

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

On behalf of the Board, I acknowledge the Aboriginal Custodians of the SA Arid Lands region and the land on which we meet today. I respect their Elders past, present and future, their cultural heritage and beliefs and their ongoing relationship and spiritual connection with the land. I extend that respect to Aboriginal people from other groups who may be present.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 1

Thursday 18 June 2020

8:30am to 1:10pm

Location:	SA Arid Lands Board Room Railway Station Office Port Augusta SA 5700
Attendees:	Ross Sawers - Presiding Member & Chair Douglas Lillecrapp – Board Member Ellen Litchfield – Board Member Kurt Tschirner – Board Member Sanchia Treloar – Board Member Scott Michael – Board Member Tim Flowers – Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith - Regional Manager (RM) Anne Dickin - Executive Officer (EO)
Guests:	Hon David Speirs - Minister for Environment and Water <i>via MS Teams</i> Cate Hart - Executive Director, Environment, Heritage and Sustainability <i>MS Teams</i> Matt Ward - Director Landscape Services , EH&S Heather Miller - State Wild Dog Coordinator, PIRSA
Board Staff:	Michelle Smith – Manager Business Support (MBS) Greg Patrick – Team Leader Landscape Operations & Projects Cherie Gerlach – Team Leader Communications & Community Engagement
Apology:	Nil received

Meeting Standing Items

- 08:25am The emergency assembly points; exit points of the building, location of facilities were provided to the new members of the board.
- 08:30am The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians. There were no apologies to record and the agenda was accepted.
3. Disclosure of potential or perceived conflicts of interest by board members
 Douglas Lillecrapp declared a potential conflict of interest as the lessee of the Todmorden pastoral lease; as a shareholder of BHP Ltd; and as a previous recipient of public grants for water.
Action Record declaration of conflict of interest in board register.
4. Minutes of the special SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meeting held 15 May 2020 were **accepted** by the Chair and **acknowledged** by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

5. Guest Presentations

08:45am 5.1 Minister Speirs addressed the board outlining his specific expectations of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and providing an overview of his vision for the state under the Landscape SA reforms. The Minister acknowledged the favourable position the new SA Arid Lands Landscape Board was commencing from due to the good work of the previous board.

Discussion was held with the Minister on the fact that there was no Aboriginal representation on the new board. It was noted that both the Minister and the Chair were more inclined to consider options available to a greater number of the First Nations members of the SAAL region and that an appointment of one group over another was not in line with achieving success for Aboriginal engagement and participation. The Minister stated he would contemplate appointing a suitably qualified Aboriginal member or welcome an alternative means of engaging the community.

It was suggested by a board member that traditional owner participation could be achieved through the board's Landscape Groups with an Aboriginal spokesperson for that particular district being involved. The Minister acknowledged the difficulties of the issue and that hard work was required in this area, adding that there was a practical, sensible way to engage with the Aboriginal community for their voice to be represented.

The Minister concluded his talk by advising of his intention to meet with the board members in person in July 2020 which was to be confirmed.

Action Note possible visit by the Minister in July 2020.

09:00am 5.2a The board were provided with an overview of Landscape SA by Director of Landscape Services DEW, Matt Ward.

A board member advised that they were pleased with the introduction of the Landscape Priorities Fund which will see funds from the more populated areas of the state being distributed to the regional areas of South Australia.

Discussion was held on the partnerships that were critical to see the best use of the funds across the SA Arid Lands region.

The Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is to appoint the General Managers on the Landscape boards' recommendations.

Current staff transferring to the board will retain the same terms and conditions of employment while new staff employed after 1 July 2020 will be covered by the same industrial instruments as transferring staff including the same enterprise agreements, awards and the public sector act and regulations.

The Landscape SA Regulations are to be tabled in cabinet on 22 June 2020.

The transfer of assets and liabilities from DEW to the boards have been signed off by the Minister.

Development of a new simpler hybrid corporate services delivery model is underway ready for full implementation by July 2021.

Landscape Services are preparing a policy library/directory for the use of all Landscape SA boards.

