

# MINUTES

## SA Arid Lands Landscape Group Board Meeting #15

☞ Day One ☜

Wednesday 14 December 2022 10:00am – 5:40pm

Location:	SAAL Boardroom 1 Jervois St Port Augusta SA 5700
Attendees:	Ellen Litchfield - Deputy Chair Douglas Lillecrapp - Board Member Kurt Tschirner - Board Member Scott Michael - Board Member Tim Flowers - Board Member <i>MS Teams</i> Sanchia Treloar - Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith - General Manager (GM) Abby Richards - Executive Officer (minute taker)
SAAL Staff:	Item 16.09 Alison Skinner – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (ASk) Item 16.10 Melanie Boxall – Manager Business Support (MBS) Item 16.11 Cherie Gerlach – Team Leader communications & Community Engagement (CG)
Guests:	Item 16.12 Cameron May and Alisha Green – Department of Energy & Mining – Via MS Teams
Apologies:	NIL
1000 16.0	In camera pre meeting discussion with the board and General Manager took place.
1100 16.1	Chair opened the meeting with no apologies for 14/12/22. Tim Flowers apology for 15/12/22 <b>noted</b>
16.2	Agenda for the meeting was <b>accepted</b>
16.3	<b>It was agreed</b> for the board performance review to be conducted by Sanchia Treloar with a focus on agenda items 16.11, 16.13, 16.16 & 16.18
16.4	<b>Declarations of interests</b> Recorded on the register.
16.5	Minutes for SAAL Landscape Board meeting of 26 and 27 October 2022 <b>accepted by all</b> Minutes for In Camera SAAL Landscape Board meeting of 26 October <b>accepted by all</b>
16.6	<b>Action list review</b> <b>It was agreed to</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15/15.13 Wild Dog Management Policy and Plan Review – COMPLETE</li> <li>- 15/15.15 360 Performance Review – Develop a Skills Matrix for board members</li> </ul>
1115 16.7	<b>General Manager report</b> As part of the discussion of the General Manager’s update the board was provided further information on the following topics; <b>Human Relations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office Coordinator (ASO4) position has been filled and will commence in January 2023</li> <li>• Operations Manager position has been readvertised.</li> <li>• The Planning and MERI Officer has given notice – role has been advertised</li> </ul>

### Future Funding

- At time of meeting no update has been announced relating to the tendering process for the next round of Regional Land Partnerships.

### Landscape Priorities Fund

- Announcement was imminent at the time of meeting

### NRM Knowledge Conference

- Held in Margaret River which was attended by the General Manager, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement and Planning and MERI Officer
- Conference update presented to the board later in meeting Item 16.16
- GM will email the Regionals Australia Newsletter to all Board Members

General Manager report **noted and endorsed**

1245

*Break for lunch*

1315

*At this time Alison Skinner (SAAL) joined the meeting*

1315 16.9

### MERI Plan

Update on the SAAL landscape monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plans 2021-26 progress was presented to the Board.

The plan supports the evaluation of the Boards 5-year SAAL Regional Landscape Plan (2021-2026).

Updated plan included the boards desire to include clearer criteria or measure of success in relation to regional priority, if not SMART targets (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound).

To support evaluation of the Board's work, evaluation rubrics are being developed that identify criteria and performance standards relevant to the Board's focus areas.

**Discussion:** Rubrics are still being worked through with SAAL staff from relevant program areas, owing to competing priorities.

The board is happy with the level of reporting being conducted.

The Board **notes** the MERI Plan and (Board supports the approach of the rubric and entrusts that the success is understood by the staff for reporting measures.)

1340

*A short break was taken*

1345

*At this time Melanie Boxall (SAAL) and Kristie Vater (SAAL) joined meeting*

16.10a

### a) Risk Management Framework and Register

The Risk Management Framework and Risk Register was discussed with the board. Following from October's board meeting additions were sought to include compliance activities.

**Action:** Review risk register with accordance to sleeping giants to unaddressed historical legislative matters.

The Risk Management Framework, updated Risk Register and the Risk Guideline Escalation Process **endorsed** by the board.

16.10b

### b) Work Health & Safety

WHS Committee met in September 2022 where discussion was held on:

- Schedule a morning tea for next quarterly staff get together and present the next Safety Focus Theme
- Safe Work Practices – working on roadsides for pest plant and animal inspections
- RLT have explored changes to CFS Fire Ratings for inclusion in work practices
- Suggested for SAAL to schedule a regular First Aid Drill
- Volunteer forms are being reviewed
- No Lost Time Injury
- COVID 19 procedure recently been approve by the RLT

Work Health and Safety Report **noted** by the board

16.10c **c) GFC recommendations:**

**It was agreed to:**

- **note** the minutes of GFC meeting held 30 November 2022
- **accept** the financial overview and associated reports
- **note** the Preliminary Board Budget
- **adopt** the policies – Asset Policy, Purchase Card Policy,
- **note** the agreements executed covering the period 28 September to 17 November 2022
- **note** the related party transaction report
- **note** the Sponsorship report

16.10d **d) Financial Delegations**

Each year the board reviews the delegations and endorses approval of the instruments and authorisation for –

- Procurement – purchase of goods and services;
- Contract pre-approval – final steps before a contract is signed;
- Payment and disbursement – paying invoices for contract and grants;
- Contract execution – signing contracts, grants or funding deeds;
- Purchase cards – authorisation to incur expenditure using a purchase card;
- Debt write-off – authorisation to write off debts.

The board has **approved** the granting of the Instruments of Authorisation for Procurement – Contract Pre Approval – Payment Disbursement, Contract Execution, Contract Execution = Purchase Card and Debt Write Off, to be executed under Common Seal by the Presiding Member.

16.10e **e) Travel and Costs Impacts**

A Travel and Cost Impact data report for 2020/21 was presented to the board. The collation of data is from each Landscape Board which assists with the ongoing review of efficiencies and operations that is undertaken at a financial as well as operational level by all members of the Regional Landscape Team. The Business Services team is currently assisting with the collation and analysis of data to produce results for 2021/22.

Results of the data pertaining to travel and cost impact across the region was **noted** by the Board.

16.10f **f) Out of Council Policy and Delegation**

The Out of Council Policy and Delegation has been formed and presented to the Board. The policy covers the administration and collection for the Landscape levies outside of Council areas. The Delegation gives authorisation to grant a remission for an Out of Council Landscape Levy on behalf of the Board.

The board **adopted** the Out of Council Landscape Levy Collection Policy.

The board **approved** the Instrument of Authorisation – Delegation of Out of Council Remissions and the affixing of the Common Seal and signature by the Presiding Member.

16.10g **g) 2023 Meeting Schedule**

A schedule of board and committee meetings for 2023 had been presented to the Board, October 2022 Meeting #15. Amendments have since been made with recommendations from the General Manager and the Team Leader Communications and Community Engagement office.

**Action:** All Board's Members Conference to meet in Murray Bridge 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Save the Date calendar invite to be sent and formal invite to follow from the Host Board

**Action:** January GFC and WAC meetings to be held in conjunction with the first Board Meeting for 2023

**Action:** WAC and GFC Committees to be reviewed in the first Board meeting 2023

The board **considered and accepted** the Board and Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023.

