Managing Our Landscapes
Conversations for Change

What we heard | July - October 2018

26 October 2018



BECKY HIRST CONSULTING

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Foreword


Back to Basics
State-wide Community Forums
What does the reform need to deliver for you and your community?

Foreword

The State Government is committed to a significant reform program that will change the way natural resources are managed. A central part of this reform will be the establishment of the new Landscape South Australia Act, replacing the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

This reform is to be informed by the people who spend their lives working in the environment, protecting it whilst also sustaining their livelihoods. This reform can only be achieved through meaningful engagement and the establishment of long-term delivery partnerships.

Between July and October 2018, my team undertook robust and vast engagement with over 1,000 people across South Australia to gather input to help shape the future of natural resource management.

We designed and independently facilitated over 60 highly participatory face-to-face meetings around the state, engaging with over 800 people in conversations about the natural resource management system in South Australia.

We received 194 written submissions from interested individuals and organisations. We listened to 64 interested stakeholders via online commentary on YourSAy.

During the engagement process we met with so many people who shared with us so many diverse opinions, needs, ideas and priorities.

From the pastoralist in Marree who wants to see more local decision making and less red tape, to the Aboriginal woman in Scotdesco who would like to see more co-management with Aboriginal communities. From the passionate volunteers in Glenunga who spend many hours of their spare time undertaking revegetation projects, to the farmers in Victor Harbor who want to see more practical on-ground support. From the eco-tourism operator on Kangaroo Island to the irrigators in the Riverland. From the former and existing NRM board members, to the young people dreaming of the opportunities ahead.

Each region is unique, each community has different needs, and every story we heard was full of passion for good natural resource management. I sincerely hope that what we've heard will help to shape the future of natural resource management in South Australia.

In the interest of transparency, input received through the formal engagement process, whether via written submission, online commentary or meeting face-to-face, can be found in the appendices of this report.



Becky Hirst
Independent Facilitator and Engagement Specialist

Executive Summary



BECKY HIRST CONSULTING

Executive Summary

Between July and October 2018, an engagement process occurred across South Australia to gather input to help shape the future of natural resource management. The engagement process was titled *Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change*.

This report shares what land managers, volunteer groups, industry experts, Aboriginal nations, other tiers of government, advocacy organisations and other interested stakeholders said, as part of this robust and vast engagement process.

Starting with the strengths of the current natural resources management system, the report begins by acknowledging what participants said was working well. The staff on the front line of service and program delivery were noted as being a major asset, along with the hundreds of volunteers who passionately support the system through their on-ground activities. NRM Education was something many people highlighted as working really well, along with other existing programs and services. Many examples of existing arrangements of working together were provided, and many noted the progress that has been made in genuinely engaging with Aboriginal nations.

The report goes on to provide an overview of the top twenty priorities for natural resource management reform that were noted again and again throughout the engagement process.

The top twenty priorities are listed in order of most commonly discussed topics and start with funding, planning and accountability, community engagement, partnerships and collaboration, and the desire for greater local decision making. Pest plants and animals, compliance and less red tape were of great importance to people with many differing perspectives being provided and many people feeling frustrated at what is felt to be unnecessary bureaucracy.

Water management was raised time and time again, and many people raised vibrant biodiversity as a priority calling for a higher value being place on stewardship activities. Transparency, board structures, more employment opportunities and evidence-based decision making were priorities too, and many people raised the importance of protection and preservation in the natural resource management system. Education, decision making by Traditional Owners, climate change and links with other legislation, most notably the Planning Act were all important. Finally, soil quality was raised as a priority area by many people we met.

Our conversations around the state centred around the guiding principles of the reform and a number of the key proposals included in the Minister's vision.

Many people supported a *whole of landscape approach*, though many requested more definitions around its specific meanings. Many people supported the concept of *decentralised decision making* and a more *simple and accessible system*, though many had questions regarding governance and how compliance will be monitored within such structures. Robust discussion occurred regarding the tension between the *back to basics* and *whole of landscape approach*, with many people raising concerns that achieving a vibrant biodiversity requires more than just soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control.

Feedback received regarding the key proposals of board membership and community elections, board accountabilities, boundaries, Green Adelaide, levies, a statewide Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grants Program can be found later in the report.

In summary, there were a number of concerns regarding the community elections for board members, including the cost, effectiveness and risks of such a process. There were many conversations about representation on the boards, and many people noted the need for the boards to include Aboriginal people, women and young people. Succession planning was highlighted as a priority, with the opportunity to support aspiring young environmental leaders as part of this.

There was support for good planning by Landscape SA boards, but many people asked how the existing NRM plans will be incorporated in to the new plans, as many noted the effort that has gone in to developing these in partnership with the community. Some people had specific feedback regarding potential boundary changes, but a large number of people suggested decisions regarding boundaries should be based on social and ecological systems and not the financial benefits.

The role of NRM Groups were noted as being of great benefit in connecting landowners and boards in regional communities, and many commented on the potential to have them as a more formal part of the governance structure.

Green Adelaide was mostly discussed in areas close to metropolitan Adelaide and in general there was optimism with people finding the concept exciting, particularly with reference to it being a world leader in linking urban life to land management. Many people questioned why Green Adelaide will have an expert board with no community representation.

The collection, calculation and distribution of levies was discussed many times, with the majority of people seeming to want levies capped. Some participants were concerned that this would put too much pressure on an already over-stretched and limited environment budget.

Whilst many acknowledged local councils being the collector of levies as a process that works well, representatives from local government noted their desire to have state government collect the levy. Transparency was noted as being critical in communicating the way levies are calculated and distributed, with many people confused by the current system.

There was general support for the statewide Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grants program, with most commentary occurring around how these funds will be administered and how priorities will be identified. It was suggested that levies collected in metropolitan Adelaide be used to create these funds, rather than taking money from levies collected in the regions.

Towards the end of this report there are twelve key recommendations, based on what the facilitation team heard during this engagement process.

These include recommendations regarding exploring alternative options to community elections to form Landscape Board membership; establishing a Statewide Landscape Board for overarching coordination; and the need to consider appropriate mechanisms to provide the support required for regional communities to make good decisions that are based on scientific evidence.

The recommendations place a large emphasis on putting community at the centre of decision making, including requiring at least one Aboriginal person with a cultural connection to the region being on each Landscape Board, and the reestablishment of the Statewide Aboriginal NRM Advisory group; building on, maintaining and more formally acknowledging local groups as a conduit for supporting local decision making processes in the regions; and considering the membership structure of the Green Adelaide board to incorporate both experts and representatives from peak bodies or volunteer groups. The Minister must also consider succession planning and the importance of involving young people in decision making.

There is a specific recommendation regarding the need to place higher value and emphasis on stewardship priorities beyond soil quality, water management and pest plants and animals to achieve vibrant biodiversity; plus, a recommendation that the new Act must incorporate and address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Following much discussion regarding compliance, there is a recommendation regarding the need to create a visible and streamlined process for compliance that includes education with landowners but also commits to subsequent enforcement.

The need to consider social and ecological systems when considering boundaries of regions is also recommended.

The final section of the report includes all input received as part of *Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change,* including reports from all face-to-face meetings, written submissions received, and commentary made on the YourSAy page.

1 | The Engagement Process



1.1 Why engage?

Creation of the new Landscape legislation provides a once in a generation opportunity to reform natural resources management legislation for South Australia. The government is committed to working with stakeholders and the broader community to ensure the new legislation is fit for purpose and reflects community needs.

A focus of the Landscape SA reform is the forging of strong, enduring and productive partnerships to deliver practical, on-ground works that address local priorities.

Recognising the intimate and expert knowledge of the landscape that people across South Australia have, the engagement process aimed to -

- Utilise best practice engagement methods to ensure that a wide range of views from the community, Aboriginal nations and stakeholders were heard, documented and considered during development of the Landscape South Australia Bill;
- Foster broad-ranging ownership and support for the new legislation;
- Ensure the community and stakeholders were well-informed; and
- Build and improve relationships between DEW and the Minister with key stakeholders, and positively influence the perception of Department for Environment and Water and the Minister in the community.

1.2 Independent Facilitation

The facilitation team was made up of three highly experienced and independent engagement facilitators with almost 60 years combined experience working with South Australian communities – Becky Hirst (Becky Hirst Consulting), Steve Dangerfield (communikate et al) and Jon Bok (Indigenous Engagement Australia). The role of the facilitation team was to help the Minister hear the broad range of views, and to help participants express those views. It was important that this was undertaken 'at arm's length' from government to enable fearless and frank dialogue and deliberation to occur.

> **"The new Landscape South Australia Bill is an opportunity for a review of the current process and keep the good and improve the parts not working as well as they could. I really support the process the Minister has undertaken with independent consultants talking to people all round the state. It's a good start."** Neil, via YourSAy

The facilitation team designed a face-to-face format, based on the content of the Discussion Paper, which guided participants through a process to seek input on the key elements of the reform. This format was designed to be adaptable for use at meetings of just a few people, to meetings of almost 100 people. It provided a format to shape conversations with those people who have decades worth of experience in natural resource management, through to those who may have less intricate knowledge of the system.

1.3 Methodology

A discussion paper formed the basis for the engagement activity, setting the scene and providing an overview of some key proposals within the reform. A summary of the discussion paper was also available, and a Frequently Asked Questions document provided further detail of the mechanics of the reform process. Using the principles and proposals outlined in the discussion paper as conversation starter, the facilitation team designed and facilitated 60 face-to-face conversations around the state.

1.3.1 Early Engagement

Conversations included early engagement meetings with key peak bodies such as the Primary Producers SA, Conservation Council SA, and Local Government Association of SA. Information was provided to and input sought from the NRM Partners, Presiding Members, and the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils. These early conversations helped to seek input on both the reform but also the proposed engagement process.

During the early engagement phase, the following meetings were held with:

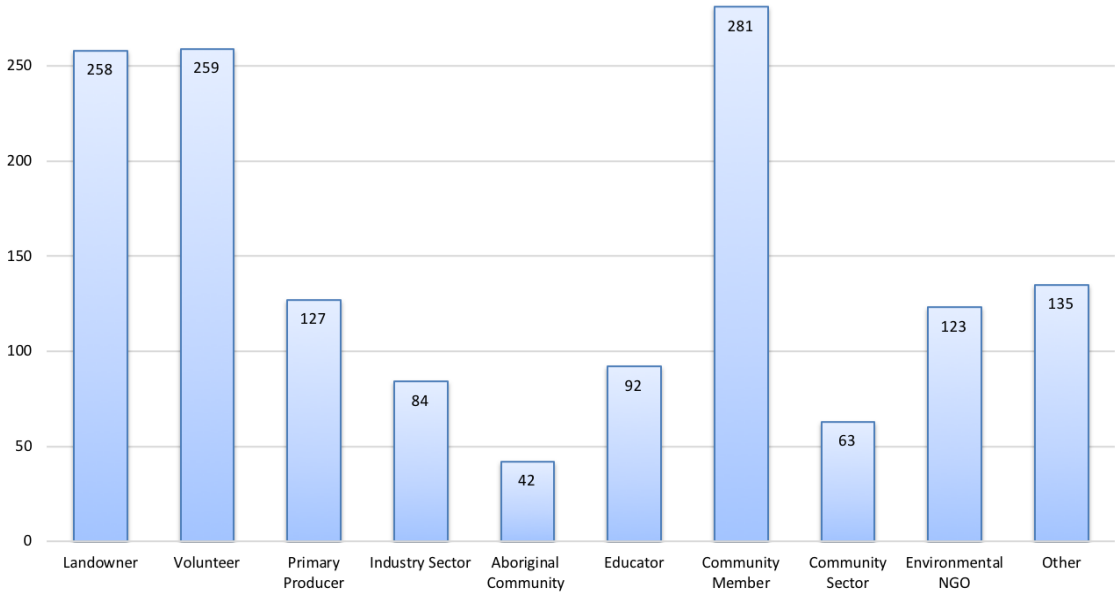
- Statewide Native Title Group Forum – 28 June
- NRM Partners – 5 July
- Presiding Members – 5 July
- Primary Producers NRM Committee – 11 July
- SA Regional Organisation of Councils – 18 July
- Conservation Council Member Groups – 2 August

1.3.2 Statewide Community Forums

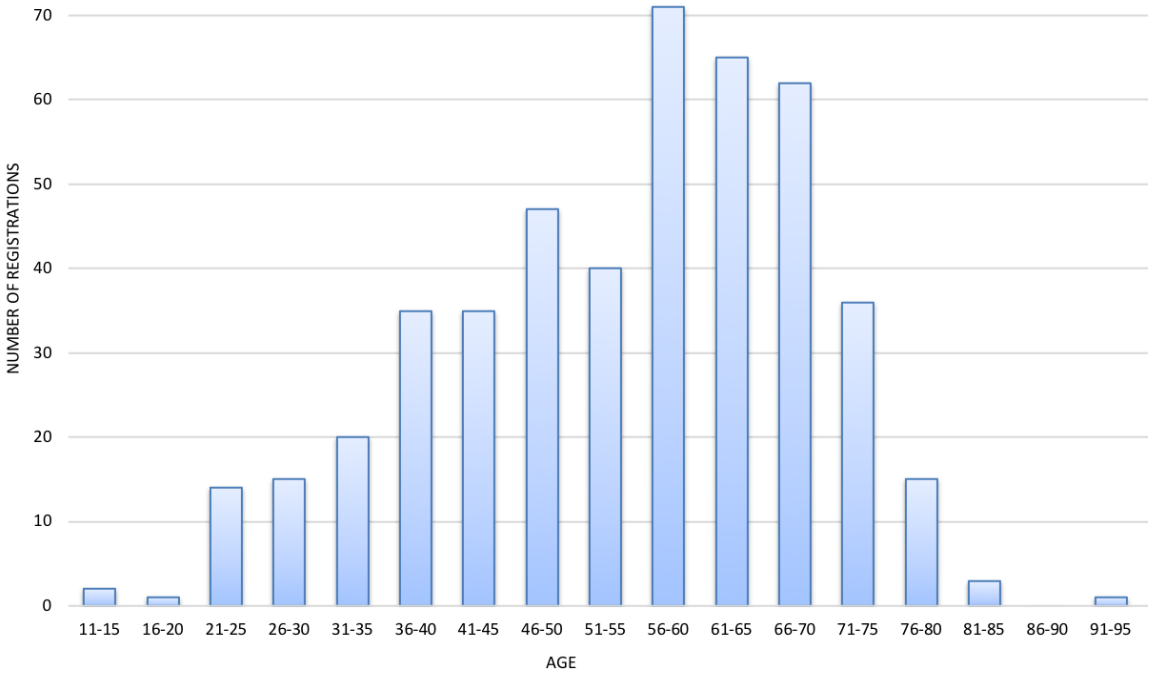
25 community forums took place involving over 800 people in a highly participatory dialogue process about their priorities for natural resource management. These community forums were held across the state, including metro, regional and outback locations and attended by a good mix of land managers, volunteer groups, industry experts, Aboriginal nations, primary producers, other tiers of government and advocacy organisations. The forums were held at the following locations:

- Port Lincoln – 7 August
- Ceduna – 8 August
- Port Augusta – 10 August
- Victor Harbor – 13 August
- McLaren Vale – 14 August
- Murray Bridge – 16 August
- Kingscote – 21 August
- Clare – 22 August
- Glenunga – 23 August
- Mawson Lakes – 27 August
- Gawler – 28 August
- Coober Pedy – 29 August
- Mount Barker (1) – 29 August
- Mount Barker (2) – 30 August
- Berri – 3 September
- Yunta – 4 September
- Leigh Creek – 5 September
- Nepabunna – 5 September
- Marree – 6 September
- Grange – 6 September
- Scotdesco – 12 September
- Mount Gambier – 17 September
- Bordertown – 19 September
- Meningie – 20 September
- Marion – 4 October

Participants who wanted to attend the community forums across the state were asked to register to attend via Eventbrite. During this registration process some demographic information was collected to help provide an overview of who attended the sessions. It should be noted that not everyone who attended had registered, and not everyone who registered attended. The following does however provide a summary of information that provides some insight in to who showed an interest in attending. The following chart shows the answers people who registered to attend the statewide community forums provided when they were asked which of the following **interest groups** they belonged to.