Discussion was held on the election process of board members which would include a combination of council ratepayers, land rate payers and the out of council communities. Regulations have not yet been made for elections.

Discussion was held on the intention for interaction between Landscape SA boards in the future (post COVID-19).

A Landscape board charter has been developed and is now with the Minister for his consideration.

10:04am 5.2b Executive Director, Environment, Heritage and Sustainability, DEW, Cate Hart joined the meeting via MS Teams and was introduced to the board members, then provided an overview of her role within DEW and reiterated the Minister's vision for the landscape boards in particular the focus of on ground delivery .

Cate apologised for not attending the meeting in person and indicated that it was her intention to personally attend the next SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meeting.

Action Note desire of ED EH&S to attend the July board meeting.

10:10am *At this time both Matt Ward and Cate Hart left the meeting.*

6. Items for Discussion/Noting

10:11am 6.1 Board Business Plan 2020/21 and Interim Regional Landscape Plans

It was agreed to note that the Business Plan 2020/21 was approved and the Interim Regional Plans adopted at the Special SA Arid Lands Landscape Meeting held for this purpose on 15 May 2020; and to **note** the letter to the Minister seeking endorsement of the Business Plan 2020/21 and interim regional plans; and to **acknowledge** that the work of the Business Plan now rests fully with the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board given the adoption of the regional plans under which the Business Plan sits.

10:20am 6.2 SA Arid Lands and Northern & Yorke Regions Transition

The proposal for a new 'Port Augusta/Quorn' landscape group would be provided to the board for consideration at the next meeting. This would include a map of the suggested regions and a recommendation to support the recruitment of a new Community Landscape Officer for the seventh district, funding for which had already been considered in the business plan.

It was noted that with the expansion of the SA Arid Lands region there would be responsibilities for the coastal section of Port Augusta. The board were advised that the SA Arid Lands would partner with the Northern and Yorke, and/or Eyre Peninsula regions and other relevant entities for this body of work given the skill set was predominantly with rangelands management.

A board member suggested attendance at meetings of the Port Augusta council.

It was agreed to note the handover package from the Northern and Yorke region; and to **note** the intent of future opportunities to inform the new service model for the addition of two new council areas to the region of SA Arid Lands.

At this point a short break was taken

7. Items for Decision

- 10:50am 7.1 Final Board Budget 2020/21
The board were provided with a detailed explanation of the financial reports and the figures within.
It was agreed to endorse the 2020/21 Board Budget.
- 11:26am 7.2 Financial Delegations 2020/21
The board were advised of the requirement, under the *Landscape SA Act 2019*, of payment authorisations that are signed off by the Minister and the Chief Executive of Department for Environment and Water.
It was agreed to approve for the Presiding Member to sign the Corporate Authorisation and Contract Execution, on receipt of the Minister and Chief Executive delegations to the board.
Action On receipt of payment authorisations complete corporate authorisation and contract execution finance delegations.
- 11:30am 7.3 Freedom of Information Statement 2020/21
It was agreed to approve the Freedom of Information Statement that was to be published as a stand-alone document on the board's website.
Action Publish Freedom of Information statement on board website.
- 11:33am 7.4 Finalisation of 'draft' Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan
Discussion was held on the progress to date and the process going forward for the 'draft' Far North Prescribed Wells Area (FNPWA) Water Allocation Plan (WAP) that included the role of a Water Advisory Committee.
It was agreed to endorse the re-constitution (continuation) and appointment of board members to a sub-committee, namely the Water Advisory Committee to provide advice to the board regarding changes to the draft Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan and future water related business as outlined in the terms of reference.
At this point the Chair sought and received agreement from the board to put a hold on appointing members to the Water Advisory Committee until after item 8 of the agenda as a courtesy to the guests who were waiting to present to the board.

