

# Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee

## Draft Minutes

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Meeting No 8			
Date: Thursday 23 September 2021			
Start Time:	10:30am	Finish Time:	2:00pm
Location:	Rural City of Murray Bridge	Room:	Council Chambers
Attendees	Roger Wickes (Chair), Andrew Hansen, Carolyn Shaw, Louise Kluge Landscape Staff: Denise Fowles (Committee support), Miranda Leckie (Minutes), Samantha Blight (Coorong Tatiara LAP), Wendy Stubbs, Mel Burford, Sandy Gunter		
Apologies:	Andrew Biele, Daridyn Hayward		

1. Welcome	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all present, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we meet.
1.2	Minutes of previous Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee meetings held 12 August 2021, 19 July 2021, 30 June 2021, 19 April 2021 and 22 February 2021 were adopted as circulated.
1.3	<p><b>Business and Actions arising from the minutes:</b> Actions from meeting No. 7 – 19 July 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 1</b> – No update on Gary Flohr. Emily Morgan is interested. Suggestions for new members: Brian Teakle, Jock McNeil's Dad.</li> <li>• <b>Item 2</b> – Completed.</li> <li>• <b>Item 3</b> – No update.</li> <li>• <b>Item 4</b> – Completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> M Leckie to invite Emily Morgan to the next MCAC meeting.</p>
2. Updates	
2.1	<p><b>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</b> Denise Fowles updated the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board received presentations from the Investment and Information team and MERI team.</li> <li>• Renmark Paringa Council attended the meeting.</li> <li>• Kym Manning from SA Carp frenzy attended the meeting.</li> <li>• Chair of the Renmark Irrigation Trust attended the meeting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brett Kennedy from PIRSA updated the Board on the fruit fly program.</li> <li>• Approved financial support to PIRSA for the wild dog program. \$18,500.00.</li> <li>• Endorsed state landscape strategy.</li> <li>• Approved circulation of the MCAC roadsides paper.</li> <li>• Russell Norman will attend the next Board meeting to talk about council pest programs.</li> <li>• Endorsed Lucy Kluge membership to MCAC.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p><b>Threatened Native Birds and Abundant Species</b></p> <p>Wendy Stubbs and Mel Burford from the Landscape Ecology Team gave an update to the Committee on threatened native birds and abundant species. Presentation attached.</p> <p><b>Items not in presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abundant species – involved in 2 projects around little corellas.</li> <li>• First project is called CHERRP and is a partnership project with the Rural City of Murray Bridge:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This involves playing calls that the birds don't like then the birds will move off. Also play calls to attract the birds that are wanted in that area.</li> <li>○ Could be problematic because Corellas learn very quickly that this technology is not real.</li> <li>○ There is a threat that we just move the problem.</li> <li>○ Concerned about how you define how big the problem is as well as the issue of cameras taking pictures of people at Sturt Reserve.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Second project is a trial with Adelaide University and Green Adelaide:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trying to understand what the birds are doing and where they are going and why.</li> <li>○ Trapping birds and putting trackers on. Wing tags as well.</li> <li>○ This will be a citizen science project where people can report if they see a Corella with the wing tag and what colour.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kangaroos – partner in optimising kangaroo management in SA. Having really significant environmental impacts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The changes are that have brought on the increase of Corellas is the clearing of vegetation, more open areas, lack of understory, more grain.</li> <li>• No current mechanism to control Corellas. Shooting is not a feasible way to control the Corellas. Also can't see manipulation of the environment working either.</li> <li>• Kangaroo permit limitations. There has been a review of this and they were looking an increasing the numbers.</li> <li>• Are there any breeding programs for Mallee birds? It is a very slow, long and expensive process. You need to fix the problem of why they are declining first.</li> </ul>

