

MINUTES

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 8

Day One

Wednesday 25 August 2021 8:45am – 4:00pm

Location:	Hawker Institute 58 Elder Terrace, Hawker SA 5434
Attendees:	Ross Sawers Chair Ellen Litchfield Board Member Kurt Tschirner Board Member Sanchia Treloar Board Member (via MS Teams) Tim Flowers Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith General Manager (GM) Anne Dickin Executive Officer
SAAL Staff:	Senior staff as necessary, to present papers and/or provide technical advice
Apologies:	Douglas Lillecrapp Board Member Scott Michael Board Member
0900	The Chair opened the meeting. The apologies received from board members Douglas Lillecrapp and Scott Michael were noted .
1	<i>In Camera</i> session attended by board and General Manager only.
1039	2 The agenda for the meeting was accepted .
3	Conflict of interest disclosed by (1) Ross Sawers for his work with Peak Iron Mines and (2) Kurt Tschirner as partner to new board employee Andrea Tschirner (Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator).
4	Minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting held 23-24 June 2021 were accepted with one amendment to be noted to the update provided by Tim Flowers on the Santos Ltd Moomba carbon capture and storage project that was generating a lot of national (<i>not international</i>) media. <i>In camera</i> minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting held on 21-22 April 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.
5	Board Action List reviewed and accepted by the board.
1042	6 Correspondence report noted .
1043	7 The board evaluation template was discussed and the priority agenda topics for this meeting and the review document and process was agreed upon by the board. It was agreed the board meeting performance evaluation form is to be used to review the high priority agenda items that will be added to the blank template at the start of each meeting. A board member will be chosen to conduct the review for the next meeting. It was agreed that Tim Flowers would be the reviewer for the August 2021 meeting and Kurt Tschirner for the October 2021 meeting. Action: Use board performance template to review priority agenda items, which will be added to the template at the start of the meeting. Select board member to conduct the review at each meeting for the meeting to follow. Kurt the reviewer at October 2021 meeting. Action: Add board meeting performance process to the SAAL Landscape Board Governance Handbook. Action: Raise at next Chairs forum to share SAAL approach and explore what other landscape boards are doing in relation to reviewing their performance as a board.
1055	<i>Break for morning tea</i>
1116	<i>Greg Patrick, Cherie Gerlach, Melanie Boxall and Patrice Brodie joined the meeting.</i>

- 8.1 Financial Overview
Governance and Finance Committee (GFC) Chair spoke to the end of year 2020/21 financial reports, noting the board budget was due to be loaded into the ledger in August 2021. Financial overview and associated reports **accepted**.
- 8.2 Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP)
GFC Chair advised the FMCP is mandatory under Treasurer's Instruction 2 and 28 to document the internal control framework for financial management and accountability and is required to be updated annually to reflect changes that have occurred between DEW and the board and recommendations that have been made by Audit and the GFC. Financial Management Compliance Program 2020/21 **adopted**.
- 8.3 Revised GFC Terms of Reference
GFC Chair advised the committee's terms of reference are reviewed annually and section 4.1 membership, had been amended with the removal of a reference to DEW staff observing a meeting. Governance and Finance Committee revised terms of reference **adopted**.
Formal reappointment (following consensus by email) and extension of the terms of membership on the GFC for Kurt Tschirner as Chair; Sanchia Treloar and Ellen Litchfield as committee members; and Presiding Member Ross Sawers as an observer at meetings to 30 January 2023 **approved**.
- 8.4 Work Health and Safety Report
The board was advised that since the compiling of the WHS report six windows had been smashed at the SAAL office with video footage being provided to the police. The risk to staff leaving the office at the end of the day has meant that staff have been instructed to check the security cameras for the presence of any strangers before exiting the building and to check departure times of staff members to minimise people working or leaving alone at the end of the work day.
Work Health and Safety Report **noted**
Action: Board expectations of staff to take necessary precautions before leaving the office at the end of day to be detailed in a policy guideline if not captured within an appropriate process under the WHS Act.
- 8.5 Interim Audit
The board was advised that a letter in response to the three findings and subsequent actions from the interim audit by the Auditor-General's Department had been prepared. In relation to the finding (for all landscape boards) that board payment delegations have not been approved by the Minister, as required by Treasurer's Instruction 8, the Chair instructed it be noted that the action will now be for one request be provided to the Minister on behalf of all landscape boards (rather than each board responding separately as was previously indicated.)
It was agreed to endorse the results and actions to be taken from the findings of the Interim Audit for 2020/21 conducted by the Auditor General's department.
- 8.6 Instruments of Authorisation
Granting of 2021/22 Instruments of Authorisation with introduction of Treasurers instruction on 1 July 2021 for procurement (contract pre-approval and payment disbursement), contract execution, purchase cards and debt write-off (as SAAL will now be collecting levies), executed under Common Seal by Presiding Member **approved**.
- 8.7 SAAL Landscape Board Governance Handbook
The board was advised the SAAL Landscape Board Governance handbook is intended to be read in conjunction with the Landscape Services handbook provided last year however the objects and principles from the original handbook are now included in the SAAL version. It was noted that the SAAL Landscape Board Governance handbook was a 'living' document and will be updated as required.
SAAL Landscape Board Governance handbook **adopted**.