1430		<i>At this time Kristie Vater left the meeting</i>
1450		<i>At this time Mel Boxall and Alison Skinner left the meeting</i>
1450		<i>At this time Cherie Gerlach (SAAL) joined the meeting</i>
1450	16.13	<p><b>Grassroots Grants Round 4 2023/24</b></p> <p>The 2023/24 Grassroots Grants guidelines and delivery timeline (gant chart) was presented to the Board. The Grassroots Grants Program is a state wide annual initiative for all boards to implement with a 2.9% of their annual income as outline in the Landscape Act 2019. Successful grantees are supported by the Community Landscape Officers (CLO's) to complete and report on grant projects.</p> <p>The board <b>endorsed</b> the 2023/2024 Grassroots Grants guidelines and delivery timeline.</p>
1456	16.14	<p><b>Aboriginal Partnership Update</b></p> <p>The Aboriginal Engagement Workshop was held in November 2022. The group agreed that a stable membership is required for the Aboriginal Engagement Network to progress. The group also agreed that two meetings a year are required.</p> <p>The board <b>endorsed</b> the committee to a minimum of two Aboriginal Engagement Workshops per year and considers options to formalise the group as an advisory group to the board. Funding would be from the Aboriginal Engagement Budget.</p> <p>The board <b>supports</b> the formation of a draft Term of Reference for the Aboriginal Engagement Network and will consider recommendations from the network after its next meeting in early 2023.</p>
1523		<i>At this time Alison Skinner joined the meeting</i>
1524	16.16	<p><b>NRM Knowledge Conference Update Presentation</b></p> <p>Highlights from the NRM Knowledge Conference that was held in Margaret River 31 Oct – 3 November was presented to the Board which consisted of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wadandi Boodja (Country) – presentation about On Country</li> <li>• Australian Government Long Term Monitoring Framework - Range of initiatives to help standardise and improve scalability and sharing of environmental data.</li> <li>• A voice for youth (the Millenium Kids model) - Young people are concerned about climate change and other environmental challenges and want to be involved in finding solutions and in decision-making.</li> <li>• Circular economies – the Bega Valley example - No just about waste management – About understanding flow of all resources in and out of a system</li> <li>• KPP Presentation - 3 hour discussion- commitment to national community of practice – environmental, commercial, sustainability, social license, policy and regulation and cultural issues discussed.</li> <li>• Regional environmental accounting and tapping into new markets –</li> <li>• Carbon (+) workshop</li> <li>• Role of NRM boards in environmental transformation</li> </ul> <p>NRM knowledge Conference Update Presentation <b>noted</b> by the Board</p>
1600		<i>At this time Cherie Gerlach and Alison Skinner left the meeting</i>
1600	16.12	<p><b>Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) – Presentation, via MS Teams</b></p> <p><i>Cameron May and Alisha Green (DEM) (Richard Day an apology)</i></p> <p>The proposed Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act was presented to the Board by Alisha Green (Manager, Strategic Policy and Government Relations) and Cameron May (Senior Policy Officer) from Department of Energy and Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed act seeks to introduce a 'one window to government' licencing and regulatory system for the lifecycle of large-scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects in South Australia</li> </ul>

1645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The renewable energy transformation will occur largely on native title land and Aboriginal land and will impact on Aboriginal people's interests and cultural connections to their land</li> <li>• South Australia: a world leader in renewable energy - 0 – 69% renewable energy in 15+ years; On track to reach Net 100% renewables by 2030; Targeting Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050; A vision for 500% renewables by 2050 in SA's 2020 Climate Change Action Plan</li> <li>• Identified areas for development - new approach to pastoral land and state waters, Department will work together with native title groups, and other regulators, early to determine where we can sustainably host renewable energy projects, before licences are offered or granted, identify where development is not suitable – or suitable with terms and conditions, de-risk investments, build social acceptance</li> <li>• New licences introduced</li> <li>• New compliance powers</li> <li>• Cost Recovery for Services</li> <li>• Currently working on consulting issues paper – general public engagement due February 2023. Introduce bill to parliament by mid 2023.</li> <li>• Board suggested to DEM hold a public consultation in the upper north of South Australia</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> General Manager to put together paper for submission to DEM</p> <p><b>Final run through for Chairs catch up on Day 2</b></p> <p><b>Day Close</b></p>
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<b>Day Two</b>	
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 8.30am – 12.30pm</b>	
Location:	SAAL Boardroom 1 Jervois St Port Augusta SA 5700
Attendees:	Ross Sawers - Chair Ellen Litchfield - Deputy Chair Douglas Lillecrapp - Board Member Kurt Tschirner - Board Member Scott Michael - Board Member Sanchia Treloar - Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith - General Manager (GM) Abby Richards - Executive Officer (minute taker)
SAAL Staff:	Item 16.17 Greg Patrick – Team Leader Landscape Operations & Projects (GP) Item 16.18 Aaron Smith – Senior Water Resource Officer (ASm) Item 16.18 Melissa Horgan – Water Project Officer (MH)
Apologies	Tim Flowers – Board Member
Guests:	NIL
0830	Meeting reconvened and the business of day one reviewed.
0835	<i>At this time Greg Patrick (SAAL) joined the meeting</i>
0835 16.17	<b>Biosecurity Update</b> <u><b>Biosecurity Staff</b></u> Biosecurity Staff including the field officer are working together to broaden the roles to cover off on all biosecurity work across all staff to reduce any redundancy.

