

# MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

## 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: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 5-22	
Date: 23 June 2022	
<b>Start Time:</b>	10.30 am
<b>Location:</b>	Murray Bridge Landscape Office,
<b>Present:</b>	Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele ( <i>from 1.45pm</i> ), Greg Cock, Jim Godden, Sandy Iosefellis ( <i>on MS Teams</i> ), Caroline Phillips, Jason Size Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Business Manager), Denise Fowles (Manager Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Lee (Manager Strategy and Engagement), Helane Norman (Executive Officer), Item 7: Renata Rix (Team Leader, Planning and MERI) Item 10 and 11: Kym Walton (PIRSA - SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub – Team Leader & Loxton Node Coordinator) Brent Williams (General Manager, Business Services MDBA) <i>on MS Teams</i> , Monique White (Assistant Director, Engagement, MDBA)
<b>Apologies</b>	Nil however Andrew Biele was unable to join meeting until 12.30pm

Item	Item Title
	An In-Camera discussion with the General Manager was held prior to the meeting.
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and agenda check</b> Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 10am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	<u>Conflict of Interest</u> - No new Disclosures
3.	Adoption of <b>Minutes from the previous meeting (4-22)</b> held 26 May 2022 <b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 4-22 held 26 May 2022</b>
4.	<b>Chairs Report</b> The Chair of the board indicated that the following had been attended to during June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 8 - Landscape Board Chairs' Forum (Board election/reappointment processes and State Landscape Strategy partnership arrangements)</li> <li>June 8 - Landscape Board Chairs workshop with key partners in delivering the State Landscape Strategy</li> <li>June 14 - Finance Committee meeting</li> <li>June 16 - Water Advisory Committee meeting</li> <li>June 20 - CLMM CAP meeting (via teams)</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 21 - Meeting with Coorong Council via teams – Issues raised included Pest plants and animals specially African lovegrass, and queries about assisting councils needs for Climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's report</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Board Members reports</b></p> <p>A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greg Cock attended the 'Future of community landscape management' workshop in Karoonda on the 30 May.</li> <li>Sandy Iosefellis attended the RDA board meeting</li> <li>Jim Godden and Caroline Phillips attended the Finance committee meeting on 14 June.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Members reports.</b></p>
6.	<p><b>General Managers Report</b></p> <p>The General Manager presented the General Manager's report along with the Referrals Report and the Updated Risk Register.</p> <p>State Landscape Strategy – partners joined for a discussion on 8<sup>th</sup> June to workshop the action plan that will accompany the SLS.</p> <p>Referrals: Noted Mindarie Mine referral. Not mentioned is that mine will be drawing water from an area that they have not previously been licenced to draw from.</p> <p>Noted changes made to section 5 of the Risk Register.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the General Manager's Report and attachments.</b></p>
<b>FOR DECISION</b>	
7.	<p><b>Landscape Evaluation Framework</b></p> <p>A draft Landscape Evaluation Framework was presented to the board by the Manager Strategy and Engagement and the Team Leader, Planning and MERI which is a key deliverable identified in the MRLB 2021-2025 Regional Landscape Plan to evaluate the impact of implementation of the Landscape Plan.</p> <p>Quarterly performance reports and Annual evaluation reports are being undertaken to evaluate and report delivery and performance. Evaluating the impact of the Landscape plan will provide a basis for reviewing and developing future plans and demonstrate good governance and investment decision making to the community. A baseline evaluation is required to be delivered this year.</p> <p>The framework is to guide internal processes, but may be of interest to other organisations.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under program logic – framework contains the how and why, but it needs the what</li> <li>Not just about where we think we are, but where our partners think we are.</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended that the Engagement and Communications steering committee be used in the development prior to going to board, which may decrease discussion likely to occur with the whole board.</li> <li>Important how we communicate the performance, and public perception.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Landscape Evaluation Framework for implementation.</b></p>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	
10.	<p><i>Kym Walton, Monique White and Brent Williams and joined the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub</b></p> <p>Kym Walton (SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub – Team Leader &amp; Loxton Node Coordinator) gave an outline of the Australian Government funded SA Drought resilience adoption and innovation hub program which is a partnership between farmers, government agencies, traditional owners, industry and business. The five hub nodes have been established and the 13 drought hub projects along with 3 cross hub projects are being delivered. Key leaders in these projects are the farming systems groups.</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of large scale projects that add value to existing initiatives, including RDC investments</li> <li>Projects assessing the contribution native vegetation makes to drought resilience at farm and landscape scales</li> <li>Community resilience initiative</li> </ul> <p><b>ONE Basin CRC update</b> (\$50 m over 10 years plus additional partners funding and in kind)</p> <p>Funding of \$50m over 10 years from the Australian Government CRC Program Round 23 was approved for this bid, and in conjunction with 90 partners is the biggest project that has been pulled together on a basin level.</p> <p>The One Basin CRC (1BCRC) project's vision is that Australia's irrigation regions are the most productive, resilient and sustainable in the world, and the purpose is to support communities, governments and industries and researchers to work out how Australia continues to produce what it does in a warming environment.</p> <p>SA's hub is based in Loxton, covers the border to the Murray mouth.</p> <p>Establishment processes are underway, and a 2 day regional hub forum is being planned for August, followed by regional advisory committees being formed before commencement of the 1BCRC programs</p> <p>Work will be done under the following four programs along with the Hubs, and support from the engagement and Comms team and Admin team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technology and Opportunity</li> <li>Foresight and Decisions</li> <li>Capability and commercialisation</li> <li>Education and Training</li> </ul>


