

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

06 May 2014

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS
NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013



Government of South Australia

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural
Resources Management Board**

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board
Annual Report 2012-13

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2013.

This report covers the eighth year of operation of the Board. The Board continues to engage and work with stakeholders and agencies throughout the region in an endeavour to improve the quality of our natural resources.

The Board continues to support the community, townships and industries (pastoral, mining, tourism etc) through programs to protect valuable ground and surface waters; improve pastoral land management; conserve natural ecosystems; and encourage community participation.

I thank the Board, NRM group and community members for their continued commitment to meeting the natural resource challenges throughout the region.

I commend this report to you.



Janet Crommelin-Brook
Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

LINKS BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE SA STRATEGIC PLAN

Table 1 below, illustrates where each theme area in the Regional NRM Plan contributed to achieving the visions and goals of the SA Strategic Plan.

Table 1: Links Between SAAL NRM Board Theme Areas and the SA Strategic Plan*

Regional NRM Plan	SA Strategic Plan					
Theme Areas	Visions					
	<i>Our Community</i>	<i>Our prosperity</i>	<i>Our environment</i>	<i>Our health</i>	<i>Our education</i>	<i>Our ideas</i>
Adaptive landscape-scale management, which maintains and strengthens the natural functioning of the region's ecological systems			✓			
Vibrant communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Vibrant communities, governments and industries working together with the capability, commitment and connections to manage resources in an integrated way	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

**Refer to SAAL NRM Board Strategic Plan*

LINKS BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE SEVEN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT

Table 2 below, illustrates where each theme area in the Regional NRM Plan contributed to achieving the seven strategic priorities of Government.

Table 2: Links between SAAL NRM Board Theme Areas (goals) and the seven strategic priorities of Government

Regional NRM Plan	SA Strategic Plan						
Theme Areas (goals)	Visions						
	<i>Creating a vibrant city</i>	<i>Safe communities healthy neighbourhoods</i>	<i>Premium food and wine from our clean environment</i>	<i>An affordable place to live</i>	<i>Every chance for every child</i>	<i>Growing advanced manufacturing</i>	<i>Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all South Australians</i>
Adaptive landscape-scale management, which maintains and strengthens the natural functioning of the region's ecological systems			✓				✓
Vibrant communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits			✓				✓
Vibrant communities, governments and industries working together with the capability, commitment and connections to manage resources in an integrated way			✓				✓

LINKS BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE STATE NRM PLAN

Table 3 below, illustrates the links between the State NRM Plan and the SA Arid Lands NRM Boards program areas.

Table 3: Links between the State NRM Plan and the SAAL NRM Board program areas and Resource Condition Targets (RCTs) from the SAAL Regional NRM Plan

State NRM Plan Guiding Targets	Regional NRM Board Program Areas				
Guiding Targets	Active communities	Sustainable landscapes	Functional ecosystems	Water	Planning and Evaluation
Key	Strong contribution (> 75% alignment)	Contribution (40-75% alignment)	Low contribution (< 40% alignment)		
1. Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making (links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)					
2. Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources (links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)					
3. Improve institutional and organisational capacity to support people to manage natural resources					
4. Improve capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change (links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)					

State NRM Plan Guiding Targets	Regional NRM Board Program Areas				
Guiding Targets	Active communities	Sustainable landscapes	Functional ecosystems	Water	Planning and Evaluation
Key	Strong contribution (> 75% alignment)	Contribution (40-75% alignment)	Low contribution (< 40% alignment)		
5. All NRM planning and investment decisions take into account ecological, social and production considerations (links with SAAL RCT 6)					
6. Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources (links with SAAL RCT 6)					
7. Improve soil and land condition (links with SAAL RCT 5)					
8. Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation (links with SAAL RCT 1)					
9. Improve condition of terrestrial aquatic ecosystems (includes groundwater and surface water) (links with SAAL RCT 3, 7, 8)					

State NRM Plan Guiding Targets	Regional NRM Board Program Areas				
Guiding Targets	Active communities	Sustainable landscapes	Functional ecosystems	Water	Planning and Evaluation
Key	Strong contribution (> 75% alignment)	Contribution (40-75% alignment)	Low contribution (< 40% alignment)		
10. Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems (n/a – as no coast and marine in SAAL region)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11. Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes (geological and culturally important features) (links with SAAL RCT 4)					
12. Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities (links with SAAL RCT 2)					
13. Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests (links with SAAL RCT 1, 2)					

RCT – Resource Condition Targets (10-year targets from the SA Arid Lands Regional NRM Plan)

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

The SAAL NRM Board reports the following operations and achievements for the 2012-13 financial year:

Sustainable landscapes

SAAL's incentives program delivered 76 projects on targeted sites within the region. The total value was in excess of \$177,000, with successful projects designed to assist landowners with pest and plant control, soil erosion and revegetation. Activities included pest plant control (pepper trees, boxthorn, African rue, cactus, Buffel grass, onion weed, Noogoora burr, Mexican poppy), pest animal control (rabbits, cats, goats), contouring, revegetation and water ponding. The incentives program is currently being evaluated externally to identify potential improvements for future program design.

Additional weed control activities were undertaken through a range of Caring for our Country funded projects. This includes on-ground control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) Athel Pine, Parkinsonia, Mesquite, Prickly Acacia and Opuntoid cacti in the North East, Gawler Ranges, Flinders Ranges and Marree-Innaminka districts. During 2012-13, a total of 26,324 hectares of outlier populations of these weeds were controlled. Another project continued efforts to eradicate a limited infestation of Boneseed, another WONS, from the Parachilna Gorge, North Flinders District.

Additional pest animal control activities include a 3-year feral pig project, involving a total of fifteen landholders in the development of a strategy and action plan, as well as completing baiting and aerial control activities across 95,000 hectares in the Georgina-Diamantina catchment and the Cooper Creek Catchment in the north-east of the state.

Biteback continued its efforts at wild dog control, this year focusing on the Gawler Ranges and Kingoonya Districts, achieving 65% participation in local area planning activities. Together with an aerial baiting program delivered in partnership with Biosecurity SA, 63% of properties participated in baiting activities in these two districts. Biteback staff supplied a baiting service in the four Districts south of the dog fence. Overall, property participation was 69%, and a total of 14,824 baits were distributed across the four Districts.

Community engagement (events and volunteers)

The SAAL NRM region had a presence at four regional events, including races and gymkhanas at Copley, Oodnadatta, Marree and Yunta. A stall was attended by staff who provided information and advice to visitors.

Carbon Farming workshops were delivered to pastoralists in Coober Pedy and Yunta in February and May to raise awareness of the Australian Governments Carbon Farming Initiative and to identify any potential voluntary opportunities for landholders to participate in carbon markets.

A forum for producers was held in Hawker which covered a range of topics, including production and marketing approaches, environmental management factors, succession planning and remote monitoring.

A Plant Identification workshop was held in August 2012 in the North Flinders District in partnership with Greening Australia.

A mini-school was held in Port Hughes with school-of-the-air students, on the identification of tracks and scats of key regional fauna.

A total of 78 volunteers from six volunteer groups were supported in delivering 6,175 hours (823 FTE days) of work across the region. Activities included rubbish clean-up, cactus control, monitoring kowari and bronzeback legless lizard populations, rabbit control, restoration of historical buildings, fence maintenance and revegetation. A volunteer appreciation evening was held for the region's volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to a range of activities.

Aboriginal community activities

A Chemical Accreditation course was delivered to Umoona Community and Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation (Mt. Willoughby Station) participants, aiming to provide skills and knowledge of weed control. Seven participants completed the course and gained accreditation to the highest level available. Since then, participants have used the knowledge and skills developed in the course undertaking Buffel grass control around Coober Pedy and Umoona Community.

A Management Plan has been developed for Chambers Gorge in partnership with Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association. The Plan identifies Aboriginal cultural values and concerns about the condition of Chambers Gorge as the priority for actions to preserve the area. In a complementary project, interpretive and exclusion signage has been developed and will be installed to advise visitors of the significance of the gorge to Adnyamathanha and to prevent damage to ancient petroglyphs, the creek banks and creek bed.

A series of Carbon Farming Initiative workshops have been delivered in Port Augusta, Leigh Creek and Coober Pedy to provide land managers with information on potential participation in the carbon market and eligible carbon farming methodologies.

An Aboriginal Involvement Strategy has been completed after being in development for several years, building on information gained from earlier engagement activities. The draft Strategy was provided for consultation to approximately 120 groups throughout the State and at Federal level. Six meetings were held with eight Aboriginal groups/bodies specifically targeted to provide feedback on the Draft. Feedback from the consultation period was considered and the strategy was revised where relevant. The final version of the document was launched at NAIDOC celebrations held at the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide, Friday 12 July 2013.

Industry engagement (landholders, mining, tourism)

Continued support was provided for 17 properties participating in the EMUTM (Ecosystem Management Understanding) program. This involves the development of sustainable property management plans that build landholder knowledge and capacity, quantify risks and opportunities, prioritise actions that will improve the business success of landholders, revitalise landscapes and build carbon inventories for future initiatives. An additional project officer was employed to increase internal capacity for EMU delivery in the region.

Support was provided to land managers in the Peake catchment (Marla Oodnadatta District) to conduct a preliminary survey, develop a landscape scale catchment wide strategy and commence management activities for woody weeds (*Acacia farnesiana*).

A four-year project was completed this year supporting two producer group projects and four associated case studies. The projects focused on the provision of information to land managers on soil management, grazing management and livestock management. Best practise grazing management modules were developed for the rangelands environment; these are currently being reviewed and will be available in the near future.