### 3. For Discussion



3.1	<p><b>Committee Workplan</b></p> <p><u>Upcoming meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 November 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meet in Tailem Bend</li> <li>○ Native Grass Pastures – Nicola Barnes field visit Tailem Bend.</li> <li>○ Cover cropping for sand hill stabilisation – Jeremy Nelson.</li> <li>○ 2022 Ag Form – Sandy Gunter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 27 January 2021</li> </ul>
3.2	<p><b>Outcomes of Board discussion re: 2021-22 Workplan</b></p> <p>The committee discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in regenerative farming and carbon farming.</li> <li>• Important to push the importance of other topics with the Board.</li> <li>• Importance of open communication between us and the Board.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p><b>2022 Ag Forum topics and speakers</b></p> <p>The committee discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Possible guest speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gupta – soil biologist, CSIRO – diversity in agriculture and soil carbon.</li> <li>○ Mark Farrell – carbon farming CSIRO.</li> <li>○ Eliza Rieger, Regenerative Ag project.</li> <li>○ Hannah Spronk – managing weeds / weed priorities.</li> <li>○ Russell Norman council programs.</li> <li>○ Tracey Strugnell may have a suggestion re carbon farming.</li> <li>○ Building Farmer and Advisor Knowledge in Carbon Farming – Mark Stanley, Cam Nicholson, Mick Faulkner, Harm Van Reece.</li> <li>○ Diversity in the Mallee guest speaker, possible case study.</li> <li>○ Lou Flohr may know someone that is doing interesting things around diversity in farming systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bowhill</li> <li>○ Catering – Bowhill General Store.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How is the Murray Mallee suitable for carbon farming?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Date:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Afternoon event. 1:00pm to 5:00pm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communications team will help with logistics and marketing.</li> <li>• Communications team to check COVID details.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> R Wickes to follow up on guest speakers Gupta and Mark Farrell from CSIRO for the 2022 Ag Forum.</p>

**ACTION:** D Fowles to follow up on guest speakers Eliza Rieger, Hannah Spronk and Russell Norman for the 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** D Fowles to ask the Sustainable Agriculture Team about a possible case study of farming diversity in the Mallee to be a potential guest speaker at the 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** A Hansen to follow up with Tracey Strugnell re guest speaker for the 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** A Hansen to follow up with Building Farmer and Advisor Knowledge in Carbon farming group re guest speaker at the 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** A Hansen to ring Lou Flohr to discuss if anyone is doing interesting things around diversity in farming systems.

**ACTION:** L Kluge to organise venue and catering for 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** S Gunter and Communications Team to arrange for promotion and flyers for the 2022 Ag Forum.

**ACTION:** S Gunter and Communications Team to look into COVID requirements for the 2022 Ag Forum.

#### 4. For noting

##### Reports:

##### Roger Wickes:

- River Murray Boat Owners Committee – Darren Willis talked on wetlands along the river. It was fantastic.
- Rotary are canvassing for families affected by drought to apply for a grant of \$500.

##### Andrew Hansen:

- Coomandook Ag Bureau had their sticky beak tour last week. Run by the Coorong District LAP. 45 to 53 people attended. Not a lot of local people there.
- Had GRDC grower network meeting – interesting that carbon and carbon farming came up in the discussion quite a bit.

##### Daridyn Hayward:

- Apology.

##### Carolyn Shaw:

- Haven't been up to the Northern Mallee for a while. Some Mallee trees are starting to dry off.
- Monarto Ag Bureau had a meeting. These groups are struggling to survive.
- Tungkillo – really struggling with sheep feed.
- Some sheep are having a hard time. Lots of sheep management issues.

4.1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's no sub surface moisture.</li> </ul> <p><u>Yvonne Smith:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not present.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lucy Kluge:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report.</li> </ul> <p><u>Stephanie Evans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R Wickes read out a report from Stephanie Evans. Report attached.</li> </ul>
--	---

## 5. Close

5.1	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LG Forum – Little Corella trials potential topic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Report to the Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank the Board for meeting today.</li> <li>• Potential new members.</li> <li>• Number of farmers in drought.</li> <li>• W Stubbs and M Burford presentation.</li> <li>• 2022 Ag Forum theme.</li> </ul>
5.2	<p><b>Next meeting details</b></p> <p>Thursday 11 November 2021</p>
	Meeting closed at 2:30pm

### ENDORSED

*Roger S. Wickes*

Roger Wickes  
Chair

**Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee**

Date: 11/11/21

