**MINUTES**

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| **SA ARID LANDS LANDSCAPE BOARD MEETING 14** |
| **Wednesday 24 August 2022 8:00am – 12:00pm** |
| Location: | Marree Telecentre Sixth St Marree SA 5733 |
| Attendees: | Ross Sawers ChairEllen Litchfield Deputy ChairDouglas Lillecrapp Board MemberKurt Tschirner Board MemberSanchia Treloar Board Member Scott Michael Board memberTim Flowers Board MemberJodie Gregg-Smith General ManagerAnne Dickin Executive Officer |
| Staff: | Cherie Gerlach Team Leader Communications and Community EngagementCharlie Eager – Community Landscape Officer |
| Apologies: | Hon Geoff Brock MP |
| 0800 | 14.1 | Chair opened the meeting. |
|  | 14.2 | Agenda for the meeting was **accepted.**  |
|  | 14.3 | **It was agreed** the board meeting performance appraisal would be conducted by Kurt Tschirner for agenda items Levy equalisation, and Landscape Priorities Fund. |
|  | 14.4 | **Declarations of Interests**Nil. |
|  | 14.5 | Minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting of 22 June 2022 **accepted**.In camera minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting held 22 June 2022 **accepted**.Minutes for Out of Session SAAL Landscape Board meeting held 10 August 2022 **accepted**. |
|  | 14.6 | **Board Action List** **It was agreed** to remove items 12/16 and 13/24b.13/9a Board reminded to complete performance evaluation for 3600 Leadership Circle.13/12 Collaboration with Native Vegetation Council on forward agenda December 2022.Board action list reviewed and **accepted**. |
|  | 14.7 | **General Manager Update**Discussion was held on the following items of the update from the General Manager;***SAAL Staff***– A suitable candidate was not identified from the applications received for the Senior Biosecurity Officer AS06 role. * Interviews scheduled on 29 August 2022 for the Biosecurity AS04 role.
* Position description and classification revised for Team Leader Landscape Operations and Projects role, to attract and secure a qualified candidate.
* Senior Water Resource Officer role reviewed to receive higher duties the line manager for two new staff and broader responsibilities as our water program grows.
* SAAL staff muster taking place in September 2022 at Pichi Richi Park. Will discuss the results of the recent all staff survey undertaken to track progress from the original IWork4SA survey.

***Water Take of Unallocated Water***Participating with the Department for Environment and Water on the tender panel for the recruitment of a subcontractor for the unallocated water consultation. This has seen positive progress and development of a good working relationship with the water agency and consultancy.***Canberra National CEOs Forum 19 & 20 July 2022***National NRM CEOs forum attended in Canberra July 2022 working with stakeholders and engaging with the federal departments shaping the funding model designed to consider the goals of the new government. Came away from the forum feeling very positive for the future due to the government’s recognition of the capacity and value of the NRM sector and the interdependency between grassroots delivery and the federal funders to seeing environmental and primary production outcomes.General Manager report **noted**. |
| 0830 | 14.8 | **Kangaroo Partnership Project**Discussion on the Kangaroo Partnership Project included the following:Newsletter for the Kangaroo Partnership Project by Emily Gregg will be distributed 24 August 2022.Kangaroo Partnership grants for up to $15,000 were released on 22 August 2022 and close 9 September 2022. Kangaroo Taskforce commissioned body of work performed by BDO Econsearch ‘Economic Analysis of the SA Kangaroo Industry’ which is now completed. The research will be reviewed by the taskforce and the Kangaroo Partnership Steering Committee however the early data shows that:* Two thirds of the kangaroos processed in SA come from interstate;
* There are challenges within the SA Kangaroo Industry that are hindering the progress of the increased potential and economic gains alongside achieving removal of greater numbers to minimise their impact if over abundant.

Kangaroo Partnership grants will test what the community want to see happening in the kangaroo industry space. Funding for the Kangaroo Partnership Project will run out in mid 2023 at which time further funding will sought from the Minister. Ten minute film ‘One Million Lost Souls’ has been produced in NSW with the focus on the death of animals due to drought or mismanagement and the need to better manage this issue.Kangaroo Partnership Project report **noted***.* |
| 0900 | 14.12 | ***Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan***The board discussed the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water public consultation on the development of the Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan from August 18 to November 3 2022 provides an opportunity to have a say on how to support river systems that sustain unique, resilient and diverse communities and landscapes across the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB). Some points noted were:* Input of the board for LEB Strategic Plan will be important to provide a SAAL region perspective and as an opportunity for future funding.
* The Strategic Plan will be available for distribution.
* There is a lot of interest in participating in the water accounting trial and board member Douglas Lillecrapp is prepared to do a whole of property water trial.
* Tim Flowers advised that he has been unavailable to attend the latest Water Advisory Committee and Water Accounting Advisory Group meetings.
* DEW Director Neil Power has now retired after 43 years in water science, management and policy, at regional, state and national levels.
* Informed the long awaited Far North Prescribed Wells Area Groundwater Model is for the use of industry not pastoral properties and although it is referred to in the board’s FNPWA Water Allocation Plan it now does not apply to the WAP.