Industry support staff continued to engage on pest management, native vegetation, mining and other issues with the pastoral and mining industries, reaching 67 properties and 12 mining/exploration companies.

A Soil Conservation Workshop was held in April, which was a joint initiative with the CLMA (Centralian Land Management Association).

A landholder kit 'Working with Volunteers' has been completed and in the process of being disseminated to landholders in the region. This kit will assist landholders identify opportunities for volunteers to assist in the delivery of NRM activities in the region.

Governance

In October 2012, the Presiding Members of the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and Native Vegetation Council (NVC) confirmed an intent to develop a strategic partnership to address key areas of shared policy and strategic interest. Establishing a strategic partnership ensures that communication and consultation processes can be aligned for areas of shared policy interest, and arrangements to support more effective and efficient provision of information and services to SA Arid Land communities can be implemented. To date there has been joint planning and involvement in the development of a rangelands rapid assessment tool, review of the NVC mining guidelines and waterpoint guidelines, and significant environmental benefit metric review and development.

Water program

Region-wide priority ecosystem monitoring program

The aquatic ecosystem monitoring program developed in collaboration with the Environment Protection Authority completed its first round this year, resulting in a baseline for key priority aquatic ecosystems in the region. The intention is to repeat the monitoring every five years to detect water quality and ecosystem condition trends over time.

Coal Seam Gas / National Partnership Agreement

Information for the Coal Seam Gas project was collated and formatted for provision to the Australian Government, including assessment of information gaps and the development of a strategy for further research. This work includes a project focusing on the Arckaringa Creek to fill an existing knowledge gap in a priority surface water catchment.

In collaboration with the Science Knowledge and Monitoring division of DEWNR, a suite of projects relating to the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Developments have been developed and will be progressively delivered over the next two years.

The initial stages of the Arckaringa Basin, Pedirka Basin and Lake Eyre Basin projects and the NRM Boards' data project (six regional NRM Boards involved) was completed as part of the National Partnership Agreement for Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development.

Cooper Creek catchment

A 3-year project has been completed in the Cooper Creek catchment involving collection of baseline data on critical aquatic refuges which will provide a better understanding of threats and issues relating to key waterholes for biodiversity protection and management. A threat detection system to provide early warning of pest infestations such as the Cane Toad was also developed as part of this project and has been trialled on multiple sites in the Cooper Creek catchment. A final element of this project was a tourism impacts assessment tool, which has

been developed and trialled on multiple sites in the Cooper Creek Catchment. Its purpose is to assist in determining the extent of tourism impacts and indicating appropriate management responses. The project wrapped up with a workshop involving industry, university, pastoral, aboriginal, community and agency representatives.

Water affecting activities

The information and internal processes associated with administering the Water Affecting Activity permit process were fully implemented for the first time this year. This process guides landholders and others in the region in the delivery of works adjacent to rivers, creeks and floodplains to ensure that the natural flows of water are not obstructed and natural flow patterns remain intact. An associated extension program was implemented to inform stakeholders of their responsibilities in relation to applying for and adhering to permit conditions. In recognition of the increased scientific understanding of the hydrology of the region (largely as a result of project work funded by the Board) a review of the Water Affecting Activity permit criteria will commence in 2013 associated with the planned rewrite of the Board's Regional NRM Plan.

The Board has also continued to liaise with other government agencies, for example the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation Trade Resources and Energy and the Department for Planning Transport and Infrastructure, regarding the effective implementation of the Water Affecting Activity permits to reduce red tape and facilitate effective approval processes for development in the region.

Groundwater (Great Artesian Basin – GAB)

The recently completed four-year National Water Initiative project has vastly improved our understanding of the hydrogeology of the Great Artesian Basin in SA. This is fundamental in the preparation of a scheduled rewrite of the Far North Prescribed Wells Water Allocation Plan. The project was completed in 2012 and associated reports launched in March 2013.

An audit was commenced of all artesian wells (more than 3000 completed), two uncontrolled flowing wells were decommissioned, one replacement well was drilled and four wells were rehabilitated as part of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) Phase 3 program. The audit was extended to include assessment of well heads and associated infrastructure, supported by SAAL NRM Board funds.

On 28 June 2013, the GABSI Phase 3 Implementation Program was signed by the Commonwealth Government, which enables payment to the South Australian Government to complete the remaining projects during 2013-14.

Upgraded infrastructure for 34 wells and installed instrumentation for 14 sites are included as part of South Australian portion of the Great Artesian Basin national monitoring network upgrade. The upgrade of the Great Artesian Basin flowing monitoring network is now completed.

Ongoing surveillance monitoring/data validation of groundwater condition can be accessed via SA GEODATA.

An assessment was completed of potential impacts of a changing climate on groundwater recharge processes in the South Australian Arid Lands NRM region. Also completed were the non-prescribed groundwater resource assessments for the SAAL region.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SAAL NRM Board was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act). This report for the 2012-13 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the NRM Act.

OBJECTS OF THE *NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT*

The objects of the NRM Act include to assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources in a manner that—

- (a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and
- (b) seeks to protect biological diversity and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, to support and encourage the restoration or rehabilitation of ecological systems and processes that have been lost or degraded; and
- (c) provides for the protection and management of catchments and the sustainable use of land and water resources and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, seeks to enhance and restore or rehabilitate land and water resources that have been degraded; and
- (d) seeks to support sustainable primary and other economic production systems with particular reference to the value of agriculture and mining activities to the economy of the State; and
- (e) provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community; and
- (f) promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Section 29 of the NRM Act describes the functions of the SAAL NRM Board.

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Board are—
 - (a) to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region; and
 - (b) —
 - (i) to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with this Act; and
 - (ii) to implement that plan; and
 - (iii) to keep the plan under review to ensure that the objects of this Act are being achieved; and
 - (c) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources; and
 - (d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the Board under this or any other Act; and
 - (e) to resolve any issues that may arise between any NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region; and

- (ea) to undertake an active role in ensuring-
 - (i) that any Development Plan under the *Development Act 1993* that applies within its region promotes the objects of this Act; and
 - (ii) insofar as is reasonably practicable, that those Development Plans and the Board's regional NRM plan form a coherent set of policies, and, in so doing, when a Development Plan amendment under the *Development Act 1993* that is relevant to the activities of the Board is under consideration under that Act, to work with-
 - (iii) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a council-the council; or
 - (iv) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a Minister-that Minister's department; and
 - (f) at the request of the Minister or the NRM Council, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within its region, or on the management of those resources, to conduct any inquiry or audit, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (g) such other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a regional NRM Board may act with respect to a particular matter despite the fact that the matter may not fall within the scope of its regional NRM plan.
 - (3) However, if a regional NRM Board acts with respect to a particular matter in the circumstances described in subsection (2), the Board must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament (unless the matter is not, in the opinion of the Board, significant).
 - (4) In performing its functions, a regional NRM Board should (as far as is reasonably practicable) seek to work collaboratively with—
 - (a) the other regional NRM Boards whose regions adjoin the region of the Board; and
 - (b) other State agencies, agencies of the Commonwealth, and agencies of the other States and Territories, that have functions that are relevant to those of the Board; and
 - (c) NRM groups with areas that fall (wholly or partially) within the region of the Board; and
 - (d) the constituent councils for the region, and other councils as may be relevant; and
 - (e) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations; and
 - (f) persons who own or occupy land within the region of the Board (insofar as may be relevant).
 - (5) A regional NRM Board will, with respect to the performance of its functions, report to the Minister.
 - (6) If the Minister assigns a function to a regional NRM Board under subsection (1)—
 - (a) the Minister must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament; and
 - (b) the regional NRM Board must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 25 of the NRM Act provides for the appointment of the SAAL NRM Board. The Board comprises nine members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Each of the appointed members of the Board is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the requirements of section 25(4) of the NRM Act for the appointment of members.

The membership of the Board during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Janet Crommelin-Brook
- Daryl Bell
- Ross Sawers
- Leonard Nutt
- Catherine Hollingsworth
- Rick Barratt
- Murray Tyler
- Mark Sutton (appointed 14/4/13)
- Leanne Liddle (resigned 6/6/13)
- Kylie Fuller (resigned 21/8/12)

Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Michael Malavazos, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
- Neil Power, Department for Water (Deputy – Ben Samy)
- Toni Bauer (appointed 30/9/11), Outback Communities Authority (resigned 3/6/13)
- John Virtue (appointed 28/6/13), Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of six general Board meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

One special Board meeting was held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Janet Crommelin-Brook	6		
Daryl Bell	3		
Ross Sawers	4		Other commitments
Leonard Nutt	5		Other commitments
Catherine Hollingsworth	6		
Rick Barratt	6		
Murray Tyler	6		
Mark Sutton	2	Appointed 14/4/13	
Michael Malavazos	3		
Paul DeIonno (Michael Malavazos' Proxy)	2		
Neil Power	3		
Ben Sammy (Neil Power's Proxy)	1		

John Virtue	0	Appointed 28/6/13	
Toni Bauer	0	Resigned 3/6/13	
Leanne Liddle	0	Resigned 6/6/13	
Kylie Fuller	0	Resigned 21/8/12	

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board has a good working relationship with a number of agencies to deliver services across the region. Agencies include:

- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)
- Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)
- Department of Planning, Transport, and Infrastructure (DPTI)
- Outback Communities Australia (OCA)
- Regional Development Australia (Far North)
- Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee (GABCC)
- Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee (LEBCAC)
- Australian Government representatives through Caring for our Country (CfoC)

