

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board presents Communique #2 with highlights from the board meeting held on 24 September 2020.

## Landscape Planning Day

A regional planning workshop was held at the Central Oval complex on day one of the SA Arid Landscape Board's September meeting. Representatives from the board's six Landscape Groups participated in identifying the issues within the SA Arid Lands region to inform the Board's new Strategic Landscape Plan.

Further finalising of the principles and priorities will occur at the Board's November meeting. This planning day was an important step in the process and provided the community representatives an opportunity to meet and discuss issues important to their districts with the members of the Board.

## Far North PWA - Water Allocation Plan

A milestone was reached at the September meeting with the signing of the letter to Minister Speirs by the Chair, requesting he consider the final draft of the Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

The Chair congratulated and thanked the staff involved in finalising this review of the Plan.

This has been a significant undertaking, requiring many hours of work by the Board, staff and the Board's Water Advisory Committee especially during the many public consultation forums where the community was engaged in providing feedback for the draft Plan.

The work continues with the development of an engagement strategy and quick reference guide being prepared for the launch of the Water Allocation Plan.

#### **Grassroots Grants**

There was an overwhelming response to the first round of Grassroots Grants being offered by the Board with applicants putting forward a variety of projects.

Thirty-five submissions were received with a total of 15 being successful. The board is aware of the time and effort required to submit a grant application and where possible will direct unsuccessful applicants to possible funding opportunities through the Building Pastoral Sustainability program and Biteback grants or advised how to strengthen their application for the next Grassroots Grant program, due to be released in the second quarter of 2021.

### Kangaroo Management

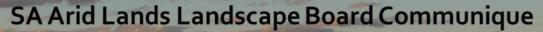
The topic of kangaroo management and the Board's role in supporting the community to manage over abundant species was an agenda item at this meeting which included the following discussion points;

- Partnering with three neighbouring Landscape SA regions and a range of other partners and stakeholders, for a joint submission to a new funding stream under the Landscape SA reform, the 'Landscape Priorities Fund' or Future Drought Fund.
- Landscape SA Act gives the Board a new responsibility to promote the collaborative management of native animals that adversely affect the natural and built environments, people, primary production or other industries.
- Information to support landholders available at

https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/ plants-andanimals/Abundant\_species/kangaroo-

conservation-and-management.







#### New Boundary – New District

With the inclusion of the Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges councils within the new boundary for the SA Arid Lands an additional district has been created and named the 'Port Augusta-Quorn' Landscape district.

A new Community Landscape Officer will be employed and a Landscape Group for Port Augusta-Quorn formed. This brings the total of the board's Landscape Groups to 7. The current 6 groups are Gawler Ranges; Kingoonya; Marree-Innamincka; Marla-Oodnadatta; North East Pastoral; and North Flinders.

A special planning day was held on behalf of the Board for the new Port Augusta-Quorn district on 7 October. This provided an opportunity for a small group of stakeholders from the community, agricultural sector and local government to share their knowledge of the region's landscapes, the natural resource challenges and the opportunities (including building partnerships) which will assist in planning for the new region. Information on the Board's role and the work it performs across the region was also presented.

#### **Pastoral Act Review**

On day one of the meeting the Board, staff and Landscape Group representatives were provided information on the Pastoral Lands Bill by a member of the PIRSA Pastoral Team.

This topic received more discussion on day two of the meeting with the board agreeing favourably that, along with a formal submission by the Board, follow up by the Chair to Minister Speirs would ensure the Board's response to the draft Pastoral Act was well understood.

# SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meetings 2020-21:

- 25 & 26 November 2020
- 24 & 25 February 2021
- 21 & 22 April 2021
- 23 & 24 June 2021
- 25 & 26 August 2021
- 27 & 28 October 2021
- 15 & 16 December 2021

Please check the website for further details:

#### SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

