

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 1-23	
Date: 24 February 2023	
Start Times:	8:00 am
Location:	Karoonda Institute Supper Room
Present:	Board: Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Sandy Iosefellis, Caroline Phillips, Jason Size Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Denise Fowles (Manager Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Lee (Manager Strategy and Engagement), Helane Norman (Executive Officer),
Apologies:	Nil

Item	Item Title
1.	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 9.30 am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	Conflict of Interest No new Disclosures
3.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (11-22) held 15 December 2022 Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 11-22 held 15 December 2022.
4.	Chairs Report The Chair provided a written report of recent events attended and activities undertaken. The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Chair's report.
5.	Board Member's reports A record of activities undertaken by individual board members was presented to the board. Sandy Iosefellis has also had engagement with the Regent Parrot team. The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Board Member's Report.
6.	General Manager's Report The General Manager presented the General Manager's report along with the WHS quarterly report and the Referrals Report.

The board were also provided with the General Manager's Mid-Year Performance report, and a summary document outlining actions that could be undertaken to improve regional resilience as a result of feedback received on the MR Plan.

Discussion:

- Briefing to Coorong Council and DCKEM scheduled for the 14th March
- No formal role with the flood recovery, but have offered support if required. Wetlands team will be monitoring inundated areas, and district team are in liaison with landowners.
- Engagement strategy and rubrics: Some workshops on assessing the rubrics will be occurring with staff in March and April, Board members will be invited. A baseline needs to be established, so changes can be seen on the implementation of the Landscape Plan. A further rubrics assessment will occur in 24/25 including key stakeholders in readiness for developing the next landscape plan in 2026. The Engagement Working Group is keen to keep the engagement strategy moving along, a meeting to be held in mid-late March to continue work on Internal Culture, Values and Engagement simple steps.

ACTION: Amy Lee will set up an afternoon meeting of the working group in Mid-March

- Murraylands Riverland Resilience Plan (MR Plan) – the CSIRO assessment report has been received.
Steering committee will meet, discuss and respond to the CSIRO report and the best way forward. Alex Zimmermann attending upcoming meeting. The board commended the GM's approach and diplomacy in dealing with the plan and supported the approach of attending to actions 7 & 20.
- One WHS policy officer will be appointed by all Landscape SA boards to assist all boards.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:

- Noted the General Manager's Report and attachments; and***
- Noted the General Manager's Performance Report.***

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Quarterly performance Report – Quarter 2

The Manager Strategy and Engagement presented the Quarterly Performance Report for the second quarter of the 22/23 year, along with a list of 'Performance by Landscape Plan Priority' and a summary of the potential risks and challenges in program delivery.

The Quarterly performance report will be highlighted at Council briefings, and is available on the MRLB website.

7.

Discussion:

- Would it be possible to include a geographical display showing where the projects are actually happening?
- The education work with schools and other education programs are very good.
- Testimonials are a good tool to use.
- Need for quicker and more timely feedback on the board's work

