

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 Lands 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-and-animals/Abundant-species/kangaroo-conservation-and-management>.

