **CARRIED AIF** ***(2.30pm A Ruddenklau left the meeting)***
3.3	**Application of CPI to 2025/2026 Landscape Levy** The Board was requested to consider and approve the application of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the Landscape Levy for the 2025-2026 financial year**.** A discussion ensued: • The current state of the rural economy in some areas is poor due to dry conditions. • Some councils may not put up their rates by the full 3.2% (CPI). • The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* allows an increase of up to the CPI only. • The Region is currently going through enterprise bargaining with the outcome unknown at present. • We are servicing more community members due to the increase in housing development in some Councils. • The Levy is apportioned to Councils on the total capital value of properties in that Council area. • A suggestion to explore options of levy calculation as other Landscape Board regions have different models. **Action** A workshop is to be arranged for early 2025 to discuss the setting of landscape and water levies. The workshop will highlight how the Landscape Levy increase is distributed across the region (due to changes in property values in each council) as well as the models used in other regions. Differences in water levy between Prescribed Water Resources Areas is also to be discussed. The mail out to the council in April 2025 needs to explain the increase of the Levy and be added to the rates notice for the interest of the community rate payers.

	Motion ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***approve the setting of the Landscape Levy for the 2025-2026 year including application of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).*** J Loftes / E Lawley **CARRIED AIF**
3.4	**Annual Report** The Annual Report for 2023-2024 was tabled. There are formatting changes and minor amendments to be completed. The final financial statements are yet to be received at the time of the meeting. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***endorse the 2023-2024 Annual Report be signed off by the Presiding Member following the formatting and minor amendments.*** A Shackley / E Lawley **CARRIED AIF**
3.5	**Committee recommendations – Team Leader, Communications and Engagement** The Chair of the First Nations Landscape Committee (FNLC) was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflicting appointment. An overview of the meeting including the Aspirational Plan held on 25 September 2024 was verbally presented by S Johnson**.** A proposed succession planning project in partnership with the NYLB and other partners including developing training opportunities was raised. It is anticipated that relevant TAFE courses may provide opportunities for future employment for First Nations people. The motion recommended at the September meeting, and included in the draft minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting, as the proposed project does not have an allocation of funding. It was also queried if the Board was required to endorse the movement of projects within the Five Nations Action Plan. The next meeting of the FNLC will be held in Dublin and Virginia on 27 November 2024, and the last two recommendations of the September Five Nations Landscape Committee meeting will be deferred until then, requiring further discussions.

	Motion:
	
	That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
	• ***note and approve two of the four recommendations of the Five Nations Landscape Committee meetings held on 25 September 2024, namely, that the Board:***
	  • ***endorse the issue of Repatriation be removed from the Action Plan***
	  • ***• endorse that committee members offer a supportive leadership role to each project***
	
	E Lawley / A Shackley **CARRIED**
	
	The Proxy Chair of the Governance and Finance (GF) reported on the last meeting of the committee held 23 October 2023. An external member of the committee has been appointed, Mr Bob Smart will attend his first Governance and Finance Committee Meeting in January 2025.
	
	The provision of timely benchmarking data and KPI's was discussed at the GF Meeting.
	
	Motion:
	
	That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:
	• ***note and approve the recommendations of the Governance and Finance Committee meetings held on 23 September 2024.***
	
	G White / B Michael **CARRIED AIF**

3.6	**Board Calendar of Events** Reviewed • BIGG conference 13.2.2025 – board members are encouraged to attend. • Board induction day 17.2.2025 in Adelaide for all board members. There will be a MS Teams option. • Auditor Generals meeting for 26 November 2024 in Adelaide, and it is proposed that a staff member could attend as an alternative to a board member. **Action** The Auditor Generals meeting is a face-to-face event only on 26 November 2024 in Adelaide. Advice is to be sent to the Auditor General office to state a face to face only meeting option is not always suitable for regional people.
4 - Items for Noting. The Board to note information papers in this section are to be carried as one motion only	
4.1	**Board Services Guide** Two councils have uploaded the Region's *Services Guide* to their website, and it was raised that the Northern Areas Council is preparing to add to their website.

	Motion ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***note that the Board Services Guide has been reviewed and updated.***
4.2	**Board 2023-2024 Christmas and New Year Closure** Noted **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***note that the board offices will be closed to the public from 12pm Tuesday 24 December 2024, re-opening at 9am on Thursday 2 January 2025***
4.3	**Regional delivery partner update** The confirmation of the funding for the *Stronger Country* project and the intensive process for reporting was noted and discussed. An acknowledgement of the amount of work undertaken by NYLB staff to complete the process has been lengthy and demanding. **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***note the Regional Delivery Partner Project update.***
4.4	**Landscape SA Executive Officer Position** The Landscape Board General Managers and Presiding Members have agreed to engage an Executive Officer (EO) to take on the administrative work of the chairs. The split to pay for this position will be equal across all landscape boards **Motion** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***note the decision of the eight Landscape SA General Managers and Green Adelaide Director to recruit and appoint an Executive Officer.***
4.5	**Clare office accommodation update** The Manager Business and Planning presented a verbal update on the new office accommodation with a plan to be operating from the new office from 20 January 2025. **Motion:** ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***note items 4.1 and 4.5 inclusive*** G White / P Angus **CARRIED**

5 – Standing Reports for Noting (to be discussed only if required)	
5.1	**Presiding Member report** Noted
5.2	**Board Member reports –** J Loftes Noted
5.3	**Communication and Engagement Report** Noted
5.4	**Correspondence** Various items of correspondence including an invitation to respond to the *Greater Adelaide Regional Plan* and the Board's response. Noted
5.5	**RLT report** Noted
5.6	**Board Forward Planner** Noted
5.7	**DRAFT WHS minutes** Noted
6 - Board In Camera Session	
	3.39pm - 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; Tony Fox, Rebecca Howard, Derek Sandow, Libby Duncan, Sam Johnson, Chris Martin and Rosemary McDowell remained for the In Camera meeting. G White / E Lawley **CARRIED** **Motion** 3.42pm - That the meeting move out of *In Camera* and back to the main meeting where members of the public may be present P Angus / A Shackley **CARRIED**
7 - Other Items	
7.1	**Additional agenda items from Item 1.2** Nil

8 - Meeting Closure	
8.1	**Invitations for next meeting** C Kartinyeri - FNLC
8.2	**Next meeting details** **Action** An hour workshop on the Strategic Plan 2026 -2031. A visit to the new Clare accommodation. Thursday 12 December 2024 at the Clare office, 155 Main North Road.
8.3	**Meeting closed 3.46pm**

Signed

Geoff White
Presiding Member