8.8 Governance and Finance Committee Meeting Recommendations

It was agreed to:

- **Note** minutes of GFC meeting held 11 August 2021;
- **Adopt** WHS and Injury Management Policy;
- **Note** nil Contracts or Grants executed;
- **Note** Related Party Transactions report;
- **Note** nil sponsorship applications received.

8.8 Accommodation Update

The General Manager provided details received from Government Accommodation Manager Angie Gazettas of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for a proposed MoAA (*Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement*) with DIT and the lease negotiation for alternative board premises in Port Augusta.

It was agreed to enter into a gross lease agreement with DIT, incorporating a capped outlay of statutory outgoings with a 3% annual indexation on the rent, acknowledging that the addition during the first two years of the board's contribution toward the fit out costs have been factored in to this option.

The board was advised of the proposed access date to the premises of 1 December 2021

It was agreed to compile a letter of response to DIT for the Chair to sign confirming the board's acceptance of the gross lease agreement.

Action: Prepare letter from Chair to DIT accepting gross lease agreement for new board accommodation in Port Augusta.

1217 *Greg Patrick, Cherie Gerlach, Melanie Boxall and Patrice Brodie left the meeting.*

1222 9 Water Accounting Project

Discussion was held on the Accounting for Groundwater Take in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area (FNPWA) project and the role of the Water Advisory Committee as project sponsor, which included the following:

- board to be more involved with the Water Advisory Committee to stay informed of the implications of the project;
- trial measuring water take by provide funding to several properties to obtain data that is fit for purpose;
- not imposing one model fits all;
- acknowledgement of landholders concern once meters are introduced and the amount of water being taken is known, it will lead to the introduction of levies;
- relationship between neighbours for water sharing will change;
- accounting for groundwater take is good resource management as you will know exactly how much is coming out and how the resource is going based on the take;
- the Water Allocation Plan will be a waste of time and the board seen as ineffective if we do not step through this process;
- gas and oil industry monies should go back into the resource, investing more into water management not less.

Accounting for Groundwater Take in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area project and the Water Advisory Committee as the project sponsor **endorsed**.

1238 10 Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Innovation Program

The board was advised that the Future Drought Fund Resilience Innovation Program provides an opportunity to secure additional funding and resources for the Accounting for Groundwater Take in the FNPWA project. The three levels of funding that can be applied for through the program are (1) Ideas (2) Proof-of-Concept (3) Innovation.

The board was provided with the rationale for applying for a Proof-of-Concept grant that provides funding of up to \$120,000 for one year which would be used to conduct scientifically endorsed research, monitoring the water take not just by domestic livestock but by everything else too (natives and feral animals).

