

# SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué



*The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board held its 25-26 August 2021 meeting in Hawker. This included a field trip and an opportunity to connect with the local community.*

## **Minister approves Regional Landscape Plan**

The board's inaugural Regional Landscape Plan has been endorsed and launched by the Hon. David Speirs, Minister for Environment & Water in Port Augusta, welcoming partners and community from across the new Port Augusta- Quorn district of the SA Arid Lands. The Plan identifies the key priorities of the board including a climate resilient region, judicious water management, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and valuing and involving people and partnerships in delivering the Plan.

## **Hawker based Board Meeting and Field Trip**

The board's meeting at Hawker was the first of what will likely be at least an annual regional commitment to hold meetings in the region to engage more directly with community and visit the sites of local board funded projects. A visit to the Yappala Indigenous Protected Area with IPA rangers and Elders to view where the recent gudgeon reintroduction occurred, that involved many of the Adnyamathanha community, was a highlight for the board. Learning more about the benefits and successes of it's Bounceback and Beyond Project and the cultural significance of this work for the Adnyamathanha people.

A community barbecue at the Hawker Community Sports Centre provided a great networking opportunity for the board and a sneak preview of the new Plan.

## **Presentation by Peak Iron Mines**

Peak Iron attended the meeting to provide an overview of current and potential works on the horizon in the region, with iron ore mines in two particular sites predominantly in the Kingoonya/Gawler Ranges districts. Engagement with the board is an important step in the process for approvals and input on any mining and exploration considerations in the region, to support the achievement of environmental, social, economic and cultural balance and opportunities that lead to sustainable outcomes for both the environment and communities within them.

## **Addressing the Total Grazing Pressure of Feral Goats**

Work has commenced on the review of the current and long standing issue of feral goats in the rangelands.

This is a complex issue requiring a measured approach to overcome the grazing pressure impacts, aligned with the legislative obligations of the board and economic opportunities in both improved production outcomes and the goat meat industry. The board's project will involve multiple partners, consideration of science and evidence based practices, with every intent to achieve win/win outcomes where possible. Funding is being pursued by the board in collaboration with other landscape boards, conservation and industry partners to undertake a range of studies and analyses to support future solutions.

## **New Water Project**

The Water Advisory Committee has proposed a new water accounting project, which has been endorsed by the full board. This project will support alternative and innovative water accounting trials, guided and overseen by a local committee of landholders, to present options for water accounting in line with the requirements of landholders to measure water take in prescribed areas. An expression of interest has been released to encourage regional membership on the committee that will shape the project further and identify property participants to trial technologies and practices that provide valuable information on water take in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area (FNPWA). This is a key deliverable of the Water Allocation Plan for the FNPWA and will also provide valuable learning for all water users dependent on ground water.

## **Partnering for Wild Dog Management**

The board has endorsed pursuit of further investment through the Landscape Priorities Fund to support eradication of wild dogs inside the dog fence. Considered opportune and in partnership with industry, PIRSA, Livestock SA, the Dog Fence Board, landholders, science partners and the Australian Government, the heightened approach to collaboration for this bold endeavour will see a focus on compliance, great support for trapping and baiting and capacity building for organic and buffer properties as key to this latest commitment to enhance the board's Biteback program.

## **Upcoming Events**

- SAAL Pastoral Field Day 2 & 3 December

*Please use link below for details of the  
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meetings.*

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal)