



Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board Meeting Minutes

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board - Meeting 19, Day 1

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|------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| Date: | Thursday, 6 February 2025 | Start: 12:00pm | Finish: 4:00pm |
| Location: | Microsoft Teams | | |
| Attendees: | Brenz Saunders (Chair), Peter Burgoyne, Tapaya Edwards, Debbie Hansen, Jeremy Lebois, Wanda Miller, Julie O'Toole. | | |
| Apologies: | Duane Edwards. | | |
| Staff: | Kim Krebs (General Manager), Noel Probert (Communications Coordinator), Thuy Phan (Business Manager), Damon Ezis (Manager, Strategy & Sustainable Landscapes), Olivia O'Leary-Fletcher (Executive Officer), Yasmin Wolf (Operations Manager), Troy Bowman (State Buffel Grass Coordinator, Item 3.4) | | |

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 **Welcome, Apologies, Acknowledgement of Country, and Confirmation of Agenda**

The meeting opened at 12:08pm. The Chair, Brenz, welcomed all present and provided an acknowledgement of Country to Elders past, present, and emerging, and their relationship with land, sea, and Country. A minute silence was acknowledged for the recent passing of community members.

Apologies were received from Duane Edwards.

There were no additional items raised and the agenda for Meeting 19 of the board was adopted.

Kim reminded the board that as no quorum was achieved in December 2024, this online meeting is a compressed version of that agenda.

1.2 **Conflict of Interest and Related Party Disclosures**

The Chair requested the board to review the agenda and declare any potential conflicts of interest. There were no declared conflicts of interest.

2. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

2.1 **Review of Decisions and Minutes of Meeting 18**

The Chair requested the board to review the minutes of the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board (AWLB) Meeting 18. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of Meeting 18 and were adopted without any changes. The topics covered in the minutes were discussed and actions were determined.

The board discussed the formality of the minutes and agreed on the preference to remove the title from names.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Endorsed** the minutes of AW Landscape Board Meeting 18, held on 10th – 11th September 2024 without amendment.

Moved: Peter Burgoyne

Seconded: Jeremy Lebois

*Outcome: All in favour - **CARRIED***

The General Manager, Kim, updated the board on actions from Meeting 18 and their status. Progression of actions were noted by the board:

AWLB Action Register

- Item ID 128: Telstra were invited to the December meeting but as the quorum was not met, there are plans to have a presentation at the March 2025 meeting.
- Item ID 129: key outcomes and draft minutes of Meeting 18 were sent to the Minister – completed.
- Item ID 130: DIT have WHS concerns about giving us old road safety signs. Kim confirmed the preference is always that staff do not work along the highway – completed.
- Item ID 131: a letter is yet to be written – outstanding.
- Item ID 132: the Minister was advised of Jeremy's nomination to the MAAG – completed.
- Item ID 133: risk register was reviewed at A&RMC Meeting 10, to be revisited again at the June meeting – completed.
- Item ID 134: DEM tenement maps were distributed to LHAs – completed.
- Item ID 135: the link to the mining map website was shared with board members – completed.
- Item ID 136: DEW water workshop will occur at the March meeting – completed.
- Item ID 137: conversation has been raised with EPLB – completed.
- Item ID 138: EP confirmed onion weed is managed opportunistically due to resourcing constraints – completed.

2.2 Chair's Update

The Chair, Brenz, provided an update to the board on his recent events and meetings attended since Meeting 18 in September 2024 including:

- Discussions with news reporters about NRM matters within AW's footprint
- Attending the IDA Ranger Conference at Yulara – there were discussions about buffel grass, carbon, ranger exchanges, project management and 2-way science
- Attending the NRM Regions Australia National Chairs Forum at Canberra – this was an opportunity to speak with agency executives about AW's inequitable funding
- Attending the Landscape SA Chairs Forum – Brenz provided feedback to the Forum about the need to include the desert narrative and caring for Country
- NIDR Gathering at Lismore – Brenz noted again here the desert story was lost and requested a better balance for the next Gathering

Brenz asked the board for any feedback, comments or suggestions for advocacy. No items were raised from the board.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the Chair's update

Outcome: **NOTED**

2.3 Board Member Roundtable

The Chair requested each board member to raise any concerns and/or discuss recent ventures.

- Peter – concerned about the need to secure more funding to support ranger programs and the need for a biological control of buffel grass. Peter also received Palya magazine and enjoyed the update.
- Julie – announced her resignation from the board. She has been a board member for six years and wishes AW the best for the future. On behalf of the board and staff Kim thanked Julie for her time with AW highlighting the important work she had done in developing HCPs with her community. She raised parting concerns for Tallaringa and the cultural respect owed to Elders from APY over the land. The board agreed they would continue culturally respecting the area and discuss how best to engage.
- Tapaya –looking forward to 2025 and suggested the board meeting at Umuwa in the near future.
- Jeremy – rangers and coordinators are returning to work after the Christmas break. There is also a new women's ranger coordinator position that has been filled. There has been an influx of tourists requesting permits to access the Anne Beadell Highway to cross from Coober Pedy through to the border. Jeremy also attended the SAWDAG meeting in Port Augusta where there were negative discussions around the dingo and the desire to destroy the animal. The board discussed the importance of the dingo and that it should be look after as part of AW's flora and fauna.
- Wanda – recently attended the IDA Conference at Yulara. Wanda agreed with the concerns raised about buffel grass and advised it was a strong topic of discussion at the Conference.
- Debbie – also attended the IDA Conference at Yulara. Debbie travelled with the Tjuntjuntjara Rangers through the Country up to Yulara. Debbie noted that buffel grass need to be burned very hot in attempts to stop it from spreading.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the updates from board members on events attended since the last board meeting

*Outcome: **NOTED***

3. STRATEGIC ITEMS

3.1 2024/25 Project Status

Damon and Yasmin provided the board with a presentation on the status of projects funded for the 2024-25 financial year and discussed the progress made since the last board meeting in September 2024. There are eight funded projects – four supported by State Government funding (Landscape Priorities Fund) and four supported by Federal Government funding.

- Mantangka munu talingka ngura Nganamara-ku (Malleefowl) Recovery Actions - progress included surveying, management, and field workdays.
- Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) - progress included presentation to Anangu pastoral lease holders on sustainable pastoral development and facilitation of two community events.
- Sustainable pastoral development - progress included consultation on project design and has now been completed and accepted by DAFF. Kim added that due to delays, this project will likely need to be five years of work fit into three years.
- Carbon Farming Outreach Program (CFOP) – progress in staff attending training and community of practice meetings; workshops planned for 2025.
- LPF 1 - Buffel Grass and Camel Control in AW Region – finalising procurement process to secure contractors for buffel grass control at priority sites in APY. 19 collars have been put out in MT and have been in the field for a couple of years now. There are more collars to put out, aiming to put them out in MT sometime later this year.
- LPF 3 -State Buffel Grass Coordinator – Ministerial roundtable has been held and WoNS nomination has been submitted.
- LPF 4 - Healthy Country Community Leadership at Yalata – progress included the shorebird survey, purchase of celium network and custom fox/cat traps, and marine debris survey and cleanup.
- LPF 5 and LPF 6 - Warru Pintji Extension. There are discussions with APY Land Management around the progression of this project as there are missing pieces under negotiation.