		<p>It was agreed that an Expression of Interest be submitted by SAAL for a Proof-of-Concept grant through the Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Innovation Program to support the Accounting for Groundwater Take in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Project.</p>
1247	11	<p><u>Fire Management Protocols</u></p> <p>Discussion was held on the DEW fire management protocol with the following points being made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six of the eight landscape boards have signed the protocol with SAAL and Kangaroo Island still to sign; • there are approximately four SAAL board staff currently involved in fire fighting for DEW; • concern was expressed on how the board would be able to investigate an incident; • noted that even with the best training some incidents still occur; • board members are not personally liable unless there is not a system in place to safeguard staff; • the reputational risk to the board is bigger than the liability risk; • the board is self-insured for workers compensation and there is an option to approach treasury if costs could not met from the cash reserves of the board. <p>It was agreed to endorse the Operational Protocol for the DEW Fire Management Program; and for the Chair to sign the Operational Protocol with the proviso that a letter be compiled and sent with the endorsement setting out the concerns with the fire management arrangement between the SAAL Landscape board and DEW.</p> <p>Action: Compile and attach letter reiterating the board's reluctance to commit to the DEW Fire Management Program and operational protocol.</p>
1305		<p><i>Break for lunch</i></p>
1352		<p><i>Cherie Gerlach joined the meeting.</i></p>
1353	12	<p><u>Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Strategy</u></p> <p>The board discussed options for the development of Aboriginal engagement and participation strategy and noted that cultural sensitivity would have to be considered before implementing any strategy.</p> <p>It was noted there were nine Aboriginal members within the board's seven Landscape Groups who contributed well to the business of the board and had the opportunity to be heard.</p> <p>It was agreed for the General Manager and Team Leader Communications and Community Engagement to design a program to connect with the nine Aboriginal Landscape Group members to establish what they think would work for engagement of Aboriginal peoples with the board.</p> <p>Action: Design program to connect with Aboriginal Landscape Group members to establish what they think would work for engagement with the board.</p>
1441	13	<p><u>Annual Project Status Report</u></p> <p>The board was advised that the annual project status report now incorporated the new SAAL Regional Landscape Plan.</p> <p>Annual project status report noted.</p>
1448		<p><i>Greg Patrick joined the meeting.</i></p>
1448	14	<p><u>'Draft' Feral Goat Policy Project Plan</u></p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the board cannot proceed with the Feral Goat Policy Project plan until a cost benefit analysis is conducted and clear data has been obtained from the people who are impacted by or value feral goats economically.</p> <p>Three landscape boards being Northern and Yorke, Murraylands and Riverland and Eyre Peninsula are engaged in the process with SAAL to submit an expression of interest for a \$120,000 grant through the Future Drought Fund to fund obtaining the data, conducting the survey and to understand the numbers involved with feral goats. PIRSA, Livestock SA, conservation groups and industry as stakeholders will participate in a meeting scheduled</p>

		for 30 August 2021 being led by SAAL. Kurt Tschirner volunteered to participate in this meeting.
		Action: Develop high level communication strategy for the control of feral goats, reminding landholders of their obligations and what a future policy may look like.
1510	15	<p><u>Wild Dog Eradication Landscape Priorities Fund Bid</u></p> <p>The board was advised that the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) did not support funding a compliance officer in SAAL from the Biteback Sheep Industry Fund to deliver the new landscape regulations for baiting in the region.</p> <p>In light of this a three year funding bid valued at \$927,000 from the Landscape Priorities Fund is being prepared. Key project activities are to employ a Compliance Officer to engage and build landholder capacity to manage and control wild dogs, creation of a bait manufacturing and storage hub at Port Augusta, purchase of chest freezers at each group bait injection sites for landholders to store frozen baits for coordinated baiting programs. If successful further resources may be provided by other landscape boards and Meat and Livestock Australia.</p> <p>'Draft' Wild Dog Eradication Landscape Priorities Fund Bid noted.</p> <p>Action: Include Trap-Alert technology in acquisitions of the Landscape Priorities Fund application for Wild Dog Eradication.</p>
	16	<p><u>Wild Dog Trapper Program Report</u></p> <p>The board was advised that with SAAL the Northern & Yorke, Eyre Peninsula and Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Boards each committed to contributing \$18,750 annually to the trapper program for three years with 2020/2021 the final year. Biosecurity SA are seeking a continuation in the annual funding for 2021/22. This amount has already been committed to in the forward budget of the board.</p> <p>Wild Dog Trapper Program report and request letter for Landscape contribution to the 2021/22 trapper program noted.</p>
	17	<p><u>Bounceback and Beyond Project Overview</u></p> <p>A comprehensive Bounceback and Beyond Project document is available to the board on request, to be read in association with the field tour conducted the day prior at Yappala.</p>
1533		<i>Cherie Gerlach joined the meeting.</i>
	18	<p><u>Presiding Member Report</u></p> <p>The board was provided with an update on the activities of the Presiding Member.</p> <p>Presiding Member Report noted.</p>
	19	<p><u>General Manager Update</u></p> <p>The board was provided with an overview of the recent activities of the General Manager and updates on the following;</p> <p><i>HR update</i> for the positions of the new Business Coordinator, Senior Community Ecologist, Community Landscape Officer for Kingoonya and Marla Oodnadatta, Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator and the flexible work arrangement being implemented for the Community Ecologist.</p>
1548		<p><i>I work for SA - Staff Survey</i> provided a base line for future surveys expected in two years' time. A culture and improvement plan has been drafted by the Regional Leadership Team. This plan will be incorporated into the staff muster for engagement and consultation with all staff, scheduled for September 2021.</p>
1555		<p><i>Landscape Priorities Fund</i> work has commenced on a new expression of interest for funding to support the recent discussions for the Wild Dog eradication partnership. The current project established the procurement process to attract a professional to the role of Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator. Panel for review of candidates includes a cross section of the partners in the kangaroo industry/response. The project is attracting a lot of interest and media attention. PIRSA have launched a similar strategy which will add value to the LPF concept.</p>

