

# SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué



SA Arid Lands Landscape Board held its first meeting for 2022 in its new boardroom (pictured right) in Port Augusta on 23 and 24 February.



## Opening of new SA Arid Lands Office

The board was proud to have its first meeting for the year in its 'new' office. Earlier in February the Minister for Environment and Water, Hon. David Speirs and the local member and deputy Premier Dan van Holst Pellekaan jointly opened the building (pictured below), each delighted with the work and the speed in which the development occurred. The new office is located in the heritage-listed courthouse 1 Jervis Street, Port Augusta.



[Click to view office transformation](#)

## Annual Board Business Plan

This is an annual process which increases the board's transparency on its activities and investment for partners and stakeholders, including the community who invest through their annual Landscape Levy. The board reviewed the draft plan with the proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year, and are expecting to approve the final plan at its next meeting in April 2022.

## Feral Animal Update

Deer - the Gawler Ranges district recorded the presence of feral deer on pastoral properties and in the Gawler Ranges National Park. The board has supported co-investment in an aerial cull in April in partnership with other landscape boards undertaking large scale deer control across several parts of the state.

Uncontrolled goats – progression with the development of an alliance with other landscape boards and industry partners will result in co-investment into economic and environmental studies and stakeholder engagement. This work will qualify the threats and opportunities associated with the prevalence of rangelands goats and support revision of the goat policy administered under the Landscape Act. It will shape compliance action and potential project trials that explore options for stakeholders achieving progress through turn off of rangelands goats in the SAAL and neighbouring regions.

The board recognises this is a contentious topic and is committed to working through the risks and opportunities to overcome what has been a long held and unresolved issue in SA.

## Kangaroo Partnership Project

The successful application in the inaugural round of the state Landscape Priorities Fund for the Kangaroo Partnership Project is progressing well with the board receiving the first project report since the appointment of the Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator in November 2021. So far, each partnering board has been briefed, the project steering committee has met on three occasions and numerous stakeholder meetings have occurred, including with the Kangaroo Agriculture Taskforce (PIRSA), industry and cross-state research groups and Agrifutures.

A stakeholder workshop is being planned for April which will finalise potential projects and goals of the project beyond the development of the partnership itself.

## 2022/23 Grassroots Grants

The board committed to doubling the next round of Grassroots Grants to \$200k in the 2022/23 FY to support recovery from the recent floods and heavy rains. Noting that most landholders are jubilant about the rain, the prominence of pest plants and animals and the need for erosion works will place additional pressure upon landholders.

The extra funding being made available through the 2022/23 Grassroots Grants will hopefully ease this and minimise large volumes or the spread of pests.

## Landscape Group Plans

The board was briefed on the recent progress of each of the seven Landscape Groups in developing their district action plans, focused on specific issues and opportunities in each district, and aligned with the board's key priorities. Each of the landscape group chairs will present their final plans to the board in the April meeting.

## Useful Links

[SA Arid Lands Events](#)

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](#)