The board discussed the exposure to chemicals when spraying buffel grass and whether there are health risk assessments for long-term outcomes. Yasmin described AW's WHS procedures that includes staff being required to wear appropriate PPE and Paula has organised to have respirators fitted which significantly limits the exposure to chemicals. Paula also runs annual ranger workshops to inform rangers on how to apply chemical accurately, all people working on chemical spraying field trips are also inducted into the safety protocols. The board raised concerns for subcontractor and ranger WHS protocols and want to see respirators as a compulsory item to wear when undertaking works with AW. The board agreed there needs to be discussions with ranger team organisations to ensure they have the relevant WHS policies and procedures in place. Kim advised that the Leadership Group (LG) have discussed initiating regular WHS meetings with Ranger Coordinators and General Managers to push for ensure strong safety measures. The board agreed they would like to write a letter to LHAs about safety standards across all AW projects and compliance with appropriate PPE.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the update on the 2024-25 funded projects

*Outcome: **NOTED***

Action

1. Write a letter to LHAs about the desire to improve safety standards across all AW projects - discussing the importance of safety and the need to comply with appropriate PPE.

3.2 **AW Landscape Plan Review Engagement Strategy**

The board is responsible for developing a regional landscape plan for 2026-2031 as required under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The plan is to be developed to guide the management of the region's unique cultural and natural resources and will replace the 2021-26 plan. The Manager, Strategy and Sustainable Landscapes, Damon, has created an engagement strategy for developing the AW Landscape Plan 2026-31 for the board to review and provide feedback on. The strategy is a dynamic document to be regularly reviewed and updated. Damon discussed the role of the board to co-own the engagement process and to encourage participation in the plan from Anangu and stakeholders. Wanting the board representatives to support the engagement.

Damon presented the nine stages of the engagement strategy with the board and requested advice on how best to engage at both the operational and strategic level. The board members agreed to play a significant role in the engagement as the co-chair for the working group with the LHA they represent with Brenz floating across all engagement groups. The board also advised it is best for Kim to engage directly with General Managers.

Wanda raised concerns about some community members potentially feeling left out of the consultation, Koonibba in particular. As Koonibba is not within the AW region, Kim advised she will discuss this with EPLB and offer to assist in the facilitation of the community conversation.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the role of the board in the engagement strategy for developing the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Plan 2026-31
2. **Approved** the stages and objectives of the engagement strategy for developing the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Plan 2026-31

Moved: Wanda Miller

Seconded: Jeremy Lebois

*Outcome: All in favour - **CARRIED***

Action

1. Damon to circulate the engagement strategy to board members
2. AW will reach out to EPLB to discuss their plans for their Regional Landscape Plan engagement with Aboriginal community groups in the Far West

3.3 **Buffel Grass Roundtable & WoNS Update**

Troy provided the board with an update on the LPF3 State Buffel Grass Project. In November 2024, the Deputy Premier and four other cabinet ministers gathered with senior executives and key stakeholders for a ministerial roundtable on buffel grass. The roundtable key messages conveyed the scale and severity of buffel grass, and the multi-agency response and long-term investment required.

As a result of this roundtable, AWLB will establish a business case to cabinet to progress the buffel grass roundtable recommendations. Further to this, Troy has been working with other stakeholders to progress buffel grass as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) where a submission was prepared in January 2025. The outcome of the WoNS submission is expected in late 2025 (although this is subject to change).

The board commended and thanked Troy and the team on the application. The board advised they are eager to see people read and listen to this important piece of work.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the state buffel grass project update highlighting the Ministerial Roundtable
2. **Noted** the WoNS nomination letter of support

*Outcome: **NOTED***

4. FINANCIAL & HR MATTERS

4.1 People Matter Employee Survey (PMES) Action Plan

Through the Office for the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, a statewide survey was undertaken at the beginning of 2024. 100% of AW staff provided a response for this survey and anonymous results/reports were provided. Staff participated in a workshop on 2 December 2024 to develop an action plan in response to 3-4 key matters for action, both positive and negative. An action plan was developed with staff identifying five key areas for improvement – staff gatherings, communications, strategic directions, time, and job satisfaction. The action plan will also be included in the General Manager's KPIs. The board noted the update and provided no further feedback.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the development of an action plan for staff as a result of the People Matter Employee Survey