The following chart shows the answers people who registered to attend the statewide community forums provided when they were asked which **age group** they were in.



For the statewide community forum sessions where people registered to attend, the following data shows the breakdown of interest group, gender and age of people attending each session.

Port Lincoln	
Registered	30
Male	15
Female	9
Other/blank	6
Landowner	10
Volunteer	8
Primary Producer	5
Industry Sector	4
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	0
Community Member	7
Community Sector	3
Environmental NGO	1
Other	8
No. of ages provided	21
Average age	59.6

Ceduna	
Registered	13
Male	4
Female	6
Other/blank	3
Landowner	1
Volunteer	3
Primary Producer	0
Industry Sector	4
Aboriginal Community	6
Educator	0
Community Member	5
Community Sector	0
Environmental NGO	0
Other	4
No. of ages provided	7
Average age	52.8

Port Augusta	
Registered	18
Male	5
Female	5
Other/blank	8
Landowner	6
Volunteer	3
Primary Producer	3
Industry Sector	1
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	0
Community Member	1
Community Sector	0
Environmental NGO	3
Other	5
No. of ages provided	7
Average age	46.7

Victor Harbor	
Registered	60
Male	30
Female	19
Other/blank	11
Landowner	33
Volunteer	19
Primary Producer	21
Industry Sector	6
Aboriginal Community	5
Educator	10
Community Member	24
Community Sector	2
Environmental NGO	5
Other	8
No. of ages provided	42
Average age	59.1

McLaren Vale	
Registered	61
Male	29
Female	23
Other/blank	9
Landowner	14
Volunteer	23
Primary Producer	8
Industry Sector	4
Aboriginal Community	7
Educator	10
Community Member	24
Community Sector	8
Environmental NGO	9
Other	8
No. of ages provided	43
Average age	55.5

Murray Bridge	
Registered	34
Male	18
Female	10
Other/blank	6
Landowner	6
Volunteer	5
Primary Producer	6
Industry Sector	2
Aboriginal Community	1
Educator	3
Community Member	3
Community Sector	4
Environmental NGO	9
Other	8
No. of ages provided	19
Average age	47.6

Kingscote	
Registered	39
Male	14
Female	9
Other/blank	16
Landowner	21
Volunteer	9
Primary Producer	10
Industry Sector	4
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	5
Community Member	14
Community Sector	1
Environmental NGO	3
Other	5
No. of ages provided	14
Average age	57.7

Clare	
Registered	32
Male	9
Female	10
Other/blank	13
Landowner	10
Volunteer	10
Primary Producer	4
Industry Sector	1
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	1
Community Member	12
Community Sector	4
Environmental NGO	1
Other	3
No. of ages provided	15
Average age	56.3

Glenunga	
Registered	74
Male	30
Female	30
Other/blank	14
Landowner	14
Volunteer	25
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	5
Aboriginal Community	6
Educator	11
Community Member	31
Community Sector	9
Environmental NGO	8
Other	10
No. of ages provided	49
Average age	56.2

Mawson Lakes	
Registered	68
Male	29
Female	27
Other/blank	12
Landowner	6
Volunteer	19
Primary Producer	2
Industry Sector	6
Aboriginal Community	8
Educator	13
Community Member	24
Community Sector	8
Environmental NGO	17
Other	14
No. of ages provided	45
Average age	52.0

Gawler	
Registered	69
Male	26
Female	32
Other/blank	11
Landowner	24
Volunteer	36
Primary Producer	12
Industry Sector	12
Aboriginal Community	8
Educator	4
Community Member	21
Community Sector	7
Environmental NGO	11
Other	14
No. of ages provided	44
Average age	53.6

Coober Pedy	
Registered	12
Male	3
Female	2
Other/blank	7
Landowner	4
Volunteer	2
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	2
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	2
Community Member	4
Community Sector	0
Environmental NGO	1
Other	3
No. of ages provided	2
Average age	29

Mount Barker 29th	
Registered	25
Male	11
Female	8
Other/blank	6
Landowner	14
Volunteer	10
Primary Producer	6
Industry Sector	8
Aboriginal Community	1
Educator	5
Community Member	12
Community Sector	4
Environmental NGO	6
Other	4
No. of ages provided	13
Average age	46.6

Mount Barker 30th	
Registered	60
Male	27
Female	22
Other/blank	11
Landowner	25
Volunteer	19
Primary Producer	6
Industry Sector	5
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	8
Community Member	21
Community Sector	1
Environmental NGO	17
Other	8
No. of ages provided	40
Average age	59.5

Berri	
Registered	35
Male	15
Female	11
Other/blank	9
Landowner	16
Volunteer	16
Primary Producer	10
Industry Sector	6
Aboriginal Community	0
Educator	3
Community Member	24
Community Sector	3
Environmental NGO	7
Other	5
No. of ages provided	20
Average age	60.8

Yunta	
Registered	9
Male	
Female	
Other/blank	
Landowner	2
Volunteer	
Primary Producer	6
Industry Sector	
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	
Community Member	
Community Sector	
Environmental NGO	
Other	1
No. of ages provided	2
Average age	54.5

Leigh Creek	
Registered	13
Male	3
Female	5
Other/blank	5
Landowner	5
Volunteer	2
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	2
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	1
Community Member	8
Community Sector	
Environmental NGO	3
Other	
No. of ages provided	5
Average age	59.2

Marree	
Registered	5
Male	2
Female	
Other/blank	3
Landowner	1
Volunteer	
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	
Community Member	
Community Sector	
Environmental NGO	
Other	1
No. of ages provided	2
Average age	41.5

Grange	
Registered	44
Male	12
Female	14
Other/blank	18
Landowner	12
Volunteer	18
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	3
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	9
Community Member	17
Community Sector	3
Environmental NGO	4
Other	4
No. of ages provided	18
Average age	59.5

Mount Gambier	
Registered	23
Male	13
Female	8
Other/blank	2
Landowner	6
Volunteer	6
Primary Producer	7
Industry Sector	2
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	
Community Member	6
Community Sector	1
Environmental NGO	3
Other	5
No. of ages provided	21
Average age	54.0

Bordertown	
Registered	30
Male	13
Female	5
Other/blank	12
Landowner	14
Volunteer	6
Primary Producer	11
Industry Sector	3
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	2
Community Member	11
Community Sector	1
Environmental NGO	5
Other	8
No. of ages provided	14
Average age	55.6

Meningie	
Registered	21
Male	8
Female	8
Other/blank	5
Landowner	5
Volunteer	4
Primary Producer	4
Industry Sector	3
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	2
Community Member	6
Community Sector	2
Environmental NGO	5
Other	6
No. of ages provided	13
Average age	52.7

Marion	
Attended	42
Male	10
Female	20
Other/blank	12
Landowner	9
Volunteer	16
Primary Producer	1
Industry Sector	1
Aboriginal Community	
Educator	3
Community Member	6
Community Sector	2
Environmental NGO	5
Other	3
No. of ages provided	13
Average age	54.0

1.3.3 Engaging with Aboriginal Nations

Whilst there was representation from Aboriginal nations at several of the above community forums across the state, and strong input received around ongoing engagement of Aboriginal communities in natural resource management decision making in to the future, advice from leaders was sought throughout the engagement process to identify opportunities for further focussed engagement, as they arose.

This included taking up opportunities to engage with the Statewide Native Title Group, hold specific sessions for the Kaurna, Four Nations communities (Kaurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri) and Point Pearce Aboriginal community, meet with members of the APY Land Management Executive and South Australian Native Title Services.

1.3.4 Meetings with NRM Boards

The 8 NRM boards were met with to seek their knowledge and expertise around the existing natural resource management system, seeking input around the same key reform proposals that were shared with the community. These board meetings included:

- Kangaroo Island NRM Board - 21 August
- Eyre Peninsula NRM Board - 27 August
- Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board - 6 September
- South Australia Arid Lands NRM Board - 10 September

- Northern and Yorke NRM Board - 11 September
- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board - 17 September
- South East NRM Board - 17 September
- Alinytljara Wilu̱rara - 2 October

1.3.5 Engagement with staff

Alongside the public engagement process, internal engagement with staff was undertaken via 11 facilitated staff sessions across the state, based on the same key proposals. An additional 4 internal sessions were facilitated by staff for staff using the same format.

An internal iShare page was developed to provide staff with further information about the reforms and how they can could get involved and provide their feedback. Staff could choose to provide anonymous feedback based on the Discussion Paper via a secure online form.

Alternatively, group submissions could also be made from branches or teams by emailing the Landscape Reform inbox. Some staff also made written submissions.

The reports from the internal engagement process and written submissions made by staff have been supplied separately to the Minister for consideration.

1.3.6 Focussed conversations

Towards the end of the engagement process focussed conversations were facilitated with Aboriginal Nations, and stakeholders including local government and young people to share with them what had been said during the engagement process to enable deeper conversation to occur.

Concurrent sessions with the Primary Production and Conservation sectors were also held, bringing them together for a combined workshop afterwards.

Towards the end of the engagement process, the NRM Partners met again, providing opportunity to debrief on what had been heard during the engagement process. Focussed conversations undertaken included:

- Local Government Planning and Environment Forum – 13 September
- APY Lands Management – 27 September
- Youth and Community in Conservation Action – 29 September
- Kaurna workshop – 2 October
- Primary Producers organisations – 3 October
- Conservation organisations – 3 October
- Combined Primary Producers, Conservation organisations and NRM Partners – 3 October
- NRM Partners – 4 October
- Four Nations workshop – 10 October
- Native Titles Services meeting - 11 October

1.3.7 Online engagement

The face-to-face engagement was complemented with the opportunity for online commentary.

A page was set up on the state governments YourSAy portal with opportunity to learn about the reform via video, the Discussion Paper, the Discussion Paper Summary, and the FAQ document. Members of the public were able to make comment on the page and these comments have been included in the appendices of this report. The opportunity to comment online was promoted in the Discussion paper, in letters to stakeholders, via social media and in local newspaper adverts.

There were 8,473 unique views of the Managing our Landscapes page on YourSAy during the engagement period. The Discussion Paper was downloaded 754 times. 64 people participated in the online discussion and their comments can be found in the appendices of this report.

1.3.8 Written Submissions

A total of 194 written (email and letter) submissions were received by the Independent Facilitator from individuals and organisations with the community. These can all be found in the appendices of this report, minus 3 submissions that were made confidentially. The confidential submissions have been provided separately to the Minister for consideration.

1.3.9 Staff-led community engagement

Demand for engagement within the community was high, and whilst the facilitation team undertook vast engagement facilitating 60 conversations with over 800 people, there was still demand for more. Where the facilitation team weren't able to meet with a group of interested people, staff from the Department for Environment and Water were equipped with a process to undertake their own engagement with communities.

This occurred on three occasions and in the interest of transparency, these sessions are collated separately in the appendices of this report.

2 | What's Working Well



In all meetings and community forums we asked participants to consider and discuss the main things they feel are working well in the existing natural resource management system.

The below summary provides an overview of the top six themes we heard again and again when we asked people what they feel is currently working well in natural resource management. We have also included references from other input received.

All forum reports, meeting notes, online commentary and written submissions can be found in the appendices of this report.

2.1 Frontline staff

When we asked what is working well in the current natural resource management system, there was overwhelming appreciation and respect for the staff across the majority of the state, and more specifically front-line staff involved in delivering 'on the ground' activities.

Local staff connection with community, and their level of professionalism within 'local ranks' were highlighted as working well in Port Lincoln. Specific staff, and their role in facilitating local programs were attributed as being a great resource. In Ceduna, staff in local offices were said to be working well. In Port Augusta, on-ground staff working in rural areas who enable local decision making with the local community were said to be working well.

In Victor Harbor, it was noted that some participants felt staff being passionate about what they do and doing their best was noted as working well. The role of volunteer support officers was noted as working well and needing to be maintained and retained. The Local District Officer model was noted as good and there was a request to keep well qualified staff and experts.

In McLaren Vale, the success of projects was noted as being reliant on good officer and landholder relationships with the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project being noted as a great example of a project working well based on trust and good relationships. Participants noted the easy access to staff across a whole range of areas of expertise.

> **"Volunteers need leaders who are well educated in biodiversity to support and co-ordinate their activities… I have found the present staff at AMLR NRM to be extremely helpful and supportive because they have the same goals as we do."**
> Valerie Wales, via written submission

In Mount Barker, participants noted that they don't want to lose the expertise of existing staff and their vital role in supporting volunteers. In Murray Bridge, some participants noted that the right people have been employed. In Kingscote, the current staff delivering effective outcomes were said to be working well by one group of participants. In Clare, relationships between staff delivering

natural resources management and stakeholders was said to be working well, and it was highlighted that on-ground activities and relationships must be retained. In Gawler, it was again noted that local staff who are 'close to the ground' have built up good networks. In Berri, Department for Environment and Water employees and motivated individuals were noted to be working well.

At Mawson Lakes, specific staff were referenced as being invaluable, with NRM Officers and their connections with already established community groups and landholders said to be working well. Authorised Officers were said to be working well, with it good having them based at councils.

In Glenunga, it was requested that the in-house specialists be retained to provide the best available scientific support. The education focus was said to be working well and a call was made for more on-ground staff as they are crucial in achieving this. The practical support provided for Friends Groups was also said to be working well. Again, Volunteer Support Officers were highlighted as invaluable. This was also echoed in Grange. In Marion, on-ground facilitators were noted to be an excellent conduit between government and community, providing technical direction, adding value and supporting volunteers.

"The support that they are able to provide to schools and kindys around sustainability, climate change, food gardens, natural play spaces, water and waste has been invaluable… The staff are extremely knowledgeable and have been consistently amazing to work with."

Vanessa Green, City of West Torrens, via written submission

In Bordertown, the people at the local NRM office were noted as being awesome, with participants liking the friendly, respectful can-do attitude from staff. In Meningie, the friendly staff were also said to be working well.

In Coober Pedy, the Community Engagement Officers and regional staff were noted as working well by participants, including the way they communicate. In Leigh Creek, pastoralist issues being listened to was noted as working well.

In their written submission, the Friends of Sturt Gorge noted that local NRM staff and volunteer support systems have worked very well for their group of volunteers.

2.2 Volunteers

The role that volunteers play in managing natural resources was acknowledged as critical in many discussions across the state.

In McLaren Vale, volunteer groups across the region were said to be working well. Local Action Planning groups were also acknowledged for the support they provide.

In Kingscote and Berri, participants noted the effectiveness of Landcare projects. In Berri, participants noted that Landcare groups do exceptional work in organising volunteers, despite limited resources.

Participants at the Port Augusta community forum specifically noted that volunteer programs are working well. Participants in Glenunga noted the good support provided from people through local NRM and volunteer groups. In Mawson Lakes it was noted to value the community involvement of volunteer groups. In Gawler, community groups such as Trees for Life, Barossa Bush Gardens, Kersbrook Land Care and Buffers to Bushland through the City of Playford were noted as going a great job, but more funding support is needed.

Again, as noted above, the support from staff for volunteers was noted as valuable and critical to retain. It was noted in Mount Barker that volunteers cannot take over the role of paid staff.

Written submissions from individuals also suggested that there should be continued support of volunteers and volunteer groups including continued partnerships with them for on-ground works and an increased focus on attracting volunteers back.

2.3 NRM Education

NRM Education featured highly in conversation about things that are currently working well.

Education with schools was noted as working well by participants in Ceduna and engagement with schools was noted as contributing to achieving on-ground work in Port Augusta.

In McLaren Vale and Grange, NRM Education heavily featured in conversations about what is working well. Participants noted that NRM Education and schools-based learning is a major strength, especially is partnership with Local Government. One group of participants requested that NRM Education be extended to the community.

In Murray Bridge, participants said that NRM Education has had a powerful influence on the next generation of leaders. In Mount Barker, it was noted that NRM Education currently works with thousands of students, teachers, parents and members of the community. It was felt that this 'future proofing' activity would be disastrous to lose.

> **"As an educator, the NRM education program has been most valuable in attempting to get a plan for our school to be sustainable and teach environmentally sound practices to our senior secondary students."** Mandy, via YourSAy

In Clare, NRM Education was noted as important in educating school children and should be retained. In Gawler, long term relationships were said to be working well, including through NRM Education. In Berri, NRM Education was noted to be working well, though participants called for more investment, improved logistics and resourcing.

Education was commented on by many participants at the Glenunga, Marion and Mawson Lakes community forums, with the program providing great outcomes and influence through investing in the future, and also providing a mechanism for flow on benefits to families and communities. Many people felt that NRM Education could be further built on.

Many written submissions and online comments also highlighted the positive work of NRM Education.

> **"Our early childhood Centre has been well supported by the NRM education program. The support has enabled community members and educators working together to receive practical knowledge and guidance in designing and planning improvements to the children's outdoor learning environments."** David, via YourSAy

2.4 Existing programs and services

A number of existing programs and services were noted as currently working well across the state.

Specific programs and services noted to be working well included, but aren't limited to –

- The Biteback program, including dog baiting and aerial baiting programs – many participants in Port Augusta, Yunta and Marree noted this program as best practice community engagement;
- Continued marine sanctuary and coastal protection - noted in Victor Harbor;
- The Community Natural Resource Centre in Willunga, and the Willunga Environment Centre – noted by participants in McLaren Vale;
- Urban Creek Recovery Program, work programs for land restoration, noted in McLaren Vale;
- Revegetation program, fencing, guest speakers, and goat and deer pest management, noted in Kingscote;
- Landscape biodiversity projects, including Living Flinders and Rewilding Yorkes, plus fox baiting and deer control, noted in Clare;
- Education programs such as Bush Kind and the River Torrens Recovery Project, noted in Mawson Lakes;
- Incentive programs and work undertaken with respect to pest plants, noted in Gawler;
- Field Days, noted in Coober Pedy;
- Useful website and resources, noted in Mount Barker;
- Water Allocation Planning process, noted in Berri;
- Weed and pest control programs, noted in Yunta;
- EMU Program, noted in Leigh Creek and Marree;
- Field days and traveller information for the region, noted in Leigh Creek;
- Nature play and existing reserves, noted in Glenunga;
- Coastal Ambassador System, noted in Grange;
- Weather monitoring and advice on adapting to declining rainfall, noxious weed identification program and weed inspectors, noted in Mount Gambier;
- Monitoring and evaluating condition of groundwater and Bucks for Bush grant program and linkages to the Green Army, noted in Bordertown;
- Treeplanting, noted in Meningie;
- Arid Land funding for prest control, permits to control over-abundant native animal species, creation and preservation of National Parks, noted in Marion.

"I would like to support the great work of the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM in the support and advocacy of the Living Smart program." Melinda, via YourSAy

2.5 Working together

Many participants of the community forums noted that people and organisations working together was something that was working well.

Examples given included but weren't limited to –

- Collaboration across industries in the South East (Mount Gambier);
- Good working relationship between EP NRM and AW communities of Yalata and Oak Valley (Scotdesco);
- Listening to pastoralists issues (Leigh Creek);
- Partnerships between NGOs, community and government (Mount Barker);
- Council partnerships – NRM Placement hosted positions (Gawler);
- McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project (McLaren Vale);
- Connections 'at the coal face' with landholders as partners (Glenunga);
- Opportunities for community to be involved in water allocation planning (Murray Bridge);
- Joint projects with Birds SA and NRMs working well (Conservation Council member groups).

> **"We currently have a great working partnership between NRM Education and the Cities of Marion, West Torrens and Holdfast Bay, to deliver three school garden professional development workshops across our three council areas annually."**
> Melissa, City of Holdfast Bay, via YourSAy

NRM Groups were also noted to be invaluable as a way of working together with the community by participants in Port Augusta, Coober Pedy, Yunta, Leigh Creek, Marree and Murray Bridge.

In Port Augusta, it was noted that given the vast area of the region, these groups are able to maintain an on-the-ground community presence and should be further supported, or their role enhanced. This was also noted in Murray Bridge and participants felt that they should be recognised in the legislative changes.

> **"The NRM Group structure does allow a connection between the local landowner and the NRM Board. It is very effective in educating the local landholders in their role in natural resource management and in making meaningful connections with local government."**
> Roger Wickes, via written submission

In Coober Pedy, NRM Groups were noted as working well and gives people a say in the way they currently work. In Yunta it was noted that NRM Groups work well but could be given more influence over how money is spent. In Leigh Creek, it was felt that these groups work well and should be retained, possibly with a greater role in representing the community or influencing decision making.

In Marree, the local NRM Groups allow for local communities to work together in their local area, feeding information and advice back up to the board.

The North Flinders NRM Group felt that the NRM group model was helping to achieve most of the five principles and felt that this model represents decentralised decision making. The North East Pastoral NRM Group felt that a lot of the priorities are being achieved by NRM groups who are local decision makers and raising awareness of NRM in their district. This was also echoed in the written submissions from the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and the Innamincka-Maree NRM Group.

In their written submission, the City of Unley noted the valuable collaboration with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board since 2008. They included areas such as storm water, climate change, NRM education, urban living programs, and collaboration with council designers with Water Sensitive Urban Design projects as being good.

2.6 Traditional Owners

During the engagement process, many positive things were said about the work that has been undertaken to involve Aboriginal communities in the environment or natural resource management system to date.

In Ceduna, the model of co-management with traditional owners was noted as having been effective within parks and Indigenous Protected Areas governance structures, noting that both of these are not directly related to the NRM Act or planned Landscape SA reforms, but provide good examples of co-management working well.

Participants in Victor Harbor noted Aboriginal representation on boards. In Murray Bridge, effective programs in getting Aboriginal community making a significant difference on the ground was working well.

> **"SA has the only full Aboriginal Board in Australia and it is a model that other first nations around the world can see works and should not be lost. A change without good reason that the first Nations people see is real sends the wrong message."** Neil, via YourSAy

In Glenunga, it was noted that the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board have come a long way in Kaurna engagement, especially regarding language and signage. In Mawson Lakes, participants also noted that partnerships with Aboriginal communities were working well.

The involvement of Aboriginal communities was identified as a priority by participants during this reform process, building on what has already been achieved to date. Further detail of this can be found later in this report.

3 | Top 20 Priorities for Natural Resource Management Reform



In all meetings and community forums we asked participants to consider and discuss the priorities that they would like this reform process to achieve in relation to natural resource management in their region.

Where groups were large, the facilitator asked participants to work in small groups to discuss their priorities and reach a consensus on the top priorities. The facilitator then sorted the priorities in to themes and shared them with the whole group for discussion. Where groups were smaller, the facilitator either asked individuals to identify their top three or five priorities, or simply discussed priorities for the region as a whole group.

As a result of the above process, an outcome of every meeting or forum was a set of priorities for the reform relating to that region, themed in to overarching priority headings. These headings have been used to shape this section of this report and act as a point of reference for all input received whether via face-to-face meetings, written submissions or online commentary.

The facilitators also explored key reform proposals with those who attended face-to-face meetings. Whilst these overlap with many of the priorities raised at the beginning of each meeting, commentary provided during the process is discussed in later sections of this report.

All forum reports, meeting notes, online commentary and written submissions can be found in the appendices of this report.

The below summary provides an overview of the Top 20 priorities for reform that we heard. They are ordered starting with the most commonly discussed priorities.

3.1 Funding

Many people stated that funding is one of the most fundamental and critical items in the whole reform discussion. Many were worried that the reform could just be a cost shifting exercise, and that the current finite 'bucket of money' has no potential for more resources through the reform process. Many agreed that natural resource management demands and requires more resources. Several stakeholders questioned whether the proposed governance changes would really affect the availability of funding for more ongoing action.

3.1.1 State treasury funding

We received many comments relating to the role that society has to play in funding the sustainable management of the environment.

The issue of recent funding cuts was raised in various locations, with participants concerned about the impact on resourcing, and also staff morale. It was noted that many dollars have been lost from the system over the last two decades. Participants in Mount Barker raised concern at budgets being at a 20-year low for both federal and state government funding for the environment.

At the combined conservation and primary producer organisation meeting it was felt that there needs to be a more substantial dedicated state budget that is committed to the environment. Members of the group commented that they would like to support the Minister for the Environment and Water in obtaining at least 5% of the state budget to be directed to soil, water and biodiversity management. It was felt that the state has incredible assets that need to be returned to good health, and with climate change coming, we need to be preparing for that too.

> **"We wish to take this opportunity to highlight the severe and concerning lack of State and Commonwealth investment in natural capital which impacts on NRM Boards' ability to achieve ensuring NRM outcomes… State funding must increase if levies are not increased and it must be targeted at those people in the landscape who can make the best, informed decisions based on science…"**
> Native Vegetation Council, via written submission

The same topic was raised around the state. Participants in Port Augusta want to see an increase and guarantee of treasury funding, in addition to NRM levy, to be 3% of the state budget. They would like this funding to be written into the legislation. In Grange, there was strong commentary that questioned why there is a levy for environment when other areas of government don't have a levy but rely on the overall state funding 'pot'. People in Murray Bridge stated that the Department for Environment and Water should contribute funding to the Landscape Board programs.

In Meningie, participants noted that state funded programs are essential to support on the ground actions undertaken by the boards. They felt that this ongoing support and balance between state and local action is a necessity.

In Mount Gambier, it was felt that the funding for pest plant and animal control, soil and water management for public lands must not come from the levy. These programs need to be well coordinated with NRM programs but should be paid for by either the relevant department or funded by the state.

In Berri, participants agreed that money raised through levies in the region should be spent in the region but felt strongly that the Murray-Darling is a state resource, and this should be funded accordingly.

In the written submissions from individuals, some people expressed a general wish for increased funding for certain aspects including Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, pest plant and animal control, Aboriginal people, volunteer groups, and the environment in general.

3.1.2 Redistribution of levy funds to regions

It was widely accepted that equitable distribution of funding across the state will be essential. This included both the acknowledgement that levies raised in a region should be returned to that region, as well as the acknowledgement that a proportion of levies collected within the Green Adelaide region should be redistributed to support those regions with less opportunity to raise income from levies.

In Glenunga, the distribution of levies, was acknowledged as being a very tricky and sensitive topic but collecting a levy on a state basis with allocation then being based on environmental needs or values would be ideal. However, it was noted that boards having to bid for their budget could be problematic and that if the model that is being proposed goes ahead, then Green Adelaide should definitely give a bigger proportion of dollars to the regions.

In recognising the difference between regions, such as issues, conservation values and rate base, participants in Mount Barker suggested the redistribution of dollars to the three quarters of the state's landscape with low human population, such as the Arid Lands, Eyre Peninsula and Alinytljara Wilu̱rara. Participants in Yunta noted that the size of each region must be taken in to account.

Participants in Victor Harbor talked about the need for levies to be allocated to where the problems are. In Port Lincoln, the need for redistribution to the region was highlighted and participants in Murray Bridge gave strong support for the reallocation of funds from Adelaide to the regions, particularly to support on the ground initiatives. Participants in Kingscote noted that the appropriation of levy funds from Green Adelaide, as well as additional state budget allocation, were critical for the Kangaroo Island. In Berri, participants were keen to see levies raised in the region being spent to benefit the region that pays them.