### Landscapes Priorities Fund

Notification of the LPF application is still waiting announcement by the Minister.

### Goats

Unmanaged Rangelands Goats Report noted by board. This report is still to be worked through by the working committee and is not for wider distribution at this time.

### Wild Dogs

Spring Bait injection services are nearly completed with some delays due to limited access to roads or where landholders have been unable to locally source meat due to high rainfall over the last month. Follow up arrangements to service landholder baiting needs is ongoing with additional services being provided to properties.

Outside of the dog fence the current policy looks to be working well.

Aerial wild dog baiting program organised by PIRSA is scheduled for January 2023 with another two aerial baits soon after. The Boards aerial baiting program under the Biteback program is scheduled for April 2023.

Update of the Dog Fence Rebuild was presented to the Board.

### Pigs

Aerial control program was undertaken along the Macumba, Warburton and Diamantina rivers during November. Total of 493 pigs and 15 cats were controlled. Figures is down from the 855 pigs last November. A feral pig policy and management plan is being developed for the Boards approval early 2023.

Lots of media attention around Pigs with the General Manager conducting several interviews with media over the past few weeks.

### Deer

Since an aerial cull of deer was conducted in June 2022 in the Gawler Ranges a few deer have since been sighted on cameras that have been deployed by SAAL Landscape and Eyre Peninsula Landscape Boards. An inspection of a property in the Flinders Ranges is being planned to follow up on a report of feral deer.

### Weeds

Four properties in the Port Augusta region with Hudson Pear have been contacted to ensure they undertake appropriate measures to control these declared plants and prevent further spread.

Contractors have been procured to deliver the Board's roadside weed control program with a big focus on buffel grass and Noogoora Burr.

### Compliance

NIL

Biosecurity Update **noted** by the Board

0900

*At this Greg Patrick left the meeting*

0932

*At this time Aaron Smith (SAAL) and Melissa Horgan (SAAL) joined the meeting*

0935 16.18

### **Water Advisory Committee Overview**

#### Water Accounting

The board was updated on the Water Accounting Advisory Group (WAAG). Provided input for monitoring technologies conducted workshops with the consultants, Ecological Australia. The two workshops helped gained information for the end user requirements. Followed by a cost-benefit analysis. This information will help feed into the Water Accounting Feed Project.

### Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Program

This project commenced in 2019 and finishes in 2024. Approval has been granted by the Commonwealth of 31 new individual projects with a potential water saving of 4,100 ML/y and funding value of \$3.3m.

Board staff are working with the Commonwealth and the GAB Jurisdictions to review the GAB ground water programs funded by the Commonwealth to see the strengths/weaknesses of each project completed. The review will inform governments responsible for GAB water management on both cumulative success and shortcomings of past joint programs and will inform the need for and structure of future Commonwealth funding in the basin.

### Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs Project

Funding is being finalised and engagement with partners is occurring for the project to support watercourse and spring management through on ground activities. Look to commence project March/April 2023. BHP have joined as a project partner.

### Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan

The Australia Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water launched a public consultation on the Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan. A consolidated written response has been sent to the Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat. Look to be finalised mid 2023.

### Matters Discussed for Future Consideration

Bore Fed Wetlands – the Boards policy in regards to application, approval and levy of groundwater take along with the purpose of the irrigation.