The Board continues to use shared administrative arrangements for the processing of payroll and accounts functions. During this financial year the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board housed the coordinator of the National Rangeland NRM Alliance, comprising every Rangelands based NRM body across Australia.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

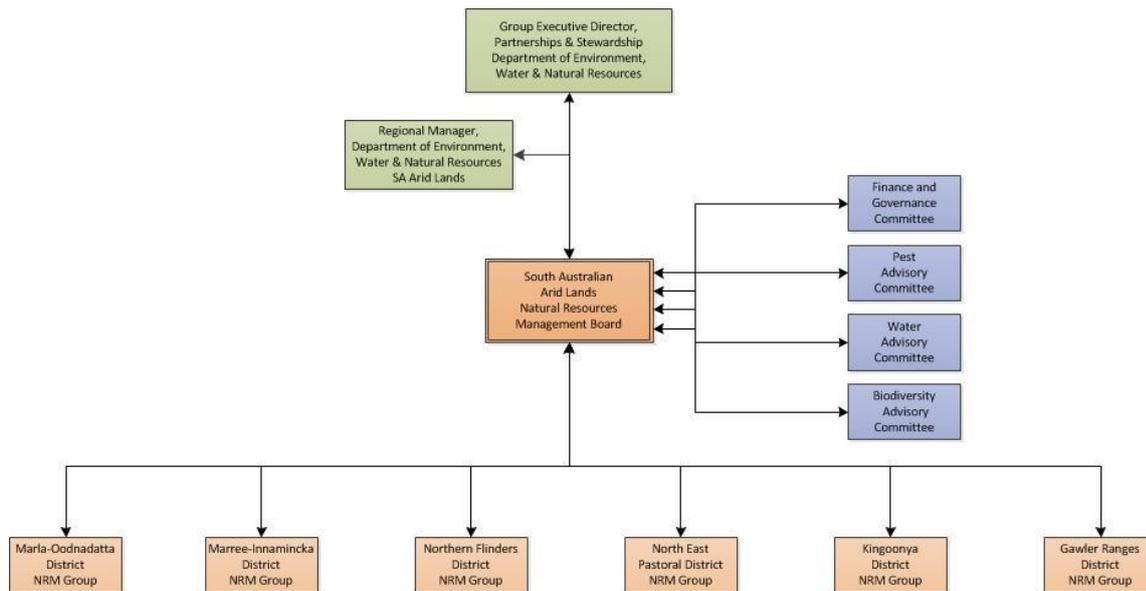
The business of the SAAL NRM Board delivers a diverse NRM investment program that is supported by a robust governance framework including planning, corporate and administrative functions. The Board is assisted by several advisory committees for corporate and technical NRM matters.

The Board is supported by six regional NRM Groups and actively develops capacity to provide on-ground outcomes by engaging land managers at the local level through increased community ownership. The NRM Group members provide a social and local context for delivery of programs by encouraging community engagement and monitoring performance.

Board members are accountable to the community for the governance of the Board area. The Regional Manager is accountable to the Board for managing its resources efficiently and effectively. In preparation of the Annual Report, the Board prepares its financial statements and submits them for audit by the Auditor General.

The Board ensures new members are given a thorough induction and the Board have been undertaking Leadership training. The Board has worked to establish a new Policy Framework and to further increase its capacity and has established a Governance and Finance Committee.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



NRM GROUP ACTIVITIES

In 2011, the SAAL NRM Board commissioned a review of district NRM Groups in the region. This review was conducted by Rural Solutions SA.

One of the outcomes of that review was a recommendation that District NRM Groups should become more involved in strategic planning – ie in reviewing and prioritising natural resources issues that require attention and helping frame actions to address those issues. In response, the SAAL NRM Board engaged contractors Hadyn Hanna and Simon Lewis to work with the District NRM Groups in a strategic planning process, with some of the outcomes listed below.

District Groups and Priority NRM Issues

This section focuses on the top five natural resources management issues raised by each group, as indicated in Table 4 below.

TABLE 4: Highest Priority NRM Issues raised by the District Groups.*

(*no issues raised by the North East Pastoral District NRM Group, as the Group had not yet been established)

North Flinders	Kingoonya	Gawler Ranges	Marla-Oodnadatta	Marree - Innamincka
Goats	Dingoes / Wild Dogs	Goats	Mining & Exploration Impacts	Dingoes / Wild Dogs
Dingoes / Wild Dogs	Rabbits	Rabbits	Dogs	Foxes
Weeds	Buffel Grass	Dingoes / Wild Dogs	Foxes	Mining & Exploration Impacts
Foxes & cats	Foxes & cats	Foxes	Cats	Tourism Impacts
Rabbits	White Fly	Cats	Weeds	Rabbits

Goats

- At least maintain existing programs.
- Consider developing Local Area Plans to provide more detail and foster engagement.

Dingoes / Wild Dogs

- Maintain Bite-back program and expand if possible.
- Seek clearer recognition of problems at state level and increased resources for Dog Fence Board.

Rabbits

- Provide increased support for rabbit control.
- Support lobbying of appropriate authorities for development of alternative biological controls.

Foxes

- Fox control program needs to be ramped up with increased resources.
- Consider re-introduction of bounty system.

Cats

- A well resourced, organised program for cat control is needed.
- As with foxes, a bounty system could be considered.

Weeds

- Kingoonya Group proposes that Buffel grass be proclaimed as a pest plant.
- North Flinders Group believes that existing programs, such as for wheel cactus control, should be maintained.
- Gawler Ranges Group suggests consideration be given to spray units for use in each district group and a plant ID workshop. The option of funding contract sprayer to visit to spray on properties should be available and trial/demonstration sites could be useful.

White Fly

- Maintain monitoring program and promote further research to clarify the issues and relationships that are contributing to the dieback of Western Myall.

Mining and Exploration Impacts

- Maintain existing processes for assessment, rehabilitation etc.
- Improve communication between District Groups and mining stakeholders through meetings re current and future programs.
- Provide more information on land holder rights.

Tourism Impacts

- Allocate more resources to maintenance of Public Access Routes. Tourists should contribute through camping fees etc.
- Develop improved policies and practices relating to firewood collection.
- Establish improved signage at parking bays and the like. Install more waste bins of appropriate design.
- Improve extension and education programs through Across the Outback and through publications modelled on the Great Tracks and String of Springs brochure.

NORTHERN FLINDERS DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Northern Flinders District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Keith Slade (chair)
- Ian Ferguson
- Glenys Aird
- Stony Steiner
- Keith Bellchambers
- Nicki de Preu
- Janet Coulthard (resigned 28/3/13)
- Ivan McKenzie (appointed 3/6/13)

Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Darren Crawford, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of five general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

One special District Group meeting was held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Keith Slade (chair)	6		
Ian Ferguson	5		Unknown
Glenys Aird	6		
Stony Steiner	5		Work commitments
Keith Bellchambers	2		Work commitments
Nicki de Preu	4		Work commitments
Janet Coulthard	1	Resigned 28/3/13	Unknown
Ivan McKenzie	0	Appointed 3/6/13	Sick
Darren Crawford (Govt Rep)	2		Work commitments for 1 Not invited to first 2

The Group participated in two Strategic Planning Workshops with Simon Lewis and Hadyn Hanna, noting their main priorities were Goats, Wild Dogs, Weeds, Foxes & Cats and Rabbits. In their report, Lewis and Hanna note "to some extent, this listing reflects the run of good seasons over the past three years or so, with conditions favouring growth of vegetation, including weeds, and pest animals also benefiting from the good years."

The Group focuses on one issue at each meeting and encourages community members to attend. This has been successful with 16 extra community members in total attending the Carbon Opportunities (meeting 20) and Development of a Wild Dog Incentive Program (meeting 21) sessions. The Group are pleased with the response and will continue this as a good way to keep in touch with the wider community which the members are representing.

General discussion and agenda items initiate awareness and problem solving around changing numbers of pest plants and animals. Group members regularly report pest numbers and observations of others (highlighting discussions are occurring outside of formal meetings).

Members seek regular updates from the Bounceback program's goat and fox control, with main concerns being that for these programs to succeed it is best if everyone participates. Members are committed to goat and fox control and are strong supporters of Bounceback.

Members continue to be strong advocates for Wild Dog Control and the Bite Back program south of the Dog Fence. Meeting number 21 is an example of when the Group took on a suggestion from a community member and utilised the District Group meeting platform to debate if this was an appropriate activity and avenue for funding for the region. The Group has been working through issues relating to this including extra out of meeting hours for Keith Slade and Leonard Nutt. The Group is working to ensure this program is reflective of Board priorities and is in keeping with Best Practice. The group is working with the Dog Fence Board on problems with the repair of the Dog Fence in (flood) emergency times.

MARLA OODNADATTA DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Marla Oodnadatta District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Mark Fennell (Chair)
- Tony Williams
- Douglas Lillecrapp
- Simon Hilder
- Tina Boyd
- Caroline Thomas
- Christine Jones (appointed 3/6/13)

Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Frank Lyman, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year. No special District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Mark Fennell	3		unavoidable commitments
Tony Williams	1		unavoidable commitments
Douglas Lillecrapp	2		unavoidable commitments
Simon Hilder	1		unavoidable commitments
Tina Boyd	3		family illness
Caroline Thomas	3		overseas
Christine Jones	0	Appointed 3/6/13	
Frank Lyman (Govt Rep)	0		Work commitments

Achievements of the Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group during the 2012-13 period include;

- Support for state funded EMU™ projects including a soil conservation and rehabilitation machinery workshop week on Wintinna Station with 12 attendees, and on-ground works on Hamilton Station with support from Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure.
- Provided additional feedback on the dingo project program and procedure for baiting applications.
- Provided input to and purchased a spray unit for the Acacia farnesiana project.
- On-going support for the Acacia farnesiana project.