In conversation with the Northern and Yorke NRM Board, there were overall concerns about funding and distribution of the levy, with members noting that they are worried that the sums don't add up as to how boards will survive with levy income being distributed to other pots such as the Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Program. They felt that there needs to be further work or information in explaining the anticipated distribution of funds.

In the final meeting with the NRM Partners, it was suggested that the $2million Grassroots Grants program and Landscape Priorities Fund should come straight out of the levies collected in metropolitan Adelaide, rather than collecting levies back from the regions. It was agreed that this would be a simpler and more acceptable process that is consistent with the principles of decentralisation.

In their written submission, the SA Wine Industry Association noted that they are concerned that the proposed reform may not address the disturbing past trend of 'cost-shifting' that, in their opinion, may have diminished the funding available for on-ground activities.

More input regarding levy calculation, collection and distribution can be found later in this report.

3.1.3 Transparency of levy calculations and distribution

Transparency and coordination of how levies are calculated and distributed was highlighted as very important by many people across the state. Participants in Mawson Lakes accepted that a portion of levies raised within Adelaide would be distributed to the rest of the state, as long as it was well explained and there was a clear strategy and coordination across the state. Participants in Mount Barker were happy to retain the levy on the grounds that it is used wisely.

> **"I only ask one thing. If we have to have these levies or taxes or whatever at least have the courtesy to tell us what OUR money is being used for."** Paul, via YourSAy

Representatives from the conservation sector agreed with the allocation of available levy funds collected in metropolitan Adelaide being made available across the state, particularly for use by groups and organisations to access for specific projects.

The City of Victor Harbor, along with other Councils in their written submissions noted that greater transparency is needed in income and expenditure to gain community support.

Members of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM board would like to see the Act strengthened in communicating why a levy is in place, and that this is a good opportunity to clarify how levies are collected and distributed across the state. Conversation included that the difference between a land and water levy is clunky at the moment and this makes it difficult to communicate why the levies are in place. The group noted that there is an inconsistency of philosophies across the regions, for example this board land based and water-based levies are pooled, and spent on highest priority things, whereas in other regions this is done differently.

3.1.4 More funding to 'on-ground activity' and less spent on bureaucracy

Many people around the state commented on a desire to see funding being allocated to directly achieving environmental outcomes rather than spent on unnecessary administration.

Participants in Victor Harbor noted that a lot of money is paid in levies and showed concerns with how much is spent on bureaucracy. They suggested that funds be used to achieve objectives and not go to administration and management.

Representatives from the Conservation sector echoed this sentiment, calling for more resources to ensure efficient delivery, especially via community and well-established non-government organisations, rather than this resourcing being concentrated in bureaucracy. Mount Barker participants would like to see more funds 'hitting the ground' via non-government and not-for-profit organisations.

Participants in Glenunga requested adequate funding for on-ground works. They would like to see funding for community groups clearly and fairly allocated. They would like to see environmental monies being spent on environmental projects.

Similar sentiment was shown on Kangaroo Island, with requests for funding to 'hit the ground' more effectively, being less top heavy. In Berri, funding was also identified as a priority by the majority of participants, with increased dollars and resources needed for on-ground works.

The Eyre Peninsula NRM board supported the concept of trying to retain more money in the region for delivery of on the ground services, minimising the dollars that go back into government for administrative purposes, as well as having the autonomy to seek services from the region that are price competitive.

Requests for specific grants were common in our conversations, such as participants in Kingscote wanting to see more grants for private farmers; and there were requests for funding for pasture cropping practices, pest plant control and to educate landholders on livestock management practices from participants in Port Augusta. People in Gawler also talked about greater support being needed for land holders to make change, through demonstrating how change can work.

Participants in Gawler requested it be noted that there is only so much on-ground activity that can be done by volunteers and their good will. Adequate funding is essential.

The focussed conversation we had with young people identified a strong vision for the future where funding for community projects is abundant.

3.1.5 Budgets managed by Boards

Local decision making regarding how money is spent was raised as a high priority.

This sentiment was particularly strong in the Arid Lands region. Participants in Leigh Creek felt strongly that the local region is best placed to decide how funds should be spent. In Port Augusta,

self-determination of budgets by the new boards was really important, ceasing the 'capture' of funds by South Australian government agencies. The participants in Marree felt that the money collected from the levy should remain in the region under the control and management of the Board. In Yunta, it was felt that the region should decide where the money is spent as the local community are best placed to understand the most pressing issues that the region is trying to manage.

To the same point, in Berri participants felt that boards should have final approval for monies being spent on cross-boundary projects and that the money shouldn't just be taken from the budget. Boards should work together to make decisions on where the money should be spent. In this region, the proposal of boards having control of their own budgets was welcomed, with the opinion that they can deliver more efficiently than government.

At the Meningie community forum, people felt that decisions that are made at the state level need to be made in consultation and collaboration with the boards, for example, in making decisions to de-list weed species, engagement with local landowners who may be affected, need to be taken into account. They said a bottom up approach is needed in order for such decision making to be informed.

3.1.6 Access and timeliness of funding

Some participants across the state gave priority to making funding more easily accessible. A conversation held in Scotdesco highlighted the current difficulty in accessing funding for projects, with excessive bureaucracy in applications and reporting processes in place. This was echoed in Coober Pedy with a priority for more easily accessibly funding. One participant in Mount Barker would like to see a reduction in the time spent applying for grants.

The timeliness of funding was also raised during the engagement process. Specifically, participants in Mount Barker, Berri, and Kingscote requested more long-term reliable funding to support longer-term environmental projects and plans, including ongoing maintenance and monitoring of projects. Participants in Berri suggested 3-year funding.

Continuity of funding from projects was noted as important by participants in Mount Barker, with examples being provided where a good start had been made on projects but no follow up occurred due to termination of funds. The timing of funding was also discussed, with specific examples of processes taking up to six months to receive support for relatively simple projects. Participants would like to see an ongoing funding commitment where access to funds, information and advice is readily available when needed.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board felt that the current grants program makes for uncertainty and therefore creates difficulty when trying to plan and deliver programs and projects.

In the written submissions from individuals, one person specifically pointed out a need for more long-term funding for pest control and others mentioned, in relation to volunteer groups, that funding (specifically grants) needs to be easy to apply for and they didn't want a system where volunteer groups were solely dependent on grants as before.

3.1.7 Alternative sources of funding

In Gawler there was discussion around finding innovative ways to raise funds to protect landscapes, other than via the levy, such as tourism assets which ultimately attract people to the region. The concept of finding innovative ways to raise alternative funding was discussed in other regions too.

One participant in the combined conservation and primary production sector meeting acknowledged that there should be opportunity to consider the possibility of increasing the 'bucket of money' available for natural resource management. He suggested that we need to think innovatively about how we do this and suggested that the concept of match funding has worked well at a national level for organisations he has worked with.

3.1.8 Greater funding for staff resourcing

Whilst the staff on the ground are seen as a major strength of natural resource management across the state, our conversations told us that the community want to see more of these staff funded to be 'at the coalface and less in the office'. One Yunta participant wrote that "a boots on the ground approach" was needed.

> **"Less suits, more flannelette shirts!"**
> Participant at Yunta community forum

In addition to financial support, people in Glenunga noted the importance of staff knowledge, mentoring and support for community groups. In Bordertown, more on-ground staff with decision making ability were sought. A participant in Gawler referred to visible damage being caused in Parks and felt that limited staff visibility and enforcement was an issue.

3.2 Planning, Accountability and Coordination

3.2.1 Planning

As part of the engagement process, many people asked about the status of current NRM plans and whether they will be rolled over. Participants in Mount Barker noted that a lot of work has gone in to the current plans and they would not want them to be lost in the transition. Some participants in Berri felt strongly that an audit should be undertaken of planning work already undertaken, rather than coming up with new plans all the time. In Scotdesco, the Healthy Country Plan currently under development was referenced several times as a valuable piece of planning work that should be utilised by Landscape SA in the future. Participants do not want the good work already put into this plan to be lost. Participants in Bordertown noted the 5-year plan already set up is based on community decision making.

The current Eyre Peninsula NRM Board explained that their current plan took five years to develop and, in their opinion, would be well aligned with the Minister's key principles of the reform. It included extensive community consultation and significant investment by staff. They are concerned that reducing it to a five-year plan would potentially see a loss of continuity. They feel a longer-term vision is needed. The transition process to a new model needs to consider plans that have been recently developed and actioned. This board also felt that to avoid regions having multiple disconnected plans (such as Native Vegetation, NRM, Coast Protection), the state needs an overarching plan that individual boards 'roll up' in to.

The Northern and Yorke NRM Board also recently spent 18 months developing a 10-year Business Plan, engaging the community through a Community Action Planning process in doing so. The board, staff and community are very proud of this plan. It was felt that 5-year plans are too short.

At the Port Lincoln community forum, simplified planning with measurable outcomes was desired. In Clare, people felt that the boards must be strategic, not operational. In Leigh Creek, participants felt that the region should prioritise what it is going to 'chase' – and remain focussed and committed to those priority issues and ensure resources and funding are allocated accordingly.

A long-term view of natural resource management was felt important by participants in Mount Barker, particularly to assist in finding the balance between conservation and sustainable production. They suggested rather than a 5-year plan for each board (which was felt to be too short when dealing with landscapes), each board prepares a 20-year vision, and then has 5- year plans containing actions to help reach that vision. Participants in Berri felt the same, spending some time discussing visioning and planning, with a longer-term view that is driven by local people being sought. They also proposed a 10-20 year bipartisan vision for the region, noting that a 5-year agreement on projects is just not long enough. A participant in Grange noted that rather than having a bipartisan planning process, she suggested boards having a 4-year plan to align with the political cycle.

The Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board also felt that 5-year plans for the boards aren't long enough. They suggested that if there are going to be 5-year plans then they need to be nested within longer term plans, such as 20-year plans.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board feel that boards need to be more involved in setting the state policies as they represent the community and can provide valuable insight into the key issues.

In Grange there was a suggestion around the concept of a separate board to focus on the River Torrens, particularly relating to all council areas that have the Torrens (and associated creeks) running through should work together. The same suggestion was made with regard to councils in coastal areas.

From the written submissions from individuals, there were some comments supporting simplified planning with plans being for 3-5 years, only being principles and not dictating actions, integrating all aspects into one plan, and using evidence to support planning goals. One person specifically mentioned simplified water action plans. There were also comments regarding Aboriginal engagement and participation in planning. One person also noted that the Community Action Planning groups are working well in the Northern and Yorke region and they want to see that continue.

In the written submission from the Eyre Peninsula LGA, it was suggested that the new boards shouldn't re-plan but instead use existing plans. It was also noted that community want to see outcomes not outputs.

In their written submission, Greening Australia suggested setting agreed priorities that facilitate the streamlining of regional planning. They would like to see a scientific evidence-based landscape plan as the basis of local prioritisation actions and feel that this will streamline priority planning actions at the regional and local levels. They noted that a consistent format and terminology can be established at a state level in language that is accurate but accessible, that can then be applied to regional planning.

3.2.2 Accountability

In Kingscote, the question of 'who controls the board' was asked by one participant, and it was suggested the answer was currently centralised government. Participants were keen to see the board have independence from the Department of Environment and Water. Another participant asked if the board was a 'puppet' of government – because they felt it certainly shouldn't be. Participants in Victor Harbor requested no political interference, to enable fearless decisions to be made.

A participant at the Youth and Community in Conservation Action session questioned that if the Landscapes Boards are kept 'at arm's length from the government', how will they be kept accountable? Another young person questioned how this new Act will ensure that the same issues with NRM won't happen again.

At the local government focussed conversation, one participant suggested that there needs to be some high-level guidance for Boards and questioned the role of the state strategy in informing this. He questioned whether the state strategy would be prepared first, and then the regional plans. There was also a suggestion to focus more on the accessibility and communication of the plans, noting the need to have a narrative that gets the community on board.

Members of the group in Kingscote were pleased to have a Minister that is not so risk averse but suggested that the Minister needs to have a direct relationship with the local Boards, and those boards need direct access to the Minister. Decentralised decision making is good, but this direct relationship is important.

In Ceduna, participants asked how the boards will be held accountable. One participant noted that giving greater autonomy will require great governance. At Victor Harbor, clear definitions and principles were noted. Clear distribution between strategic and operational matters were called for. Several participants in Gawler said that they would like to see clear and regular reporting of works being delivered locally.

Members of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board felt that there is a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities. For example, Corellas are often raised as an issue, but these aren't the responsibility of the NRM Board and they have no role in managing them, but it can be frustrating because it isn't clear who has this role. This board would like to see clearer roles and responsibilities and feels that this is a good opportunity for the Minister to talk about roles and responsibilities including the board, the department, local government, partners, and so on.

In Grange, outcomes and reporting were a priority, with participants wanting to see clear key performance indicators linked to core natural resource management outcomes, with better transparency of the investment of the levy. At the Marion community forum, participants wanted to see improved transparency and accountability with set milestones that are monitored.

Participants in Coober Pedy noted government agency accountability as a priority. In Mount Barker, responsibilities in managing land need to be better extended to large government landholders and the Crown and they need to be held accountable.

In their substantial written submission, the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia noted an important aspect of the reform will be improvements to monitoring in order to evaluate the impact of the investment made by the community in the management of our landscapes, ensuring it is effective and that results can be used to inform future efforts. They advocate for a rigorous and transparent monitoring and reporting framework for each region that demonstrates how project management activities and programs are addressing identified priorities and targets within the Landscape Plans.

3.2.3 Co-ordination

From the community forum in Yunta, we heard that there needs to be better coordination across government departments and different levels of government with respect to the administration of the various legislative requirements. For example, a secure dog fence (Federal funding) will effectively support the Biteback program which will in turn help the Bounce Back Program and improve ground cover. Unless all of these programs work together, and adequate funding provision is made for the dog fence, investment in only one of the three will not realise the desired outcomes. Landscape SA needs to better integrate with other areas of government to ensure maximum effect. A collaboration between all government departments is required and participants felt that there

are currently silos working autonomously. Similarly, in Port Augusta, members of the group wanted co-ordinated pest plant and animal control across land tenures.

The same sentiment was expressed in the Leigh Creek forum, with natural resource management needing to be embedded in environmental management across private parks, state parks, properties, Aboriginal Nations, and so on. Participants said that going 'back to basics' is fine but this approach will need to be communicated and coordinated, at the regional level. Participants said that programs need to be at a landscape level ensuring all property owners in a region are on board otherwise if one property deals with Mexican Poppy weed and another doesn't then the program is a waste of time.