The Water Advisory Committee Overview **noted**

1008 *At this time Aaron Smith and Melissa Horgan left the meeting*

*Short break was taken*

1025 *At this time Emily Gregg joined the meeting via MS Teams*

### 1025 16.19 **Kangaroo Partnership Project Update - Presentation**

The Kangaroo Partnership Project update was presented to the Board by Emily Gregg (KPP Coordinator)

- KPP is a partnership approach which involves five SA Landscape Boards; SA Arid Lands, Murraylands and Riverland, Northern and Yorke, Eyre Peninsula and Alinytjara Wilurara and over 20 external organisations.
- Objectives include drought resilience, maintenance of land productivity, animal welfare, business diversification and Indigenous enterprise/employment opportunities.
- Theme and focus areas include animal welfare, economic development and livelihoods, environmental conservation, landscape management and sustainability, Improving social licence and moving forward together, engagement and alignment.
- Grant funding program was open for applications 15August – 9 September 2022. Had over 30 enquiries and 10 applications submitted.
- 3 applications have been accepted
  - *Australian Wildlife Services* – Aim to help transfer kangaroos from pests to assets in the hands of landholders. Will describe options for increasing kangaroo value through improved...
    - Product quality, diversity and consistency
    - Supply reliability
    - Marketing as a low emission, tasty, healthy meat
  - *Kate Greenfield (South Gap Pastoral Station)* - will bring together land managers, with support from ecologists, the Kangaroo Management Taskforce and SAAL staff. The aim is to collaboratively target effective landscape scale kangaroo management in the medium and long term. Create a replicable model of practice in the southern rangelands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Nature Conservation Society of South Australia</i> - Aims to significantly amplify the voices of the champions and narratives necessary to increase community understanding and acceptance</li> <li>● Recently attended the NRM regions Knowledge Conference and presented the KPP in a Joint workshop with NSW KMT and BHA</li> <li>● Currently putting together a Future Drought Fund Application. Assisting Fiona Garland (Western LLS)</li> </ul>
		Kangaroo Partnership Project Update <b>noted</b>
16.20		<b>Correspondence</b>
		Correspondence report <b>noted</b> by the board
16.21		<b>Project status report</b>
		The board was provided the status updates and achievements for the reporting period 1 October to 30 November 2022 for all approved programs and projects as they align to the boards 2021-26 priorities.
		Project Status Report for period 1 October – 30 November 2022 <b>noted</b> by the board
1048	16.22	<b>Presiding member report</b>
		Presiding member report <b>noted</b> by the board
1050	16.23	<b>Board member updates</b>
		Board members provided verbal updates for the Landscape Groups they represent with the topics raised being discussed
		<b>See Appendix A</b>
		NIL Actions
16.24		<b>Public comment (if applicable)</b>
		NIL
16.25		<b>Forward agenda items</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incorporate WAC and GFC in February Meeting</li> <li>● Business Plan – semi final draft</li> <li>● Landscape Priorities Fund</li> <li>● Review to DEM document review? Pending time frame</li> </ul>
16.26		<b>Any other business</b>
		NIL
		<b>Amendment to October 2022 meeting minutes</b>
		<b>It was noted</b> that incorrect spelling of surname Nick Harley from Santos was recorded in the October 2022 Minutes – section 15.11
		<b>Action:</b> EO to amend minutes to reflect name change from ‘Hanley’ to ‘Harley’
1115		<b>Board communiqué</b>
		<b>It was agreed</b> to include the following items in the board communiqué:
		Item 16.11 – Board approval of the Out of Council Levy and Levy Equalisation
		Item 16.12 – DEM – Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act
		Item 16.17 – Brief Biosecurity Update re BDO Report
		Item 16.19 – Kangaroo Partnership Project Update of upcoming projects
		<b>Meeting administration</b>
		NIL
1120		<b>Meeting end</b>

Approved



Date 06/01/2023

Chair

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

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
Feb 2021	Tri-Star Group update on Simpson and Pedirka Basin Project	GM	TBD
Jun 2022	MERI Plan Review Update	GM AS	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Goats – BDO Study	GM	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Concepts to be presented in the next round of projects – briefing on the RLP round	GM	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Submit an application as a preferred providers	GM	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Draft Budget for 23/24 business plan	GM	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Update on Levy Equalisation engagement	GM	Dec 2022
Oct 2022	Aboriginal Partnership Project update	GM	Dec 2022