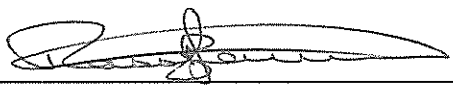
8. Partner Presentations

- 12:00pm 8. SA Wild Dog Policy - Heather Miller in person; John Virtue & Brad Page via MS Teams, all of Primary Industries and Regions SA
A presentation was provided to the board by John Virtue and Heather Miller on the 'draft' SA Wild Dog policy. It was acknowledged that the policy is based on the SAAL Board's Best Practice Guidelines, a first in Australia, which will now be a formal requirement under the policy, for all regions.
It was noted that there was a need to review the management plans for properties within the buffer zone; and to manage active watering points in accordance with the new policy.
It was agreed to endorse the revised policy on wild dogs under the Landscape SA Act 2019.

7. Items for Decision

- 12:25pm 7.4.1 Water Advisory Committee (discussion reconvened from the 11.33am conversation)
- Conflict of interest** was declared by Tim Flowers due to his employer's (Beach Energy Ltd oil/gas exploration and production) stance being potentially contrary to the intentions of the Water Advisory Committee.
- Action** Record declaration of conflict of interest in board register
- It was agreed to approve** the establishment of a board subcommittee being the Water Advisory Committee and to appoint Ross Sawers, Tim Flowers, Ellen Litchfield and Douglas Lillecrapp as the members of this committee.
- It was agreed to approve** the drafting of a letter to the previous members of the SA Arid Lands NRM Board Water Advisory Committee (board members) thanking them for their service on the WAC and their role in the development of the 'draft' Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan; for the Presiding Members signature.
- Action** Re-establish Water Advisory Committee – review terms of reference
- Action** Compile acknowledgement letter for SA Arid Lands NRM Board Water Advisory Committee members for signing by the Chair
- 12:40pm 7.5 Water Affecting Activities Policy
- It was agreed to adopt** the current Water Affecting Activities policies for the SA Arid Lands NRM region and Northern and Yorke NRM region (to the extent that they apply in the SA Arid Lands Landscape SA region) until the Water Affecting Activities Control Policy is finalised for the board to adopt under the Landscape SA Act; namely -
- SA Arid Lands Water Affecting Activities Policy (Appendix 1 to SA Arid Lands NRM Plan, Volume 2: Business and Operational Plan 2017/18- 2019/20)
 - Northern and Yorke Water Affecting Activities Policy (Section 5 of Northern and Yorke Regional NRM Plan, Volume D: Regulatory and Policy Framework).
- 12:47pm 7.6 Transition of Committees to SAAL Landscape Board
- It was agreed to approve** the transition to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board of the Governance and Finance Committee and Landscape Group committees until such time that it undertakes a full review of the board sub-committees under the *Landscape SA Act 2019*.
- It was agreed** to appoint nominees Sanchia Treloar and Kurt Tschirner to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Governance and Finance Committee.
- Action** Re-establish Governance & Finance Committee – review terms of reference
- Future agenda item** Undertake full review of the board sub-committees under LSA Act
- 1:00pm 7.7 Board Meeting Schedule 2020/21
- Discussion was held on the possibility of holding board meetings outside of Port Augusta in order to connect with the region which was welcomed subject to cost and timing and for planning at a later meeting.
- It was agreed to accept** the board meeting schedule with the following amendments: next meeting dates Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 July 2020; no meeting August 2020; governance and finance mandatory training workshops to be conducted at July 2020 meeting (pending availability of external facilitators).

1:10pm	9.1 Travel details for meeting attendance R Sawers – Pitcairn Station – Port Augusta return D Lillecrapp - Todmorden – Port Augusta return E Litchfield - Wilpoorinna Station, Marree – Port Augusta - Clare S Treloar - Yarramba Station Cockburn – Port Augusta return S Michael - Carriewerloo Station - Port Augusta return K Tschirner - Quorn – Port Augusta return (no claim allowed as not greater than 40km) T Flowers – waiving right to claim as sponsored by employer
1:10pm	Meeting close <i>An induction workshop was held for board members from 1:30pm to 4:30pm</i>

Approved  Date 28 / 7 / 2020
Ross Sawers - Presiding Member
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board