Similar sentiment was noted in metropolitan Adelaide at the Grange community forum. It was noted that many people and groups are trying to do things in the natural resource management space. One participant noted that streamlining the work of departments, groups and agencies to combine efforts would be more effective in delivering outcomes.

> **"Collaboration is critical. We acknowledge different statutory bodies and agencies have differing roles within outside of the broader natural resource management system, but they do also cover the same community and can have some overlapping roles and common goals…"** Pastoral Board of South Australia, via written submission

In the McLaren Vale community forum, participants felt that cross regional and statewide priorities would need to be taken into account with decentralised boards. In Glenunga, people felt that planning processes need to be integrated and holistic with overarching coordination across regions. In Meningie, it was suggested that a strategic approach needs to be underpinned by good on the ground engagement and coordination that can leverage the support of local landowners to participate in landscape scale projects.

One participant in Kingscote highlighted that whilst Kangaroo Island is unique, there are issues that are broader than the Island so input from external expertise is needed and a bigger, broader focus and therefore good coordination is needed.

There needs to be strong integration and coordination with other Departments and legislation, according to members of the group in Mount Gambier, including greater clarity as to who does what.

At the combined Conservation and Primary Producer organisation meeting, participants felt that it is important for South Australia to perform well in a national context and that statewide coordination is critical to this. One participant suggested a statewide board that is independent and provides frank and fearless advice to the Minister. The board might also preside over some of the processes such as accrediting regional plans or selecting board members. The role of this board could also be overseeing the Grassroots Grants or Statewide Priority Fund. This would keep the coordination at arm's length from government. If there was such a group, we'd need to again think about the membership of this group to include leaders to really help South Australia stand out.

In response to a letter from the Minister seeking input regarding key priorities for the reform, Primary Producers SA noted the role of state government as coordinator, in developing statewide policies with input from regions and primary producer representation.

In their written submission, Conservation SA noted that there needs to be statewide coordination alongside regional empowerment. The organisation supports a cross-sector advisory body and would like to be part of it. It was noted that it needs to be ensured that the Department for Environment and Water has the capacity to provide policy, legislature, monitoring and evaluation, and cross regional coordination.

In the written submission from the Local Government Association of SA, it was noted that they would like to see a state-based management body (State Landscape Council) which includes local government to direct investment at state and local levels and administer state-based fund to support the management of key landscape assets across the State. They also suggested the establishment of a statewide annual business plan, including priorities, actions and statewide investment. The written submission from the Limestone Coast LGA also noted that members would like to discuss the idea of having one single body that can consolidate statewide regional issues.

3.3 Community Engagement

Community engagement was a big priority throughout the engagement process, with people commenting on the need for genuine, ongoing engagement in to the future. Whilst this closely related to other priorities such as partnerships and collaboration, engagement with community was a standalone phrase referenced time and time again as a priority.

Community engagement in the planning, delivery and evaluation of natural resource management were all highlighted as important, as was engagement with a number of different individuals, groups and stakeholders. In addition to this, people referenced how they would like the Minister to engage, as well as the Landscape Boards and staff on the ground.

In their written submission, Greening Australia noted that the facilitation of community engagement in natural resource management is essential in achieving water, soil and biodiversity conservation outcomes. They noted that people are central to the effective management of natural resources.

3.3.1 When we want to be engaged

The conservation sector would like to see landscape boards facilitate collaborative planning with delivery by, and with, others, noting that this could be done via the Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots program. In our conversations, they felt that the Landscape boards should facilitate engagement in the development of the regional plan and facilitate others to deliver via a model of devolved delivery.

One participant in Berri mentioned examples of natural resource projects being run well in the region, but without NRM board or staff involvement, suggesting that it had been easier to get things happening without them involved. Another example was given where volunteers in the community felt frustrated that they would come up with an idea and 'government' would take it over, 'doing it their way' and not engaging in doing so in the process. Following this comment, it was noted that the community would like to be equal partners at the start of planning processes, not brought in once decisions are made.

People who attended the Murray Bridge community forum felt it is important to 'loop back' at the end of engagement processes to ensure key groups especially those who are likely to be involved in key partnerships have the opportunity to see how their input is being used, using this engagement process as an example, wanting to know how their input has been used to shape the legislation. They also said it is important to ensure that engagement processes don't just tick a box. In Mount Gambier, people said that communities need to be more engaged with the Boards, to understand the role of the Boards and see the relevance of the Boards. They suggested that communities need to feel empowered, involved in decision making around the priorities and see how their feedback can make a difference.

The NRM Partners talked about community-led landscape scale projects. They would like community engagement to be carefully designed to include community empowerment, whereby

communities are involved in decision making and devolved delivery. They would like to see multiple participation pathways for engagement and on-ground activities.

3.3.2 How we want to be engaged

In Port Augusta, staff engagement with the community was discussed, with a preference for face-to-face engagement rather than via email or over the telephone. At a Primary Producer meeting, one participant asked for less fact sheet engagement and more face-to-face engagement and genuine relationship building.

Participants in Berri suggested that the boards stop being so invisible, noting that they don't really know what they do, noting that they would also like to see the boards stop being seen as a part of government. In Gawler too, some suggested that the Boards need to stop being invisible, stating that much good work was happening but the community weren't aware of it.

In Clare, participants requested more frontline staff on the ground for connecting with key groups, partnerships and delivering programs that make a difference. doing engagement for the sake of it. Mount Barker participants noted the need for proactive community engagement using tools such as email and Facebook, as well as connection to community groups. In Ceduna, participants requested more meaningful input in to processes, and feeling more listened to.

Participants in Berri requested non-political engagement that is independent and focusses on good communication and listening.

In Marree, participants highlighted that many people are time poor and are required to travel vast distances across the region to attend meetings which in itself results in a reluctance for some to become involved. A potential solution to this was put forward in Leigh Creek, with a suggestion that with more staff on the ground, located across the region, there would be greater opportunity to provide information, educate, create awareness and celebrate achievements. The idea of six-monthly community forums was also put forward.

At Mawson Lakes, participants saw that bringing the community together through good community engagement was important. They felt that well designed and funded community engagement, including active citizenship, is needed.

Members of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board said that they would like to see the community more involved in developing draft plans early in the process, rather than simply be presented with a final draft for comment. They felt that this part of the existing Act hasn't moved with the times, for example for Water Allocation Planning. For this, the board works with the community to understand what's up for discussion. They prepare a plan together. They consult at the end just to test that what has been discussed is reflected in the Plan. The legislation in this regard should be less prescriptive regarding consultation.

3.3.3 Who needs to be engaged

In McLaren Vale there was acknowledgement of the level of knowledge and experience at the forum and it was noted that participants were keen for ongoing engagement from the Minister to help inform decision making around the reform process.

In Gawler, engagement with volunteers to achieve local action was a priority. They would like to see greater communication within the community and more primary producer involvement in things like water allocation, to enable understanding from different perspectives. They suggested more interaction and consultation between broad acre farmers (and the community in general) and natural resource managers, with greater engagement on the ground.

In Glenunga, participants would like to see Landscape Boards and communities being brought together on an equal footing. They felt that decentralisation was a good opportunity for on-ground delivery of work through local engagement. They felt that the planning process needs to be simple and engage volunteers, not just landowners, with less hierarchical management of volunteers and better dialogue.

In Clare, participants wanted to see more focus on primary industry, with better food producer involvement in natural resource management. One participant in Murray Bridge also noted concern about ongoing support with respect to land management programs to support their operations. In Mount Gambier, better and improved consultation and engagement with the agricultural sector and associated landowners was sought.

The conservation sector would like to see more opportunities for community groups and organisations to be engaged in the delivery of projects. In Victor Harbor, people also wanted to see ongoing engagement with local groups and organisations, including recognition of landowner contribution to Natural Resource Management. They noted that landowners have a lot of knowledge and concern for the environment and this needs to be captured.

Engaging with Traditional Owners was raised at the community forums all over the state. Participants wanted to see early engagement with Aboriginal people that puts them at the top of the decision making process, not simply as advisors to a decision making process, as well as engagement via co-management systems and through real and meaningful partnerships. More input regarding this is discussed later in this report.

At the focussed conversation with young people, participants questioned how Landscapes SA will involve youth in their activities. They feel it is important to normalise environmental issues via widespread participation in rectifying them. They also felt it important for more community groups to be involved in environmental science.

The South East NRM Board members noted that the removal of NRM groups lost the community to some extent and added to the disconnection with the Board and its work.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board noted the success of the District Group model for their region and how this needs to be retained as a means to ensure regional representation and diversity across sectors. Community at all sessions in Marree, Leigh Creek and Yunta all discussed the merit for this model and the board agreed that it provides for a bottom up approach with the Board taking an added strategic view across the region.

Recognition of community input was cited as very important in Coober Pedy.

3.4 Partnerships and Collaboration

Closely relating to the priority of community engagement, partnerships and collaboration were regularly referenced as high priority for the reform. Whilst it is acknowledged that partnerships were noted as a current strength of the natural resource management structure in many conversations held, participants across the state highlighted improvements they would like to see.

3.4.1 Actively and genuinely working together

At the start of our engagement process, the NRM Partners talked about a desire to see active partnerships with all stakeholders in place, with good representative structure across South Australia. They would like to see a community-led focus, independent from government, but with government being a partner along with industry and community. Whilst boards would be more localised, they felt it very important that boards would still work in partnership with state government, other regions and industry to be able to take in to account a broader perspective. Later in the process, at the combined Conservation and Primary Producer focussed conversation, it was noted that great partnerships with agencies are needed and this small state can't work without this.

Participants in Ceduna suggested being more creative and innovative with partnerships, suggesting boards think outside the square to deliver programs. In Port Augusta, development of working partnerships that show true collaboration (not just ticking boxes) were desired. In Clare, participants would like to see more use of existing resources and less duplication of programs.

In Kingscote, connection to landholders was highlighted as important, with local primary producers seeking more collaboration and visible increased partnering with the farming community. Participants in Gawler suggested Citizen Science as a tool for providing great partnership opportunities.

Partnerships were a high priority in Mount Barker too, including collaboration with industry, farmers, government, and volunteers. It was acknowledged how important it is to get all of the right people involved.

In Murray Bridge, people felt that partnerships need to be elevated and be considered a priority for the new Landscape Boards. They must be true partnerships based on trust, mutual respect and clarity around roles and responsibilities. The group want to ensure that partnerships are meaningful and that there be a recognition that the delivery of regional on the ground programs can be done more effectively and efficiently through partnerships if the right support and recognition is in place.

In working together, participants in Leigh Creek felt that there needs to be a focus on personal relationships, with local people working in small regional centres like Leigh Creek that know the community and through proactive communication can provide the necessary support. Staff need to get out and go to the land owners and managers and not operate from afar. In Yunta, participants want to see collaboration between all government departments and felt that it is currently 'just a bunch of silos working autonomously'.

In Glenunga, several participants said that it is important for everyone to take responsibility for natural resource management, and not just assume it is a government role.

Volunteers at the Glenunga session highlighted that natural resource management is not just about landholders and that recognition must be given to the role volunteers play in managing the environment, both in on-ground works, but also at a board level. They also noted the importance of partnerships with private landowners, citing the few existing wetlands in Adelaide as examples of being on private property.

3.4.2 Building on existing good practice

In McLaren Vale, participants highlighted that there are very positive existing partnerships with landholders and there are many examples of good practice, including the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project who have planted over 10,000 trees in the region via a partnership between local landowners, over 100 volunteers, the City of Onkaparinga and NRM staff based in Willunga, who provide great technical advice which has significantly contributed to the success of this initiative.

A participant in Berri highlighted the work being undertaken at Glenthorne National Park as an example of great partnership, linking corridors and trails to generate interest and excitement and would like to see similar visions being undertaken in the regions.

The Conservation sector highlighted successful initiatives that should be built on, such as Wild Eyre. The group said they would like to see removal of any obstructions to cross-regional project delivery and cooperation. A whole of landscape approach requires a whole of sector approach.

> **"…we suggest the increased use of formal agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding, between the new Landscape Boards and various key stakeholders in the region would enable stronger partnerships to be established."**
> Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, via written submission

In Bordertown is was suggested that the new Landscape Boards continue with strong partnerships and look to enhance these and build others with a greater emphasis on on-ground effort at the community level.

In Gawler it was suggested that working closely with farmers who are progressive be used as examples in moving forward.

At the combined Primary Producer and Conservation organisations meeting, it was noted that the two sectors agreed on more than they disagreed. Participants felt that this puts everyone in good stead of the new legislation and they hoped to be able to continue to work together and build and strengthen the relationships that were in the room. One participant noted that the one thing particularly uniting the two sectors was that the climate is changing really fast, and whether coming from an environmental or a farming perspective, it was critical to work together to build a resilient landscape.

In the written submissions received from individuals, many people supported or encouraged partnerships across regions and boundaries. Some also specifically mentioned partnering with

Aboriginal people and some suggested using partnerships with local government or others for on-ground works.

In the written submission from the City of Holdfast Bay, it was noted that local councils undertake work on the ground in relation to natural resource management. However, they often struggle to understand the roles and responsibilities of various state and regional institutions. They also suggested the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between individual Councils and the Landscape Board about the priorities and activities in a council area. This arrangement should be reviewed on a three-yearly basis. They noted that most local councils have their own environmental management programs in place and urge the Minister to take advantage of local council expertise and passion for natural resource management and use that as the spearhead the state.

3.5 Local Decision Making

In asking people across the state what their priorities were for the reform, local decision making was a phrase we heard time and time again. This correlates with one of the guiding principles for the reform, decentralised decision making, and specific feedback on this principle can be found later in this report. Below is a summary of some of the commentary we heard around local decision making as a priority.

Primary Producers SA would like to see the boards re-empowered, particularly around important policy setting and decision making, for example with water allocation planning, and prioritisation of pest plant and animal priorities.

In Port Lincoln many participants gave very strong support for local decision making and local representation on boards, including expertise based in regional areas. Some Victor Harbor participants noted a desire for increased autonomy via decentralisation and those in Murray Bridge called for a regional focus with greater focus on programs that deliver on the ground benefit with transparent spending.

In Kingscote there was strong support for local decision making, valuing and respecting local knowledge, allowing local decision making and embracing local wisdom. This included discussion around the Kangaroo Island board currently being all local people, enabling localised decision making. Participants were keen to see the board be independent of the environment department, valuing and respecting local knowledge, allowing local decision making and embracing local wisdom.

