MINUTES

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting #29

	Wednesday 12 March 2025 (1 DAY ONLY)			
10:00am – 5:00pm				
Location:	SAAL Boardroom 1 Jervois Street Port Augusta SA 5700			
Attendees:	Douglas Lillecrapp – Chair Sanchia Treloar – Board Member (online) Ellen Litchfield – Deputy Chair Jodie Harris – Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith - General Manager Abby Richards - Executive Officer			
SAAL Staff:	Louise Myers – Manager Business Support (LM) Items 29.9 Cherie Gerlach – Manager, PACE (CG) Items 29.11 – 29.15 Matthew Westover – Senior Sustainable Land Management Officer (MW) Items 29.18 Reshnee Lalla – Manager, landscape Operations (RL) Items 29.20 – 29.22			
Guests:	Chevahn Hoad			
Apologies:	Scott Michael - Board Member			
Time Item#	Items			
1000	Pre meeting discussion – Board and General Manager only			
1030 29.1	Welcome and apologies The chair opened the meeting with acknowledgment of Country and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apology received from Scott Michael, Board Member			
29.2	Accept agenda The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board <i>accepted</i> the agenda.			
29.3	Declarations of interest Conflict of Interest disclosed by (1) Ellen Litchfield Relationship (brother) to Litchfield Pastoral Company Pty Ltd Mount Lyndhurst Station Taking part in the Water Accounting Trial Project			
29.4	Acceptance of minutes SAALLB Meeting #28 11-12 December 2024 – accepted by all SAALLB In Camera #28 11-12 December 2024 – accepted by all SAALLB OOS #21 25 February 2025 – accepted by all			
29.5	Board Performance Self-Review No Board Performance Self Review for meeting #29 as agreed by Board Members. ACTION: Reassess the template with suggestions from Sanchia Treloar.			
29.6	Action list review The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board <i>noted</i> the Action List status.			
1045 29.7	In Camera			
1115 29.8	 Sub Committee Membership With the resignation and term ending of board members 31st January 2025 it has resulted in membership vacancies on the two sub committees, Governance & Finance Committee and the Water Advisory Committee. 1. It was <i>agreed</i> to open up nominations for membership when the two casual vacancies are appointed to the board. 2. The board <i>endorsed</i> the appointment of Jodie Harris as 'Chair' to the Governance & Finance Committee. The Terms of Reference for both Sub Committees were presented to the board for consideration. It was agreed to undate:			
	agreed to update: 1. WAC – Membership – remove "(or Landscape group)" 2. Membership – At least 'three' board members on committees and the General Manager			

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	3. WAC – Renumeration – amend to be consistent with GFC wording
	4. Standardise both TOR's – formatting
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 agreed to nominate membership of the Governance and Finance Committee and the Water Advisory Committee once the two casual vacancies have been appointed. nominated Jodie Harris as 'Chair' of the Governance and Finance Committee.
	 reviewed the Terms of Reference for the GFC and WAC on the basis of the paper and discussions on membership.
	adopted new TOR's with agreed edits to be made.
1115	A short break was taken
1120	Louise Myers, Manager Business Support joined the meeting at this time
1120 29.9	Governance and Finance
	No GFC meeting was held in February 2025. A full GFC was presented to the board by the Manager Business Support.
29.9	.1 Acceptance of Minutes GFC Meeting #25 27 November 2024 – accepted by Sanchia Treloar.
29.9	
	The Financial Overview was presented to the board. All figures provided relate to the end of January 2025, noting the close of the ledger mid-month and internal reporting deadlines.
	Pudget Adjustments

Budget Adjustments

There have been seven budget adjustment since the last reporting period.

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was presented providing a breakdown of the current status of the project funds to the end of January 2025. Variances in the below projects were discussed, noting that cashflow timing or vacant positions accounted for most variances.