## ACTION LIST

Ref #	Action Item	RO	Status
14/9.1	Provide board cost of doing business and the emissions footprint from travel.	GM	<b>Complete</b>
15/15.9a	Risk Management Framework/Business Continuity Legal risk relating to compliance action by cost and reputation – to be written in the Risk Management Framework	GM	
15/15.13	Wild Dog Management Policy In draft – Final version to be endorsed by Presiding Member	GP	<b>Ross to affix signature</b>
15/15.13	Wild Dog Management Policy and Plan Review Greg to complete letter and respond to PIRSA in regards to the DRAFT Wild Dog Management Strategy 2022-2032 from PIRSA - <i>The Board would like to define what capacity PIRSA would be providing to support landscape boards and authorised officers with the implementation of the Board's legislative responsibilities</i>	GP	<b>Completed 14/12/2022</b>
15/15.15 16/15.15	360 Performance Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM and RLT to review areas for improving stakeholder perceptions and present action plan to board for consideration.</li> <li>• Skill Matrix to be developed for requirements of board members</li> </ul>	GM RLT	<b>Ongoing</b>
16/16.10a	Review risk register with accordance to 'sleeping giants' to unaddressed historical legislative matters. (ie like bore-fed wetlands)	BM	
16/16.10g	All Board's Members Conference to meet in Murray Bridge 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023. Save the Date calendar invite to be sent and formal invite to follow from the Host Board	GM/EO	

16/16.10g	January GFC and WAC meetings to be held in conjunction with the first Board Meeting for 2023 WAC and GFC Committees to be reviewed in the first Board meeting 2023	Board GM BM EO	
16/16.12	General Manager to put together paper for submission to DEM re Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act	GM	
16/16.18	Review the Water Activity Control Policy	WAC	Sub project for WAC
	EO to amend minutes to reflect name change from 'Hanley' to 'Harley'	EO	<b>Completed 19/12/2022</b>

## Appendix A - Board member updates

### District: Gawler Rangers

- The group met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Old Courthouse Board Room in Port Augusta, focus was to lock in events for the first half of next year – District Action Planning
- *Group's key issues and activities*
  - Points of discussion; Property Management Planning, Grassroots Grants and Kangaroo Partnership Project Grant updates
  - Scott shared a Board update with the group
  - Update on volunteer happenings throughout the district
  - The group hosted a Wicking Bed Workshop at Iron Knob on 4<sup>th</sup> November which was a huge success with approximately 30 attendees
  - Next group meeting 17<sup>th</sup> February in Quorn for a shared group meeting with the Port Augusta/Quorn district group
- *District Activities*
  - Aerial Fox baiting in and around GRNP
  - Organised for kids from Stirling North Primary School to tour around the AALBG – bush food focus

### District: Kingoonya

- Last meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Arcoona Station. Next planned meeting to be held 21<sup>st</sup> February at Kingoonya Hotel
- *Group's key issues and activities*
  - Group members attended Wicking Bed and Composting workshop in Andamooka on 29 October and promoted SAAL LB
  - Feral cat management- looking at hosting information session for property owners
  - Carbon information workshop planning for April 2023
  - Planning for Arid Recovery Kids Day with Dunnart Productions Roadshow for April 2023

### District: Marree-Innamincka

- Next meeting in Marree being scheduled for February 2023
- *RLP projects*
  - Contractors have been carrying out surveys up at Coongie/Innamincka with reports of high dusky hopping mice numbers.
  - Buffel grass control is also scheduled to be undertaken at Coongie/Innamincka in the New Year with increasing reports of growth and spread.
  - Wet roads have limited some of the surveys and accessibility
- *District Group projects*
  - STEMM kids day event being planned for March 2023 in Marree.
  - Grading workshop pencilled in for end of April, in Marree and Innamincka (interest dependent)
- *Pest and Weed Control projects*
  - Follow up aerial pig shoot was carried out during early November along Warburton, Diamantina covering Kalamurina, Clifton Hills, Cowarie, Alton Downs, Macumba and Pandie Pandie properties. Over the week 493 pigs and 15 cats were destroyed, with tall vegetation growth proving a challenge for sighting pigs in some areas.
- *Biteback activity.*
  - Injection services offered with no take up from North of fence properties
- *CLO Landholder visits, issues/opportunities*
  - No issues to report, no visits undertaken due to annual leave
- *Grassroots grant in your district*
  - Nature Foundation thermal drone survey project was finished (report available if interested) with a thermal drone surveying over 200km of Witchelina
  - Kalamurina are carrying out RHDV5 release to reduce rabbit numbers