Similar sentiment was given in Berri, where participants want to see decentralisation of decision making away from the Department of Environment and Water, with greater community-led investment that is community driven.

At a meeting with the NRM Partners, members of this group want to ensure that the new Boards have full direction and control over its entire levy budget, including what and where it spends funds relating to water planning and science. They would like to see regional boards being able to employ their own staff and engage contractors as appropriate.

At both Mount Barker community sessions, local decision making was important. Participants wanted to see better autonomy to local groups, more of a bottom-up approach, with small boards that are able to outsource delivery.

> **"As a member of a surviving LAP group, I have become incredibly frustrated. LAP began before the NRMs were set up… I voiced my concerns at the time about an extra layer of bureaucracy and I was assured that NRM boards would be assisting LAP groups. History has shown this not to be true."** Andrew, via YourSAy

In Yunta, participants discussed the role of NRM Groups in decision making and felt that the groups need greater influence over how money is spent. It was noted that they do have some difficulty in

securing broader community support not only because of distances, but a lack of ability to demonstrate how the levy can benefit the region. It was felt that greater transparency, less administration absorbing funding and more local input on noxious weed control might encourage others to get on board.

A participant at the Grange Community Forum highlighted that decentralised decision making doesn't work without decentralised funding and decentralised expertise. More feedback relating to decentralised decision making can be found later in this report.

3.6 Pest Plants and Animals

In relation to the natural resource management reform, pest plants and animal management was discussed as a priority across the state. From within the guiding principle of *Back to Basics*, the management of pest plants and animals was the most commonly mentioned aspect.

On Kangaroo Island, a number of people in Kingscote raised pest management as a priority for the reform, including more focus on feral species management, weed control, and cats and pigs. It was noted that to date, one of the areas of success on Kangaroo Island had been goat and deer eradication.

In the outback, Nepabunna representatives identified feral goats as a significant ongoing challenge, and an issue that would benefit from a cross-regional or statewide strategy. They queried why the IPA at Yappala (Southern Flinders, Northern and Yorke NRM Board) had a goat culling program with the NRM Board but Nepabunna did not.

In Coober Pedy, managing feral species that compromise native biodiversity should be a priority.

In Marree, the increasing number of feral pigs; the ongoing problem of dogs; and native animals such as kangaroos and emus that have become pests in some areas are the main issues affecting pastoralists and more needs to be done to manage these matters on the ground. In our conversations, it was suggested that staff working from the various small centres across the region would enable them to get to know the community, build key relationships and gather the local intelligence about priorities and needs. It was felt that effectiveness is lost when staff are based centrally in Port Augusta and tied to administrative processes. Participants in Marree also discussed native plants that are a pest, such as Pimelia Simplex, highlighting that pest plants are not just about introduced weed species.

In Yunta, the above sentiments were echoed with participants requesting greater focus on having more on the ground staff across the region able to work with pastoralists and land managers to help coordinate programs, provide advice and provide gentle encouragement and guidance to help land owners do the right thing. They noted that the Biteback program is a model that has worked across the SA Arid Lands region. This program was driven locally, there was good communication and participation, the program has been extremely effective and relevant and NRM should look to this program as an example of how to deliver great programs that work. It was suggested that the new Landscape Boards should base their planning and delivery models on this example.

"There is a massive wild dog problem in the Pastoral Properties throughout SA. There needs to be a minimum standard set by ALL Pastoral Station Owners whether it be tourism, mining or livestock… If there was a minimum compulsory standard, then we will be a step closer to minimising the risks that livestock owners face daily." Herbie, via YourSAy

In Mount Barker, participants requested more help and support for weed and pest control, such as working with interested new landowners in tackling inactive olive trees. They would like to see a renewed focus on weed management, with a focus on rabbits and foxes. There was also a request for more clarity in the Act around who is responsible for management of weeds on road reserves.

Participants in Clare wanted to see more money and time spent on eradicating weeds and feral animals in National Parks and adjoining private land. They felt that many landowners are not doing anything to control feral animals. A member of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board also noted more emphasis on the pests, plants and weed control as a priority.

Port Lincoln participants wanted improved abundant native species control and management. For Ceduna, participants wanted more on-ground works and local autonomy in tackling pest plants such as Nitrebush and Buffalo Grass, and feral animals such as cats, foxes and starlings.

Conversations in Victor Harbor were about seeking more control over pest plants and animals at a local level, with less paperwork and red tape and more facilities on the ground. Deer, kangaroos, foxes, corellas and blackberries were all listed as problematic. Some participants wanted to see control of pests and weeds in an environmentally and sustainable way, and conservation of local threatened species. It was noted that everyone needs to be involved in pest plant and animal and over abundant native species management, to ensure there is no cost to the farming community.

"I think weeds are a huge issue for everyone at the moment. I think community groups need to step up and help out in areas of communal benefit. I also think we need to stop expecting things to be done for us." Derek, via YourSAy

Participants in Victor Harbor also noted that they also want to see government doing the right thing on their own land. This was also said in the local government focussed conversation, with one participant acknowledging that weeds from state governed parks such as the Prickly Pear are spreading. These parks should be demonstrating good practice, but it was felt this in this regard they aren't.

In McLaren Vale, participants want to see increased co-ordination and resourcing of cross-boundary pest animal and plant control. They felt that there is too much responsibility on individuals, and we need to bring multiple landholders together to co-ordinate implementation of a more strategic and proactive approach. There was an emphasis on using organic controls and methods at this session, as well as comments regarding protecting the natural landscape via ongoing removal of feral weeds from cracks and roadsides.

Participants in Marion noted managing numbers of excess native animals as a priority. One group discussion noted there need to be legislative procedures for land access focussing on environmental actions. It was felt that there is a current lack of control of over-abundant native birds, such as corellas. In Glenunga, adequate resourcing for long term strategic priorities was requested.

In Mount Gambier, a noxious weed identification and eradication program was seen as priority. The South East NRM Board members noted that compliance around pest management is messy and

complex. The current intent is for the Board to work with landowners, but it was felt that people take advantage. This reform is an opportunity for the process to be made simpler and easier.

There was wide support for including and prioritising pest plant and animal control in the written submissions received from individuals, with one person expressing desire for continuous funding for it, one wanting minimum standards set, and one specifically mentioning an integrated approach. One person seemed to object to dingoes being considered a pest as they there's no evidence they damage the landscape and they wanted the reference to wild dogs removed from the discussion paper and replaced with a different pest example.

In their written submission, Top Note Vineyard highlighted as serious problem with high kangaroo numbers around Kuitpo and the Adelaide Hills and could see no concerted control efforts because kangaroos are not considered to be feral. Frustration was noted that the kangaroos eat grapes, damage infrastructure, are road hazards, and hamper biodiversity of neighbouring native scrub. They suggested consideration be given to implementing a culling program and potentially allowing commercial harvest in the area. Zoos SA confirmed that they see pest control as a vital part of conservation and for creating healthier landscapes and as part of their written submission provided a copy of their submission to the Senate inquiry into faunal extinction in Australia.

"We wish to express our concern and dismay at the continued and accelerating degradation of land and water course on the Fleurieu Peninsula caused by weeds."
Fleurieu Beef Group Inc. via written submission

The written submission from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield noted overabundant native species, referencing that corellas are causing significant damage to industrial infrastructure on Le'fevre Peninsula and that such species should be controlled directly by regional Landscape boards. The written submission from the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board noted overabundant species and suggested that the new legislation should include a link or principle around the management of these species. The City of Mitcham felt that state government needs to increase weed control in National Parks and not just rely on volunteers. They suggested increased funding to councils for urban animal and plant control and noted that there needs to be a consistent approach to mapping pest plants across the metro area.

Birdlife Australia felt that pest management must be wholistic and well-researched prior to undertaking management, prioritised and focussed. In their written submission, they gave an example of nest cameras being used to gather direct evidence of nest failure before undertaking pest control. They suggested considering expanding the definition of pest animals to include domestic animals, such as pet cats that roam and dogs off leash brought into sensitive areas.

In their written submission, the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group noted that pest animal management requires a landscape, integrated approach. They made several recommendations including (but not limited to) the current NRM Act declaration for a wild dog be located inside (south of) the Dog Fence be retained in the Landscapes SA Act and that wild dog management be prioritised under the 'Statewide Project Fund' which will be funded using the Landscape SA levy.

3.7 Compliance

The topic of compliance was regularly raised as a priority throughout the engagement process, however there were many different perspectives and opinions within this.

3.7.1 Education

At the McLaren Vale community forum, historically low trust of NRM by landholders was highlighted by one participant, particularly stemming from property access issues. Participants wanted to see more officers on the ground available to talk to landholders, closely connecting the role of education and building relationships with compliance.

In Gawler, education was a key topic raised throughout the session and it was felt strongly that people need educating, particularly relating to compliance. A story was told by a participant to the group around a situation between a land owner and NRM officers gaining access to a property. When explored by the facilitators, the desire for the reform relating to this story was a need for greater empowerment and education of primary producers, acknowledging that not all land holders are doing the right thing. They need strong support and education.

In Clare, it was felt that there is a lack of compliance officers on the ground and the Boards appear to be restricted by administrative issues. They said this this seemed especially so with respect to native vegetation and clearance. Participants asked for more support and education for pest and weed control and stronger enforcement of the Act.

3.7.2 Working together with landholders

Some participants in Gawler also suggested that as well as education and empowerment, they would like to see a respectful process around compliance. When something wrong is being done, fair enough, but the process must be sound, respectful and fair.

> **"Having struggled for years doing compliance under these various Acts and trying to get landholders to understand their management requirements and enforcing legislation where needed, I can see this heading for another native vegetation act fail, where all of the Act's regulations and powers will be stripped or dulled down as per its new name."** Dan, via YourSAy

Some primary producers at the Mawson Lakes community forum felt that compliance is currently too heavy handed. It was suggested that landowners and farmers should be empowered to make the right decisions and want to have a good relationship with NRM staff to work together through issues, rather than just handed a fine at the first point of contact. One cattle farmer asked the

Minister and Department to consider how it makes him feel when the first contact he has with them is the threat of legal action.

In Mount Barker, it was suggested that compliance should be a more proactive process, supported by more funding to assist landholders in a joint effort.

At a conversation with the NRM Partners, members of this group said that they would like to see a more comprehensive, flexible compliance tool kit with lower on the spot fines for minor breaches, enabling an earlier compliance focus before 'ramping up' happens. Participants want more mechanisms to encourage, empower and enforce on-ground action.

In Kingscote, one member of the group highlighted that he didn't want any further regulation such as meters on dams, asking that there be no further restrictions on economic development and farm management. He asked that local century-old knowledge of farming practice should be leveraged, with a greater focus on trust rather than regulations.

"Minister Speirs and to all present and future new board members, current and future department staff, and the future Minister of the day, please sort the compliance backlog!!! This needs to happen to go forward." Lee, via YourSAy

In their written submission, the City of West Torrens suggested that a compliance awareness campaign is required, with prompt action according to the offence being required.

In their response to a letter from the Minister seeking thoughts around top priorities for the reform, Primary Producers SA noted that court processes should be the last resort and careful consideration should be given to the ability to expiate for significant transgressions regarding pest plant and animals.

3.7.3 Pathways to Enforcement

In Mount Barker it was felt by some participants that there is a current lack of enforcement on compliance issues such as removal of native vegetation on property or roadsides. Participants in Ceduna want to see compliance for wild dog control that can be enforced.

At the Bordertown community forum, it was noted that the process pathway to compliance needs to be addressed. There are examples in the region of significant non-compliance and nothing is done. The process needs to be tightened and action taken to ensure property owners are held to account. The process needs to be timely, and the new Act must enable easy and effective compliance.

At the early engagement with Conservation Council member groups, participants requested a strong and effective framework of regulation. They would like to see enforcement of the legislation with a biodiversity focus. Whilst they acknowledged this should be a community effort, they felt it

was necessary to see greater compliance. The broader Conservation sector representatives who attended the focussed conversation event wanted to see compliance strengthened, enforcing the Act, particularly in relation to its interaction with other key legislation. It was noted by one small group that this was a high priority.

In their written submission, Conservation SA noted that compliance needs to be maintained with a consistent approach state-wide.

The South Para Biodiversity Project Inc. noted in their written submission that compliance is critical, and there needs to be commitment to enforce legislation and follow up. They noted that there needs to be employment of staff whose sole role is to deliver compliance based activities. They noted that enforcement of the Act needs to be made much more efficient, less red tape, currently it is difficult to gain momentum with enforcement.

3.8 Less Red Tape

In asking people across the state what their priorities are for the reform process, the idea of having less red tape was mentioned consistently. Whilst specific feedback on the guiding principle of *A Simple and Accessible System* can be found later in this report, below is a summary of priorities that emerged during our conversations regarding a system that has less red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy.

Early in the engagement process, a conversation with members of the NRM Partners included making the Act more enabling and efficient. Those at the meeting said they would like to see less complexity in the Act, with it being more flexible rather than prescriptive. At the same meeting, participants said they would like to see simple, flexible and efficient water management, providing improved management of water without increased prescription, especially in non-prescribed areas. They would also like to see more streamlined planning and reporting, reducing the time and expense of compliance and reporting to make use of limited funds.

Comments were made all over the state regarding the reduction of red tape. In Port Lincoln participants wanted less burden of applying for funding for small groups, and to see approval processes for marine industries to be faster. In Mawson Lakes participants wanted to simplify paperwork. In Victor Harbor participants wanted simpler processes and clearer roles of organisations involved. In Kingscote, participants wanted less complexity to allow action. In Glenunga, improved efficiencies were a priority, resulting in improved field-based outcomes. In Berri participants wanted a simpler and less bureaucratic Water Allocation Plan. In Scotdesco, excessive bureaucracy in applications, funding and reporting was frustrating. People in Mount Gambier want less layers of bureaucracy to get through to get things done – especially for local councils and local government.

In the APY Lands, there was some feedback on small grants in that the administrative burden of accounting and reporting for small grants, and the difference between smaller and larger amounts isn't recognised.

At the community forum in Leigh Creek participants felt that there needs to be a balance achieved between good governance, responsible fiscal management and minimising red tape. Participants asked whether there are there other models interstate or internationally from which we can learn, showing what works well and what doesn't. They felt there is a need to consider how good land management programs and initiatives can be coordinated with the right level of governance without over-burdening communities as they are already busy. They said that in order to reduce red tape we must start at the conceptual level.