		<p><i>Native Vegetation Council Partnership</i> work has continued to explore concepts of partnering with the Native Vegetation Council. The recent review of the Native Vegetation Action will change the direction of the council.</p> <p>General Manager Report noted.</p>
1600		Cherie Gerlach left the meeting
1600	26	<p><u>Board Meeting Appraisal</u></p> <p>The board performance evaluation took place with Tim Flowers completing the template and the results being discussed with the board. Overall the consensus was that the meeting had been conducted in a way that permitted honest and open discussion and different points of view able to be put forward.</p>
1615		Day close
<p style="text-align: center;">Day Two</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 26 August 2021 8:50am – 11:55am</p>		
Location:		Hawker Community Sports Centre Druid Range Hawker SA
Attendees:		<p>Ross Sawers Chair</p> <p>Ellen Litchfield Board Member</p> <p>Kurt Tschirner Board Member</p> <p>Sanchia Treloar Board Member (via MS Teams)</p> <p>Tim Flowers Board Member</p> <p>Jodie Gregg-Smith General Manager</p> <p>Anne Dickin Executive Officer</p>
SAAL Staff:		Senior staff as necessary, to present papers and/or provide technical advice
Guests:		<p>Item 20: Peak Iron Mines</p> <p>Diona Antonas Manager Approvals, Environment and Government Relations</p> <p>Kurt Crameri Project Manager</p> <p>Maria Fantasia Stakeholder Manager</p>
Apologies:		<p>Douglas Lillecrapp Board Member</p> <p>Scott Michael Board Member</p>
0900	20	<p><u>Peak Iron Presentation</u> - High Grade Iron Ore (Hematite)</p> <p>Conflict of interest declared by Ross Sawers due to his work with Peak Iron Mines.</p> <p>The board was provided a comprehensive presentation by Kurt Crameri and Diona Antonas from Peak Iron Mines, a small private company operating in South Australia, with related entities operating in the Northern Territory. Specific sites that were presented on were the mine situated at Peculiar Knob and the Buzzard Project - Hawks Nest Exploration Tenement Magnetite that required a considerable amount of exploration to known deposits. The SAAL Landscape Board is included in the list of key stakeholders for the operations.</p> <p>From the questions raised by the board the following advice given was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Although not out of their scope, Peak Iron are dealing directly with leaseholders to obtain agreements, not the Pastoral Board; – Wildlife will be at risk with the pit once mining has been completed even with the bund however the leaseholder can request Peak Iron to also erect fencing around the site; – Peak Iron are keen to put any offsets back into the local community however are restricted to what the money can be put towards. SAAL can assist with the plan to put forward of where the money is to go; – Peak iron are meeting with SAAL water activities staff later this day to establish if there are any water affecting activities and water licensing required for the project; – Surveying will be conducted for flora and fauna to ensure they are not impacted by the project;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Process is to gain approval for the mine lease with conditions to be met in the PEPR, be granted tenure then seek funding; peg out area, mineral claim then put forward mining lease. Along with PEPR may be EPA requirements.
1040		<i>At this time Peak Iron Mines personnel left the meeting.</i>
	24	<p><u>Forward Agenda</u></p> <p>It was noted that each meeting, a staff member would attend a board meeting to provide an overview of their role and a key project to familiarise the board with projects and offer the opportunity for engagement between the board and staff.</p> <p>It was noted that the Landscape Group Chairs would be invited to meet with the board at the October 2021 meeting; an annual event that is an important connectivity point.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold an end-of-year function with board staff in December 2021.</p> <p>Action: Add combined board and staff function to forward agenda item schedule for December 2021.</p> <p>Action: Confirm if Tri-Star are attending October 2021 board meeting to provide an update.</p>