- Wetland Wonders
- Carbon Farming Outreach
- SAAL LB Unallocated
- SAAL Landscape Partnerships
- Water Projects
- Workforce Development
- Non-Project

Cash flow Prediction for 2024/25

A healthy cash flow position for 2024/25.

Health Check and Financial Summary Reports

The reports presented to the GFC detail the budget position and overview of revenue and expenditure.

Accounts Payable Performance

One invoice in December incurred a \$15.90 late payment fee. This was due to staff absences over the Christmas break.

Mid-Year Budget Review Round 1 carryover and Impacting data adjustments

- Re-profiled known underspends/unallocated funding from 2024/25 to future years for three external projects.
- Interest revenue gross-up of additional \$110,000 across out years.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board; accepted the financial overview and associated reports. noted the mid-year budget review round 1 carryover and impacting budget adjustments submitted to Treasury. 29.9.3 **Financial Delegations** The reviewed Instruments of Authorisations for Financial Delegations were presented to the board. The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board: approved the granting of the Instruments of Authorisation for Procurement - Contract Preapproval - Payment and Disbursement, Contract Execution, Contract Execution - Purchase Cards, Debt Write-Off and Disposal, to be executed under Common Seal by the Presiding Member. 29.9.4 **Draft Budget** The preliminary draft budget was presented to the board that lines with board priorities for investment for the 2025/26 financial year. The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board: noted the projected available funds for 2025/26 and confirm the expenditure priorities for discussed the proposed draft budget for further clarification/direction to guide the final budget and for the drafting of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan scheduled for presentation at the April Board meeting. 29.9.5 **Risk Management Framework and Register** The Risk Management Framework and Risk Register has been internally reviewed and presented to the board. All risks and their treatments have been considered in light of current practices. Since the last formal approval in February 2024, changes have been made to consider risks associated with: ineffectual performance management, failure to maintain contractual commitments, funding delays referencing an ability to access working capital. The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board: endorsed the updated Risk Register, noting the Risk Guideline Escalation Process. noted the DTF Audit on Shared Services 29.9.6 **Workforce Development Report** The Workforce Development Report was presented to the board. The report provided an overview for: Online Bridge training Work Health and Safety Mandatory Training - Position Specific **Cultural Competency** Professional Development Training Week 2025 Non-Mandatory Professional Development Staff Performance Review and Development SA Arid Lands Landscape Board: • **noted** the training that has been undertaken. 29.9.7 **Contract and Grant Executions Report** The board was provided detail of expenditure contract and grants executed. The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board: **noted** the agreements executed covering the period 18 November 2024 to 19 February 2025.

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	29.9.8	Policy Review
		The board was presented with the Learning and Development Policy for adoption which replaces the 2020 adopted DEW version. This policy is supported by the Learn and Development procedure and Workforce Management Framework.
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		 adopted the updated Learning and Development Policy, noting the associated procedure documents.
	29.9.9	Work Health and Safety Report
		The board was updated on the current standing of work, health and safety matters WHS Committee.
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		noted the Work Health and Safety report.
	29.9.10	Related Party Disclosures
		The board was presented with two new declarations.
		 Jodie Harris (Board Member) – declared at the December Mtg #28 Relation to Agenda Item 28.10 – personal relationship to staff members seeking endorsement for ongoing contracts
		2. Charlie Eager – (Staff Member) – declared to Executive Officer via email
		Possible one-off paid employment opportunity outside of SAAL employment
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		noted the related party disclosures report.
	29.9.11	Sponsorship
		The board were presented with one successful sponsorship application of \$400 that has been approved by the General Manager. The application was received from Regional Development Australia Far North for the Regional Leadership Program.
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		noted the sponsorship report.
1210		Louise Myers left the meeting at this time
1215	29.10	Project Status Report
		The board was presented with the Project Status Report from December 2024 to January 2025 for approved programs and projects as they align to the board's 2021-26 strategic priorities.
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		 noted the December 2024 to January 2025 Project Status Report.
1220		Cherie Gerlach joined the meeting at this time
1225	29.11	In Camera
	29.12	Aboriginal Engagement Network (AEN) Terms of Reference Review
		The Manager, PACE presented the Aboriginal Engagement Network Terms of Reference (TOR) to review. The TOR was reviewed by the AEN Group at their meeting Tuesday 4 th March. On review the group had only minor changes.
		The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
		endorsed the revised Aboriginal Engagement Network Terms of Reference.
	29.13	Grassroots Grants 2025-26
		The Manager, PACE presented the 2025/26 Grassroots Grants Round, timeline and criteria. ACTION: The board to nominate a board representative to sit on the panel for assessment of the applications.