Item	Item Title
11.	<p><i>Brent Williams joined the meeting during the previous presentation.</i></p> <p><b>MDBA across the region</b> - Brent Williams (General Manager, Business Services) and Monique White (Assistant Director, Engagement, MDBA)</p> <p>Multiple Regional education officer enhance MDBA and Governments understanding of local communities, and assist communities understand and respond to change brought about by water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>Water Storages are all full or nearly full, and expected to remain high into Spring. Prediction that we may return to La Nina later in the year, and with IOD moving to neutral, high rainfall for the Basin is predicted in winter-spring.</p> <p>Water Quality – Algal blooms, Blackwater and low dissolved oxygen levels are an issue in various parts of the Basin.</p> <p>MDBA plan</p> <p>Questions of how the condition of the Basin has changed and what is expected to happen next will be asked in 2023/24 which will feed into the Basin Plan evaluation in 2025 and then review of the basin plan in 2026.</p> <p>Through the review the following questions will be asked</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can the Basin Plan be improved to address future challenges, including climate change?</li> <li>2. How could the Basin Plan framework be simplified?</li> <li>3. How do we get the best outcomes for all social, cultural, environmental and economic values?</li> <li>4. How can the Basin Plan be improved to recognise First Nation's values in water management and enhance their involvement?</li> </ol> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Helene to get list of staff based in SA (MDBA) and their roles from Monique White.</p> <p><i>Brent Williams left the meeting</i></p>
	<p>Kym Walton and Monique White joined the board for lunch.</p> <p><i>Kym Walton and Monique White left the meeting. Andrew Biele joined the meeting.</i></p>
<b>FOR DECISION (continued)</b>	
8.	<p><b>Policies</b></p> <p>The Board was provided with five policies and procedures that have previously been approved by the board, and reviewed after the first year to ensure they are working as intended. No consequential changes were made.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the following policies and procedures noting that they have been reviewed with no consequential changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>MR FIN-02 – KMP Related Parties Policy and Procedure</b></li> <li>b. <b>MR FIN-03 – Asset Management Policy</b></li> <li>c. <b>MR GOV-07 – Freedom of Information Policy</b></li> <li>d. <b>MR WHS-01 – Work Health and Safety Policy for Landscape Board Members and Committee Members</b></li> <li>e. <b>MR WHS-01 – Work Health and Safety Procedure for Landscape Board Members and Committee Members</b></li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Board performance Review</b></p> <p>The General Manager presented a draft board performance report 2021-2022. Board members were given the opportunity to provide input into the evaluation of whole of board performance, adding to the December half-year report.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board finalised the draft response on the evaluation of Board Performance, endorsed it and instructed the General Manager to provide it to Minister Close by 30 June 2022.</b></p>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	
12.	<p><b>Finance Committee – June</b></p> <p>The Finance Committee chair provided an overview of finances to date, along with the minutes of the June Finance committee meeting.</p> <p><b>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers.</b></p> <p><u>Financial Systems and EOFY Summary</u></p> <p>The Manager Business services provided information on and terminology used in adjustments, variations and End of Year carryover processes. A predicted 30 June 2022 summary on the board's finances was provided along with a 5 year prediction.</p> <p>The 5 Year Financial Plan indicating current known external funding plus expected levy spends highlight the need to attract additional external funding over the coming years. Additional funding will divert some salaries and operational costs away from Levy.</p>
13.	<p><b>Water Advisory Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> June meeting</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Board advised that the Water Advisory Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> June, and provided a short verbal report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The river is getting faster and higher. When flow across the SA border reaches 40GL a high river warning, given by DEW, is triggered.</li> <li>• SA River Murray Commissioner not yet announced</li> <li>• New permanent Goulbourn river rules, which should not create risks for us</li> <li>• WAC Out of session meeting on the private carryover topic planned for 5 July</li> </ul> <p>MDBA River Shortfall - coming to consult in the first 2 weeks of September, which would be an opportunity for the both the board and the WAC to hear from them and comment.</p>
14.	<b>Significant or sensitive committee items</b>

