

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

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Arid Lands Natural  
Resources Management Board

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board  
Annual Report 2014-15

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 38 of 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 2015.

This report covers the tenth year of operation of the Board and highlights the key role it plays in engaging and collaborating with stakeholders and agencies in the region to improve our natural resources.

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

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

I commend this report to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Crommelin-Brook'.

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

31 October 2015

## PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on Natural Resources Management issues across the South Australian Arid Lands Region. The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board set the following strategic priorities for 2014-15.

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*

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.			✓				✓

Table 3 below, illustrates the links between the State NRM Plan and the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board's strategic priorities/targets (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	
<b>Key</b>	<b>Strong contribution (&gt; 75% alignment)</b>	<b>Contribution (40-75% alignment)</b>	<b>Low contribution (&lt; 40% alignment)</b>			
1. Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making <b>(links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)</b>						
2. Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources <b>(links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)</b>						
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 <b>(links with SAAL RCT 9 and 10)</b>						

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

State NRM Plan Guiding Targets	Regional NRM Board Program Areas					
Guiding Targets	Active communities	Sustainable landscapes	Functional ecosystems	Water	Planning and Evaluation	
<b>Key</b>	<b>Strong contribution (&gt; 75% alignment)</b>	<b>Contribution (40-75% alignment)</b>	<b>Low contribution (&lt; 40% alignment)</b>			
10. Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems (n/a – no coast and marine in SAAL region)	n/a	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 YEAR IN REVIEW

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board reports the following operations and achievements for the 2014-15 financial year. As well as ongoing levy-funded activities, this year marks the second year of Australian Government-funded projects, which have progressed beyond initial foundational activities and have built momentum for further delivery. Activities continue to be delivered effectively and efficiently, with a good level of participation, and good to excellent feedback received on formal sessions such as workshops, field days and training activities.

### Sustainable Landscapes

#### *Pest Animal Control*

The *Biteback* program continued its wild dog control activities with an extensive consultation on the draft Wild Dog Management Plan which was instigated and developed largely by community members, facilitated and coordinated by Natural Resources SA Arid Lands staff. A series of seven workshops were run throughout the region to provide the community with sufficient opportunity for suggestions and feedback. An evaluation conducted during the planning process revealed that respondents found the consultation approaches very useful, (particularly the workshop series) and that there were high expectations the plan would bring about improved management of wild dogs.

*Biteback* program activities included providing support for local area planning groups south of the dog fence, in the North Flinders-Marree, Kingoonya, Gawler Ranges and North East Pastoral districts, delivery of 50 bait injection services at Marree, Cameron Corner, Yunta, Coober Pedy, Iron Knob, Leigh Creek and Kingoonya regions, and conducting aerial baiting in collaboration with Biosecurity SA dropping 55,000 dried baits across 98 properties. Volunteer shooters have been offered a travel subsidy to undertake control on properties experiencing excessive wild dog numbers outside the dog fence. In addition, the services of a professional dog trapper were engaged on 15 properties, resulting in the removal of 27 wild dogs.

During 2014-15 as part of the Ranges to Riches program, two rounds of aerial fox baiting occurred in the Gawler Ranges National Park, Pinkawillinie Conservation Park and Hiltaba Station, covering 148,400 hectares during the first delivery, and 322,600 hectares during the second. The Nature Foundation SA delivered complimentary ground baiting for foxes and mustering/shooting of goats on Hiltaba station across about 85,000 hectares, resulting in the removal of 1,086 animals. In the Flinders Ranges area, two rounds of fox baiting (aerial, supplemented by ground baiting) were delivered in collaboration and 11 land managers on Arkaroola, Nantawarrina, Pinda Springs, Arkaba, Warraweena, Narrina, Bunkers, Yankaninna, Moolooloo, Plumbago/Mt Victor and Gum Creek stations, treating 80,100 hectares during the first round, and 21,000 hectares in the second round. Goat control (mustering and shooting) was also undertaken across 15,000 hectares in the same area, resulting in removal of 1544 animals.

Feral animal control (aerial shooting) was also carried out across 81,346 hectares in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar reserve, removing 26 pigs, and the following off-target species; 113 wild horses, 21 camels, 3 cats and 1 mule. The reserve has been monitored for feral animals using motion-activated cameras at key sites.

These activities collectively contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity*

of our natural resources; Target 12: *Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities*; and 13: *Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests*.

### ***Pest Plant Control***

District Weed Management Strategies have now been developed/reviewed for each of the districts in collaboration with the NRM Groups. These will be used to guide weed management activities delivered in the districts and will be regularly updated in response to progress made.

Coordinated by District NRM Groups and informed by the recently completed District Weed Management Strategies, fifteen land managers were involved in weed control treatment across a total of 40,000 hectares, with a focus on riparian and roadside weed populations. Incentive grants offering rebates for chemicals used in these control activities were well subscribed by participants. A combination of chemical and biological control methods were used to control *Opuntia* spp (Wheel Cactus), *Schinus molle* (Pepper Tree), *Tamarix aphylla* (Athel Pine) and *Vacchellia farnesiana* (Mimosa Bush) in the Gawler Ranges, North Flinders, Marla Oodnadatta and North East Pastoral districts on Arcoona, Wirrealpa, Gum Creek, Yadlamalka, Maldorky, South Gap, Kootaberra, Tikalina, Oulnina, Oulnina Park, Paratoo, Spring Dam, Teetulpa, Pitcairn and Bullyaninnie stations. These programs were undertaken as deliverables through the Connecting Community with Ranges Riches and Regional Base projects.

*Vachellia farnesiana* (Mimosa Bush), *Xanthium strumarium* (Noogoora Burr), and *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) were also chemically controlled in collaboration with National Parks staff across 6,900 hectares in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar reserve, including riparian and roadside areas.

A regional weeds field day was held on a demonstration site on Boolcoomata Station, showcasing the management of key weed species, including buffel grass, woody weeds and cactus. The aims of these field days are to improve awareness of the impacts of key species on pastures and native plants and animals, as well as improving management practises in the longer-term. A session on groundcover monitoring was also presented on the day. An evaluation of the 13 attendees strongly indicated that the workshop improved knowledge, understanding and awareness of the impact and management of weeds. Attendees also indicated that they would moderately adjust their management practises in response to this new information.