KINGOONYA DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Kingoonya District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Julie-Ann Mould (chair) (term expiry 28/3/13)
- Richard Mould (term expiry 28/3/13)
- Glen Norris (resigned 2/6/13 – transferred to North East Pastoral district group)
- Katie Hulmes
- Graeme Noll
- Kara Edmonds (resigned 20/8/12)
- Michael Chuk (appointed 3/6/13)
- Julia Harris (appointed 3/6/13)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

No special District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Julie Mould	3	resigned end of term	
Rick Mould	0	resigned end of term	Work commitments
Katie Hulmes	1		Work commitments
Graeme Noll	3		Work commitments
Mike Chuk	1	Appointed 3/6/13	
Julia Harris	1	Appointed 3/6/13	
Glen Norris	3	Resigned 2/6/13	Work commitments
Kara Edmonds	0	Resigned 20/8/12	

Achievements of the NRM District Group during the 2012-13 period include:

- Support for the EMU™ program;
- Participated in Dingo aerial and ground baiting;
- A spray unit has been delivered to the region and is available for landholders use;
- Development of the Stuart Highway signage project;
- Participated in a carbon farming workshop;
- Continued Western Myall White Fly monitoring;

MARREE-INNAMINCKA DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Marree-Innamincka District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Maree Morton (Chair)
- Janet Brook (Board Representative)
- Raylene Ogilvy
- Gina Reick
- Peter Paisley
- Jacqueline Ogilvy
- Andrew Johnston (resigned 18/10/12)
- Valerie Fuschtei (appointed 3/6/13)

Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Tony Magor, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

No special District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Janet Crommelin-Brook	1		Work commitments
Raylene Ogilvy	4		
Jacqueline Ogilvy	3		Work commitments
Maree Morton	4		
Peter Paisley	4		
Gina Reick	4		
Andrew Johnston	0	Resigned 18/10/2012	Work commitments
Valerie Fuschtei	0	Appointed 3/6/13	
Tony Magor (Govt Rep)	1		Work commitments

The Group have participated in several consultation sessions with the Dingo Project Manager to assist in the development of a 5-year dingo management plan for the north dog fence region currently being developed by BioSecurity SA.

Funding was secured to conduct a biological survey in the region to collect significant data from the 'boom' seasons experienced in 2010-11. This baseline data will be significant in future NRM projects. The Group have been working on an ongoing plan to develop a 'fishway' ladder at the Innamincka Causeway site, in association with SANTOS and DPTI.

The second version of the Great Tracks brochure (first released in June 2012) was released, promoting responsible tourism and sustainable use of natural resources in the Birdsville and Strzelecki regions.

The Group provided guidance to project officers on the development of community events including the Cooper Creek Project Workshop and Diamantina Pig Management program.

They participated in a strategic planning workshop with Hadyn Hanna and Simon Lewis to identify priority areas for the District (incl. pest plants and animals and tourism management). During discussions at group meetings, members regularly raise locally relevant issues. These are passed on to the Board as part of the groups Community ↔ Board conduit role.

GAWLER RANGES DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Gawler Ranges District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Alexander (Sandy) Morris (Chair)
- Jane Anderson
- Michael Freak
- Catherine Hollingsworth (Board Representative)
- Joanne Lee
- John McMahon (resigned 17/2/13)
- Angus McTaggart (term expiry 28/3/13)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year. No special District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Alexander (Sandy) Morris	4		
Catherine Hollingsworth	3		Personal Commitments
Jane Anderson	3		Personal Commitments
Joanne Lee	3		Work Commitments
Michael Freak	3		Work Commitments
Angus McTaggart	2	Resigned 28/03/2013	Work Commitments
John McMahon	0	Resigned 17/02/2013	Work Commitments

The Gawler Ranges District Group have been active in the promotion and development of the Biteback program in the district by leading local groups and making operational suggestions that have increased productivity. A Carbon Farming information session was integrated into the February meeting which was advertised for public attendance.

A relationship has been formed with environmental staff working on the management of the Cultana Defence training site expansion, allowing information to be disseminated to the region via the District Group.

The Group have provided guidance on community events and local projects. They have participated in a strategic planning workshop with Hadyn Hanna and Simon Lewis to identify priority areas for the district (incl. pest plants and animals and tourism management).

The Group provided feedback to the Board during the annual review of the SAAL Business Plan. During discussions at meetings group members regularly raise locally relevant issues which are passed on to the Board as part of the groups Community ↔ Board conduit role.

NORTH EAST PASTORAL DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the North East Pastoral District Group during 2012-13 was:

Members

- Glen Norris (Chair) (appointed 3/6/13)
- Terrence Coulthard (appointed 3/6/13)
- Carina Staer (appointed 3/6/13)

Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Ian Falkenberg, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

No general District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

No special District Group meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Glen Norris	0	Appointed 3/6/13	
Carina Staer	0	Appointed 3/6/13	
Terrence Coulthard	0	Appointed 3/6/13	
Ian Falkenberg	0	Appointed 3/6/13	

The North East Pastoral District Group has only recently formed and has yet to hold a meeting since its establishment on 3 June 2013. It is envisaged that as meetings and events are held in the district, more interest will be generated to increase membership. At the time of reporting, there are no achievements / initiatives to record against this Group.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The SAAL NRM Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13. Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the SAAL NRM Board from DEWNR resources.

The following matters are also contained in the DEWNR annual report 2012-2013:

- Superannuation contribution by the SAAL NRM Board
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

The gender balance of the Board and District Groups is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

The SAAL NRM Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

WORK HEALTH SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

The SAAL NRM Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Financial statements as approved by the Auditor General area detailed in Appendix A.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

During the 2012-13 financial year there have been no contractual arrangements entered into where the total value of the contract exceeds \$4 million and extends beyond a single year.

ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

Particulars	Number of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by number)	Value in \$A of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by value)
Paid by due date*	728	95.79%	\$ 2,773,598.77	90.03%
Paid late, within 30 days of due date	29	3.82%	\$ 304,580.04	9.89%
Paid more than 30 days from due date	3	0.39%	\$ 2,648.65	0.09%

*Note: The due date is defined under section 11.7 of Treasurer's Instruction 11 *Payment of Creditors' Accounts*. Generally, unless there is a discount or a written agreement between the public authority and the creditor, payment should be within thirty days of the date of the invoice or claim. Some agencies receive invoices significantly later than the invoice date, due to supplier invoicing processes. Agencies may choose to report against the date the invoice is first received rather than the date of invoice.

FRAUD

There have been no instances of fraud detected during the financial year.

CONSULTANTS

The Board has not engaged external consultants during the 2012-13 financial year.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

No overseas travel has been undertaken during the reporting period.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLANS

Promoting Independence - Disability Action Plans for South Australia provides a framework of action for agencies to meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *SA Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. The Board acknowledges the disability reform report *Strong Voices: a Blueprint to Enhance Life and Claim the Rights of People with Disability in South Australia (2012 – 2020)*, which will be reported against in the 2013-14 Annual Report.

There are six outcome areas outlined in *Promoting Independence* against which the Board reports against:

1. The SAAL NRM Board ensures accessibility of their services to people with disabilities. The Railway Station Office has disability access and a disabled toilet installed.
2. The SAAL NRM Board ensures information about their services and programs is inclusive of people with disabilities. Delivery of information is usually provided through a combination of face to face visits, telephone, Australia Post or electronic mail.
3. The Board delivers advice or services to people with disabilities with awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with disabilities. As the Board does not have staff, any training would be reported for staff through the DEWNR Annual Report.
4. The SAAL NRM Board provides opportunities for consultation with people with disabilities in decision making processes regarding service delivery and in the implementation of complaints and grievance mechanisms.
5. The SAAL NRM Board has met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and Equal Opportunity Act as it applies to the work environment.
6. The Board is aware of the South Australian Strategic Plan Target 6.22 – “to double the number of people with disabilities employed in the public sector by 2014”. As the Board does not have staff, measures for this target are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The SAAL NRM Board did not own any buildings during the financial year being reported. As such, it does not have an asbestos management report. Staff are housed in rental accommodation and office accommodation is leased through the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. Subsequently, building details and an asbestos register would be maintained by this Department.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

The South Australian Urban Design Charter promotes the benefits of good urban design, embeds the principals into government processes and records the South Australian Government’s commitment to good urban design. The Board was not involved in any urban design activities during the reporting period.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure it complies with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*. The Regional Manager is the designated Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer for the SAAL NRM Board.

Documents available free of charge:

The following documents are available by contacting the Board on 08 8648 5300:

- Brochures and Fact Sheets
- Policy documents
- Management Plans
- Meeting Minutes

Effect of Board Functions on members of the public

The Board is committed to undertaking extensive public consultation prior to the formulation of any major policies relating to the Board's functions. Any Board policy may be viewed by contacting the Board's offices between 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). Instructions on how to make an application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* can also be obtained from the Board's offices.

Information Summary

The types of documents that are held by the SAAL NRM Board include:

- Administration files
- Tender and Contract information
- Policy Documents and Procedure Manuals
- Research Reports and Publications
- Brochures, Fact Sheets, Newsletters, Photos and Posters.

Accessing Documents

Access to documents of requests for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* is via the FOI Officer.

Contact Officer

The Regional Manager is the Board's designated Principal Officer for FOI purposes.