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	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 noted and endorsed the timelines and guidelines for the rollout of the 2025-2026 Grassroots
	Grants round
29.14	IRC Conference – EOI for staff attendance
	The Manager, PACE provided an update on the involvement of the board, staff and the pastoral community at the International Rangelands Congress, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from June 2-6, 2025.
	Board members are encouraged to register to attend.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	noted the activities relating to the IRC conference.
1303	Break for lunch
1330 29.15	Community Engagement & Communications Annual Report
	The Manager, PACE presented the Community Engagement and Communications Annual Report for January to December 2024.
	Recommendations from the board:
	 Clarification on the "Event Graphs" to be clearer on where and who's group meetings were held Event evaluations – capture in the report Feedback register – to be included in communications in/out
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 noted the January to December 2024 community engagement and communications annual
	report.
	 Provided recommendations on further engagement metrics to be added to the 2025 report. – (noted above)
1400	Cherie Gerlach left the meeting at this time.
1400 29.16	In Camera
1402 29.17	Landscape Plan Requirements & Evaluation
	The board was presented with the plan and evaluation requirements of the Landscape Plan. The review phase is scheduled to commence in April 2025.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 noted the evaluation process for the Landscape Plan review.
1420	Matthew Westover joined the meeting at this time
1421 29.18	SEB Draft Policy
1121 23.10	The Senior Sustainable Land Management Officer presented with the SEB Draft Policy for review and adoption following the December board meeting where the board provided feedback for amendments.
	An update was provided on the recent quote generated by SAAL submitted to Peak Iron to identify potential offset sites, engage landholders at any potential sites and report back to them on the feasibility of delivery an on ground SEB. The quote has been accepted with works to commence in the coming months.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	adopted the Significant Environmental Benefit Policy.
1427	Matthew Westover left the meeting at this time
1405 29.24	Kangaroo Partnership Project – Update
23.24	The General Manager provided an update on the Kangaroo Partnership Project which included:
	Steering Committee Meeting
	Held Wednesday 5 March, Port Augusta
	Engagement – Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator
	Attended SAAL District Group Meetings
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- Landscape Boards to broaden the scope of the KPP to incorporate greater data collection network connection and collaboration.
- Reengagement initiative with the Kangaroo Management Taskforce NSW to establish a larger network across Australia.
- Landholder site visit to Mt Victor Station for updates on kangaroo populations and view the station's project with Finlayson Troughs.
- Establishment of a connection with Foodbank SA & NT to work with their objective to provide more culturally appropriate options to First Nations groups.

<u>Expressions of Interests – Kangaroo Partnership Program</u>

- Applications closed 5 March 2025
- Assessments of applications scheduled 14 March 2025

SSAA Farmer Assist Project

- Overview on a trial that has been generated for properties located in the north-west Gawler Ranges.
- Manage kangaroos over the coming year in an effort to reduce total grazing pressure, practice sustainable agriculture and ensure appropriate animal welfare considerations.

SAAL Pastoral Field Day Demonstrations - Thursday 20 March

- Participation of demonstrations include:
 - o adding value to kangaroos.
 - o butchering techniques.
 - demonstrations and education on relevant information and progressive techniques for pastoralists.
 - Cooking demonstrations from Africola chef Duncan Welgemoed and Flinders Food Co's Louise and Doogal.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:

noted the KPP report.