### District: Marla-Oodnadatta

- Last meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Coober Pedy.
- *Group's key issues and activities*
  - Group funded David de Vries composting & wicking bed workshops 18<sup>th</sup> Sept
  - Supported Chemical accreditation training in Coober Pedy 22-23 November

- Planning Cricket and Conversations (Pastoral Bootcamp) for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 in Coober Pedy
- *Regional activities*
  - Lake Eyre Basin Project- continuing conversations with Arabana, Pastoralists and Friends of Mound Springs
  - Aerial pig control in Diamantina (included Macumba Station)
  - CLO Mt Clarence site visit for Cochineal release monitoring 24 November
  - Biteback Injection service 21-23 November

#### **District: North Flinders**

- *Group*
  - The Group met in Blinman on October 28 and invited the community in for the afternoon to celebrate 30 years of Bounceback. 19 people attended and received an update on Bounceback and Bounceback and Beyond and the important role landholders have played in the project was acknowledged.
  - The group is meeting in Port Augusta the day before the Board meeting. At this meeting we will review our District Plan priorities and plan group activities for 2023. We will have guest speakers talking on Locusts, the Kangaroo Partnerships project and World Heritage. We will also hear from Board Staff on our sustainable agriculture projects and science team projects.
  - The Group will be hosting a soils workshop at Upalinna Station in March. The day will be in introduction into soil science, identifying and describing soil profiles and how soils influence nutritional value of pasture species.
- *District*
  - While the grass has now turned and things are starting to dry out, everyone is in really good spirits with the season we are having.
  - Locusts are in high numbers in the district and causing some concern. Following recent surveys from PIRSA, there will not be any broad scale control efforts at this stage.
  - The Copley Progress Association have commenced their Quondong Orchid which will eventually contain 200-300 trees. This was funded through the Queen's Jubilee tree planting program and builds on their community garden.
  - I attended the Flinders Family Fun Day (organised by SA Health and the Adnyamathanha community). The Board provided \$1,000 in sponsorship for this event and this was greatly appreciated by the organisers and the community.
  - I am organising a stickybeak day for Holowiliena Station in April to look at recent soils conservation works (funded through BPS Grants) and grazing exclosures (funded through Grassroots Grants)
  - This week we have Nantawarrina IPA rangers getting involved in Quoll monitoring at Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.

#### **District: Port Augusta/Quorn**

- Last meeting held Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Next meeting planned for 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- *Group's key issues and activities*
  - Ongoing - raising the profile of the Landscape Group with updates into the local Quorn Mercury newspaper and through the Port Augusta – Quorn District Newsletter.
  - Levy equalisation engagement. Consultation now closed.
- *Regional activities*
  - Attendance at the Landcare Association of SA Roadshow
  - Talks with Flinders Ranges Council for 2023 Quandong Festival
  - Continued support to Port Augusta Coastcare for meetings and their incorporation
  - Hudson Pear weed survey at Lincoln Gap
  - Cultana defence base environmental meeting
- *Grassroots Grants:*
  - Continued support to Port Augusta Coastcare for March event planning (Grassroots Grant event).
  - Support to the Port Augusta Garden Club for their Grassroots Grant workshops.
  - Support to Gawler Ranges for site visit by Neville Bonney.
- *Nature Education:*
  - John Pirie Secondary School excursion to Pith Kawi – Bush Tucker Garden (90 students).
  - Aboriginal student excursion for Stirling North Primary School to Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (45 students).
  - There have been five projects in Nature Education for PAQ district this year, with almost 300 students, teachers and parents engaged.