Outcome: **NOTED**

4.2 Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting 10 Decisions

The Business Manager, Thuy, discussed the items reviewed, discussed and the recommendations made at the A&RMC Meeting 10 on 12 December 2024. The A&RMC discussed the Terms of Reference, the Risk Management Register, the financial report, financial delegations and the SafeWork SA Report. It was requested the board review the committee's recommendations and provide feedback and endorsement.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Endorsed** the recommendation to approve of the Audit and Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference

Moved: Julie O'Toole

Seconded: Jeremy Lebois

Outcome: All in favour - **CARRIED**

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

2. **Endorsed** the recommendation to approve of new risks to be added to the Risk Management Register:
 - a) Reputation – mismanagement of cultural sensitivity and social responsibility
 - b) Governance and operations – poor internal communications, lack of trained staff, weak leadership and/or unclear roles and responsibilities
 - c) Cultural intelligence – the risk of losing the cultural knowledge of board members, including the need for appropriate gender representation from each landholding authority, the relevance as cultural advisors, and the handling of cultural intellectual property

Moved: Wanda Miller

Seconded: Julie O'Toole

Outcome: All in favour - **CARRIED**

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

3. **Endorsed** the recommendation to approve the investigation of an independent facilitator to conduct a board performance review

Moved: Peter Burgoyne

Seconded: Debbie Hansen

Outcome: **CARRIED**

4.2 Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

4. **Endorsed** the recommendation to approve the updated Instrument of Authorisations:
 - a) Instrument of Authorisation – Contract Execution via Purchase Card
 - b) Instrument of Authorisation – Procurement – Contract Pre-Approval – Procurement – Payment & Disbursement

Moved: Jeremy Lebois

Seconded: Brenz Saunders

*Outcome: All in favour - **CARRIED***

The board additionally requested for the briefing papers to be written more succinctly and simply for ease of reading.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

5. **Noted** the following discussions at the Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting 10:
 - a) The progress against the November 2024 income and expenditure dashboard reports
 - b) The SafeWork SA Advisory Visit Report for AWLB's compliance with the *Work, Health and Safety Act* and the General Manager's intentions to action all recommendations made by the report
 - c) Thuy added the audited annual financial statement 2023-24 which was completed and submitted on 30 November 2024

Kim noted to the board that SafeWork SA were unable to present at the December meeting due to a quorum not being achieved. There is intention to have them join for the March meeting to present on the board's WHS responsibilities and obligations.

*Outcome: **NOTED***

4.3 **Membership Eligibility Checks**

Thuy discussed the board membership eligibility requirements which will now include a National Police Clearance going forward. This means that any new board members or renewed board members must undergo a police check as part of the onboarding process. This will ensure eligibility and ongoing compliance with board member policies. Thuy reiterated that this is only for board members to note and be aware of for their future memberships.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** that new or renewed board membership will require a police check

*Outcome: **NOTED***

5. STRATEGIC ITEMS

5.1 Grassroots Grant Recipient Endorsement

The Grassroots Grant Program is a legislated requirement of the board to contribute 2.9% of its state funding to community project/s each financial year. At Board Meeting 18, it was determined that Brenz and Duane would assist the General Manager and A/Program Manager with reviewing any applications received. Kim noted that as the board only received one application from Yalata there was a conflict of interest in Duane's involvement on the panel hence a preliminary review was conducted by Kim and Brett as the A/Program Manager. Yalata's application proposed the construction of pest exclusion fencing around storage and accommodation facilities near the Head of the Bight and aligns with pest plant and animal control, land and sea biodiversity, and board and community leadership project outcomes of the board's Landscape Plan. The board noted awarding the grant to Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation for the 2024/25 round.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the amended review process for the 2024 Grassroot Grant
2. **Noted** awarding the 2024/25 Grassroots Grant to Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation

Outcome: **NOTED**

5.2 Nullarbor Management Plan Amendment

Following a previous presentation by National Parks, advising the Board of the proposal to amend the Nullarbor Parks Management Plan 2019 to better focus on balancing environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and public safety. Damon described the key amendments under consideration:

- Campgrounds and associated infrastructure – a proposal to establish designated campground with support facilities to minimise environmental impacts, enhance public safety, and manage growing visitor demand
- Prevention of off-track driving – authorising structures such as bollards, fencing, and signage to protect sensitive environments
- Managing visitors at Koonalda Cave (above ground only) – proposing measures such as fencing, barriers, viewing platform, security camera and interpretive signage to improve visitor access and safeguard cultural and natural values

Board members were asked to provide comments on the proposed amendments during this pre-consultation stage. The board discussed whether there are any maps available about where these developments are going to happen. Damon advised these will likely be available during the public consultation phase. Kim will liaise with the board once we know the locations. Wanda and Jeremy declared interests in receiving these maps.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the planned amendments to the Department for Environment and Water *Nullarbor Parks Management Plan 2019*

Outcome: **NOTED**

Action

1. Kim to liaise with the Andy Raymond in obtaining the maps for proposed works at Koonalda Cave and share with the board.

6. IN-CAMERA SESSION

6.1 General Manager Contract Renewal

The Chair advised the board that the following matters to be discussed should be prescribed under Section 23 (5) of the Act to exclude the public.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Approved** under the provisions of Section 23 (5) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, an order be made that the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting (with the exception of the Executive Officer), in order to consider, in confidence, a matter on the grounds of Section 7(3)(a) of the Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020.
 - Section 7(3)(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)

Moved: Peter Burgoyne

Seconded: Jeremy Lebois

*Outcome: **CARRIED***

All staff left the room except the Executive Officer to take the confidential minutes; the AW board members remained to discuss the matter.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

2. **Approved** all documentation related to the matter under discussion be kept confidential, until a review of in-camera matters is conducted by the Chair at the end of the financial year and approval by the board releases the documentation

Moved: Debbie Hansen

Seconded: Julie O'Toole

*Outcome: **CARRIED***

7. CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 Correspondence

Board members were presented with a copy of the correspondence table and were advised that they may seek a copy of correspondence at any time. The overview of the incoming and outgoing correspondence was accepted.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the incoming and outgoing correspondence since meeting 18

*Outcome: **NOTED***

7.2 Proposed Meeting Dates and Location for next Board Meeting

Meeting 20 of the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is scheduled for 25-27 March 2025 in Ceduna, Scotdesco and Yalata. Kim discussed the AW calendar for 2025. Brenz noted we are waiting for open communication with APY Executive so that we can start laying the foundations for a meeting in APY as well.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Noted** the date, time, and location for Meeting 20 at Ceduna, Scotdesco and Yalata on the 25-27 March 2025

*Outcome: **NOTED***

Action

1. Olivia to circulate the AW board meeting calendar to board members
2. Olivia to reach out to everyone individually to seek interest in attending the Landscapes SA Conference

7.3 Decisions of AW Landscape Board Meeting 19

The Executive Officer read through the Decisions of AW Landscape Board Meeting 19 with the board. The board members agreed that the list was a true representation of the decisions of the meeting.

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Accepted** the decisions as a true representation of Meeting 19

Outcome: **NOTED**

7.4 Key Messages for the Minister

The board decided on key topics from Meeting 19 they would like included in the letter to the Minister:

- Consolidate all decisions to advise on the outcome of this meeting. Stressing for continued support and financial contributions for delivering our objectives

Decision

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board:

1. **Discussed** the key topics to include with the minutes in a letter to the Minister

Outcome: **NOTED**

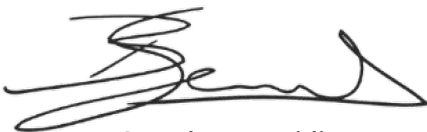
Action:

1. Write a letter to the Minister detailing key points of Meeting 19 and attaching the draft minutes

Meeting Close

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board Meeting 19 and the meeting was closed at 4:11pm

Endorsed by:



Brenz Saunders, Presiding Member
ALINYTJARA WILURARA LANDSCAPE BOARD
Date: 16/04/2025