Matters outlined in Water Advisory Committee overview report **noted** and discussed. |
| *0918* |  | *Short break taken* |
| 0930 | 14.9 | **Regional Landscape Plan 2021/26 MERI Plan**The board was advised that there is no statutory requirement to have a MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) plan for the Regional Landscape Plan 2021/26 however the MERI plan describes how the board will monitor and report on its performance against planned investment in its annual Business Plan and how it will evaluate the impact of its investment over the life of the plan. The board does have a requirement to review the Regional Landscape Plan once in its five year life span. The ‘draft’ MERI plan has been developed with consideration given to the available resources and current priorities and monitoring needs, which may change when the Regional Landscape Plan is next reviewed.The ‘draft’ MERI plan is the framework for annual reporting on the progress, performance and impact of investment in the five priority areas with a focus on reporting on impact target areas rather than over the whole SAAL region. The ‘draft’ MERI plan highlights prospective monitoring needs which are not currently resourced. There are some risks to the board in being able to evaluate changes in resource condition over the life of the Regional Landscape Plan, due to a number of pest threat and threatened species being funded by NLP-RLP program, which comes to an end in June 2023, and a lack of baseline data in a number of areas.The setting of targets around focus areas to measure performance and define outcomes, and what success will look like was discussed. The board questioned if there were any shortfalls in SAAL’s MERI plan from the recommendations of the State Of Environment report. The board was advised that the MERI plan directionally aligned with the Regional Landscape Plan and any deficiencies would be identified.The potential carbon footprint of the Landscape boards was discussed**It was noted** that no government has committed to a target and potentially Landscape boards may be picked up in the Whole of Government carbon footprint. **It was agreed** to note the ‘draft’ SAAL Landscape Plan MERI Plan, and provide comment on the progress measures identified that includes the setting of a quantifiable target where possible for the regional plan priorities.**Action:** Provide board cost of doing business and the emissions footprint from travel. **Action:** Where possible set a quantifiable target for each of the regional plan priorities. |
| 1000 | 14.10 | **Landscape Priorities Fund Stage One Expression of Interest**The board was provided an overview of the expression of interest (EOI) ‘Resilient Rangelands – Adaptive management to climate and biosecurity threats to enhance, protect, restore and manage our landscapes’ submitted to the Minister for the 2022/2023 Landscape Priorities Fund program. Asking for $978,000 over three years with an estimate of $2.5 million in cash and in-kind from partners including the Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands & Riverland, Northern & Yorke Landscape Boards, PIRSA and the Sheep Industry Fund, with successful projects due to commence 2 December 2022. Biodiversity is one of the beneficiaries of this EOI that will be attractive to the Minister.Landscape Priorities Fund project expression of interest application **noted**. |
| 1010 | 14.13 | **Governance and Finance Committee - Work Health & Safety report**The issues of graffiti to the courthouse building and disturbances occurring in the park across from the office have been raised with the Port Augusta City Council.Work Health & Safety report **noted.** |
|  | 14.14 | **Governance and Finance Committee recommendations to board** |
|  |  | **It was agreed to:** 1. **Note** minutes of Governance and Finance Committee meeting of 10 August 2022 and financial reporting.
2. **Adopt** the 2021/22 Financial Management Compliance Program.
3. **Note** the Contract and Grants executed, Related Party Transactions, and Sponsorship reports.