As part of the Desert Jewels project (see Water Program section, below, for more information) which focuses on reducing threats to the Great Artesian Basin Mound Springs, control of *Polypogon monspeliensis* (Annual Beardgrass) and *Phoenix dactylifera* (Date Palm) across 200 hectares was undertaken at Dalhousie Springs and other springs in the Lake Eyre supergroup.

These activities collectively contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources*; Target 8: *Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation*; Target 12: *Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities*; and Target 13: *Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests*.

### ***Sustainable Industries***

The EMU™ property planning and management program continued this year, offering support for nine properties, including one new property, to undertake the initial mapping phase, planning for future projects, monitoring, and/or on-ground works (soil conservation earthworks). Project

funding has now concluded and an end-of-project evaluation is underway to identify outcomes achieved during the past three years.

Other sustainable industries activities include the development of a suite of pastoral productivity workshops covering topics such as grazing management, groundcover assessment, water point management, infrastructure placement, cost of production stock breeds and attributes, landscape rehydration and revegetation, diversification scenario planning and plant identification. In total, 11 workshops attracted a total of 31 participants. Evaluations revealed that participants improved their knowledge and skills on a range of topics, as well as providing useful feedback for refining the next round of workshops.

The focus on developing a regional land managers network, supported through the Regional Landcare Facilitator, continued this year, aiming to maximise knowledge-sharing, skills-building opportunities and building participation and capacity overall through a range of NRM events and formal training. Activities included attendance at national and state Landcare conferences, sponsorship of regional land managers to attend the Rangelands Conference, running five soil conservation grading workshops. A significant achievement was the coordination by the Regional Landcare Facilitator of a 2-day forum for regional women from across the pastoral landscape. This forum was held in Marree and was attended by 58 women from many remote areas of the state.

Other property planning activities include the development of two additional property information packs for land managers identifying and mapping Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) listed species' habitat as well as associated management implications. Also, property action plans were developed for six properties in the North Flinders district, which identify threat mitigation priorities to benefit EPBC species in the Flinders Ranges, including the yellow footed rock wallaby. Finally, draft district action plans have been produced for each district which will inform priority on-ground projects, developed in collaboration with NRM Groups.

These sustainable industries activities collectively contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources*; Target 7: *Improve soil and land condition*; Target 8: *Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation*; Target 12: *Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities*; and Target 13: *Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests*.

## **Community Engagement**

### ***General***

A small signage project was undertaken in collaboration with the Marree-Innamincka NRM Group to address an increase in littering issues arising in the district. Twenty-four signs were installed at strategic locations along the Strzelecki and Birdsville Tracks to inform local and tourist traffic of the impacts of rubbish on local biodiversity.

Stalls were hosted at three regional events this year; the Marree Beef Producers Field Day (also co-sponsored); Marree Races; and the Marree Market. The stalls offered information on pest plants and weeds, environmental stewardship opportunities, fact sheets on native mammal, bird and reptile species of significance, and holistic land management. NRM staff present at the stall were able to meet and greet event participants both at the stall and elsewhere at the event to

promote services, opportunities for participation in project activities and encourage feedback on local issues.

In total, 42 people visited the stalls, including 6 children, originating from nearby pastoral stations, Marree, Mambray Creek, Leigh Creek, Roxby Downs, Copley, Coober Pedy, North Flinders, Gawler Ranges, Morchard, Port Augusta, Eyre Peninsula, Mundoorra, Burra, Tasmania, Yorke Peninsula, Strathalbyn, Adelaide, Gawler, Victoria and Western Australia.

Topics discussed included cane toads, ostriches, traditional ecological knowledge, the women's retreat, the future of funding for sustainable property management in the region, threatened species surveys, foxes, dogs, Bounceback, woma pythons, eagles, rye-grass, break in the season, cacti species and travel across the region. Popular items taken included brochures on the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks, bug catchers and bug viewers, Field ID books on Opuntia species, stubby holders, water bottles and beanies (with NRM branding), Parks brochures, Tales in the Sand books, and Andy the Ant activity books.

A total of 190 volunteers from 12 volunteer groups were supported in delivering 16163.75 hours (approximately 2155 FTE days) of work across the region. Activities included cactus control, rubbish removal, heritage site restoration, and wildlife monitoring. An annual Presidents and Coordinators meeting was organised to address the concerns and improve the region's relationship with its volunteer groups. In conjunction with this meeting a volunteer appreciation night was also held to celebrate the achievement of all of the regions volunteers.

### ***Aboriginal Engagement***

Opportunities for Aboriginal participation in NRM project activities have been promoted widely across the region, including involvement in program and regional planning, learning new skills through informal and formal training opportunities, attendance at conferences and forums, development and implementation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) protocols, wild dog management, and short-term contract employment in NRM service delivery. Formal training opportunities have been provided through a total of 6 workshops involving 34 people, covering Chemical Accreditation, invasive plant management, soil erosion management, buffel grass management, roadside traffic management, pastoral business diversification and management, pastoral operations, cultural tourism, pest animal control and mapping.

Other engagement with groups has focused on discussions about the development of traditional ecological knowledge protocols, and how best to embed and normalise this in all levels of planning within the organisation.

Aboriginal communities are also intrinsic to the delivery of two complex, longer-term projects, such as involvement with the Channel Country and GAB Springs projects (see Water Program section for more information) which both aim to improve understanding and management of key aquatic ecosystems; vegetation management at Hookina Creek / Pungka Pudanha waterhole and the delivery of the Arabana communities healthy country plan.

Collectively, these engagement activities contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 3: *Improve institutional and organisational capacity to support people to manage natural resources*; Target 4: *Improve the capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources*; Target 8: *Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation*; Target 12: *Improve the conservation status of species*

and ecological communities; and Target 13: Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests.

### **Water Program**

The Water Affecting Activities (WAA) permit process continued this year, with a total of 19 enquiries and one successful application. In addition 1 permit expired without activity occurring and 1 freedom of information request started in the previous financial year was finalised. Generally enquiries related to excavation of material, construction of infrastructure (i.e. roads or dams) and discharge of water to watercourses or lakes. The majority of enquiries were from the resources sector including referrals from the Department of State Development for comment. The review of Water Affecting Activities for the developing NRM plan continued with a project completed to support the development and refinement of the WAA policies within the plan to ensure that they are consistent, transparent, evidence-based and implementable.

