

# MINUTES

## SA ARID LANDS LANDSCAPE BOARD MEETING 12

**Wednesday 27 April 2022 10:05am – 4:35pm**

Location:	SAAL Boardroom 1 Jervois St Port Augusta SA 5700	
Attendees:	Ross Sawers Chair	via MS Teams
	Ellen Litchfield Deputy Chair	via MS Teams
	Sanchia Treloar Board Member	via MS Teams
	Scott Michael Board member	arrived 4:10pm
	Tim Flowers Board Member	Jodie Gregg-Smith General Manager (GM)
	Anne Dickin Executive Officer	
SAAL Staff:	Item 12.10	Aaron Smith via MS Teams
	Items 12.12, 12.13	Alison Skinner
	Items 12.9, 12.12-14	Cherie Gerlach
	Items 12.12-13, 12.16-18	Greg Patrick
	Items 12.11-13	Kristie Vater
	Item 12.11-13	Melanie Boxall
Apologies:	Douglas Lillecrapp Board Member	
	Kurt Tschirner Board Member	
	Scott Michael Board Member	
1005	12.0	<i>In camera</i> pre meeting discussion with the board and General Manager took place.
1030		<i>At this time Ross joined the meeting.</i>
1103	12.1	Chair opened the meeting with apologies from Douglas Lillecrapp, Kurt Tschirner and Scott Michael <b>noted</b> .
1105	12.2	Agenda for the meeting was <b>accepted</b> .
	12.3	Ellen Litchfield to review board performance for this meeting for Levy Equalisation; Large Feral Herbivores; Aboriginal Workshop; and Communication Engagement Strategy <b>noted</b> .
	12.4	No declarations of interests were made.
	12.5	Carbon capture item in Action List should read Santos not Beach Energy. Minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting of 22-23 February 2022 <b>accepted</b> .
	12.6	Board action list <b>accepted</b> .
	12.7	<b>General Manager update</b> included Human Resources issues such as succession planning with the retirement of the Team Leader Landscape Operations and Projects at the end of June 2023, relocation of two ecologists as one now living in Adelaide due to a family tragedy, and another expected to return to their family interstate at the end of their contract. Also another biosecurity staff member has taken extended leave without notice.  A review is being conducted on the biosecurity services model and where appropriate, work is to be outsourced to reduce the pressure on the ecology team. A briefing will be provided at the June 2022 board meeting.  General Manager is overseeing the water team projects, with interviews for an additional water resource officer taking place 2 May 2022.  The board was asked to provide 'in principle' support to recruit an additional staff member to help shape the new operations and projects team, provide succession for the Team Leader and see out current and future projects for the next five years.

**It was noted** that staffing is a key area to focus on given the volume of new grant money and the associated projects being undertaken by SAAL and there was a huge skill shortage not only in this sector but across all industries nationally.

**It was agreed** to provide 'in principle' support to quarantine savings from the 2021/22 financial year to fund an additional staff member as a successor for the role of Team Leader Landscape Operations and Projects.

General Manager report **noted**.

1138 12.8

**Kangaroo partnership project** discussion included the following:

- General Manager has spent a significant amount of time working on the kangaroo partnership project. The project has generated challenging conversations, with the goal to have stakeholders proactive more aligned and working together where common interest exists.
- Aboriginal input has been sought.
- Funding received should be sufficient to create a model and a concept for the project.
- The work of the project is attracting national attention.
- Contract offered to Emily Gregg who is finishing a PHD survey on kangaroo harvesting, to work with Sevenses Creative as the replacement for Georgina Shirley. Emily, based in country Victoria, will work predominantly via virtual means with periodical visits to SAAL.
- 29 April 2022 sees the second kangaroo partnership workshops. Following the workshop there will be a series of separate projects with Emily Gregg as the facilitator for this process. Emily will be supported by the steering committee to answer any questions.
- The industry cost benefit analysis jointly funded by the project and PIRSA Taskforce is progressing.