FOI requests are addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

PO Box 78

PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

The SAAL NRM Board's responsible officer for the purposes of the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* (WPA) pursuant to Section 7 of the *Public Sector Act 2009* is the Regional Manager. There have been no instances of disclosure of public interest information to a responsible officer of the Board under the WPA.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS

The SAAL NRM Board did not own any buildings during the 2012-13 financial year and subsequently does not have an Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report.

Staff are very environmentally aware on both a personal and professional basis and understand the need to operate in an energy efficient office. Staff and visitors take measures to reduce energy and resource usage, and recycle where possible.

GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK

The SAAL NRM Board is committed to the Greening of Government Operations (GoGO) Framework adopted by the Government.

Although the Board does not have any staff, those delivering projects on behalf of the Board are passionate about the environment and reduce consumption where possible. If they cannot reduce consumption, they attempt to re-use and recycle materials. Recycling facilities are provided for the following materials:

- Paper and cardboard;
- Confidential paper;
- Comingled (non-container deposit legislation containers, including glass and plastic containers, aluminium and steel cans, cartons);
- Toner cartridges (printer and photocopier);
- Cans and beverage containers with redeemable deposits;
- Food waste disposal;
- Battery disposal through the Mackay Street office.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2012-13 financial year.

GLOSSARY

CFOC	Caring For Our Country
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DEWNR	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
DfW	Department for Water
DPTI	Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure
EMU TM	Ecosystem Management Understanding
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GABCC	Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee
GABSI	Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative
LEBCAC	Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PIRSA	Primary Industries and Regions SA
SAAL NRM	South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management
SEB	Significant Environmental Benefit

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The SAAL NRM Board acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands on which it meets. The Board acknowledges the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal peoples to country. The Board pays respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia.

In fulfilling its functions, the SAAL NRM Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

A Ministerial directive was issued on 16 April 2012 directing the Board to:

- Use the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)¹ to provide the Board's business support and NRM services in the region;
- Enter into an agreement with DENR for these services. This agreement will include the delivery of support services to the Board to ensure it is able to meet its statutory requirements under the NRM Act and an annual work plan for the delivery of the Board's Business Plan. This agreement will detail the services, projects and funds to deliver the board's annual work plan; and
- Fund the services and projects set out in the agreement.

This notification also advised that the Government had made a decision to transfer the employment of staff from the NRM Act to the *Public Sector Act 2009* and for these staff to be brought into the administrative unit of DEWNR.

Included in this directive, was the expectation that existing DEWNR systems will be used and adapted to integrate corporate services, including financial, technology and human resource management systems. Where a Government service is mandated, the Board would be required to use these services.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY MINISTER

There were no significant Ministerial functions assigned to the Board in accordance with s29(6)(b) of the NRM Act.

¹ Now the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources which was created on 1 July 2012, by amalgamating the former Department for Water and DENR.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE BOARD

There were no significant additional functions or powers delegated to the Board under the NRM Act or any other Act in accordance with Regulation 9e of the NRM (General) Regulations 2005.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE BOARD

The Board has delegated appropriate procurement, finance and contracting powers to relevant members of staff of the Board in accordance with Regulation 9d of the NRM (General) Regulations 2005 and s36 of the NRM Act. This enables Board staff to undertake operational Board business.

On 29 February 2012, the Board signed the delegation of its powers and functions pertaining to the administration of water affecting activities to the Regional Manager, South Australian Arid Lands, under s127(3)(e). (3) Subject to this Act, a person must not undertake any of the following activities unless authorised to do so by a water management authorisation or permit granted by the relevant authority: (e) an activity of a kind referred to in subsection (5) that is identified in an NRM plan that applies to the region in which the activity is to be undertaken as being an activity for which a permit is required under this subsection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board appreciates the support and encouragement it has received over the past year from the South Australian Arid Lands Region community. Continued commitment to Natural Resource Management is essential for effective management of the region's natural resources. In addition, the Board gratefully acknowledges the work and commitment of those who deliver projects on its behalf in supporting the Board to implement its activities within the region.

The Board recognises the support of the South Australian and Australian Governments, industry groups and businesses through the provision of funding and support opportunities.

APPENDIX A: ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board**

Annual Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013





9th Floor
State Administration Centre
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To the Presiding Member**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**

As required by section 31(1)(b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 37(2) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have audited the accompanying financial report of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2013. The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2013
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2013
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2013
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income for the year ended 30 June 2013
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- a Certificate from the Presiding Member, the Regional Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.

The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the members of the Board determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing Standards. The auditing standards require that the auditor comply with relevant ethical requirements and that the auditor plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board, as well as the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2013, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards.



S O'Neill
AUDITOR-GENERAL
28 November 2013

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board**

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached general purpose financial statements for the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board:

- comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under Section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, and relevant Australian Accounting Standards;
- are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Board; and
- present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 30 June 2013 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.

We certify that the internal controls employed by the Board for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statements have been effective throughout the reporting period.



Janet Crommelin-Brook

Presiding Member

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

25th November 2013



Stuart Paul

Regional Manager

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

25th November 2013



Michelle Griffiths

Chief Financial Officer

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

25 November 2013



**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Period Ended 30 June 2013**

	Note	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Expenses			
Staff benefit expenses	5	(111)	1 791
Board member expenses	6	50	58
Supplies and services	7	5 225	4 366
Other Expenses	8	51	63
Grants and subsidies	9	520	254
Depreciation expense	10	25	31
Total expenses		<u>5 760</u>	<u>6 563</u>
Income			
Regional NRM and Water Levies	11	984	614
Interest revenues	12	94	191
Grants received	13	3 996	4 134
Other revenues	14	104	60
Total income		<u>5 178</u>	<u>4 999</u>
Net result		<u>(582)</u>	<u>(1 564)</u>
Total comprehensive result		<u>(582)</u>	<u>(1 564)</u>

The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

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**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2013**

	Note	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	15	2 244	3 312
Receivables	16	306	148
Total current assets		2 550	3 460
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	17	26	51
Total non-current assets		26	51
Total assets		2 576	3 511
Current liabilities			
Payables	18	827	829
Staff benefits	19	-	347
Provisions	20	-	4
Total current liabilities		827	1 180
Total liabilities		827	1 180
Net assets		1 749	2 331
Equity			
Retained earnings		1 749	2 331
Total equity		1 749	2 331
The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner			
Unrecognised contractual commitments	21		
Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	22		

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 30 June 2011	3 895	3 895
Net result for 2011-12	(1 564)	(1 564)
Total comprehensive result for 2011-12	(1 564)	(1 564)
Balance at 30 June 2012	2 331	2 331
Net result for 2012-13	(582)	(582)
Total comprehensive result for 2012-13	(582)	(582)
Balance at 30 June 2013	1 749	1 749

All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash outflows			
Staff benefit and board member payments		(52)	(1 886)
Payments for supplies and services		(5 177)	(4 114)
Payments of grants and subsidies		(520)	(254)
Other payments		(48)	(46)
Cash used in operations		<u>(5 797)</u>	<u>(6 300)</u>
Cash inflows			
Grant and levy receipts		4 816	4 683
Interest received		100	196
Other receipts		104	60
Cash generated from operations		<u>5 020</u>	<u>4 939</u>
Net cash (used in) operating activities	24	<u>(777)</u>	<u>(1 361)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Cash outflows			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(11)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(11)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash outflows			
Cash transferred as a result of restructuring activities		(280)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(280)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(1 068)</u>	<u>(1 361)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		3 312	4 673
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	15	<u>2 244</u>	<u>3 312</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board
Disaggregated disclosures - expenses and income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013 (Refer Note 4 for activity descriptions)

	National program implementation - CFOC		Dingo management		State complementary funding		Catchment water management		Allocating water and maintaining springs		NRM regional plan		District group projects and operations		Regional governance		TOTAL	
	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	
Expenses																		
Staff benefit and board member expenses	-	834	-	153	-	54	-	108	-	180	-	26	19	68	(80)	426	(61)	1 849
Supplies and services	3 041	1 212	373	216	7	108	432	72	20	1 995	99	110	203	211	1 050	442	5 225	4 366
Grants and subsidies	462	122	-	58	-	70	6	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	23	4	520	254
Depreciation expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	31	25	31
Other expenses	24	28	4	6	-	4	4	4	-	2	2	3	2	8	15	8	51	63
Total Expenses	3 527	2 196	377	433	7	236	442	184	20	2 177	101	139	253	287	1 033	911	5 760	6 563
Income																		
Regional NRM & Water Levies	-	-	66	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	918	526	984	614
Interest revenues	49	51	5	6	-	1	7	3	-	17	-	-	3	-	30	113	94	191
Grants received	2 290	2 238	346	427	18	232	276	270	-	-	154	150	259	389	653	428	3 996	4 134
Other revenues	-	2	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	55	104	60
Total Income	2 339	2 291	429	524	18	233	283	273	-	17	154	150	262	389	1 693	1 122	5 178	4 999
Net result	(1 188)	95	52	91	11	(3)	(159)	89	(20)	(2 160)	53	11	9	102	660	211	(582)	(1 564)

The Board has determined that assets and liabilities cannot be reliably attributed to individual activities.

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board**

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

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2

**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

1 Board Objectives

(a) Establishment of the Board

The South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) was established pursuant to the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act) on 9 December 2004. The Board is a body corporate.

(b) Board's Objectives

The objectives of the Board are to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region, to prepare and implement a Regional Natural Resources Management Plan and review that Plan to ensure that the objectives of the NRM Act are being achieved.

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board Regional NRM Plan was adopted by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on 25 May 2010. The Plan contains two volumes. Volume One is the ten year strategic plan and details the resource condition targets which provide the direction for the Board's programs and activities. Volume Two is the annual Business Plan which articulates the Board's forward planned revenue and expenditure for the following three financial years.