The Coal Seam Gas project continued through the National Partnership Agreement, focusing on bioregional assessment to fill knowledge gaps and develop a full coverage of robust, baseline information for the SAAL region that are of interest to the mining industry for future development (ie Arckaringa Basin, Pedirka Basin and Lake Eyre Basin).

The Channel Country project also continued this year, investigating the characteristics and condition of the Channel Country which encompasses the Diamantina River and adjacent Ramsar wetlands at Coongie Lakes. The project aims to improve connectivity and condition of the area, through addressing key risks arising from industry, pests and weeds and climate change. This year, the development of a Traditional Ecological Knowledge database continued through a meeting focusing on the scope, information types and level of involvement required to manage the database attended by 60 Native Title holders from a range of communities. This was followed by a field trip with representatives from the Wangkangurru / Yarluyandi (WY) Native Title group which provided opportunity to refresh and share traditional stories that can be stored in the database for their wider community. Other field trips were undertaken to collect data on a series of key waterholes along the Diamantina system, which is not currently well understood. Key threats and management issues such as tourism impacts, weeds and pests were identified and verified for 15 priority sites in the system. Scoping for weed control, focusing on buffel grass and athel pine, was carried out in preparation for on-ground activities during 2015-16. Also, a research project investigating the impacts of grazing on coolabah regeneration proceeded to data analysis, with early results indicated a correlation between grazing impacts and tree development.

The Desert Jewels project continued this year, focusing on investigating key threats to the EPBC-listed GAB Springs ecological communities. The project aims to reduce threats and improve condition of the springs through general awareness-raising/information sharing activities, conducting grazing/fire trials to manage *Phragmites* spp. encroachment across spring surfaces, and addressing other key threats such as pests and weeds, in collaboration with Aboriginal Native Title holders, Co-management Board members, land managers and the wider community. Weed control activities undertaken at GAB springs are described above in the Pease Plant Control section. Other activities this year included several field trips by aboriginal communities, volunteers, schools and project staff involved in the collection of baseline data, site assessment and preparation for fire management and grazing management trials; awareness raising training activities on spring and groundwater management, GPS mapping and weed identification.

Early project development has commenced to prepare for the Far North Wells Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan review which will be fully underway from mid-2016. Discussions have been held between Natural Resources SA Arid Lands staff and key DEWNR divisions to inform the development of an implementation plan, with associated priority projects document, to help guide and plan activities that need to be delivered prior to the commencement of, and during the review.

Collectively, water program activities contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 3: *Improve institutional and organisational capacity to support people to manage natural resources*; Target 4: *Improve the capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources*; Target 8: *Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation*; Target 9: *Improve condition of terrestrial aquatic ecosystems*; Target 11: *Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes (geologically and culturally important features)*; Target 12: *Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities*; and Target 13: *Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests*.

### **NRM Planning**

The SAAL Regional NRM Plan re-write continued this year, combining community values with up-to-date legal, policy, scientific and technical information. An initial draft is currently being written, and strategies developed; this is expected by the SAAL NRM Board for review by December 2015. Community consultation will be undertaken during early 2016, and the final plan released mid-2016.

Collectively, NRM Planning program activities contribute to State NRM Plan Guiding Target 1: *Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making*; Target 2: *Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources*; Target 3: *Improve institutional and organisational capacity to support people to manage natural resources*; Target 4: *Improve the capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change*; Target 5: *All NRM planning and investment decisions take into account ecological, social and production considerations*; Target 6: *Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources*; and Target 11: *Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes (geologically and culturally important features)*.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)**

The South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act). This report for the 2014-15 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the NRM Act.

### **OBJECT 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 NRM BOARD**

Section 29 of the NRM Act describes the functions of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board.

The Board comprises 9 members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Each appointed Board member 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.

As at 30 June 2015 membership was as follows:

### Members

- Janet Crommelin-Brook
- Daryl Bell
- Ross Sawers
- Leonard Nutt
- Catherine Hollingsworth
- Rick Barratt
- Murray Tyler
- Mark Sutton
- Pauline Coulthard

### Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Michael Malavazos, Department of State Development
- Neil Power, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- John Virtue, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Section 35 (1) (b) of the NRM Act provides for the establishment of advisory committees to advise the Board on any matter relating to the administration of the Act. The following Advisory Committee was operational during the 2014-15 financial year:

- Finance and Governance Committee

## **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of 6 general Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

A total of 4 special Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Janet Crommelin-Brook	10	
Daryl Bell	6	
Ross Sawers	8	
Leonard Nutt	8	one 2-day general meeting only attended one day
Catherine Hollingsworth	8	one 2-day general meeting only attended one day
Rick Barratt	7	
Murray Tyler	10	
Mark Sutton	7	
Pauline Coulthard	3	two 2-day general meetings only attended one day
Michael Malavazos	6	
Neil Power	7	
John Virtue	10	

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Board has a good working relationship with the following agencies to deliver services:

- 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)

## GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

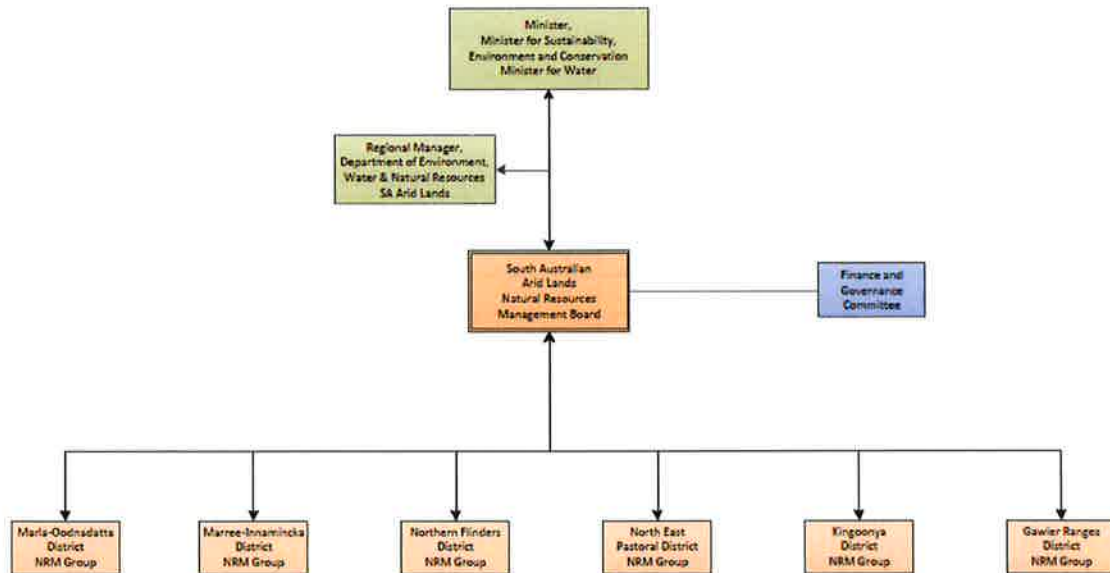
DEWNR provides support to the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board by providing an Executive Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