**It was noted** the community may not conceive how many new stakeholders are involved in the kangaroo space and would become more engaged if they felt a part of this new incentive.

Kangaroo Partnership Project report **noted**.

1148

*At this time a short break was taken and Cherie Gerlach was invited to join the meeting.*

1155 12.9

**Aboriginal engagement workshop** held 1 March 2022 feedback to form the basis for the next steps for engaging Traditional Owners. The board was advised the workshop was a genuine day of goodwill setting the scene for future partnership opportunities.

A small group of diverse people from Landscape Group members and rangers attended and indicated they were keen to meet again.

Alwyn McKenzie and Sharon Platt from SA Government Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation are keen to help and motivate Aboriginal partnerships.

Board to support expanding invitees to meetings as appropriate from time to time.

Training and experience to be sought for Aboriginal people and businesses i.e. using Aboriginal contractors for field work.

Another informal meeting to be held with the group to report the board's response to the workshop feedback. Further discussion included the following:

- Pastoralism is a great way for people to gain experience working on country;
- Need to reach a broader audience;
- Long term outcomes and actions for Aboriginal engagement;
- Setting up a map reiterating the feedback provided and the response of the board;
- Meet with Nature Foundation for partnering with working on country;
- Focus is on the next generation of Aboriginal people;
- Operation Flinders in June 2022 will provide cross cultural opportunities.

It was agreed to support the four options presented from the Aboriginal Engagement Workshop held 1 March 2022 being:

1. Work with organisations i.e. Nature Foundation SA, Bush Heritage and National Parks and Wildlife Service SA to explore partnership options for 'Kids on Country' activities.
2. Provide skills training for Working on Country Rangers and others in land management and biodiversity monitoring, working in partnership with key stakeholders.
3. Commit to regular Aboriginal Engagement Workshops e.g. two per year and consider expanding membership of group. Fund costs for attendance from allocated Aboriginal Engagement budget.
4. Convene a second Aboriginal Engagement Workshop in June 2022 expanding the original invitees, to check in with the board's ideas and future aspirations of the group.

**Action:** Advise participants of the response by the board of the feedback provided from Aboriginal Engagement Workshop of 1 March 2022.

1217 12.14

#### **Communications and Engagement Strategy Draft**

It was noted that the treatment of complaints/comments needs to be reflected in the communications and engagement policy and strategy.

The board was advised that the next step is to formulate MERI reporting.

It was noted the communications and engagement strategy was succinct in what it has to cover. Engagement and connection is fundamental to all board business which is the catalyst for people engaging with and investing into the SA Arid Lands.

Communications and Engagement Strategy for SA Arid Lands Landscape Board **endorsed**.

**Action:** Include how complaints/comments are treated in the communications and engagement policy and strategy.

1226

*At this time Cherie Gerlach left and Aaron Smith joined the meeting.*

1228 12.10

#### **Water Advisory Committee Overview**

##### ***Water Accounting Advisory Group***

The board was updated on the Water Accounting Advisory Group (WAAG). To date two expressions of interest for stage 1 of trialling water accounting methods are expected to be submitted.

It was noted that trying an alternative way of explaining the purpose of the WAAG may create more interest and attract more members.

##### ***Lynn Brake Scholarship***

On 22 March 2022 World Water Day, the winner of the Great Artesian Basin Lynn Brake scholarship was announced as Mr Clint Hansen, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology PhD candidate and Indigenous Iman man. The scholarship is named in memory of Lynn, former senior research fellow at UniSA who played a pivotal role on the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee, including the development of the current Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan. The outcomes of GABSAC and the legacy item Lynn Brake Scholarship was **acknowledged** by the board.

Water Advisory Committee report **noted**.

1252

*Aaron Smith left the meeting*

1254

*Break for lunch*

1316

*Mel Boxall and Kristie Vater joined the meeting*

1318 12.11

#### **Governance and Finance Committee**

##### **a) Financial Overview**

The board was advised that some of the financial reports presented have been consolidated as agreed to by the Governance and Finance Committee and the preference is to report on a full month rather than part of a month for ease of comparing figures.