Item	Item Title
	<p><u>Finance Committee Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>As part of an annual review, minor amendments have been made to the TOR for the Finance committee.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</b></p> <p><b>a. Endorsed the terms of reference of the Finance Committee;</b></p> <p><b>b. Noted the current membership of the Finance Committee.</b></p> <p><u>Water Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>A paper entitled 'Water for forested flood plains along the Murray in South Australia' which was approved by the Water Advisory Committee was presented to the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are floodplain flows planned in Katarapko, Chowilla and Pike in 2022-23, but not Clarks</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Di to speak to the chair of WAC re the recommendation</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Amy Lee to send paper to Chrissy Bloss to get her views, indicating that the board generally support this thinking but would not support the last paragraph.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the updated paper entitled "Water for forested flood plains along the Murray in South Australia".</b></p>
Items for Noting	
15.	<p><b>Landscape SA Governance Handbook</b></p> <p>The Landscape SA Governance handbook, developed at the time of the establishment of the landscape boards to assist board members and staff, is reviewed annually. The reviewed document, approved by General Managers was presented to board for noting.</p> <p>Landscape Services are also reviewing the board member induction, which should be finalised by the time new board members are elected/appointed.</p> <p><b>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the updated Landscape Board Governance Handbook.</b></p>
16.	<p><b>Future of Community Landscape management</b></p> <p>The Manager Strategy and Engagement, provided an update on the recent workshop held at Karoonda to explore the needs and capacity of the region's community groups, strengthen collaboration between them, and explore opportunities for the future of community groups in managing the landscape. A draft action plan prepared by the consultant/facilitator has been circulated to all participants and invitees to the workshop.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about the document prepared by the facilitator re the large amount of actions/activities that have been given to the MR Landscape board to lead, which was not what was implied or intended at the workshop.</li> <li>community landscape management is quite a small part of what Landscape boards cover</li> <li>need to do something broader</li> </ul>

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raised expectations of smaller groups, maybe misleading due to structural shift</li> <li>• Need to look at what is feasible, and achievable and what is within our charter.</li> <li>• Possibly look at session with the facilitator to portray what can really happen</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Obtain a list of all who attended the workshop</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the update from the Future of Community Landscape Management Workshop.</i></p>
17.	<p><b>General Manager Performance Review</b></p> <p>The General Manager presented the board with a copy of the end of cycle review of the General Manager's performance and progress in meeting the priorities of the Landscape Board, Landscape SA reform priorities and the letter of commission.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the end of year review of the General Manager's Performance Agreement.</i></p>
18.	<p><b>Volunteer Celebration</b></p> <p>The General Manager presented a report on the two recent volunteer celebrations held within our region to celebrate the work of the volunteers who all assist to manage our environment and natural assets.</p> <p>Future events in 2023 will focus on a tour (possibly with a land focus) and lunch and staff will look at other opportunities for groups to share what they have been doing.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Volunteer Celebrations report.</i></p>
19.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The correspondence list for June was presented to the board.</p> <p><b>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</b></p>
20.	<p><b>Action List</b></p> <p>The board noted the progress of the actions on the action list</p> <p>Item 9: The Pest and Weeds management program run by the District Council of Karoonda East Murray and Southern Mallee District Council in collaboration with Landscape board staff won the <b>Local Government excellence in cross council collaboration award</b>. A time will be organised to share the project with other councils through the MRLGA.</p> <p>Item 10: Third quarter performance report was sent via campaign monitor with the report showing 60% of recipients opening the report. Staff will trial sending emails direct to Councils and address to CEOs, Mayors and Elected Members.</p>
21.	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>MR Plan: Some board members who were on interest panels have seen the draft MR Plan. Those Board members to whom the draft Plan had been sent raised questions around the process and progress on the MR Plan; RDAMR CEO Ben Fee is happy to meet with the board to discuss this.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Organise a MS Teams meeting with Ben Fee</p>

Item	Item Title
	<b>Next meeting details</b> –July 28 <sup>th</sup> at Berri
	The meeting closed at 2.45pm

<b>ENDORSED</b> 	Dianne Davidson AM <b>Presiding Member</b> <b>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</b> Date: 28 July 2022
--	---