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 a Finance and Governance Committee.

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. 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.

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



## NRM GROUP ACTIVITIES

(1) The functions of an NRM group are—

- (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
- (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
- (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
- (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
- (e) such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

In September 2014 the Premier announced a review of all Boards and Committees in South Australia. The review made clear the Government's intention to abolish all non-essential Government Boards and Committees, noting that the review would create efficiencies and provide greater opportunity for the community to engage directly with Government on relevant issues.

The SAAL NRM Board impressed upon the importance of retaining each of the six NRM groups as they are the ones who provide a conduit between the community and the Board in this extensive region. It was advocated and accepted for the NRM groups to be retained in this supportive role.

Although this time was unsettling, the NRM groups continued to play a central role in the development of regional NRM strategies and plans. Each Group have provided guidance and support to project officers during project delivery, as listed in the below individual group reports.

**NORTHERN FLINDERS DISTRICT GROUP**

The membership of the Northern Flinders District Group during 2014-15 was:

Members

- Keith Slade (chair)
- Ian Ferguson
- Glenys Aird
- Stony Steiner (term end 28/3/15)
- Keith Bellchambers (term end 28/3/15)
- Nicki de Preu (term end 28/3/15)
- Ivan McKenzie
- Dion Robins (appointed 14/5/15)
- Brendon Bevan (appointed 14/5/15)
- Kate Blackmore (appointed 14/5/15)
- Cheryl Waye (Deputy to Ivan McKenzie – appointed 14/5/15)

**MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. One special District Group meeting was held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Keith Slade (chair)	3	other commitments
Ian Ferguson	4	other commitments
Glenys Aird	4	other commitments
Stony Steiner	3	term end 28/3/15 - other commitments
Keith Bellchambers	1	term end 28/3/15 - other commitments
Nicki de Preu	4	term end 28/3/15 - other commitments
Ivan McKenzie	3	other commitments
Dion Robins	1	appointed 14/5/15
Brendon Bevan	1	appointed 14/5/15
Kate Blackmore	1	appointed 14/5/15
Cheryl Waye	0	Deputy to I McKenzie – appointed 14/5/15

Key Achievements for the Northern Flinders District Group during the 2014-15 financial year include the development of a District Action Plan with past district activities collated and priorities listed. High priorities of the group are the issue of rabbits as part of total grazing pressure, soil erosion, maintaining programs for predator control and looking at tourism impacts in the district. Priorities will be reviewed by the group as the new members become familiar. The group produced signs at four entrance points to the district to help tourists become aware of their potential impact on the region and informing the tourists of important land management practices in the North Flinders.

### **MARLA OODNADATTA DISTRICT GROUP**

The membership of the Marla Oodnadatta District Group during 2014-15 was:

#### Members

- Mark Fennell (Chair)
- Tony Williams (term end 28/3/15)
- Douglas Lillecrapp
- Caroline Thomas
- Christine Jones (resigned 25/5/15)
- Peter Watts
- Joel Kowald (appointed 14/5/15)
- Jacqueline Williams (appointed 14/5/15)

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of five general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. No special District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Mark Fennell	3	
Tony Williams	3	term end 28/3/15
Douglas Lillecrapp	4	
Caroline Thomas	3	
Christine Jones	1	resigned 25/5/15
Peter Watts	4	
Joel Kowald	1	appointed 14/5/15
Jacqueline Williams	1	appointed 14/5/15

Achievements of the Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group during 2014-15 include finalising feedback to the District Weed Strategy, Draft NRM Business Plan, NRM Strategy Plan Review, Wild Dog Management Plan and developed their Landscape Action Plan.

Raising community awareness of endemic species in the Breakaways, through undertaking a site visit to see the niche habitat requirements of the endangered *Ptilotus barkerii* as well providing an article for Across the Outback.

The Group continue to provide support and on-going commitment to the community approach to *Acacia farnesiana* Control in The Peake catchment. Contractors were engaged to spray regrowth and conduct complementary landscape rehabilitation works.

The Group have also undertaken another project utilising Board funds to develop 2 signs in language which notify the public of the significance of the mesas just north of Oodnadatta and raise awareness of the impact of off – roading in the area.

**KINGOONYA DISTRICT GROUP**

The membership of the Kingoonya District Group during 2014-15 was:

Members

- Graeme Noll (Chair)
- Katie Hulmes
- Michael Chuk
- Julia Harris
- Brenton McRae
- Chris Larkin
- Ashley Williams (appointed 14/5/15)

**MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of 4 general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. No special District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Graeme Noll	2	
Katie Hulmes	2	
Michael Chuk	4	
Julia Harris	2	
Brenton McRae	4	
Chris Larkin	0	
Ashley Williams	0	appointed 14/5/15

The Kingoonya District Group hosted a workshop in October 2014 to discuss the regional wild dog management plan and rewrite of the NRM plan.

The district group funded a roadside buffel grass survey along with the Gawler Ranges NRM Group. This survey will help guide future buffel grass control efforts. The group also allocated some funding towards on ground buffel grass control which linked in with work being done by Bush Heritage and DPTI.

The group has reviewed their district weed strategy, the list of target weeds remained the same and they added two species as alert weeds.