	<p>ACTION: EO to ensure that the committees of the board receive the Quarterly performance report.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Quarterly Performance Report for the second quarter of 2022/2023.</p>
8.	<p>Future Committee Structure</p> <p>The General Manager provided a paper summarising the current structure of the Board's committees and considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • future needs which reflect the Regional Landscape Plan and wider strategic agenda of the board, • committees which add value to the work of the organisation • board representation on these committees <p>The General Manager thanked Roger Wickes for his untiring efforts as chair of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee, and before that the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group over the last 9 years since his appointment on the 1st February 2014. The Board will meet with the members of Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee to discuss the future work and composition of the group, continuing to utilise their skills and experience.</p> <p>ACTION: GM to provide a letter of appointment to Jeff McDonald (Independent member of Finance committee) for 2 year term.</p> <p>ACTION: Provide a letter of thanks to MCAC members indicating future involvement.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <p>a. Noted the retirement of Roger Wickes from the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee and recorded a vote of thanks for his outstanding and long service in the natural resource management sector;</p> <p>BOX FLAT WILD DOG COORDINATING COMMITTEE</p> <p>b. Decided that Andrew Biele be appointed as the board representative, and Jason Size be appointed as proxy, for the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee to serve until 28 February 2025;</p> <p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>c. Noted that further changes may be required to the Finance Committee in light of a finalised Treasurer's Instruction;</p> <p>d. Decided that the changes proposed in section 3.2 of this report be implemented as soon as practicable.</p> <p>e. Decided that Sandy Iosefellis be appointed as Chair of the Finance Committee until 28 February 2024; and</p> <p>f. That Jason Size and Caroline Phillips be appointed to the Finance Committee until 28 February 2025.</p> <p>MALLEE & COORONG ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p> <p>g. Consider further the committee structure, particularly as it relates to the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee, through the preparation and endorsement of an Engagement Strategy; and</p> <p>h. Agreed that following the conclusion of the Farming in a Changing World Forum on 24 February 2023, the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee be held in abeyance, pending its cessation on 30 June 2023.</p> <p>WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p>

	<p>i. Implement quarterly briefings from the Chair of the Water Advisory Committee and the changes proposed in section 3.4 of this report; and</p> <p>j. Decided that Di Davidson (as board chair) and Greg Cock be appointed to the Water Advisory Committee until 28 February 2025.</p> <p>WATER PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE</p> <p>k. Decided that Di Davidson, Jason Size and Sandy Iosefellis be appointed to the Water Planning Steering Committee until 28 February 2025.</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>l. Approved that Jason Size be nominated as the Deputy Chair of the Board.</p>
9.	<p>2023-24 Business Plan – Levy Proposal</p> <p>The Manager Strategy and Engagement presented a paper outlining the income proposal for the 2023/24 year which recommends a CPI increase to levy income of 8.4% and provided the reasoning for the increase.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Strategically and commercially, it is necessary to increase the levies by CPI.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <p>a. Approved the increase to the Landscape and Water Levies by the CPI of 8.4%.</p> <p>b. Approved the continuation of the \$200 minimum fee for the Water Levy; and</p> <p>c. Approved \$470,055 be made available for the Murraylands and Riverland Grassroots Grants Program.</p>
10.	<p>Grassroots Grants Round 4</p> <p>The Manager Strategy and Engagement provided board members with an update on the progress of the Grassroots Grants Round 4 program, and asked the board to nominate two members to assist with strategic assessments of the potential applications.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <p>a. Noted the progress of the Grassroots Grants Round 4 program; and</p> <p>b. Nominated Jason Size, Caroline Phillips and Greg Cock to undertake Strategic Assessment of Grassroots Grants Round 4 applications</p>
11.	<p>Climate Ready Position Statement – 12 month review</p> <p>The board endorsed the Climate Ready Position Statement in February 2022, noting that it would remain draft for 12 months and then be reviewed. The review was undertaken and the position statement has been updated.</p> <p>Due to the time and diversity of views on the two position statements which have been developed so far, it has been suggested that future position statements be discontinued unless the board is pressed to prepare one for a specific issue.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>A discussion ensued as to whether the strategic plan is enough of a statement on the board's position on specific topics. Several wording changes were discussed and the Climate Ready position statement updated.</p> <p>It was felt that Position statements are a cross cutting theme, and not always aligned directly to focus areas in the Landscape Plan.</p>

