LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 1-22	
Date: 24 February 2022	
Start Times:	10.30am
Location:	Murray Bridge Landscape Office, Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge
Present	Di Davidson (Chair), Greg Cock, Jim Godden, Caroline Phillips, Sandy Iosefellis, Jason Size (on Teams). Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Manager, Business Services), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Lee (Manager, Strategy and Engagement), Helane Norman (Executive Officer) Guests On Teams: Item 4: Border Groundwater Agreement Review committee members: Neil Powers, Birgitte Sorenson, Daniela Conesa. Randal Nott, Anna May, Jenny Egan Simon Baker, Item 5: Georgina Shirley, Wendy Stubbs Item 6: Jem Tesoriero, Amy Teitzel, Danielle Packer Items 13 & 14: Don Plowman
Apologies	Andrew Biele

Item	**Item Title**
IN CAMERA SESSION:	
	An In-Camera session was held prior to the public meeting.
PUBLIC MEETING:	
1.	**Welcome, Apologies and agenda check** Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 10.15am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	**Conflict of Interest** Greg Cock reported that he has been contracted by PPSA to provide NRM Policy services, essentially in an advocacy role for industry priorities in the 'Landscapes' program.
3.	Adoption of **Minutes from the previous meeting (11-21)** held 16 December 2021 ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 11-21 held 16 December 2021.***

Item	Item Title
Presentations – 10.40am	
4.	**Review of the Border Groundwaters Agreement (BGA)** - Neil Power, Director, Water Science and Monitoring, DEW, and member of the Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee (BGARC) Neil Power joined the meeting on Teams, along with the chair of the BGARC and provided background information on the Border Groundwater Agreement and the review that is currently underway, along with the amendments that are being proposed. Challenges for the Agreement are long term decline in water resources, impacts of plantation forestry, hotter drier climate, differing rules between the states and surface water – groundwater interaction. The Committee, which has both an advisory and coordination role along with an authorising role have been undertaking a review. The review found the Agreement is still relevant and is an opportunity for the agreement to meet the challenges of the future and be compliant with the National Water Initiative and the Basin Plan. As a result of the review, recommendations for change have been put forward, and the committee are now seeking feedback on these: • Change the definition of Permissible Annual Volume to make it the limit to allocation • Improve use of the committee's restrictions powers • Alignment of statutory frameworks • Improved accounting of indirect take • Managing resources according to hydrogeological characteristics • Improved protection of Groundwater dependent ecosystems. Feedback on the recommendations to the BGARC by the end of March would be appreciated. Any changes to the Mallee WAP have to remain compliant with the BGA, and possible zone changes would have to be reflected in the Mallee WAP. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted and will provide feedback on proposed amendments to the Border Groundwater Agreement and the Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985.***
5.	**Optimising Kangaroo Management in SA** Georgina Shirley (Kangaroo Partnerships Coordinator) A Kangaroo Management Partnership Project steering committee has been established to manage the 2 year partnership project with representatives from two of the five participating landscape boards, along with representatives from the Cultural Authority, Kangaroo Processing Industry, Livestock industries and DEW, as well as pastoral and conservation sector landholders. Project objectives include drought resilience, maintenance of land productivity, animal welfare, business diversification and Indigenous enterprise/employment opportunities. A workshop is planned with all stakeholders to confirm the shared commitment & understanding of the project, its priorities, and to develop a draft program of activities.

Item	Item Title
	Discussion: The problem will not be solved by June 2023, however it will be a good start. PPSA and MLA were involved in the bid and setting up the project. PIRSA taskforce aligns with the project but does not overlap. Make known to Georgina any opportunities that she can engage with landholders: e.g. events, newsletters and field days. The work is likely to take staff time and resources and ask for the board's support in allowing this.
Items for Decision	
6.	**2022-23 Grassroots Grants** The General Manager advised that the Working Group have been meeting to finalise the Terms of Reference for the Group and the guidelines and application forms for the 2022-23 Grassroots Grants program. Funding available for this year's program is $341,660. Staff appreciated valuable input of board members on the working group. Changes have included improvements to make the Smarty grants application process more user friendly. Queried if Risk management page should be included in the $1000 - $10,000 grant. Consider theft insurance on any items that may be purchased – this can be included as a requirement on the grant agreement that successful applicants sign. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a. Approved commencing the call for 2022-23 Grassroots Grants program on 1st March 2022; and*** ***b. Endorsed the process for implementing the 2022-23 Grassroots Grants program.***
7.	**Quarterly Performance Report – Second Quarter.** The General Manager presented the second quarter 'Quarterly Performance Report' (QPR) which will be made available to the public through the board's website and sent to key stakeholders. The board are particularly pleased with the report, and the way it is laid out with suitable detail and easily understood. The QPR is the operational report of the organisation to the board, and the annual evaluation report is the report of the board. **ACTION:** Changes to be made: More explanation on what the focus areas are (Pg 11), Add more contrast to the graphs throughout. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board accepted the Quarterly Performance Report (Oct – Dec 2021) as presented.***
8.	**Strategic Risk Register** An updated Strategic Risk Register was presented to the board for their approval. From March the finance committee will be looking more thoroughly into items on the risk register. Treasurer's Instruction (currently draft) is likely to result in changes which may include an internal audit function, and the finance committee becoming a finance and risk committee.