## MARREE-INNAMINCKA DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Marree-Innamincka District Group during 2014-15 was:

### Members

- Raylene Ogilvy (Chair)
- Maree Morton (resigned 31/3/15)
- Gina Reick
- Jacqueline Ogilvy (resigned 1/8/14)
- Valerie Fuschtei
- Arthur Ah Chee
- Brooke McKenzie-Warren

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of five general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. One special District Group meeting was held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Raylene Ogilvy	6	
Maree Morton	3	resigned 31/3/15
Gina Reick	6	
Jacqueline Ogilvy	0	resigned 1/8/14
Valerie Fuschtei	4	
Arthur Ah Chee	4	
Brooke McKenzie-Warren	5	

The Group worked on developing a District Action Plan to help identify key priorities for the group; some of these include excessive populations of dingos/wild dogs, tourism impacts (waste, unauthorised access/camping), and land degradation.

The group completed a community awareness project with an aim at reducing roadside rubbish and addressing tourism impacts by installing reminder signage on the Birdsville and Strzelecki tracks. The signage was developed and purchased in the 2014-15 financial year, with installation planned for October 2015.

Continued liaison has taken place with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure in relation to:

- improving the structure at the Innamincka Causeway to allow for better environmental flow (in conjunction with SARDI and Santos)
- waste management issues along the Strzelecki Track (being both an environmental and health concern for the district);

## GAWLER RANGES DISTRICT GROUP

The membership of the Gawler Ranges District Group during 2014-15 was:

### Members

- Alexander (Sandy) Morris (Chair)
- Jane Anderson
- Catherine Hollingsworth (term end 28/3/15)
- Joanne Lee
- Michael Starkey
- Greg Johnston
- Joel Venables (appointed 14/5/15)

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of four general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. No special District Group meeting was held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Alexander (Sandy) Morris	4	
Jane Anderson	3	other commitments
Catherine Hollingsworth	3	term end 28/3/15
Joanne Lee	3	other commitments
Michael Starkey	0	other commitments
Greg Johnston	2	illness
Joel Venables	0	appointed 14/5/15

The Gawler Ranges District Group held a public forum in Iron Knob in August 2014 to discuss the draft Regional Wild Dog Management Plan and the rewrite of the NRM Plan.

The group has completed a community signage project where signs have been erected at main points in the Gawler Ranges Region (Kimba, Wudinna and Minnipa) advising of the unique and fragile landscape of the Gawler Ranges; whilst promoting safe and responsible travel tips for the region. Posters with these messages have also been distributed to visitor information centres along the Eyre Highway.

The district group funded a roadside buffel grass survey along with the Kingoonya NRM Group. This survey covered all the main public access roads in the Gawler Ranges and will help guide future buffel grass control efforts.

## **NORTH EAST PASTORAL DISTRICT GROUP**

The membership of the North East Pastoral District Group during 2014-15 was:

### Members

- Glen Norris (Chair)
- Terrence Coulthard
- Richard Williams (appointed 31/7/14)
- Kevin Heness (appointed 31/7/14)

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

Four general District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.  
No special District Group meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Reason for non attendance</b>
Glen Norris	4	
Terrence Coulthard	3	other commitments
Richard Williams	4	appointed 31/7/14
Kevin Heness	2	appointed 31/7/14 - other commitments

Achievements for the North East Pastoral District Group during the 2014-15 financial year include the purchase of a spray unit to be used by land managers in the district. The group also initiated a Chemical Rebate Program (adopted across the whole of the SAAL Region), complimenting the priorities of the new District Weed Strategy. A grader workshop and a weeds workshop were held and both were well attended. A fourth member on the group (appointed 31/7/14) who is a Pastoralist will continue to build the capacity of the group to speak for the district.

### **MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Sitting fees and travel allowances are paid to members of the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and SA Arid Lands NRM Groups. There are members of the Board and Groups who do not claim sitting fees and travel allowances as their employers support their participation and attendance. For those who do claim, His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council determined the following rates of remuneration in November 2008:

#### **SA Arid Lands NRM Board**

Chair: \$258 per four hour session + \$64.50 per hour for out of session duties; plus \$10,000 per annum A/R allowance.  
Members: \$206 per four hour session + \$51.50 per hour for out of session duties.

#### **SA Arid Lands NRM Groups**

Chair: \$129 per four hour session + \$32.50 per hour for out of session duties.  
Members: \$103 per four hour session + \$26.00 per hour for out of session duties.

### **Travel allowance**

In addition to the reimbursement of travel costs, the chair and members are to be remunerated at \$26.00 per hour for every hour of travel between two and eight hours in a single journey.

### **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS**

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board has no staff of its own and contracts the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15. Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. Gender balance of community representatives on the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and SA Arid Lands NRM Groups as at 30 June 2015 is detailed in the table below:

Name	Male	Female
SA Arid Lands NRM Board	6	3
Northern Flinders NRM Group	5	3
Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group	5	2
Kingoonya NRM Group	5	2
Marree-Innamincka NRM Group	1	4
Gawler Ranges NRM Group	4	2
North East Pastoral NRM Group	4	0

### **The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2014-15:**

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

## CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, one grant was provided by the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board, with details being:

Supplier Name	Total ex GST	Service Description
Livestock SA	\$ 100,000.00	To provide incentive funds to pastoral landholders who are suffering from the prolonged dry conditions in the SA Arid Lands region to increase water security during drought.
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	

## FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

## CONSULTANTS

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board did not engage any consultants in this period.

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board has travelled overseas on Board business during this reporting period.

## ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

## URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2014-15 that required the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS**

As a DEWNR administered entity, the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime.

### **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 Officer for the South Australian Arid Lands 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 held by the South Australian Arid Lands 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 Freedom of Information Officer.

#### **Contact Officer**

The Regional Manager is the Board's designated Principal Officer for Freedom of Information purposes. Freedom of Information requests should be 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

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2014-15 financial year.

## REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2014-15 financial year.

## GLOSSARY

CFOC	Caring For Our Country
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DEWNR	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
DPTI	Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure
EMU <sup>TM</sup>	Ecosystem Management Understanding
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GABCC	Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee
GABSI	Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative
LAP	Landscape Action Planning
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 South Australian Arid Lands 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 South Australian Arid Lands 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)<sup>1</sup> 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 contracted services, projects and funds to deliver the board's annual work plan; and
- Fund the contracted 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.