In addition, the Board promotes public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, undertakes and supports educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management and provides mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources. The Board provides advice on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources within its region and can conduct any inquiry or audit with regard to those natural resources.

The principal source of funds for the Board during the 2012-13 year was grant funding.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Statement of compliance

The Board has prepared these financial statements in compliance with section 23 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with relevant Australian accounting standards and comply with Treasurer's instructions and accounting policy statements promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*.

The Board has applied Australian Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities, as the Board is a not-for-profit entity. Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have not been adopted by the Board for the reporting period ending 30 June 2013. Refer to Note 3.

(b) Basis of preparation

The preparation of the financial statements requires:

- the use of certain accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Board's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, these are outlined in the applicable notes;
- accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events are reported; and
- compliance with accounting policy statements issued pursuant to section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. In the interest of public accountability and transparency the accounting policy statements require the following note disclosures, which have been included in these financial statements:
 - (a) revenues, expenses, financial assets and liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at reporting date, classified according to their nature. A cumulative threshold of \$100 000 for separate identification of these items applies.
 - (b) expenses incurred as a result of engaging consultants (as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income);
 - (c) Board/committee member and remuneration information, where a Board/committee member is entitled to receive income from membership other than a direct out-of-pocket reimbursement.

The Board's Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements have been prepared based on a twelve month period and presented in Australian currency.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 and the comparative information presented.

(c) Reporting entity

The Board is a body corporate of the State of South Australia, established pursuant to the NRM Act.

The Board operates under a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRM Plan) which was adopted by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on 25 May 2010.

The Board's financial statements include the use of income, expenses and liabilities controlled or incurred by the Board in its own right.

The financial statements include all the controlled activities of the Board.

NRM Groups

The Board has established five NRM Groups to operate within its region. The function of the NRM Groups is defined by the NRM Act, (section 52) and the NRM Group Charter. The Act provides that the NRM Groups are subject to the direction of the Board (section 47 (3)(b)).

In accordance with a direction issued by the Board and the NRM Groups' Charter the NRM Groups do not have the power to enter into contracts or procure goods or services in their own right. The Board has ensured that proper accounts have been kept of the NRM Groups activities and the related financial information has been incorporated in the accounts and financial statements of the Board for financial reporting purposes.

The financial statement includes the figures for the NRM Groups being: Gawler Ranges, Kingoonya, Marla-Oodnadatta, Marree-Innaminka and North Flinders. Due to their immateriality they are not separately disclosed in the financial statements.

Regional NRM Integration

In May 2010, the Minister Environment at the time announced as part of the Machinery of Government changes that both the Board and the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR - formerly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) would transition to a single delivery model so to improve the delivery of environment and natural resources management in South Australia. The changes place greater emphasis on the statutory role for the Board. Regional delivery for both DEWNR and the Board is taking place through a single regional delivery structure which is managed through an Annual Implementation Plan and a Service Level Agreement.

On 16 April 2012, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, pursuant to sub-section 24(3) of the *NRM Act*, directed the Board to:

- Use the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to provide the Board's business support and NRM services to the region;
- Enter into an agreement for these services
- Fund the services and projects set out in the agreement

A Service Level Agreement was established during 2012-13 which includes the delivery of support services to the Board to ensure it is able to meet its statutory requirements under the *NRM Act* and an annual work plan for the delivery of the Board's Business Plan. This agreement details the services, projects and funds to deliver the annual work plan.

In accordance with notice published in the Government Gazette on 21 June 2012, all Board staff were transferred from employment under the *NRM Act* to the *Public Sector Act 2009*. This was effective from 1 July 2012 at which date staff were brought into the administrative unit of DEWNR. As a consequence,

- As at 1 July 2012, DEWNR assumed responsibility for the staff previously employed under the *NRM Act* by the Board
- All staff are now employed by the Chief Executive, DEWNR under the *Public Sector Act 2009*
- DEWNR is responsible for the management, supervision, liability, Work Health and Safety and human resources management of the staff that will undertake services under the Service Level Agreement (SLA)
- Staff undertaking services on behalf of the Board will be assigned to the Board under the *NRM Act*
- The payment for staff salaries will be recharged to the Board under a Fee for Service Arrangement

Further progression of the integration will continue in 2013-14 where all financial transactions will be incorporated into DEWNR financial processes undertaken by Shared Services SA.

(d) Comparative information

The presentation and classification of items in the financial statements are consistent with prior periods except where specific accounting standards and/or accounting policy statements has required a change.

Where presentation or classification of items in the financial statements have been amended, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation or classification in these financial statements unless impracticable.

The restated comparative amounts do not replace the original financial statements for the preceding period.

(e) Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

(f) Taxation

The Board is not subject to income tax. The Board is liable for fringe benefits tax and emergency services levy.

DEWNR prepares a Business Activity Statement on behalf of the Board under the grouping provisions of the GST legislation. Under these provisions, DEWNR is liable for the payments and entitled to the receipts associated with GST.

Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, the commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

(g) Events after the reporting period

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements, where an event occurs after 30 June and before the date the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions that existed at 30 June.

Note disclosure is made about events between 30 June and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to a condition which arose after 30 June and which may have a material impact on the results of subsequent years.

(h) Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the flow of economic benefits to the Board will occur and can be reliably measured. Income has been aggregated according to its nature and has not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose income where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100 000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

The following are specific recognition criteria:

Grants received

Grants are recognised as an asset and income when the Board obtains control of the grants or obtains the right to receive the grants and the income recognition criteria are met (i.e. the amount can be reliably measured and the flow of resources is probable).

Generally, the Board has obtained control or the right to receive for:

- Grants with unconditional stipulations - this will be when the agreement becomes enforceable i.e. the earlier of when the receiving entity has formally been advised that the grant (e.g. grant application) has been approved; agreement/contract is executed; and/or the grants is received.
- Grants with conditional stipulations - this will be when the enforceable stipulations specified in the agreement occur or are satisfied; that is income would be recognised for grants received or receivable under the agreement.

All grants received by the Board have been grants with unconditional stipulations attached and have been recognised as an asset and income upon receipt.

Commonwealth Funding - Caring for Our Country

The State and the Board entered into a Regional Proponent Agreement for the implementation of the Commonwealth's Caring for Our Country initiative from 1 July 2008.

In order to ensure the continuity of regional base level funding from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013, this agreement was varied by both parties in January 2010 whilst a new multilateral National Partnership Agreement and a cross-jurisdictional implementation plan was finalised by the Commonwealth for the 2009-2013 regional base level funding.

The goal of Caring for Our Country is an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. Caring for Our Country has six National Priority Areas for Investment.

Under the Agreement to reflect the intent of the Commonwealth, the State and the Board work together as partners with the community and other stakeholders, in natural resource management for the Region. Pursuant to that commitment the Commonwealth agreed to fund programs undertaken by the Board.

Regional NRM and Water Levies

The Board collects Land NRM Levies through District Councils at Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy, and through DEWNR (for areas outside of council boundaries). Water Levies are received through DEWNR towards the costs of the Board performing its functions under the NRM Act. This income is recognised as an asset and income when the Board obtains control of the contribution, or obtains the right to receive the funds.

Interest revenues

Interest income is recognised when earned.

Disposal of non-current assets

Income from the disposal of non-current assets is recognised when the control of the asset has passed to the buyer and has been determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount.

(i) Expenses

Expenses are recognised to the extent that it is probable that the flow of economic benefits from the Board will occur and can be reliably measured.

Expenses have been aggregated according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose expenses where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100 000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

The following are specific recognition criteria:

Staff benefit expenses

Staff benefit expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits and leave entitlements. These are recognised when incurred.

Board member expenses

Board member expenses include all board fees and related on-costs including superannuation. These are recognised when incurred.

Superannuation

The amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income represents the contributions made by the Board to the superannuation plan in respect of current services of current Board members. The Department of Treasury and Finance centrally recognises the superannuation liability in the whole of government financial statements.

Depreciation

All non-current assets, having a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate, on an annual basis.

Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the following classes of assets as follows:

Class of Asset	Useful Life (years)
Plant and equipment	5-7
Furniture	10
Moveable vehicles	10

Grants and subsidies

For contributions payable, the contribution will be recognised as a liability and expense when the Board has a present obligation to pay the contribution and the expense recognition criteria are met.

All contributions paid by the Board have been contributions with unconditional stipulations attached.

(j) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are characterised as either current or non-current in nature. Assets and liabilities that are sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle even when they are not expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting date have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

Where asset and liability line items combine amounts expected to be realised within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be recovered or settled after more than twelve months.

(k) Assets

Assets have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Where an asset line item combines amounts expected to be settled within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be recovered after more than twelve months.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose financial assets where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100 000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position includes cash at bank and on hand and in other short-term, highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less that are readily converted to cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above.

Cash is measured at nominal value.

Receivables

Receivables include amounts receivable from goods and services and other accruals.

Receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Receivables are generally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. An allowance for doubtful debts is raised when there is objective evidence that the Board will not be able to collect the debt. Bad debts are written off when identified.

The Board has determined that there is currently no need for an allowance for doubtful debts.

Non Current Assets

Acquisition and recognition

Non-current assets are initially recorded at cost or at the value of any liabilities assumed, plus any incidental cost involved with the acquisition. Non-current assets are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation.

Where assets are acquired at no value, or minimal value, they are recorded at their fair value in the Statement of Financial Position. However, if the assets are acquired at no or nominal value as part of a restructure of administrative arrangements then the assets are recognised at book value ie the amount recorded by the transferor public authority immediately prior to the restructure.