**It was noted** that SAAL has recently acquired an outstanding Aboriginal artwork from two local artists that was recently displayed at the Mulga Arts Festival for Aboriginal Art in Port Augusta and now hangs in the reception area of the courthouse building. |
| *1020* |  | *Short break* |
| 1040 | 14.19 | **Correspondence** Correspondence report **noted**. |
|  | 14.20 | **Project Status and 2021/22 Achievements Reports**Project Status and 2021/22 Achievements reports **noted.** |
|  | 14.21 | **Presiding Member report**Presiding Member verbal update **noted.** |
|  | 14.22 | **Board Member Updates**Board members provided verbal updates for the Landscape Groups that they represent.***Douglas Lillecrapp Marree Innamincka – Community Landscape Officer Charlie Eager***Meeting held 10 August 2022 at Innamincka prior to Building Pastoral Sustainability Bootcamp that was attended by 25 pastoralists and community members who travelled to hear from speakers on remote feed budgeting, water point monitoring, online security and introduction to soils. A lot of interest was shown in the board’s fish monitoring activities in the Cooper Creek, and camera monitoring as a part of the Coongie Wetland Wonders project. Next meeting to be via MS Teams by the end of September 2022. Other group activities/plans include:* Follow up encouraging/assisting community members with Lake Eyre Basin strategic management planning consultation.
* Tourism app for virtual tours of the Birdsville and Strzelecki tracks.
* Potentially support re-print of outback flora handbook by Brendon Wade and Frank Blieschke.
* Feral pig control scheduled for November 2022 in Warburton-Diamantina catchments, continuing reports of pig numbers.
* Arid Recovery undertook the first ever translocation of Kowaris from populations on Clifton Hills for the trial of a captive insurance population at Arid Recovery’s predator proof sanctuary. Ongoing surveys are being planned for the Coongie Wetland areas.
* Biteback injection service invites have been sent out for the spring injection.
* CLO presented on behalf of the board and Landscape Group at the Wangkangurru Yarluyandi board meeting where the aim and role of the board was discussed, presented on the ongoing pig control efforts on Country and will aim to continue dialogue with community on the issue.
* Complaints from businesses/landholders following the Big Red Bash which attracted approximately 11,000 people to Birdsville with a lack of communication on numbers from organisers resulting in essential supply shortages and with some land managers reporting camping on properties in the hundreds with no follow up maintenance or support for clean-up.
* Nature Foundations thermal survey trial will be finished by end of October 2022.
* Kalamurina Calicivirus release will be starting over summer.

***Tim Flowers Northern Flinders – Community Landscape Officer Matthew Westover***Meeting held at Nilpena Ediacara National Park on 27 July 2022 to tour fossil fields with Palaeontologist Mary Droser. Park set to open in the first half of 2023 and visitation will be through guided tours. Other group activities/plans include:* New member induction completed for Mija Reynolds of Upalinna Station.
* Volunteers on cactus control at Alpana Station. Wirrealpa and Oratunga stations next.
* Wirrealpa Stickybeak Day July 13 2022 attracted 19 landholders. The Farghers’ talked the group through their experience with the EMU (Ecosystem Management Understanding) project. Viewed sites on the property where soil conservation works had been carried out and the change in land condition since those works.
* Weeds surveillance survey at Leigh Creek September 12-15 2022 with Chris Brodie of the State Herbarium.
* Use of ‘Top 10 Travel Tips’ to develop merchandise to continue promotion of responsible travel messaging.
* CLO to attend Australasian weeds conference in Adelaide September 2022 to promote the work of the board and present a poster on the Leigh Creek weeds surveillance project and the use of Cochineal in the SAAL region.
* Board sponsorship for Flinders Family Fun Day in Leigh Creek on October 26 2022 organised by SA Health and the Adnyamathanha community to connect service providers with Leigh Creek and Marree school students and community members.
* October 2022 meeting to be held in Blinman to coincide with 30 years of Bounceback community event and planning session around the future direction of Bounceback.
* Workshop in 2023 facilitated by Soils Extension Officer Geoff Kew for an introduction to soils and comparing soil profiles in different land systems and land conditions.

***Kurt Tschirner Port Augusta – Quorn – Community Landscape Officer Brett Devitt***Meeting held 9 August 2022– next meeting scheduled for 18 October 2022. Key issues and activities for the group and the CLO are:* Raise profile of group with updates in Quorn Mercury newspaper and Port Augusta–Quorn district newsletter.
* Interest in industry developments with proposed Port Playford project and reopening of railway to the Port, e.g. Hallett’s Green Cement.
* Sophie Thomson gardening weekend September 17-18 with the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Event sponsored by the SAAL board.
* Attendance at three Port Augusta Coastcare meetings.
* Facilitated PIRSA’s Davenport Community weed survey and training.
* Advice to Port Augusta City Council regarding control of Hudson Pear.
* Representation at the Port Augusta Operations (Port Playford) Community Reference Group meeting.
* Kids on Country camp with Port Augusta Secondary School at Witchelina (Nature Foundation).
* Quorn Quandong Festival (over three days), sponsored by the SAAL board.
* Aboriginal Engagement workshop.
* Cochineal distribution and maintenance of nursery.
* Upper North Farming Systems Tools Tech & Transformation day at Melrose and Burra to Bird Lake tour looking at regenerative agriculture.