Financial overview and associated reports **accepted**.

**b) Work Health and Safety Report**

Details and actions taken following a lost time Injury of a SAAL employee was discussed. Work Health and Safety Report **noted**.

**c) Final board budget 2022/23**

The Manager Business Services was advised that the board has provided 'in principle' support for using unassigned funds to employ an additional staff member to support the seamless hand over, due to the advanced notice of retirement of the Team Leader Landscape Operations.

Final board budget for 2022/23 **endorsed**.

**d) GFC recommendations to board**

Minutes of Governance and Finance Committee meeting held 13 April 2022 **noted**.

Pest control fees and charges policy and pricing schedule; Seeking Legal Advice Policy; Landscape SA All Boards Governance Handbook policy for board use **adopted**.

Landscape SA Charter **endorsed**.

Proposal by Department of Treasury and Finance to replace Treasurer's Instructions 2 and 28 with a single new T12 Financial and Risk Management **noted**.

General Manager and Chair to seek a collective approach across all Landscape boards for the establishment of the internal audit function **approved**.

Information provided for SAAL Workforce Management Plan 2022/23 **noted**.

Contract and grants executed; Related party transactions; and Sponsorship reports **noted**.

1335

*Greg Patrick, Cherie Gerlach and, Alison Skinner joined the meeting*

1338 12.13

**Levy equalisation**

The board was briefed on the need to equalise the way in which the levy is raised across the In council areas. There is a vast disparity in the amount of levy paid in the SAAL region within Council areas and that the transition process is required under the Act. The board was guided through a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating four levy equalisation options and potentially significant impacts on board income and program delivery to consider for the 2023/24 financial year.

**It was noted** that the previous Minister for Environment and Water had indicated with the introduction of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* no one will pay more in levies, this is not reflected in the legislation.

**It was noted** the Act limits any increase in the levy in line with the Consumer Price Index unless a proposal is approved by Parliament. The Act requires boards with new regional boundaries will transition to a common levy rate within council areas across the region.

**It was agreed** to consider conducting social impact/risk assessments for options B and D.

**It was agreed** for a further paper on levy equalisation options for the board to consider be provided at the June board meeting

**Action:** Prepare a further paper on the levy equalisation for the June board meeting.

1500 12.12

**2022/23 Business plan**

Feedback from the board was sought for the final draft of the 2022/23 Business Plan.

**It was noted** the dog paw prints needed to be moved to the correct place on the map.

**It was noted** when equalisation of levies is implemented in 2023/24 it will no longer be required to provide a copy of the 2022/23 business plan to the Minister each year for approval.


Final draft of the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan **endorsed**.

1511

*At this time a short break was taken and Alison, Cherie, Mel and Kristie left the meeting.*