All non-current tangible assets with a value equal to or in excess of \$10 000 are capitalised.

Revaluation of Non Current Assets

All non-current tangible assets are valued at written down current cost (a proxy for fair value). Revaluation of non-current assets or group of assets is only performed when its fair value at the time of acquisition is greater than \$1 million and estimated useful life is greater than 3 years.

As the Board does not hold assets that meet this criteria assets have not been revalued.

Impairment

All non-current tangible and non-tangible assets are tested for indication of impairment at each reporting date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. An amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

(l) Liabilities

Liabilities have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Where a liability line item combines amounts to be expected to be settled within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be settled after more than twelve months.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose financial liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100 000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

Payables

Payables include creditors, accrued expenses and Board member remuneration on-costs.

Creditors represent the amounts owing for goods and services received prior to the end of the reporting period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Creditors include all unpaid invoices received relating to the normal operations of the Board.

Accrued expenses represent goods and services provided by other parties during the period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period and where an invoice has not been received.

All payables are measured at their nominal amount, are unsecured and are normally settled within 30 days from the date of the invoice or the date the invoice is first received.

The Board makes contributions to several State Government and externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. There is no liability for payments to beneficiaries as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at reporting date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to the South Australian Superannuation Board.

(m) Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is or contains a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement.

The Board has entered into operating leases.

Operating Leases

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The straight-line basis is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

(n) Staff benefits

From 1 July 2012 the Board has no employees. Services to the Board are provided by personnel employed by DEWNR, hence no employee benefits or related provisions are included in the Board's financial statements. Employee benefits relating to relevant employees are reflected in the financial statements of DEWNR.



(o) Insurance

The Board has arranged, through SA Government Captive Insurance Corporation (SAICORP), to insure all of its major risks. The excess payable under this arrangement is \$1 000 per claim.

(p) Financial Risk Management

The Board has non-interest bearing assets (receivables) and liabilities (payables). The Board's exposure to market risk and cash flow interest risk is minimal. The Board has no significant concentration of credit risk.

In relation to liquidity/funding risk, the continued existence of the Board in its present form and with its present programs, is dependent on State Government Policy.

(q) Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingent assets and liabilities

Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing arrangements arising from contractual or statutory sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, the commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

3 New and revised accounting standards and policies

The Board did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during 2012-13.

The Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective, have not been adopted by the Board for the period ending 30 June 2013. The Board has assessed the impact of the new and amended standards and interpretations and considers there will be no impact on the accounting policies or the financial statements of the Board.

4 Activities of the Board

In achieving its objectives the Board provides a range of services classified into the following activities:

Activity 1: National program implementation – Caring for our Country (CFOC)

Integrating priority on-ground actions for a range of natural resource assets to provide multiple benefits including water quality and quantity, land systems, sustainable production and biodiversity:

- Improving land management practices
- Improving knowledge and skills of land managers
- Increasing community knowledge, skills and participation
- Develop and implement resource condition monitoring programs
- Engagement of indigenous communities & incorporation of traditional knowledge into plans
- Implement the MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Improvement) framework as part of adaptive management
- Increasing native habitat and reducing pest flora and fauna impacts

Activity 2: Dingo management

Addressing management of dingos south of the dog fence and improving landholder capacity to effectively control dingos

Activity 3: State complementary funding

Industry engagement activities:

- Research into dingo impacts on pastoral productivity north of the dog fence in the Arid lands region
- Investigating opportunities for industry partnerships

Activity 4: Catchment water management

Addressing key management action targets specifically about water resource management:

- Develop an understanding of ecosystem values process and functions
- Identify hydrological drivers of a health aquatic ecosystem
- Incorporation of community and stakeholder values and knowledge into management plans

Activity 5: Allocating water and maintaining springs in the Greater Artesian Basin (GAB)

Investigating major surface and ground water quantity and quality issues including resource assessment and management for the GAB:

- Collect information relating to diffuse and point discharge for water resource planning
- Add to the current information on surface and groundwater resources
- Conceptual model report on spring behaviour

Activity 6: NRM regional plan

Preparation, consultation and printing of the NRM Regional Plan

Activity 7: District Group projects and operations

Work in partnership with government, business and the community to build knowledge, inform and improve decision making, influence behaviour throughout the community to conserve, protect and sustainably manage the regions natural resources:

- Support NRM training programs
- Assist district groups to undertake NRM activities
- Build networks to assist in NRM activities

Activity 8: Regional governance

Addressing organisational goals to become a credible, efficient and effective organisation that supports its staff and is responsive to the community:

- Build and maintain a work environment that is conducive to high staff and organisational performance and growth
- Develop and communicate the strategic directions of the Board

The disaggregated disclosures schedule present expenses and income to each of the activities for the year ended 30 June 2013 and year ended 30 June 2012.



**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board**
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the Period Ended 30 June 2013

5 Staff benefit expenses

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Salaries and wages	-	1 285
Long Service Leave	(98)	107
Annual Leave	-	130
Oncosts - Superannuation	(4)	162
Oncosts - Other	(9)	101
Other	-	6
Total Staff benefit expenses	(111)	1 791

6 Board member expenses

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Board and committee fees	45	52
Remuneration on-costs - superannuation	4	4
Remuneration on-costs - other	1	2
Total Board member expenses	50	58

7 Supplies and services

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Travel and accommodation	189	117
Contractors	91	8
Fee for service	3 865	3 189
Minor works, maintenance and equipment	249	340
Vehicles and aircraft	217	190
Transport	9	7
General administration	265	152
Monitoring	11	2
Information technology and communication expenses	61	76
Accommodation and property management	80	92
Staff development	57	51
Other supplies and services	131	142
Total Supplies and services	5 225	4 366

Supplies and services provided by entities within the SA Government

The following supplies and services (included in the supplies and services expense amounts shown above) were provided by entities within the SA Government:

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Fee for service	2 389	420
Total Supplies and services provided by entities within the SA Government	2 389	420

8 Other Expenses

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Audit fees paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department	51	63
Total Audit fees	51	63

Auditors remuneration

Auditors remuneration (included in the Other expenses note above) represents amounts paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department for the audit of financial statements. No other services were provided by the Auditor-General's Department.

9 Grants and subsidies

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
CE NRM support	102	16
Dingo management	-	58
Pest management	14	52
Improve native habitat - cactus	47	-
Improving NRM in arid lands	140	-
Improving pastoral lands	-	70
NRM group project support	44	-
Land management	62	53
Weed management - skills and knowledge	50	-
Sundry grants	61	5
Total Grants and subsidies	520	254

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**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the Period Ended 30 June 2013**

10 Depreciation expense	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Plant and equipment	23	23
Moveable vehicles	1	1
Computing equipment	-	5
Furniture	1	2
Total Depreciation expense	25	31

11 Regional NRM and Water Levies	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Regional NRM and Water levies collected through other entities	984	614
Total Regional NRM and Water Levies	984	614

12 Interest revenues	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest revenues from entities within the SA Government	94	191
Total Interest revenues	94	191

13 Grants received	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Commonwealth Funding		
Caring for our country*	160	430
Other Commonwealth funding	217	89
Total Commonwealth Funding	377	519
Grants received from SA Government entities		
Caring for our country received through DEWNR*	2 154	1 859
State NRM Program**	-	232
State Government recurrent funding	1 020	1 042
Other State Government funding	171	162
Total Grants received - SA Government entities	3 345	3 295
Grants received/receivable from entities external to the SA Government		
Sundry grants	274	320
Total Grants received - Non SA Government entities	274	320
Total Grants received	3 996	4 134

*Caring for our country funding in 2012-13 consists of the following components

Valuing people and building capacity for managing functioning ecosystems in the arid lands	499	499
Improving Natural Resources Management in the Arid Lands of SA	753	753
Pest management for Southern Pastoral	-	290
BP Regional base-level investments	407	407
Diamantina pigs project	100	100
Eradication of Priority National Boneseed Outlier infestation in the Arid Lands of SA	-	50
Phase 1 of the Bioregional assessments - SA Arid Lands	350	50
Landcare	160	140
On ground control of Athel Pine in Lake Frome Regional Reserve	45	-
Total Caring For Our Country Funding	2 314	2 289

**State NRM Program funding in 2012-13 consists of the following components

Improving management of pastoral lands for ecological and productivity benefits	-	165
A model for applying significant environmental benefits in the arid region	-	67
Total State NRM Program funding	-	232

14 Other revenues	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Support Services	8	18
Recoup of expenses	19	34
Sale of goods	30	7
Other revenue	47	1
Total Other revenues	104	60

15 Cash and cash equivalents	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Deposits with the Treasurer	2 244	3 312
Total Cash and cash equivalents	2 244	3 312

Interest rate risk

Cash on hand is non-interest bearing. Deposits at call and with the Treasurer earn a floating interest rate, based on daily bank deposit rates. The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents represents fair value.

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**South Australian Arid Lands
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16 Receivables

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Receivables	298	134
Accrued interest	8	14
Total Current receivables	306	148

Interest rate and credit risk:

Receivables are raised for all goods and services provided for which payment has not been received. Receivables are normally settled within 30 days. Receivables, prepayments and accrued revenues are non-interest bearing. It is not anticipated that counterparties will fail to discharge their obligations. The carrying amount of receivables approximates net fair value due to being receivable on demand. There is no concentration of credit risk.

- (a) Maturity analysis of receivables - please refer to table 25.3 in Note 25.
 (b) Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information - please refer to Note 25.