***Ellen Litchfield Marla Oodnadatta – Community Landscape Officer Hamish Longbottom***Last met on 12 August 2022 in Coober Pedy, next meeting planned for 11 October 2022 in Coober Pedy. Group’s key issues and activities:* Coober Pedy Buffel grass.
* Potential of group-funded workshops by David de Vries for composting and wicking bed 17-18 September 2022 in Oodnadatta/Coober Pedy.
* Kids on Country program/Clontarf Academy project ongoing.
* FeralScan webinars planned for 23 and 25 of August 2022.
* Attended and volunteered at Coober Pedy Gymkhana.
* Supporting Grassroots Grant funded tree planting project Coober Pedy in August 2022.
* Continuing conversations with Arabana, pastoralists and Friends of Mound Springs for the Lake Eyre Basin project.

***Scott Michael Gawler Ranges– Community Landscape Officer Christopher Fulton***Group scheduled to meet on 9 September 2022 in Port Augusta. Points of discussion at the upcoming meeting: Property Management Planning, Building Pastoral Sustainability, Grassroots Grants and Kangaroo Partnership Project Grant updates. Melissa Horgan will attend to talk about drought preparedness and resilience in the Pastoral Zone, Hugh McGregor on feral cat ecology and management in outback SA and Geoff Axford on 30 years of the Bounceback program. * Group to host a Sticky Beak Day at Secret Rocks on 21 October 2022.
* Opportunity to host a wicking bed workshop.
* CLO attended launch of Neville Bonney’s new book in Port Augusta obtaining a few pre-ordered books signed by Neville for Gawler Ranges residents.
* Volunteers on Buckleboo Station are assisting with regenerative agricultural pursuits.
* Upcoming volunteer opportunities controlling Pepper Trees with the ’Drill and Fill Machine’ along Depot Creek on Wilkatana Station.

***Ross Sawers Kingoonya – Community Landscape Officer Hamish Longbottom***Group met on 18 July 2022 via MS Teams. Next meeting planned for 26 September 2022 location to be confirmed. Group’s key issues and activities:* Roads impacted by floods.
* Cactus management in the district with cochineal.
* Kangaroo management.
* Carbon opportunities for pastoralists/others.
* CLO supporting Friends of Mound Springs surveys 16-20 August 2022 (Billa Kalina and Anna Creek).
* Group attended Arid Recovery Open Day on 31 July 2022, promoting the board.

***Sanchia Treloar North East Pastoral – Community Landscape Officer Dianna Makotter***Meeting held 4 August 4 2022 at Mannahill. Next met 3 November 2022 at the Olary Hotel. Key issues and activities:* ChemCERT course held in July 2022 a huge success, intention to support another course in the next financial year.
* On track for delivery of Koonamore Stickybeak Day 20 September 2022 with a focus on soil erosion and will feature a number of specialists in this space.
* Concern re Foot and Mouth disease.
* An increasing number of kangaroos in the district which is concerning to the group.
* Face-to-face land manager visits remain a priority.
* DEW recently held kangaroo surveys in the Olary Ranges.
* Wild dog bait injection services are scheduled for October 2022.
* The second Aboriginal engagement workshop took place early July 2022.

**It was agreed** to include the CLO updates to board members in the minutes.**Action:** Include dot points from the CLO updates to board members in the minutes. |
| *1105* |  | *Short break* |
| *1127* |  | *At this time Charlie Eager joined the meeting.* |
| 1127 | 14.15 | **Biteback Program** During the update on the Biteback program the board suggested it would be useful to know if the wild dogs referred to in the report are dingoes or hybrid dogs. The board was advised that genome testing had been done in the past.The board was advised that news of the extension of the wild dog bounty program had appeared in a recent edition of the Stock Journal.Update on Biteback program **noted**.**Action:** Investigate if the type of wild dogs (dingoes or hybrid dogs) can be determined and the numbers reported in future Biteback reports. |
|  | 14.16 | **Goat Management Strategy**Discussion was held on the issues involved with goat management that included:* Create a data set to have different ways to address issues.
* Identify issues, what has been done previously and what can be done now.
* As goats are a feral species there is no reason that SAAL should not be dealing with the issue.
* The value of goat meat has decreased.
* Better resources for the pastoral unit as they are the one body for all issues. **It was noted** that the costs of the unit should be less now that it sits under DEW.