1523	12.16	<p><b>Large Feral Herbivore Draft Policy</b></p> <p>The board was provided with a briefing on the management of large feral herbivores in the SAAL region in relation to the 'draft' policy tabled for their consideration.</p> <p><b>It was noted</b> that there is not currently a state policy on large feral herbivores and they are not a declared pest.</p> <p><b>It was noted</b> that feral camels are a key issue of the Marla-Oodnadatta Landscape Group and the use of the FeralScan app when camels are sighted was an objective of the group.</p> <p>Large Feral Herbivore Policy <b>adopted</b>.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Encourage use of FeralScan app when camels are sighted.</p>
1541	12.17	<p><b>Biteback Update</b></p> <p>The board was provided an update on the Biteback program which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autumn injection services have taken place with a number of supplementary injection services to be completed in the North East Pastoral and Kingoonya regions. Attendance of some landholders, who had previously been absent, is thought to be in response to recent engagement by SAAL staff for the mandatory baiting requirement.</li> <li>- No feedback yet received for the revised funding application to the Sheep Industry Fund for a potential compliance officer.</li> <li>- Two emergency aerial baitings conducted, one by SAAL and one by PIRSA along the Dog Fence due to damage to the fence from flooding. Kingoonya region will be done by the end of June 2022.</li> <li>- Reviewing and resubmitting previously declined application with the new call for projects in May 2022 for the Landscape Priorities Fund.</li> <li>- Working with PIRSA to get a freezer established at the SAAL workshop for storing meat for use by SAAL and the dog fence.</li> </ul> <p>Update on the Biteback program <b>noted</b>.</p>
	12.18	<p><b>Feral Goat Management Strategy</b></p> <p>SAAL attended a meeting held with key stakeholders for feral goat management, being Eyre Peninsula, Northern &amp; Yorke and Murraylands &amp; Riverland Landscape Boards, the Pastoral Board, PIRSA, Goat Industry Council Australia, and Meat &amp; Livestock Australia to begin the process to have a cost benefit analysis and stakeholder survey conducted to ensure data for the goat management strategy is solid, as any action has to be based on fact and science. With \$90,000 in funding secured, currently in the throes of outsourcing some of this work.</p> <p>Update on the Feral Goat Management Strategy <b>noted</b>.</p>
1547		<p><i>At this time Greg Patrick left the meeting.</i></p>
1547	12.19	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Correspondence report <b>noted</b>.</p>
	12.20	<p><b>Project Status Report</b></p> <p>The board was advised that two weeks remained for Grassroots Grants applications that is intended to assist landholders in flood recovery, soil conservation, and control of pest plants and animals.</p> <p>Project Status report <b>noted</b>.</p>
1550	12.21	<p><b>Presiding Member Report</b></p> <p>Presiding Member report <b>noted</b>.</p>
	12.22	<p><b>Board Member Update</b></p> <p>Tim Flowers, Sanchia Treloar and Ellen Litchfield provided an update on the Landscape Groups that they represent.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Circulate notice of events to board members, who may wish to attend.</p>

12.23	<b>Public Comment</b> Nil.
12.24	<b>Forward Agenda Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy equalisation</li> <li>• Native Vegetation Council visit</li> <li>• Invite Minister Close to SAAL events</li> <li>• Tour of Sundrop Farms</li> </ul>
1610	<i>At this time Scott Michael joined the meeting.</i>
1610	12.26 <b>Meeting Appraisal</b> Discussion was held on the findings for board performance for this meeting and on the process in general. <b>It was noted</b> there was a reluctance to write negative comments when competing meeting appraisals. <b>Action:</b> Re-table meeting appraisals review for June 2022 board meeting.
1625	<i>At this time Ellen Litchfield left the meeting.</i>
1627	12.27 <b>Board Communiqué</b> <b>It was agreed</b> to include the following items in the board communiqué: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition following State Election</li> <li>• Aboriginal Engagement</li> <li>• Adoption of Large Feral Herbivore policy</li> <li>• 2022/23 Business Plan</li> </ul>
12.25	<b>Any Other Business</b> The Chair provided his approval for his electronic signature to be applied to the minutes of the February 2022 board meeting.
12.28	<b>Board Member Travel Arrangements</b> No additional information to note.
1635	<b>Meeting End</b>

Approved  Date 23 / 06 / 2022  
 Ross Sawers Chair  
 SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

PRIORITY FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS			
Identified	Item	RO	Due Date
Aug 2021	SAAL staff presentation	GM	Each meeting
Oct 2021	Wild dog (Biteback)	GP	Each meeting
Dec 2021	Feral goats	GM GP	Each meeting
Dec 2021	Kangaroo partnership project	GM	Each meeting
Dec 2021	Presentation - Moomba carbon capture & storage project in NE SA	TF	TBC
Dec 2021	Host fox and dog workshop for the Port Augusta/Quorn region	GP	Jun 2022
Oct 2021	Hold August board meeting in SAAL region - Marree the site chosen	GM	Aug 2022
Dec 2021	Landscape Group Chairs six-monthly meeting with the board	GM CG	Oct 2022
Feb 2021	Tri-Star Group update on Simpson and Pedirka Basin Project	GM	TBD
Jun 2021	Tour of Dog Fence	GM	Aug 2022