The Board has not recognised a bad or doubtful debts expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

17 Property, plant and equipment

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Plant and equipment		
At cost (deemed fair value)	123	123
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(110)	(87)
Total Plant and equipment	13	36
Moveable vehicles		
At cost (deemed fair value)	11	11
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(5)	(4)
Total Moveable vehicles	6	7
Computing equipment		
At cost (deemed fair value)	-	33
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	(33)
Total Computing equipment	-	-
Furniture		
At cost (deemed fair value)	14	14
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(7)	(6)
Total Furniture	7	8
Total Property, plant and equipment	26	51

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment as at 30 June 2013.

Reconciliation of Non-Current Assets

The following table shows the movement of non-current assets during 2012-13:

	Plant and equipment	Moveable Vehicles	Computing Equipment	Furniture	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the start of period	36	7	-	8	51
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(23)	(1)	-	(1)	(25)
Carrying amount at the end of period	13	6	-	7	26

Reconciliation of Non-Current Assets

The following table shows the movement of non-current assets during 2011-12:

	Plant and equipment	Moveable Vehicles	Computing Equipment	Furniture	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the start of period	48	8	5	10	71
Additions	11	-	-	-	11
Depreciation expense	(23)	(1)	(5)	(2)	(31)
Carrying amount at the end of period	36	7	-	8	51

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**South Australian Arid Lands
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18 Payables

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Creditors	775	738
Accrued expenses	52	49
Staff on-costs*	-	42
Total Current	827	829

Current payables to entities within the SA Government

The following payables (included in the payables shown above) were payable to entities within the SA Government:

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Creditors	-	137
Total Current payables to entities within the SA Government	-	137

* On 1 July 2012 the liability for staff on-costs transferred to DEWNR as part of the NRM integration as disclosed in Note 2 (c).

Interest rate and credit risk

Creditors and accruals are raised for all amounts billed but unpaid. Sundry creditors are normally settled within 30 days. Employment on-costs are settled when the respective employee benefit that they relate to is discharged. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to the amounts being payable on demand.

(a) **Maturity analysis of payables** - please refer to table 25.3 in Note 25.

(b) **Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information** - please refer to Note 25.

19 Staff benefits

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Annual leave	-	112
Long service leave	-	235
Total Current staff benefits	-	347

* On 1 July 2012 these balances transferred to DEWNR as part of the NRM integration.

20 Provisions

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Provision for workers compensation	-	4
Total Current provisions	-	4

* On 1 July 2012 the Provision for Workers Compensation transferred to DEWNR as part of the NRM integration as disclosed in Note 2 (c).

21 Unrecognised contractual commitments

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Operating lease commitments		
Commitments in relation to operating leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:		
Within one year	2	72
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	2
Total Operating lease commitments	2	74

Operating lease commitments comprise the following:

The Board's operating leases are for office accommodation and storage facilities. Office accommodation is leased from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. The storage facility is leased from Redgum Pet Boarding. The leases are non-cancellable with rights of renewal attached. Rental is payable in advance.

Expenditure commitments - Other

Other expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Not later than one year	1,621	2,089
Total Other commitments	1,621	2,089

The Board's other commitments are for non-cancellable contracts relating to grant payments or services.

22 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

The Board is not aware of the existence of any contingent assets or liabilities.

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**South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
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23 Remuneration of Board and Committee Members

The following members of the Board served during the course of the reporting period:

Barratt R	Power N *
Bell D C	Sawers R *
Crommelin-Brook J M	Sutton M - (appointed 13/04/13) *
Fuller K - (retired 21/08/12)	Tyler M H *
Hollingsworth C	
Liddle L M - (retired 6/06/13)	
Malavazos M *	
Nutt L S	

The following members of the NRM Groups served during the course of the reporting period:

Gawler Ranges NRM Group

Anderson J M
Freak M *
Hollingsworth C
Lee J *
McMahon J B - (retired 17/02/13)
McTaggart A N - (retired 28/03/13)
Morris A

Kingoonya NRM Group

Bayley J - (retired 19/02/13)
Chuk, M - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Edmonds K - (retired 30/08/12) *
Harris, J - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Hulmes K *
Mould J - (retired 28/03/13)
Mould R G - (retired 28/03/13)
Noll G *
Norris G - (retired 2/06/13) *

Marla-Oodnadatta NRM Group

Boyd K
Fennell M A
Hilder S *
Jones, C - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Lillecrapp D G
Thomas C *
Williams A J

Marree-Innamincka NRM Group

Johnston A B - (retired 18/10/12) *
Morton M
Ogilvy J *
Ogilvy RP
Paisley P *
Rieck G
Fuschtei, V - (appointed 3/06/13) *

Northern Flinders NRM Group

Aird G
Bellchambers K M
Coulthard J M - (retired 28/03/13)
De Preu N D
Ferguson I C
McKenzie I - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Slade K L
Steiner S

North East Pastoral

Norris, G - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Coulthard, T - (appointed 3/06/13) *
Staer, C - (appointed 3/06/13) *

The following members of the Water Advisory Committee served during the course of the reporting period:

Bell D
Brake L *
Oldfield, S *
Scholz G D *
Sibenaler, Z *

The following members of the Pest Advisory Committee served during the course of the reporting period:

Arnold B K *
Bird P L *
Fuller K
Moseby K E *
Nutt L S
Pitt J L *
Turner C *

The following members of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee served during the course of the reporting period:

Baulderstone C S *
Bell S *
Brandle R *
Ireland C *
Mills G *
Read J *
Sawers R *

* Denotes nil remuneration

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The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	2013	2012
	No. of members	No. of members
\$1 - \$9 999	24	22
\$10 000 - \$19 999	2	2
	<u>26</u>	<u>24</u>

Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing board/committee member duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits, and any fringe benefits tax paid or payable in respect of those benefits. The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$50 200 (2012: \$58 000).

*In accordance with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Circular Number PC016 *Remuneration for Government Appointment Part Time Boards and Committees*, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board/committee duties during the financial year.

Unless otherwise disclosed, transactions between members and the Board are on conditions no more favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the board would have adopted if dealing with the related party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

For the purposes of this table, travel allowances and other out-of-pocket expenses paid to members have not been included as remuneration as it is considered to be reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses incurred by relevant members.

24 Cash flow reconciliation

	2013	2012
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period:		
Cash and cash equivalents disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position	2 244	3 312
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	2 244	3 312
Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to net result		
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(777)	(1 361)
Less non-cash items		
Depreciation expense of non-current assets	(25)	(31)
Movement in assets and liabilities		
Increase in receivables	158	52
(Increase)/decrease in payables	(40)	(152)
Decrease/(increase) in staff benefits	98	(85)
Decrease in provisions	4	10
(Increase)/decrease in other liabilities	-	3
Net result	<u>(582)</u>	<u>(1 564)</u>

25 Financial instruments/Financial risk management

Table 25.1 Categorisation of financial instruments

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 2 "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies".

Statement of Financial Position line item	Note number	2013		2012	
		Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	15	2 244	2 244	3 312	3 312
Receivables	16	159	159	38	38
Financial liabilities					
Payables	18	827	827	787	787

The amount of receivables and payables stated above do not include those arising from statutory obligations, including levies, workers compensation liability, staff on-costs and GST. They are carried at cost.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Board's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Board. The Board measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on a regular basis.

The Board has minimal concentration of credit risk. The Board has policies and procedures in place to ensure that transactions occur with customers with appropriate credit history. The Board does not engage in high risk hedging for its financial assets.

**South Australian Arid Lands
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Table 25.2 Ageing analysis of Financial Assets

The following table discloses the ageing of financial assets and the ageing of impaired assets:

Financial assets item	Overdue for < 30 days	Overdue for 30–60 days	Overdue for > 60 days	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2013				
Not impaired Receivables	-	-	-	-
Impaired Receivables	-	-	-	-
2012				
Not impaired Receivables	-	-	5	5
Impaired Receivables	-	-	-	-

The amount of receivables stated above do not include those arising from statutory obligations, including levies and GST. They are carried at cost.

Table 25.3 Maturity analysis of financial assets and liabilities

The following table discloses the maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities.

Financial statements item	Contractual maturities		
	< 1 year	1-5 years	Carrying amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2013			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2 244	-	2 244
Receivables	159	-	159
<i>Total financial assets</i>	2 403	-	2 403
Financial liabilities			
Payables	827	-	827
<i>Total financial liabilities</i>	827	-	827
2012			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3 312	-	3 312
Receivables	38	-	38
<i>Total financial assets</i>	3 350	-	3 350
Financial liabilities			
Payables	787	-	787
<i>Total financial liabilities</i>	787	-	787

The amount of receivables and payables stated above do not include those arising from statutory obligations, including levies, workers compensation liability, employment on-costs, and GST. They are carried at cost.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises where the board is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Board is reliant on funding from the NRM Secretariat of DEWNR for its ongoing operation. The Board settles undisputed accounts within 30 days from the date of the invoice or date the invoice is first received. In the event of a dispute, payment is made 30 days from resolution.

The board's exposure to liquidity risk is insignificant based on past experience and current assessment of risk.

Market risk

The board has no interest bearing liabilities as at the end of the reporting period. There is no exposure to foreign currency or other price risks.

Sensitivity disclosure analysis

A sensitivity analysis has not been undertaken for the interest rate risk of the Board as it has been determined that the possible impact on profit and loss or total equity from fluctuations in interest rates is immaterial.

26 Events after the reporting period

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements, where an event occurs after 30 June and before the date the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions that existed at 30 June.

Note disclosure is made about events between 30 June and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to a condition which arose after 30 June and which may have a material impact on the results of subsequent years.

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that have material financial implications on these financial statements.