Item	Item Title
	Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the Strategic Risk Register.
9.	**Climate Ready Position Statement** After discussion at a previous meeting, staff have drafted a Climate Ready - Position statement, which was presented to the board by the General Manager for discussion and approval. Discussion: • Recognition of targets on a global level, but then focus on local changes - what it means to the river, or the Mallee when the temperatures go up. • Climate Council is national, not international • Clearly states where the board would like to position itself, noting it will be a draft for 12 months • Amy Lee suggested that a rephrase to indicate that the board are unable to influence the international and national tones. • Only list government organisations and plans • Open to collaboration. • Demonstrate the cross cutting themes by linking explicit stories on the second page to the state strategy – possible in follow up documents. • Currently working on a discussion paper. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:*** ***a. Approved the draft position statement;*** ***b. Keep the position statement as a draft document for 12 months; and*** ***c. Noted the ongoing work to develop supporting policy.***
Committees & Sub-Committees	
10.	**Finance Committee** - December and February The Chair of the Finance committee presented the board with the minutes of the December and February meetings of the Finance Committee along with a summary of the board's finances. The Identification of $450,000 of savings is pleasing with consideration being given to the best use of these funds. Independent member on the committee has been invaluable. The Manager, Business Services will be supporting the state review of Treasurers Instructions on behalf of the finance committee. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Finance Papers.***
11.	**Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee** The Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee met on the 27 January 2022, and discussed the following: • the Carbon and Agriculture forum on the 17th February, thanking the board for administration support for the event, • Planning for the Local Government forum planned for March 31 at Karoonda • That environmental conditions are very varied across the region with northern Mallee still very dry

Item	Item Title
	• Follow up work is required on rabbit work undertaken through the Council pest and Weed project. • Thanked the board for referring the 'Roadside impacts of Trail bikes and 4WD' to the LGA, and are looking forward to the LGA response. Greg Cock attended the 'Carbon and Agriculture' forum at Bowhill, with approximately 70 landowners and consultants attending, which was excellent and congratulates the committee on the excellent day. The speakers were recorded and will be made available to people who were unable to attend. It would be good to promote to other boards. The Ag Sector in general is cautious and not too positive about the benefits of carbon in agriculture. The board also noted that Steph Evans has been appointed to the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the report and minutes from the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee meeting and the appointment of Stephanie Evans to the committee.***
12.	**Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee** The Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee met on February 14th and provided the draft minutes to the meeting to the board. Funding arrangements – the committee decided to request only 75% of normal funding for the committee from the funding partners, as anticipated expenditure has not occurred. **ACTION:** Notify committee formally of the board appointment **ACTION:** Nominate board member attendee for October Box Flat meeting at August board meeting ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes from the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee meeting.***
	Lunch
Committees & Sub-Committees (continued)	
13.	**Water Advisory Committee** The Minutes of the 10 February Water Advisory Committee were provided to the board. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the minutes from the Water Advisory Committee meeting.***
14.	**Significant or sensitive committee items** Water Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan (Don Plowman, Chair Water Advisory Committee) The Chair of the Water Advisory Committee presented the Committee's work plan for the 2022 year and highlighted the following: • Chair is in regular contact with Board chair and General Manager, developing good relationships with senior DEW staff and looking to replicate this with PIRSA staff.

Item	Item Title
	• Meeting every two months and minutes along with a report against the work plan will be done. • Telemetry – will be very interesting topic Board members were pleased with the content and layout of the work plan. The agenda for the meetings need to be based on these issues. The measure of success for the committee is the lesser reported direct approaches by the community to the minister and the department. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board endorsed the Water Advisory Committee work program for 2022.***
Items for Noting	
15.	Chair's report - Verbal • Meeting regularly with DEW, and Irrigation people, re the Carryover Policy • Attended Water Planning Steering Committee meeting on 8 February • Participated in the boards MR Plan kitchen table Teams meeting • Regular meetings with the General Manager and Agenda catch-up A brief discussion occurred re the protocol for Chair in case of unavailability by the Chair to attend a meeting. ACTION: Put stand-in chair on agenda for next March meeting ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the Chairs report.***
16.	**General Managers Report** The General Manager presented his shortened report along with the Referrals Report and a quarterly Work Health and Safety report. Discussion: The Interconnector - The board will be consulted on several parts of the Interconnector project. Protocol for referrals that are replied to by staff and what ones come to the board for comment. ***Decision: The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the General Manager's Report and attachments.*** **ACTION:** Include Referrals on future board meeting agenda.
17.	**SA Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025** – update report An update on the progress of the SA Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 was provided by the General Manager. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted 2021 Annual Progress Report on the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025.***
18.	**General Manager's Performance Report** The General Manager provided the Chair with a mid-cycle review of the General Manager's performance, and after feedback was received from the board members, was signed and presented to the Chief Executive of DEW.

Item	Item Title
	The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board note the mid-cycle review of the General Manager's Performance Agreement.
19.	**Volunteer Events Report** An overview of the planned 2022 Volunteer celebration events was provided to the board for noting. Paiwalla was been offered as the venue for the Murraylands turtle event, and suggested days are Saturday and Sunday. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the following plans for volunteer celebration events:*** • ***a regent parrot conservation focused event at Murtho; and*** • ***a turtle conservation focused event at Wellington or Murray Bridge***
20.	**Correspondence** The correspondence list for December was presented to the board. ***The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the correspondence.***
21.	**Action List** The board noted actions on the action list.
22.	**Member's Contributions/Other Business** Nil
23.	**Next meeting details** – Board meeting: Thursday 24 March 2022 at Berri March Workshop – 2022-23 Business Plan: Wednesday 23 March at 2pm at Berri
	Close at 2.30pm

ENDORSED Dianne Davidson.	Dianne Davidson AM **Presiding Member** **Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board** **Date: 24/03/2022**