Update on the Goat Management Strategy **noted**. |
|  | 14.17 | **Deer Eradication Program**Discussion was held on the huge biosecurity risk of feral deer and although the numbers were small it was important to eradicate them now.Deer Eradication Program outcomes **noted.** |
|  | 14.18 | **Pig Management Update**Discussion was held on the test sample results recently obtained from PIRSA from the feral pig cull performed late 2021 that showed the presence of both the Brucella and Japanese Encephalitis viruses. PIRSA has a responsibility as it is a biosecurity issue however the greater threat is to humans (and dogs) therefore the primary responsibility is with SA Health. SAAL’s role is to support landholders to do the right thing and there will be a considered communications strategy that does not alarm but assists in alerting property managers to minimise risks at the local level.Another feral pig cull is to take place in the second week of November 2022 (postponed from June due to heavy rain event). The General Manager has sought further funding and the Landscape Priorities Fund application is also more poignant as a result of this recent discovery.The recent developments and plans in the management of pigs and detected disease in the region **noted**. |
|  | 14.23 | **Public comment**Nil. |
|  | 14.24 | **Forward agenda items**October 2022 * Presentation from Santos on Moomba carbon capture and storage project in NE SA
* Risk Register
* PIRSA – Wild Dogs
* Debrief of 3600 Collective Leadership Assessment survey
* Update on MERI plan for the Regional Plan
* Two-hour session with Landscape Group Chairs (then join the board for dinner)

**It was agreed** the MERI plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area - Water Allocation Plan be presented to the Water Advisory Committee (not the full board).**Action:** Follow up if Brad Page is attending October 2022 board meeting for wild dog issue. |
|  | 14.25 | **Any other business**Nil. |
|  | 14.26 | **Meeting appraisal****It was agreed** to defer the discussion on the board internal performance review completed by Kurt Tschirner. |
| 1159 | 14.27 | **Board communiqué****It was agreed** to include the following items in the board communique:* Board meeting held in Marree
* Livestock joint community event
 |
|  | 14.28 | **Meeting Administration**Ellen Litchfield advised that with the meeting being held in Marree she would not be claiming mileage. |
| 1200 |  | **Meeting end** |

**Approved** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_08\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_ / 2022

~~Ross Sawers Chair~~ Ellen Litchfield deputy chair

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

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| **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 N-E SA | TF | Oct 2022 |
| Dec 2021 | Host fox and dog workshop for the Port Augusta/Quorn region | GP | Jun 2022 |
| Feb 2021 | Tri-Star Group update on Simpson and Pedirka Basin Project | GM | TBD |
| Jun 2022 | MERI Plan for Regional Plan | GM AS | Oct 2022 |
| Jun 2022 | Risk Register | GM | Oct 2022 |
| Jun 2022 | PIRSA – Wild Dogs | GM | Oct 2022 |
| Aug 2022 | Prepare discussion paper for the board on opportunities of collaboration with the Native Vegetation Council | GM | Dec 2022 |
| Dec 2021 | Landscape Group Chairs six-monthly meeting with the board | GM CG | Apr 2023 |

**BOARD ACTION LIST**

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| **Ref #** | **Action Item** | **RO** | **Status** |
| 7/12 | Conduct survey for stakeholder feedback and involvement for goat policy. Cost benefit analysis needs to be completed first.Paper and project scope tabled at August 2022 meeting. | GP |  |
| 10/24.2 | Board presentation on Beach Energy’s carbon capture and storage project. Scheduled October board meeting. | GM |  |
| 11/19 | Review wild dog control action plan and organic management plan with a view to combine forms. Suggest landholder discuss baiting requirements with SAAL prior to seeing organic certifier. These are two separate steps which can be made into one plan after discussion with the board and certifier or at least the board if property chooses not to raise with certifier. | GP |  |
| 14/9.1 | Provide board cost of doing business and the emissions footprint from travel.  | GM |  |
| 14/9.2 | Where possible set a quantifiable target for each of the Regional Landscape Plan priorities (for the MERI plan). | ASk |  |
| 14/15 | Investigate if the type of wild dogs (dingoes or hybrid dogs) can be determined and the numbers reported in future Biteback reports. | GP |  |
| 14/22 | Include dot points from the CLO updates to board members in the minutes of board meetings. | EO |  |
| 14/24 | Follow up if Brad Page is attending October 2022 board meeting for wild dog issue. | GM |  |