In Marion, concern was raised highlighting that a reduction of red tape must not make inappropriate development easier. Further feedback on the *A Simple and Accessible System* guiding principle can be found later in this report.

3.9 Water Management

Whilst it was highlighted throughout the engagement process that this stage of the reform process did not include significant water management reform, this topic was still raised consistently as a priority across the state.

In Port Lincoln, water management was identified as a critical topic for the Eyre Peninsula and participants felt it must be addressed urgently. Participants in Victor Harbor noted achieving sustainability of water resources as a priority. In McLaren Vale, one participant said that water reform can't wait and urged the Minister to consider looking at the business of water management as soon as possible. The local grape growers were congratulated on the work they undertook in the early 1990s and it was suggested everyone involved be talked to again to reflect on what's going well but also looking at what else we need to do.

In Mount Barker, water management and allocation were identified as priorities and people questioned where water prescription and management fit in relation to the reform. They felt that the current Act is poorly written, and water needs to be reviewed as part of this transforming process.

In Glenunga, participants wanted to see more enforcement of land owners' duties to manage catchment areas. They discussed community use of water bodies such as dams, reservoirs, and streams as a priority and called for stormwater management reform.

In Berri, water was identified as a major priority, including water security, availability and sustainable water management. Participants want to see sustainable water management to sustain healthy ecosystems.

In Clare, discussion occurred regarding better regulation of irrigation. One participant noted that encouraging people to use less water in general was a priority, highlighting the importance of monitoring ground and surface water supplies.

In Marree, several members of the local Aboriginal community identified water as a critical local issue. Groundwater and the potential for extraction to impact on local mound springs (sites of considerable significance to the Arabunna people) has been raised previously.

In Mount Gambier, participants felt that water needs to be better managed in the region. It currently flows out to sea via the SE drainage system and greater effort needs to be made to look to ways to harvest the water or retain it in the natural environment. Consideration should be given to legislating this to ensure resources are applied to minimise discharge to the ocean. Those at the community forum also sought a simpler water allocation process, supported with more on the ground monitoring, as well as a quicker approach to issuing water licences that is efficient and transparent. Participants noted that the Drainage Board has an important role to play but needs stronger connections and coordination with the Board. Community in Bordertown felt that there is room to reform water management through a greater understanding of the interactions between surface water and groundwater in a transparent manner.

In the written submissions from individuals, water management was a very popular topic with a wide range of comments. As a general rule, many people wanted to see a change to water management in the state. Some specific comments were one submission noting concern regarding bore use and bore sharing agreements, and another person was especially concerned with water management to support native fish. One submission included thoughts that water management has been going well on the Eyre Peninsula. One was supportive of environmental flows, and one wanted simpler water allocation plans and for the cost recovery charges recommended by the National Water Initiative to be adopted. Another didn't like how current water management is only concerned with preventing resource decline and doesn't consider other issues, such as too much water in water table causing rising salinity.

In their written submission, the Northern and Yorke NRM Board said that they consider that ground and surface water management should be included in landscape legislation. The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board noted the importance of keeping water management with regional administration in the Act, along with other thoughts around the need for simple, flexible and efficient water management. The South East NRM Board noted that the current requirements to unbundle licenses will lead to much more complex and cumbersome Water Allocation Plans. In their written submission they noted that this does not align with the Minister's aim of simplifying planning for the community.

In the written submission received from the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board, they said it is essential that water management remains in the Act to enable a catchment approach. They also strongly advised that Boards must continue to take the lead role in the development and decision making related to Water Allocation Plans.

In their written submission, Trees for Life recommend a review of water un/bundling for the new Act to ensure the provisions are fit for purpose and that all water assets can be managed as required. Unbundling can work for water assets in a large system like the Murray River but not necessarily for other systems. They noted that this is currently an issue on the Adelaide Plains.

In their written submission, Primary Producers SA noted that water management legislation needs to be simplified but suggested to keep it in the new legislation due to time constraints at this point of the reform. They suggested incorporating flexibility for regions to use the most appropriate planning and management tools, with detailed work to follow enactment of the Act.

Primary Producers SA also noted the urgent work required in the Virginia region (to address water table and flood mitigation issues), Mount Lofty Ranges, the South East (to ensure appropriate drainage infrastructure investment and monitoring of ground water systems) and with River Murray water users. Their submission also discussed water licencing, water rights and the need for a regular independent review of water planning and management costs.

3.10 Biodiversity

From very early in the engagement process it became apparent that biodiversity was a high priority for those operating in the natural resource management space, but that many felt it was missing from the reform proposals. Biodiversity was raised as a priority across the state and its limited focus in the reform proposals was one of the major tension points in our conversations.

At an early meeting with the NRM Partners, members of the group explained that biodiversity and native outcomes go beyond pest and soil management and that there needs to be an explicit focus on native flora and fauna as well.

In a conversation with Presiding Members, they highlighted that biodiversity is really important. Members of the group said they felt it was derogatory when people say farmers aren't interested in on-farm biodiversity. As part of their survival, if not anything else, farmers have to be interested in it. They highlighted that this work is about proactive management.

The Presiding Members felt there were a couple of ways that biodiversity could be included in the Act –

- Listed as one of the objects of the Act;
- And/or a few clauses or schedules about biodiversity – some principles just to support the work "that we all do", suggesting that the Act be specific – we don't want *all* biodiversity addressed – just on private land or where private land impacts.

Conservation Council member groups wanted to see biodiversity being maintained and improved, preventing further extinction. Participants requested stronger legislation and regulations that protect biodiversity and landscapes in the long term.

People in McLaren Vale said that biodiversity matters and needs to be included in the new Act. They suggested that the Back to Basics concept include soil, water, pest plants and animals and native vegetation. Participants stated that these elements are closely related and inter-dependent. Others at the McLaren Vale session would like to strengthen the focus on biodiversity protection and restoration of habitants, and preservation and extension of remnant vegetation of systems.

> **"I note in the blurb regarding proposed changes, the lack of the word, biodiversity. Caring for the biodiversity and ecological status of the state's 'natural' areas is fundamental and support must be given to threatened species and protection of these areas."**
> Delores, via YourSAy

In Port Lincoln, participants noted recognising the importance of watercourses and vegetation to biodiversity and creating resilient landscapes. In Murray Bridge, the community said that biodiversity must be included as a priority asset along with soil and water, reminding the Minister that thousands of farmers are landscape managers. It was noted that while the concept of Back to Basics was supported, biodiversity is seen as a critical component that needs just as much focus.

In Clare, biodiversity was noted as critical and fundamental to good landscape management. This cannot be ignored or forgotten in going back to basics. At Mawson Lakes, participants recommended engaging with Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 – 2030 to assist in achieving its outcomes.

In Gawler, biodiversity was raised, specifically around the need for better management and enhancement of conservation and biodiversity. It was felt that this was missing from the Back to Basics approach and participants were keen to see it highlighted as a priority.

> **"The definition of biodiversity is underemphasised… to me this is paramount and needs to be at the forefront of any legislation and takes precedence over anyone and/or everyone's desires and rights."** Almeda Peer, via written submission

Participants in Mount Barker called for a definition of biodiversity in the Managing our Landscapes documentation. They would like to see this including conservation of rare and threatened species; flora and fauna and insects, stronger legislation to conserve existing native vegetation and re-instate native corridors, and policy and funding to promote SA native flora in horticulture and gardens. They said that there needs to be more explicit content on biodiversity as it was tacked on to the 2004 NRM Act.

Participants in Mount Barker also noted the pressure put on biodiversity by over population and urban sprawl (including its impact on production areas) the frustration this causes in this region. It was however acknowledged that this is an issue that goes beyond the NRM Act. They noted that there are other elements needed to create vibrant biodiversity, such as restoration, propagation, consumption, and more. The activities currently listed under the back to basics principle are not enough.

In Berri, biodiversity was highlighted as important for this region, with facilitation of volunteer involvement in biodiversity conservation mentioned. One group noted that better legislation to achieve better biodiversity was needed, whereas another noted that maybe more legislation wasn't the answer but to instead look to what we've already got and tweak that.

> **"While 'Vibrant biodiversity' was mentioned on page 8 of the Discussion Paper, the document has scarcely any mention of biodiversity in the description of the proposed changes in the pages that follow."** Peter, via YourSAy

In Mount Gambier, participants felt that biodiversity needs to be included in the *Back to Basics* concept. Native vegetation needs further consideration about how it is managed when it impacts on private productive land, noting that some flexibility is needed.

In Meningie, it was accepted that there needs to be a stronger focus on the back to basics, but participants felt that the Landscape Boards can't just be weeds and rabbit boards. Native vegetation

and fauna are currently missing, and this was seen as a gap. Participants felt that there needs to be a stronger focus on biodiversity and assisting local landowners adapt to climate change and conserve threatened species. This includes supporting and encouraging land owners to not only focus on back to basics but to link to broader landscape scale approach to projects and initiatives.

In Bordertown, biodiversity was noted as being at risk and that a regional biodiversity strategy is needed with funding to match. Participants felt that by maintaining the health of the landscape, other problems reduce. They would like it to be easier for private landholders to conserve native bushlands, and to see efficient protection and conservation of biodiversity.

> **"The ongoing stewardship and restoration of our natural, biodiverse ecosystems is at the heart of building landscape resilience at scale, and essential for ensuring productive farmland and healthy natural assets."**
> Conservation Council of SA, via written submission

In Glenunga biodiversity was identified as a priority, with recommendations that this be integrated in to the landscape approach and be clearly stated in the priorities.

In Grange, participants felt that biodiversity is a priority, with more protection of native biodiversity required. Natural assets were highlighted as important, with integrated catchment management and improved natural assets across the state, such as water, soil, flora and fauna. Biodiversity corridors were discussed, with reference to the need for people to work together to strategically plan corridors as opposed to undertaking small patches of work.

At the Marion community forum, participants wanted to see a strategic approach to revegetation corridors to support biodiversity. They would like to see the preservation of diversity of plants and animals and for wildlife corridors to be maintained and enhanced. There was recognition that the greatest threat to biodiversity is land clearance.

> **"We desperately need to focus on soil, our native flora and fauna and waterways to ensure they are healthy again or we will lose our lovely ecosystem."** Cheryl, via YourSAy

At our focussed conversation with young people in Willunga, they noted that there was not much mention of preserving habitat in the Managing our Landscapes SA documentation and felt that this is very important for conservation. They also questioned how and where threatened species management and conservation come in to this Act.

In our conversation with the Conservation sector as a group, biodiversity was a major priority. The group felt that biodiversity protection and enhancement should be a strong part of the Act, as a key objective. They would like biodiversity conservation included in the Landscape SA Act and that it remains as a foundation. In our conversation with the primary production sector as a group, participants felt that putting a value on good land management and natural resources management

and rewarding stewardship of natural resources and natural environment was important, for example vegetation.

At the combined Conservation and Primary Production sector meeting, there was a large amount of dialogue regarding biodiversity. Participants felt that given the vast input regarding the need for a greater focus on activity that promotes biodiversity during the engagement process, it could be useful to explain the value of environmental restoration and the activities associated with this, whether they be threatened species recovery, revegetation, wetland restoration, or environmental flows. One participant said that these are some of the positive, proactive things that we could and should be doing through the Landscapes Act, as well as the basics of soil, water and pest plant and animal management.

At this session too, it was noted that a really important message to go back to the Minister is that one of the key ways that we connect with communities is through biodiversity works. If you go back to the Landcare days, most of that work was around biodiversity – protection and conservation of native vegetation, primarily undertaken by primary producers.

Participants in the combined Primary Production and Conservation session also noted that the three pillars in the *Back to Basics* principle are currently a mix of assets and threats. They suggested that it would it be better to have it all about assets, for example, land, water, biodiversity and people are our assets. Pest plants and animals and climate change are our threats. They noted that the mix as it currently reads is perhaps part of the reason why we struggle with it. They accept the reality that this is driving the Minister's focus but because there's a mix, it confuses the priorities.

Everyone at that meeting agreed that it's really important that soil, water and pest plants and animals be included but they want to see something added around biodiversity.

The written submissions from individuals included general support for biodiversity being a focus in the Landscape SA Bill with some thinking it should be the most important aspect and one person specifically mentioning threatened species in relation to biodiversity.

In their written submission, Trees for Life noted that they strongly support 'vibrant biodiversity' as one of the government's priority outcomes but recommend nature conservation as a stream of work is also included as a means to achieve it. When Trees for Life refers to nature or biodiversity in the context of the Landscape Act they are not referring to wildlife or threatened species management, which are matters best served by specific legislation and focused investment. In contrast, they are talking about biodiversity in the landscape which contributes to ecological health.

Trees for Life noted that to achieve vibrant biodiversity, actions need to be taken at both the fine scale such as threatened species recovery, and at coarse scale such as extensive multi-purpose revegetation or landscape threat management which they noted is strongly aligned with the proposed remit of the Landscape Boards as outlined in the Discussion Paper. They felt that soil, water and pest management alone won't achieve vibrant biodiversity and recommend adopting the additional pillar of landscape biodiversity or nature to the proposed framework.

The Environmental Defenders Office SA Inc. included in their written submission specific suggested amendments of the existing Act, to broadening the criteria for interpreting the duty of care provision to include protection of biodiversity.

3.11 Transparency and Communications

Transparency and communication were words that we heard a lot when meeting with people across the state to discuss their priorities for natural resource management reform.

In our early engagement conversations, members of the Primary Producers NRM Committee felt that better communication was needed with community and landowners, but by using existing networks, and building personal relationships rather than more factsheets!

In Port Lincoln, participants at the community forum had a desire for more transparency in how rates are calculated. This was especially expressed by those in local government. In Ceduna, participants said they were unclear on what the NRM board actually does and better communications are needed. The same was said in Port Augusta where participants at the community forum discussed greater visibility of boards and departments being a high priority.

At the Victor Harbor community forum, people wanted a more transparent budget process. They said they needed greater transparency regarding government decisions, including how decisions are made and who contributed to them. In McLaren Vale, community wanted improved communication between government departments.

In Glenunga, participants said they are looking for certainty and transparency on how decisions, priorities, programs, government and board interactions and how NRM funds are spent. Greater communication with the community on the management of resources, monitoring and reporting was also requested in Gawler.

> **"We believe that the community are concerned about the complexity of the NRM system, its transparency and are asking 'are we getting value for money?'"**
> Native Vegetation Council, via written submission

In Coober Pedy, better communication with community is needed. The community want transparency around who gets funding, what they did with it and whether it achieved the outcomes it intended to. They suggested a pamphlet drop with this information. In Berri, good communication was also highlighted as a priority.