## **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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year. Particular acknowledgement is made to the management and staff of the SA Arid Lands Region of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for their commitment and contribution to achieving positive outcomes in the region.



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**To the Presiding Member**  
**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resource 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 Resource Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2016. The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2016
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income for the year ended 30 June 2016
- 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 of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

**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 members of the Board determines is 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.



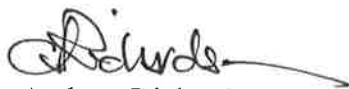
In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board, as well as evaluating 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.

My report refers only to the financial statements described above and does not provide assurance over the integrity of publication of the financial report on the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board website nor does it provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board as at 30 June 2016, 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.



Andrew Richardson

**Auditor-General**

22 November 2016



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

**Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2016



## South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board Certification of the Financial Statements

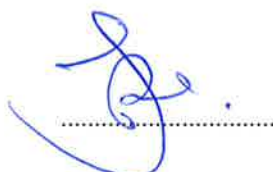
We certify that the attached general purpose financial statements for the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board:

- 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 2016 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.

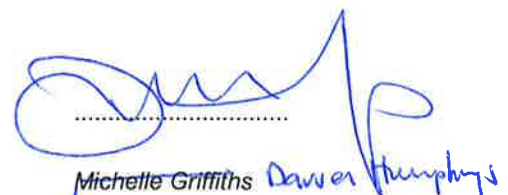
We certify that the internal controls employed by the Board for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statements have been effective throughout the reporting period.



Janet Crommelin-Brook  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Arid Lands Natural  
Resources Management Board  
17/11/2016



Stuart Paul  
Regional Manager  
South Australian Arid Lands Natural  
Resources Management Board  
17/11/2016



Michelle Griffiths Dawson Humphreys  
Chief Financial Officer  
Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources  
17/11/2016

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2016*

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>			
Supplies and services	5	5 423	5 640
Other	6	39	203
Grants and subsidies	7	53	260
Depreciation	8	5	3
Board, group and committee		90	91
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>5 610</b>	<b>6 197</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Regional NRM and Water Levies	9	1 119	1 140
Interest	10	37	41
Grants	11	4 102	4 602
Other	12	47	69
<b>Total income</b>		<b>5 305</b>	<b>5 852</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>( 305)</b>	<b>( 345)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>( 305)</b>	<b>( 345)</b>

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

The above statement should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
*as at 30 June 2016*

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	1 529	1 984
Receivables	14	58	113
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1 587</b>	<b>2 097</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	15	21	26
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1 608</b>	<b>2 123</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	16	526	736
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>526</b>	<b>736</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>526</b>	<b>736</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1 082</b>	<b>1 387</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		1 082	1 387
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1 082</b>	<b>1 387</b>

**The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner.**

Unrecognised contractual commitments	17
Contingent liabilities	18

The above statement should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2016*

	<b>Retained Earnings \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	1 732	1 732
Net result for 2014-15	( 345)	( 345)
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2014-15</b>	<b>( 345)</b>	<b>( 345)</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>1 387</b>	<b>1 387</b>
Net result for 2015-16	( 305)	( 305)
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2015-16</b>	<b>( 305)</b>	<b>( 305)</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>1 082</b>	<b>1 082</b>

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

The above statement should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes

# South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Cash outflows</b>			
Board member payments		( 90)	( 91)
Payments for supplies and services		(5 635)	(5 679)
Payments of grants and subsidies		( 53)	( 260)
Other payments		( 39)	( 203)
<b>Cash used in operations</b>		<b>(5 817)</b>	<b>(6 233)</b>
<b>Cash inflows</b>			
Grant and levy receipts		5 278	5 730
Interest received		37	44
Other receipts		47	69
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		<b>5 362</b>	<b>5 843</b>
<b>Net cash (used in) by operating activities</b>		<b>( 455)</b>	<b>( 390)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Cash outflows</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	( 11)
<b>Total cash (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>( 11)</b>
<b>Net cash (used in) by investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>( 11)</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>( 455)</b>	<b>( 401)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July</b>		<b>1 984</b>	<b>2 385</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	13	<b>1 529</b>	<b>1 984</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

	National program implementation - CFOC		Dingo management		Catchment water management		Allocating water and maintaining springs	
	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>								
Supplies and services	2 429	3 414	548	382	422	332	-	2
Other	22	67	6	5	2	3	-	-
Grants and subsidies	46	125	4	35	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board, group and committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2 497</b>	<b>3 606</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Income</b>								
Regional NRM & Water Levies	-	-	-	-	242	373	-	-
Interest	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	2 484	3 280	665	402	-	-	-	-
Other	5	25	12	15	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2 496</b>	<b>3 310</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>( 1)</b>	<b>( 296)</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>( 5)</b>	<b>( 182)</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>( 2)</b>

	NRM regional plan		District group projects and operations		Regional governance		TOTAL	
	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>								
Supplies and services	148	137	521	153	1 355	1 220	5 423	5 640
Other	1	2	4	115	4	11	39	203
Grants and subsidies	-	-	-	100	3	-	53	260
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	5	3	5	3
Board, group and committee	-	-	15	27	75	64	90	91
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1 442</b>	<b>1 298</b>	<b>5 610</b>	<b>6 197</b>
<b>Income</b>								
Regional NRM & Water Levies	102	165	197	80	578	522	1 119	1 140
Interest	-	-	-	-	30	36	37	41
Grants	50	50	240	112	663	758	4 102	4 602
Other	-	-	19	1	11	28	47	69
<b>Total income</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>1 282</b>	<b>1 344</b>	<b>5 305</b>	<b>5 852</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>( 84)</b>	<b>( 202)</b>	<b>( 160)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>( 305)</b>	<b>( 345)</b>

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

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**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 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 Natural Resources Management 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.

The Business plan for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 was approved on 21 January 2014 by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

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 2015-16 year was grant funding.

**2 Summary of significant accounting policies**

**(a) Statement of compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared 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 Australian Accounting Standards (Reduced Disclosure Requirements) 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.

**(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, are outlined in the applicable notes.
- The selection and application of accounting policies 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.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (b) Basis of preparation (continued)**

- 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 this financial report:
  - (a) expenses incurred as a result of engaging consultants
  - (b) 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 12 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 2016 and the comparative information presented.