	<p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <p>a. Endorsed the reviewed and updated Climate Ready Position Statement; and</p> <p>b. Consider further position statements as required</p>
12.	<p>Board's Freedom of Information Statement</p> <p>The Manager Business Services provided the board with a draft Freedom of Information Statement, as per Section 9 of the Freedom of Information Act, for the board's endorsement.</p> <p>Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</p> <p>a. approved the Freedom of Information Statement; and</p> <p>b. noted the proposed wording to be added to the board's website under Freedom of Information.</p>
COMMITTEES	
13.	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>The Board Chair reported that the Finance committee met on Tuesday 14 February, and gave a brief overview of the finances and recommended the board note the Finance papers.</p> <p>Interest will now be received by the board on funds held by Treasury, currently \$8.3m balance. After the bids for the RLP are known later in the year a surplus of funds may be available such that additional projects may be considered.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Report.</p>
14.	<p>Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes provided a report and draft minutes from the January meeting of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee, where the 2023 Sustainable Ag Forum was finalised. This was also the last meeting of the chair, Roger Wickes, who has taken on the role as Chair of the Pastoral Board.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the report from the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee.</p>
15.	<p>Water Advisory Committee</p> <p>The Water Advisory Committee met on 9 February and the minutes were provided.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes from the Water Advisory Committee.</p>
16.	<p>Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>The Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee met on 13 Feb, The board's representative was unable to attend due to clash with induction training. Draft minutes have been provided.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes from the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee.</p>
17.	<p>Significant or Sensitive Committee items</p> <p><u>River Murray Flood Response and Recovery (WAC)</u></p> <p>The Water Advisory Committee have been considering issues around the River Murray flood and recovery. Correspondence from the WAC Chair to the Board Chair was presented for consideration by the board.</p>

	<p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <p><i>a. Noted the correspondence to the Chair from the WAC Chair; and</i></p> <p><i>b. Determined appropriate actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Letter from Board Chair to Minister Close with edits to original documents, CC to Minister Scriven (Minister for Primary Industries & Regional Development), and Minister Szakacs (Minister for Emergency Services), the Chair of the MR Plan steering committee and Alex Zimmermann (Recovery Coordinator)</i> <i>Forward to John Schutz (CE DEW) and Mehdi Doroudi (CE PIRSA)</i>
ITEMS FOR NOTING	
18.	<p>Pest control pricing schedule</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes reported that a review has been undertaken of the Pest Control Fees and Charges and the pricing schedule has been updated to accommodate purchase price increases.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the changes to the Pest Control Pricing Schedule.</i></p>
19.	<p>Regional Land Partnerships</p> <p>The manager Strategy and Engagement provided an update on the requirements when applying for the Regional Land Partnership funding and the approach being taken by board staff.</p> <p><i>That the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board notes the update regarding the development of a Regional Land Partnership Tender for Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.</i></p>
20.	<p>'Looper' Caterpillar Outbreaks</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes provided an informative paper on the 'Looper' Caterpillar Outbreaks over the last 10 years, and the effect it is having on widespread areas of vegetation across the region.</p> <p>An opportunity for public awareness might be available after entomologist's reports.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted that:</i></p> <p><i>a. The 'Looper' caterpillar outbreak across much of the Mallee (in SA, Vic and NSW), including the South Olary Plains; and</i></p> <p><i>b. Senior staff with DEW have been alerted and Minister Close may be briefed on the issue.</i></p>
21.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Correspondence list for January and February was presented to the board.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.</i></p>
22.	<p>Action List</p> <p>The Action list was reviewed by the board and all actions are now completed.</p> <p><i>The board noted the progress of the actions on the action list.</i></p>

IN CAMERA SESSION

	<p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved under the provisions of Section 23 (5) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, an order be made that the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting with the exception of the General Manager, in order to consider, in confidence, matters on the grounds of Section 7(3):</i></p> <p><i>(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead); and</i></p> <p><i>(j) information the disclosure of which—</i></p> <p><i>(i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;</i></p> <p><i>of the Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020.</i></p> <p>Board members discussed, but did not make any decisions, relating to two HR matters and the Boards finances.</p>
23.	<p>Next meeting details – 23 March 2023 at Berri</p> <p>Committee meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Advisory Committee – 13 April 2023 • Finance Committee - 15 March 2023
	The meeting closed at 12 noon.

ENDORSED


Presiding Member
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
 Date: 23 March 2023