1430 29.19 Regional June Board Meeting, Kingoonya – Draft Itinerary

The board was presented with a draft itinerary of the 2025 Regional Board Meeting, June 2025. The board has elected to visit the Kingoonya District. The meeting will be based around Roxby Downs which will also include site visits to the Arid Recovery and Roxby Downs Station.

ACTION: The board has requested a BHP Mine Tour.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:

• *endorsed* the Regional Board Meeting Itinerary.

1440 Reshnee Lalla joined the meeting at this time

1444 29.20 Biosecurity Update

The Manager, Landscape Operations provided an update on the recent activities undertaken regionally within the Biosecurity Team which included:

- HR new Landscape Field Officer has commenced
- Feral pigs Heather Channon, the National Feral Pig Coordinator, visited the SAAL region and gave a presentation at the joint NEP and M-I District Group meetings.
- Pest Birds PIRSA facilitated a collaborative stakeholder workshop on pest bird impacts in the State which was attended by Board staff in early Feb 2025.
- Goats A second goat control operation took place in February 2025 with goat meat being supplied to the zoo in Adelaide. A partnership with ZooSA has been established for the next 2 years for the supply of goat meat.
 - An aerial control operation (goats & donkeys) is scheduled to commence in April in the Flinders Ranges.
- Weeds a new three-year project is currently being developed that will inform a more strategic and proactive approach to weed management in the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) region, that aligns with Board priorities and regional plans, as well as State legislation, frameworks and policies.

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	 Compliance – staff recently attended a training session hosted by the DEW Investigative Compliance Unit.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 noted the most recent biosecurity activities undertaken regionally.
29.21	Buffel Grass Update
	The Manager, Landscape Operations provided an updated on the recent developments with regards to Buffel grass and informed on the upcoming activities which included:
	 Infestations on roadsides near Leigh Creek and Stirling North were recently treated over the period of December/January Liaising with Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)
	 The State Buffel Grass Coordinator has started developing a framework for a business case (to inform strategic and landscape-scale control actions over the next 7-9 years.
	 SAAL staff recently attended the National Buffel Grass Legends meeting held in February.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	noted the update of Buffel grass in the region and State.
29.22	Wild Dog Management Update The Manager, Landscape Operations provided an updated on the recent updates with regards to wild dogs which included:
	 Declared Wild Dog Policy – The board provided comments to PIRSA for improvements for effective on-ground implementation and compliance.
	The board continues to co-invest into the PIRSA Professional Trapper Program.
	 New SIF funding application – applications close 28 March 2025. Key elements were provided that will go into the funding application.
	ACTION: General Manager to develop a letter to accompany the SIF funding application.
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	 noted the update of wild dogs in the region.
	 considered and approved the key elements of the new SIF funding application.
	 determined whether to charge or cost-recover North of fence properties – Agreed to await the outcome of the SIF funding application.
	 determined whether the scale of continuation of the Biteback Project in the 2025/26 FY should the SIF application be declined again. Agreed the options and funding model will be discussed internally - await the SIF funding application outcome
1526	Reshnee Lalla left the meeting at this time
1527 29.23	Water Advisory Committee Overview
	The General Manager provided an overview of the current water related activities and issues that were discussed at the recent WAC meeting held 21 February 2025.
	 GAB Water Security Program – Update on the ongoing development of the program with the Commonwealth having committed \$32m (across GAB States) over the next four years from 2024-25.
	 Water Accounting – Update on the recent trials and information sharing Finnish Springs Station – Update on the developing project with Arabana Aboriginal Corporation
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	noted the Water Advisory Committee overview
1545 29.25	District Updates
	See appendix
29.26	In Camera
29.27	Correspondence
	The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board:
	noted the Correspondence Report

29.28	Meeting Appraisal – N/A
29.29	Public comment (if applicable) – NIL
29.30	Forward agenda items International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026
	-
29.31	Any other Business
29.32	Board Communique
	AEN TOR
	Regional Meeting June 2025
	IRC – Briefing
	Endorse the release of the Grassroots Grants 2025/26
1620	Meeting Closed