**(c) Reporting entity**

The Board is a corporate body 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, assets and liabilities controlled or incurred by the Board in its own right.

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, Water 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.

The Board entered into an annual Service Level Agreement during 2015-16 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. This SLA is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

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,

- 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.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (c) Reporting entity (continued)**

**NRM Groups**

The Board has established six 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). 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 Group's 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-Innamincka, North East Pastoral and North Flinders. Due to their immateriality they are not separately disclosed in this financial report.

**(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 have required a change.

Where presentation or classification of items in the financial statements have been amended, comparative amounts 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 end of 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.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (h) Income (continued)**

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/National Landcare Program*

In September 2013, the Board entered into an agreement with the State, for the continued implementation of the Caring for Our Country program. This funding spans five financial years - 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018, and covers two broad areas: Sustainable Environment and Agriculture.

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.

During 2014-15 the Caring for our Country funding stream ceased and was replaced by the National Landcare Program (NLP). On 2 June 2015, the Board entered into an agreement for the implementation of the NLP, which continues the work commenced under the Caring for our Country program. This funding spans the period - 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018.

*Regional NRM and Water Levies*

The Board collects Land NRM Levies through District Councils at Roxby Downs and Cooper 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.

**(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.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (i) Expenses (continued)**

The following are specific recognition criteria:

*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:

<b>Class of asset</b>	<b>Useful life (years)</b>
Plant and equipment	5-10
Furniture and furnishings	10
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 to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle even when they are not expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting date have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

**(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.

*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 3 months or less that are readily converted to cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash is measured at nominal value.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (k) Assets (continued)**

*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 after allowing for accumulated depreciation.

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 fair value and 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. The recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and depreciated replacement cost. An amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

*Fair value measurement - Non-financial assets*

In determining fair value, the Board has taken into account the characteristic of the asset (e.g. condition and location of the asset and any restrictions on the sale or use of the asset) and the asset's highest and best use (i.e. physically possible, legally permissible, financially feasible).

The Board's current use is the highest and best use of the assets unless other factors suggest an alternative use is feasible. As the Board did not identify any factors to suggest an alternative use, fair value measurement was based on current use.

The carrying amount of non-financial assets with a fair value at the time of acquisition that was less than \$1 million or had an estimated useful life that was less than three years are deemed to approximate fair value.

**(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.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**2 (l) Liabilities (continued)**

*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.

**(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 for office accommodation and storage facilities.

*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**

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 \$20 000 per claim.

**(p) 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.

**3 New and revised accounting standards and policies**

The Board did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during 2015-16.

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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#### **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 - Australian Government (Caring for our Country/National Landcare Program, Biodiversity Fund)**

Integrating engagement with priority on-ground actions for a range of natural resource assets to provide multiple benefits including aquatic ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable production:

- 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 and 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 buffer zone north of the dog fence, improving landholder capacity to effectively control dingos

##### **Activity 3: 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 healthy aquatic ecosystem
- incorporation of community and stakeholder values and knowledge into management plans.

##### **Activity 4: 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 5: NRM regional plan**

Preparation, consultation and printing of the NRM Regional Plan.

##### **Activity 6: 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
- boards contribution to drought assistance for affected landholders.

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**4 Activities of the Board (continued)**

**Activity 7: 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 2016 and year ended 30 June 2015.

**5 Supplies and services**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Travel and accommodation	118	184
Contractors	12	15
Fee for service	4 637	4 547
Minor works, maintenance and equipment	162	229
Vehicles and aircraft	177	188
Transport	8	10
General administration	80	189
Monitoring	-	5
Information technology and communication	50	56
Accommodation and property management	67	82
Staff development	45	37
Other supplies and services	67	98
<b>Total supplies and services</b>	<b>5 423</b>	<b>5 640</b>

**6 Other expenses**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Audit fees paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department	39	50
Unexpended grants returned	-	153
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>203</b>

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General's Department.

**7 Grants and subsidies**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Desert Jewels	-	83
Pest management	-	35
Sustainable land management	18	42
Sundry grants	35	100
<b>Total grants and subsidies</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>260</b>

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**8 Depreciation expense**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Plant and equipment	3	1
Vehicles	1	1
Furniture	1	1
<b>Total depreciation expense</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

**9 Regional NRM and water levies**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Regional NRM and Water levies collected through other entities	1 119	1 140
<b>Total Regional NRM and Water Levies</b>	<b>1 119</b>	<b>1 140</b>

**10 Interest revenues**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest revenues from entities within the SA Government	37	41
<b>Total interest revenues</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>

**11 Grant revenues**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Commonwealth Funding</b>		
National Landcare Program*	462	640
Clean Energy Future	696	982
<b>Total Commonwealth funding</b>	<b>1 158</b>	<b>1 622</b>
<b>Grant revenues from SA Government</b>		
National Landcare Program received through DEWNR*	1 326	1 659
State Government recurrent funding	953	920
Other State Government funding	390	101
<b>Total grant revenues from SA Government</b>	<b>2 669</b>	<b>2 680</b>
<b>Other grant revenues</b>		
Sundry grants	275	300
<b>Total other grant revenues</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total grants revenue</b>	<b>4 102</b>	<b>4 602</b>

**South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board**  
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**Note 11 Grant revenues (continued)**

**\*National Landcare Program - consists of the following components:**

Desert Jewels	226	353
Ranges Riches - Flinders Olary	236	287
Sustainable environment stream - Capacity Building	-	347
Sustainable environment stream - Onground Action	-	350
South Australian Arid Lands Regional Investments: 2013-18 Agriculture	-	299
South Australian Arid Lands - National Landcare Programme Regional Investment 2015-2018	1 326	663
<b>Total National Landcare Program Funding</b>	<b>1 788</b>	<b>2 299</b>

**12 Other revenues**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Sale of goods	39	44
Support Services	4	8
Other revenue	4	17
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>69</b>

**13 Cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Deposits with the Treasurer	1 529	1 984
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1 529</b>	<b>1 984</b>

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.