1120	22	<p><u>Board Member Updates</u></p> <p>Board members provided a verbal update for their participation in Landscape Group meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sanchia attending via phone for the North East Pastoral group meeting held in Yunta where all new members were inducted; – Tim was pleased to meet Ronald Daniels (Mopsy) a new member from Hawker on the North Flinders group at the community barbeque the previous evening; – Kurt provided updates for both the Gawler Ranges and Port Augusta Quorn (PAQ) groups in the absence of Scott advising Gawler Ranges had two new members and PAQ six new members. – Ross advised that he had attended the Kingoonya group meeting in person with four new members inducted. – Ellen provided a board update by phone for the Marla Oodnadatta Group and attended the Marree and Innamincka group meeting which included a workshop to farm wattle seed, a talk about erosions controls and another on drones and a post mortem on one of Ellen's sheep. <p>The board was provided with an update on the changeover of Community Landscape Officers for the Port Augusta Quorn Landscape Group expected in September 2021 with more flexibility on working arrangements being afforded to the current PAQ CLO, contracted to 2023, who lives in Kapunda and is transitioning out of a regionally based role. The board were briefed on the flexible arrangements being afforded to this member to maximise their input and broader value to the business, and retain them for longer, albeit with a connection to the changeover of current roles to an incoming member for PAQ district.</p>
1045	21	<p><u>Landscape Services State Landscape Strategy</u> presented by Saravan Peacock via MS Teams</p> <p>The board was provided with the context of the 'draft' State Landscape Strategy plan created as a result of the new Landscape SA Act with the aim to set a ten year goal and beyond for key priorities on a state wide level making sure that a range of organisations can use this tool for state national policy programs with clear joint outcomes that help attract funding.</p> <p>The board was advised that this was an opportunity to indicate what the board would like to see out of the strategy for the work conducted in SAAL and other jurisdictions and that the Minister sees the Landscape SA board chairs key for overseeing the strategy.</p> <p>It was noted that the 'draft' State Landscape Strategy will be discussed at the Landscape SA Chairs forum on 8 September 2021.</p> <p>Discussion following the presentation included the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Who owns the strategy?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some people are using this for an economic development strategy or prospectus. - PIRSA called the lead yet this is a Landscape strategy. - Action plan looks hierarchical. - The nuance of language used is important for readers in the future. - Mitigation is not used at all in relation to climate change; climate smart may not mean mitigation to some people. Adaptation and mitigation are common terms.
1115	<p><i>At this time Saravan Peacock left the meeting.</i></p> <p>Action: Board to review and provide feedback for the 'draft' State Landscape Strategy' by 1 September 2021.</p>
27	<p><u>Board Communiqué</u></p> <p>It was agreed to include the following items in the board communiqué:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Landscape Plan approved by the Minister • Hawker based board meeting and field trip • Presentation by Peak Iron Mines • Welcome new members to the Landscape Groups • Commitment to address issue of the total grazing pressure of feral goats • Water project
28	<p><u>Board Member Travel Arrangements</u></p> <p>It was noted Ross Sawers and Ellen Litchfield had left from and would be returning home; and Kurt Tschirner had travelled with the General Manager for this trip.</p>
1155	<p>Meeting End</p>

Approved 

Ross Sawers - Chair
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Date 27 / 10 / 2021