

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué



The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board held its meeting in Port Augusta from 14-15 December 2022.

The board enjoyed its final meeting of the year and wishes its many partners the very best for 2023.

Items covered in this meeting included;

Council Levy Equalisation

The board has spent several months working with the four councils within the SAAL region to design an equitable levy process to take effect from 1 July 2023. This is based on the transition of two new councils into the revised SAAL boundary that was created under the Landscape SA Act 2019, which have been levied on a different basis to the existing two councils. The board has engaged in pre-consultation, formal public consultation and socio-economic studies to inform final recommendations to the Deputy Premier as the Minister for Environment and Water. This board meeting saw the endorsement of the proposed levy model that will see the same formula and basis applied across all four councils. The model will change from a combination of fixed rate and capital value levying, collected through the council rating process, to a fixed rate to property owners, based on the land use. The three land use categories are: Domestic dwellings/vacant land in townships; Commercial/industrial; and Primary industries. The board is now working with councils to introduce the changes ready for the rating cycle in the 23/24 financial year. Many properties will pay much less under this model, and a few will pay more, while many will pay a very similar amount. The outcome sees alignment with the approach to how the *out of council* properties pay their Landscape Levies and where those who receive the greatest benefit of natural resource management or who most significantly impact the natural environment, in the region pay accordingly through a 'beneficiary pays' model.

Hydrogen and Renewable Act

The Department for Energy and Mines presented on the proposed introduction of the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act. The board will provide a comprehensive response to the consultation process relating to the introduction of a Bill, mooted for mid 2023.

The legislative change relates to the anticipated growth in the hydrogen and renewable industries, where multiple legislative and regulatory processes overlap and are said to need better regulation and more flexibility. Benefits for local communities, the environment and sequential land use outcomes, are among the goals. Some of the objectives include creating a 'one window' approach to government, ensuring that native title owners are able to participate and benefit from the industry growth, to improve on current processes and systems to maximise seamless processes and outcomes in this growing range of industries. The board provided some preliminary feedback relating to stakeholder engagement and the necessary engagement with pastoral and other industries in the SAAL region.

Biosecurity Update

The board continues its review of current and potential policies and projects relating to the issue of unmanaged rangelands goats. The board reviewed a study that has been commissioned into the feasibility, industry and policy issues in SA to begin an evidence based dialogue with stakeholders in collaboration with partner landscape boards, Livestock SA, Pastoral Board, the conservation sector, regional landholders and MLA also involving PIRSA. This work will continue through a steering committee the board is facilitating to both shape its compliance program as well as work with stakeholders for other potential outcomes that see the value of both goat meat and the environmental sustainability considered alongside the legislative obligations held by the landscape boards in SA where goats are increasingly present.



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Kangaroo Partnership Project



Optimising kangaroo management in South Australia –
A partnership approach to improving landscape and economic resilience

A comprehensive update was provided by the Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator Emily Gregg, incorporating an update on three successful applicants to the Kangaroo Partnership Grants available through the project.

Grant recipients are:

Australian Wildlife Services – research and adoption with landholders to understanding the value of the protein as a commodity versus a pest.

Kate Greenfield (South Gap Pastoral Station) – Pastoral Alliance of many properties, supporting kangaroo management with a replicable model of practice targeting landscape scale total grazing pressure through more coordinated management driven by pastoralists.

Nature Conservation Society of South Australia – social license online campaign to amplify the voices of champions to change attitudes around the animal welfare and environmental need for management.

An additional update on a national alliance and community of practice across state boundaries was provided. This will see multiple partners in the NRM sector to support leveraging future funding for cross state projects, sharing practice and developing some other tools that can be broadly applied, was also provided.

Board and staff farewell Presiding Member –

Ross Sawers

This was the last board meeting for Ross Sawers, who has led the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board since its inception. The staff and board came together to acknowledge and celebrate Ross' service to the region and the leadership he has brought in the development of the new board and all that entailed with a more

'arms-length' and autonomous board under a new delivery model.

The incoming Chair and new board will be announced in January with Ross' final date of service 31 January 2023.

We wish Ross well and thank him for his trust, support and confidence and steady hand leading us for the past three years.



Outgoing Presiding Member Ross Sawers and board and community members at Marree in June 2022.

Upcoming SAAL Board Events

SAAL Landscape Board Meeting Wednesday 8 – 9 February 2023

Wattleseed Growers Forum Wednesday 22 February 2023 held at Craddock

'Scratching the Surface' - a hands-on soils day 15 March at Upalinna Station, Flinders Ranges

Cricket and Conversations event Friday 31 March at Coober Pedy

Buckleboo Sticky Beak Day Thursday 18 May 2023 at Buckleboo Station, Gawler Ranges

Please [click here](#) for details of events hosted by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board