Approved Vougus 4 Weras Date 27/06/2025

Douglas Lillecrapp, Presiding Member

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

APPENDIX

<u>District Group Update – Board Meeting #29 12-13 March 2025</u>

MARREE-INNAMINCKA

District: Marree-Innamincka

Community Landscape Officer: Alice Allington

Group Meetings: 27th/28th Feb in Person @ Arkaroola

Next Group Meeting: 23rd May Online/Office

Combined group meeting was held with the Northeast Pastoral Landscape Group in Arkaroola which included a discussion on Feral Pigs with Heather Channon the National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator. Group members also had a cultural plant walk and talk experience with Sharpy Coulthard, as well as an evening in the observatory.

Other achievements:

- Tourism app launch at the Caravan and Camping Show 26th Feb- 2nd March 2025
- CLO attendance with Kids on Country Movie premier at Odin Cinemas Semaphore
- Third Cat trapping event for the Marree Innamincka region supported by Marree-Innamincka Group,
 run at Innamincka by NPWS and Innamincka Progress Association and OCA. Stomach content and
 genetic samples to CSIRO. This will make Feral cat numbers minimised in all townships in the MarreeInnamincka Region. 5 Cats were caught, and extreme weather conditions may have contributed to
 low numbers. NPWS will undergo further trapping to not only support township but to protect
 RAMSAR area.
- Family and Nature Day at Innamincka supported by Innamincka Progress Association. SAAL to deliver support and Plant Propagation Workshop with Ryan Hayward.
- Plains wanderer Song meter deployment December 2024 with 6 properties in the region being involved and more to come throughout the 2025.
- Landholder visits distributing weed guides and Biosecurity signs December 2024
- Landholder visits in December with kids citizen science activities whilst on property including, plains wanderer song meter deployment and other educational games for SOTA kids in the district.

NORTH FLINDERS

Community Landscape Officer: Claire McKenry

Group Meetings: March 14th at Blinman Next meeting: TBC

Group's key issues and activities

SA Water to present at our group meeting on groundwater source management, North Flinders on-ground operations, and water supplies to Indigenous communities.

Ongoing concerns of kangaroo population and goat control

A site near Hawker has been selected for a native pasture revegetation trial.

Regional activities coming up

- Aerial goat cull currently underway in Flinders 10th-15th March
- Quoll monitoring and trapping at Ikara and Arkaba in April

PORT AUGUSTA - QUORN

Community Landscape Officer: Brett Devitt

Group Meetings: Previous – 7 February in Port Augusta, Next – 4 April in Quorn

Group's key issues and activities

Planning for education activities – School incursions
Planting Native Gardens – native plant giveaway

Regional activities

- Song meter deployment for Plains Wanderer
- Engagement with the 'shacks' Port Augusta Coastal Homes Assoc.
- Port Augusta Coastcare support in community event planning (GRG)
- Port Augusta Garden Club support in community event planning (GRG)
- Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 2nd March
- Waterhouse Hairstreak workshop, follow up surveys, and landholder engagement

GAWLER RANGES

Community Landscape Officer: Chris Fulton

Group Meetings: Friday 29th November, Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. Next meeting scheduled Friday 14th March,

Topics of discussion and upcoming events in the GR district proposed for 2025:

- Pepper tree volunteers on Wilkatana Station coming back in September
- PIRSA pest plant and animal control in GR district, funding has been assigned as a result of the flooding experienced in the GR district in January of 2022
- The ongoing cactus control with cochineal throughout the district
- FRRR Kids & Family Day planned for Iron Knob in May or June, in discussion with IKPA regarding details
- Nadine Brown 'Planting Local' guide being distributed to community members, which has been well received
- The group is interested in holding a Sticky Beak Day at Secret Rocks, most likely later in the year
- SIMEC Mining have confirmed that they run a site tour for group members to gain an understanding about mine operations, rehabilitation areas and their pest plant and animal control, which will most likely be held in May
- Group will use group funds (maximum \$2,000 in total expended) to run a 'Growing Native Cover' program which will raise awareness to native plants which provide habitat and create shade whilst supporting dynamic local plant communities. Species selection will be supported by Nadine Brown's Plant Local guide. Email has been sent out to community
- Group will use group funds (maximum \$2,000 in total expended) to run a 'Cat Trap' program, (1 or 2 traps per property) yet to be approved, project proposal to be submitted ASAP
- The GR group is keen to host a snake awareness workshop, followed by a social evening in the district (first aid component included in workshop), Chris has engaged GRPA in discussion on this, waiting to hear back regarding their interest

The group will hear from

- Jade Leyden who will provide an Introduction to Carbon Farming Outreach Program and discussion about opportunities in the Gawler Ranges
- Cassia Paragnani may also provide a Kangaroo Partnerships Program update

NORTH EAST PASTORAL

Community Landscape Officer: Ryan Hayward

Group Meetings: Combined Group Meeting with Maree/Innamincka held on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 February at Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary – Next meeting: May 13, Mount Victor Station

Group's key issues and activities

- First Combined Group Meeting with Maree/Innamincka. Guest presenter Heather Channon, National Feral Pig Management Coordinator.
- ChemCert accreditation occurred on February 12 in Mannahill. Nine North East Locals successfully completed their certification.
- Sheep eID and Carbon workshop on November 15 at Bindarrah Station.

Regional activities coming up

- Landscape Rehydration Bootcamp at Mount Victor 14, 15 May with the Mulloon Institute.
- National Tree Day 27 July in Olary, rejuvenating the toilet block park with new plantings and a sign promoting the Landscape Group and Board.
- Install top 10 travel tips sign at Olary and Cockburn.
- District weeds workshop with Chris Brodie later in the year.

Other SAAL Projects in NEP

- Plains wanderer project, 9 properties currently involved with song meters deployed on each property. This April will be time to inspect and relocate song meters onto different sites and new properties.
- Further feral pig camera monitoring is occurring due to the steady rise in numbers.
- Noogoora burr funding opportunity, still planning with NEP pastoralists, looking to apply for funding with the Sheep Industry Fund.

MARLA OODNADATTA

Community Landscape Officer: Tori Love

Group Meetings: Met on the 26th of February at Cadney Park. Update from Elisa on ecology projects and Sally Thomas from OCA on unidentified cat management in OCA townships.

Key discussions

• The conditions of roads, especially the painted desert road, Arckaringa to Oodnadatta section is undrivable and Quinny urged that it should be closed at this time of year until regraded.

Across the region

- Elisa and Tori went up to Mt Willoughby to help ranger team learn about songmeters, deployed four songmeters for plains wanderer across the property with William, Wayne, Paul, Janet and Tim
- Family fun day on 5th of April in Oodnadatta Football clinic with Port Adelaide, Dunjiba community council showcasing their garden, yoga, music by Gavin Chandler
- Grader accreditation planned for this financial year group subsidising cost of ticket
- International Rangelands Bus tour scheduled coming down from Alice along the Stuart highway in late May

KINGOONYA

Community Landscape Officer: Tori Love

Group Meetings: Met on the 3rd of March in Kingoonya. Update from Alex on the goat space and reporting any goats in the region on feral scan. Walking plant and landscape conversation with Andrea alongside a sustainable ag update.

Key discussions

Lack of signage for Lake Torrens from Andamooka entry, highlighting Kuyani rules for not walking on Lake Torrens, protecting sacred sites and the environmental impact on driving on the lake

Across the region

- Landscape rehydration to be held on the 12th of May in Kingoonya
- Snake awareness training being planned for Andamooka/Roxby downs
- Songmeters pulled in from North Well, Bon Bon and Ingomar
- International Rangelands Bus tour scheduled coming down from Alice along the Stuart highway in late May