**14 Receivables**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Receivables	48	105
Accrued interest	3	3
Prepayments	7	5
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>113</b>

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

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**15 Property, plant and equipment**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
At cost (deemed fair value)	119	119
Less accumulated depreciation	( 104)	( 101)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
<b>Furniture</b>		
At cost (deemed fair value)	15	14
Less accumulated depreciation	( 11)	( 10)
<b>Total furniture</b>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<b>Vehicles</b>		
At cost (deemed fair value)	11	11
Less accumulated depreciation	( 9)	( 7)
<b>Total vehicles</b>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>

**Carrying amount of property, plant and equipment**

**Impairment**

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment as at 30 June 2016.

**Reconciliation of non-current assets**

The following table shows the movement of non-current assets during 2015-16:

	Plant and equipment	Furniture	Vehicles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Carrying amount at the beginning of the period</b>	18	4	4	26
Depreciation expense	( 3)	( 1)	( 1)	( 5)
<b>Carrying amount at 30 June</b>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>21</u>

**16 Payables**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Current</b>		
Creditors	429	652
Accrued expenses	97	84
<b>Total current payables</b>	<u>526</u>	<u>736</u>

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**17 Unrecognised contractual commitments**

**Operating lease commitments**

Commitments in relation to operating leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Within one year	34	41
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>

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 leases are non-cancellable with rights of renewal attached. Rental is payable in advance.

**Expenditure commitments**

The Board's expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	683	522
<b>Total expenditure commitments</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>522</b>

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

**18 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities**

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

**19 Remuneration of board and committee members**

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

Barratt R R	Nutt L S
Bell D W (retired 13/04/16)	Pridham M (appointed 14/04/16)
Couthard G M * (appointed 14/04/16)	Sawers R B
Crommelin-Brook J M	Sutton M R *
Hollingsworth C	Tyler M H

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**19 Remuneration of board, group and committee members (continued)**

**Gawler Ranges NRM Group**

Anderson J M (retired 30/06/16)  
Greenfield K (appointed 08/06/16)  
Johnston G R  
Lee J V (retired 05/11/15)  
Morris A (retired 28/03/16)  
Starkey M J \* (retired 01/04/16)  
Venables J W

**Kingoonya NRM Group**

Chuk M  
Harris J F (retired 17/03/16)  
Hulmes K M (retired 07/04/16)  
Noll G I (retired 12/02/16)  
McRae B A (retired 26/02/16)  
Larkin C (retired 26/02/16)  
Williams A A  
Barry J (appointed 01/05/16)  
Kerin M J (appointed 01/05/16)  
Lyons S (appointed 01/05/16)  
Matheson I (appointed 01/05/16)  
Richards J (appointed 01/05/16)

**Marree-Innamincka NRM Group**

Nankivell A (appointed 01/05/16)  
Ogilvy R P  
Rieck G C  
Fuschtei V T N  
Ah Chee A  
McKenzie-Warren B

**North East Pastoral NRM Group**

Norris G B (retired 09/11/15)  
Coulthard T C  
Williams R J (appointed 31/07/16)  
Heness K (retired 29/06/16)  
Rasheed N S (appointed 09/11/15)  
Dermer A (appointed 09/11/15)  
Treloar S (appointed 08/06/16)

**Northern Flinders NRM Group**

Aird G J  
Ferguson I C  
McKenzie I C  
Slade K L  
Robbins D  
Bevin B L  
Blackmore C M

**Marla-Oodnadatta NRM Group**

Fennell M A  
Jones C S (retired 25/05/15)  
Lillecrapp D G (retired 25/03/16)  
Thomas C  
Watts P R P (retired 08/06/16)  
Kowald J M  
Williams J R \*  
Lumb F (appointed 01/05/16)  
Taysom A (appointed 01/05/16)

\* Denotes government employees

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**19 Remuneration of board, group and committee members (continued)**

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

	2016	2015
	Number of	Number of
	Members	Members
<b>The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:</b>		
\$1 - \$9 999	27	26
\$20 000 - \$29 999	-	1
\$30 000 - \$39 999	1	-
<b>Total number of board, group and committee members</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>

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 \$53 000 (2015: \$53 000).

For the purposes of this table, travel allowances and other out-of-pocket expenses paid to members, and employment on-costs have not been included as remuneration as it is considered to be reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses incurred by relevant members, or form other costs of employment. These expenses amount to \$37 000 (2015: \$38 000).

\* 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. The exception being Ms Glenise Coulthard (SAAL Board), who was granted an exemption by the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

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.

**20 Financial risk management/financial instruments**

**Financial risk management**

Risk management is managed by the Board's corporate services section and Board risk management policies are in accordance with the *Risk Management Policy Statement* issued by the Premier and Treasurer and the principles established in the Australian Standard *Risk Management Principles and Guidelines*.

The Board's exposure to financial risk (liquidity, credit and market) is insignificant based on past experience and current assessment of risk.

The Board is funded principally from Regional NRM and water levies and contributions from Commonwealth government and State government agencies toward various activities of the Board.

There have been no changes in risk exposure since the last reporting

**Categorisation of financial information**

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.

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**20 Financial risk management/financial instruments (continued)**

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and liabilities: receivables and payables measured at cost are detailed below.

	Note	2016 Carrying amount / Fair value \$'000	2015 Carrying amount / Fair value \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	1 529	1 984
Receivables <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	14	51	84
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>1 580</b>	<b>2 068</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>			
Financial liabilities at cost			
Payables <sup>(1)</sup>	16	481	685
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>481</b>	<b>685</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Receivable and payable amounts disclosed here exclude amounts relating to statutory receivables and payables (e.g. Commonwealth, State and Local Government taxes, fees and charges; Auditor-General's Department audit fees). In government, certain rights to receive or pay cash may not be contractual and therefore in these situations, the requirements will not apply. Where rights or obligations have their source in legislation such as levies, tax and equivalents etc they would be excluded from the disclosure. The standard defines contract as enforceable by law. All amounts recorded are carried at cost (not materially different from amortised cost).

<sup>(2)</sup> Receivables amount disclosed here excludes prepayments. Prepayments are presented in note 14 as prepayments in accordance with paragraph 78(b) of AASB 101. However, prepayments are not financial assets as defined in AASB 132 as the future economic benefit of these assets is the receipt of goods and services rather than the right to receive cash or another financial asset.

**21 Events after the reporting period**

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