At the Grange community forum, better communication and engagement was considered to be a priority, with participants wanting strengthened communications with community and landholders, but also inter-departmental communication between government agencies (both state and federal government), as well as industry. It was also felt that there needs to be better communication with regard to experts within the Department for Environment and Water, with participants explaining that the community can make decisions, but they need direction and information from those with expert knowledge and scientific technical advice.

The young people at our focussed conversation in Willunga wanted to see awareness of the environment and its issues spread throughout South Australia.

3.12 Board Structure

Getting the structure of the new Landscape SA Boards right was a priority for many people that took part in our conversations during the engagement period.

A participant during our focussed conservations suggested that the first thing to identify should be what makes the most effective board. From this, we can determine the best model that would lead to having an effective board.

People across the state said that they want boards that make good governance decisions, but also that create a sense of ownership amongst the natural resources management community through good engagement and transparent communication. People want the boards to be visible (both board members and staff) and to feel a sense of personal connection to their boards, particularly in regional South Australia.

From our conversations we know that people want the Landscape SA boards to be made up of people from within that region. For example, people in Victor Harbor said that decent representation was important on the new boards, with representation across the various interests and community.

People across the state were also keen to see diverse representation on the boards. This specifically included representatives from Aboriginal Nations, women, and young people. It also included diversity in knowledge and experience. Specific input regarding board membership can be found later in this report.

In many places across the state people questioned the relationship between decentralised decision making and strong governance. In Ceduna, one participant noted that greater autonomy requires greater governance.

Participants at the Port Lincoln community forum recommended developing a governance and operational framework, system or model, inclusive of reporting and engagement, that can be used by the boards for consistency across the state. This kind of framework however must be adaptable to local needs and priorities. Specific input regarding board accountabilities can be found later in this report.

It was widely felt that a community election process is not an appropriate mechanism to recruit people on to the Landscape SA boards. Further details on this can be found later in this report.

3.13 Employment

The topic of employment with the natural resources management system was discussed many times during the engagement process.

In Scotdesco and Ceduna, participants noted that there had been some success with trainees. There was a call for more Aboriginal Rangers. There was some concern that training provided must be linked to genuine employment prospects.

> **"All Landscape Boards need an achievable Aboriginal employment target as part of boards measurable targets and have a long-term employment strategy with board programs."** via Neil, YourSAy

The Port Lincoln and Ceduna communities noted that the region needed greater job security within the environment sector. Many staff are operating on temporary short-term contracts and this is causes issues for both the progress of the environmental work happening in the region, but also the economic stability of the region and capacity to retain employees.

Participants in Berri also wanted to see more long-term contracts for staff. Community in Port Lincoln and Ceduna said they too wanted to see more security for staff, feeling that 12-month contracts are too short and provide insecurity for both the staff themselves and the projects they work on. This makes many things difficult, including retaining staff and longer-term planning of programs. In Clare, a need for more Park Rangers was also noted. It was acknowledged that this request wasn't necessarily part of the NRM reform but that the Minister had noted it in his presentation and there was strong support for this as a statewide initiative.

In Victor Harbor, farmers spoke about how they feel that country towns are dying, and agriculture has an ageing workforce. In Gawler, one participant highlighted the lack of good agriculture courses available locally, with 8 courses recently lost at Roseworthy College. This means that good land managers aren't coming from that source anymore. A similar sentiment was felt by people at the Glenunga community forum, noting that they felt there are no jobs for highly qualified individuals, leading to job insecurity for many. These participants also noted the need for more rangers 'at the coalface', with smaller regions to look after.

In McLaren Vale a priority for one group was around developing a seasonal workforce to sustain ongoing on-ground work. In Gawler, participants wanted to see less management and more feet on the ground – with less planning and more doing.

At our focussed conversation with young people in Willunga, participants asked what job opportunities will come from the new Landscapes SA Board. They wanted to know how they should prepare for these jobs and what they should study. They want jobs in the future to do with the environment. At Bordertown, one participant suggested making the "Green Gang" a statewide model, providing jobs for young people.

3.14 Evidence-based Decision Making

During the early engagement with the NRM Partners, conversation was held regarding decentralised decision making and it was agreed that regional communities need to be enabled and empowered to make decisions. There was discussion around the support required for regional communities to make good decisions such as having access to all of the correct information, including support from experts within the Department for Environment and Water. To do this, there needs to be a strong central policy basis to support regional decision making, and water management and water science were used as an example of a valuable statewide asset within the Department.

The sentiment of making decisions based on expert knowledge, fact and science was loudly echoed around the state.

For example, in Port Augusta participants said that Landscape Boards need to be given all of the factual information of what's happening in the regions, with access to technical and scientific knowledge from a range of sources including state government, community and local government. In Port Lincoln, participants said that decisions need to be based on facts and science, not individual agendas.

> **It is important to ensure that there are agricultural specialists amongst staff skill sets across the regions, who can provide relevant free advice for landholders. These skill sets to include native and introduced grasses, weed control, farm animal nutrition, animal health and welfare, water conservation, storage and reticulation, small property planning and biosecurity."** Julie, via YourSAy

In Leigh Creek the community said that science and data need to be retained in decision making. Previous data needs to be accessible with communities having a better understanding of what's available. They said that having access to the best information and data available is critical to decision making at a landscape level.

In Gawler, several people in the group noted that good access to scientists or other experts through the Department for Environment and Water or local councils, where good partnerships are in place was important. They said that locally driven decision making is good, provided it is backed up by sound science and expertise. Participants in Glenunga said the same, noting that nothing in the current reform proposals demonstrate this.

At the community forum in Mount Gambier, participants noted that in managing water resources, precautionary principles should apply based around science and evidence. In Meningie, it was noted that boards require a landscape vision to inform programs based on science and knowledge, and that this should be a fundamental part of decentralised decision making.

At our focussed conversation with young people in Willunga, participants asked how the passing of information from scientists to the general community can be improved. They also questioned whether the 'simple and accessible framework' will still be based on strong science.

> **"Failure to use the science will lead to failure of Landscape SA."**
> Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association, via written submission

In the written submissions from individuals, there was general support for evidence-based and science-based decision making but it needs to be transparent and incorporate local knowledge.

In their written submission, the Landcare Association of South Australia noted that whilst an integrated landscape-scale approach must be science based to understand the issues, particularly relating to consideration of actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, it must also incorporate local knowledge. They also acknowledged that community empowerment does not diminish the role of the Department for Environment and Water and other state government agencies in provision of scientific expertise and knowledge, monitoring and evaluation and custodianship of state databases; policy, legislature and compliance support; and more.

National Trust SA also noted in their written submission that while the focus on community engagement in landscape programs is valuable, decisions about program priorities by a community-based board may tend to be subjective. They noted that processes will need to be carefully managed to ensure that programs are evidence-based and informed by adequate scientific analysis.

3.15 Protection and Preservation

Closely aligned to other priorities identified, such as biodiversity and compliance, the topic of protection and preservation of native vegetation was specifically and consistently raised during the engagement process.

At the early engagement session with members of the Conservation Council, participants noted that this reform process should increase the focus on protection of biodiversity and nature conservation, particularly the objects of the Act and Duty of Care provisions.

In their written submission, the Local Government Association of SA noted that they would like to include Coast Protection and Native Vegetation in the new Act, to improve outcomes and efficiencies managed through one board. Port Adelaide Enfield echoed this in their written submission, noting that efficiency could be gained by merging the Coastal Protection and Native Vegetation Boards into Landscape Boards.

At the community forum in Clare, people wanted to see the Native Vegetation Act and Regulations strengthened, and more staff to administer it. They also noted the need to retain existing native vegetation, coastal protection, protection of salt lakes, and protection of native birds, fish and animals. They would like to see encouragement for landholders to plant more trees and preserve or recreate native vegetation.

> **"We would be wise to ensure the new Landscape South Australia Bill has provisions that protect our land and water systems and continue to restore them to benefit all South Australians into the future."**
> Rose, via YourSAy

In Gawler, community want to see a halt to biodiversity loss, with a request to stop clearing and start replacing vegetation and habitat. They felt protection and maintenance of natural parks and other areas of natural vegetation against mining, buildings and other man influences to be a high priority and want to see better protection for the environment, not worse.

Participants in Gawler also want to preserve agricultural land for agriculture noting that Australia is the food bowl of the world and South Australia relies on small areas of productive land. In Victor Harbor similar sentiments were said, with the preservation of quality agricultural and other land and the right to farm. Participants noted that proactive and wise strategies for population increases are needed for that are happening in our region in their region, and this includes the need to feed people from good soil, water and land.

In Glenunga, people felt that better protection and compliance is required, particularly with reference to protection of native vegetation being at risk due to poor compliance and limited resourcing for enforcement.

The Conservation Council member groups noted that the removal of ‘red tape’ cannot be used to avoid environmental protections. Compliance requires some enforcement measures.

In written submissions from individuals, some people showed frustration with native vegetation including one person complaining that they couldn’t build an adventure park on their property due to native vegetation restrictions and another concerned with roadside native vegetation management. Others supported encouraging revegetation and possibly giving native vegetation responsibilities to the Landscape Boards. One person wanted to know if NRM could assist them with revegetating parts of their property.

3.16 Education

Throughout the engagement process, we heard that education is working well now and is a priority for the future too. Many times, it was noted that education is not just for children and young people via schools but educating and empowering the greater community on a range of topics. Both are seen as incredibly valuable in the natural resource management space.

3.16.1 Educating young people

At the focussed conversation with young people in Willunga, participants questioned how this Act will educate young people about the environment. They asked the Minister how high a priority environmental education is to him personally and would he push for it to be compulsory. They feel that a really big push for environmental education is needed and learning about the environment should be a compulsory core subject as part of the SA curriculum.

At the community forum in McLaren Vale there were participants who were very passionate about NRM education and the provision of existing programs, which they urged to continue. Specific reference was made to the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AUSSI) SA model delivering education for sustainability in educational settings. It was noted that over 50% of South Australian primary schools are supported by NRM in education to effect school community cultural change and delivering Education for Sustainability (EFS) within the curriculum. Participants also noted that NRM education in South Australia is the envy of other states and territories and a beacon of leadership.

In Mount Barker, a large number of participants highlighted how much they valued NRM Education and this is currently working very well, particularly in schools. Participants felt strongly that this needs to continue and be enhanced. Participants in in Yunta wanted to see an increase in education of natural vegetation, including tree planting involving schools.

In Glenunga, engaging children with nature and environmental sustainability was noted as gaining momentum in community and seen as a positive approach.

3.16.2 Educating the farming community

We received many comments about the need to educate farmers and landowners.

Members of the Primary Producers NRM Committee discussed the need for farmers to receive recognition for work they do in managing natural resources, as well as information or greater understanding of how they can generate value from managing natural assets, whether it be demonstrated through income generation, property value, or something else.

In Port Lincoln, participants requested more education for sustainable practices in a modern context, taking in to account business opportunities, climate change and best practice. Participants

in McLaren Vale suggested concentrating education on working with farmers and landowners to concentrate education on overseeing large and small parcels of land.

In Victor Harbor, farmers in attendance showed an interest in having more local information and support for the farming community, with reference made to the important role local government plays in supporting this. They saw this being provided via access to on-ground officers who are in charge of their own programs and are empowered to make decisions.

In Mount Gambier, participants felt that there needs to be a continued emphasis on education programs regarding the importance of biodiversity and wetland management and better and improved consultation and engagement with the agricultural sector and associated landowners.

In Mount Barker, participants suggested a toolkit be developed for landowners to assist their work in managing the natural environment. They suggested strengthening bush care and water catchment management through funding and education of landowners.

In Port Augusta, workshops on weed identification, Buffel Grass and climate change were all suggested, as well as mangrove education and weed management training.

In McLaren Vale, there was very strong support for the existing Natural Resource Centres, with particular reference to the centre in Willunga. The community, including local landholders, felt that it is critical to maintain this highly regarded local resource. The local expertise and guidance of NRM staff is invaluable and participants raised this as critical to maintain.

3.16.3 Empowering the community through education

In Gawler, people suggested education with respect to environmental issues be a priority, supporting community through providing training to community groups and primary producers. In Grange, participants said that education of the community, particularly relating to the coast, is important.

In Glenunga, empowering community to be active agents of change through education, awareness, funding and building capacity was highlighted as important. Visibility of their own contribution on the ground, participation in decision making, education and engagement for community were all things that participants felt would lead to an empowered community.

> **"I feel that while some of the reforms may benefit some parties, it excludes supporting people with expert knowledge in the environmental and sustainability sector, placing the focus on landholders without improving the land quality through expert advice and guidance, and most importantly, education."**
>
> Isa, Year 12 student, via YourSAy

Participants in Glenunga also noted that making natural resource management relevant to community was critical, communicating why it should it matter to people.

3.17 Traditional Owners

At many of the community forums we held across the state, engagement with Aboriginal communities was highlighted as a priority.

3.17.1 Insights from the statewide engagement

At Murray Bridge, it was acknowledged that Aboriginal programs have been incredibly effective in getting the Aboriginal community involved in making a significant difference.

In Berri, participants said that early engagement with Aboriginal people should be at the top of the decision making process, followed by the community, who then go together to the government. It was noted that early engagement with Aboriginal groups was essential.

The Conservation Council member groups said that they would like to see more informal involvement of indigenous groups in co-management of conservation areas. In Ceduna, co-management was highlighted as something that was working well, with outputs and outcomes well planned, realistic and linked to a budget.

In Scotdesco, discussion focussed on the success of co-management in the Ceduna region and this should not be lost in the reform process. The group felt that there is a good working relationship and partnerships between Eyre Peninsula NRM and Alinytljara Wilurara communities (Yalata and Oak Valley) which is not through any formal mechanisms but cooperation and collaboration in the Ceduna office (where EP and AW staff are co-located). Forum attendees were keen to see this level of collaboration continue.

Participants said that it is important to note the distinction between advisory roles for Aboriginal people and decision making. The Minister's interest in greater leadership for Aboriginal people was welcomed, but in Scotdesco the point was made this should not be in an advisory capacity, where advice may be ignored by the Board, but as equal decision makers with the Board. Having at least two Aboriginal representatives on the Eyre Peninsula Board was suggested, considering the large number of Aboriginal nations in the region. Participants at the Gawler community forum also noted a desire to see strong representation of local Aboriginal people on the Landscape Boards.

> **"Natural resources should be managed in South Australia in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples of interest."** Alan, via YourSAy

In Mount Barker, people felt that the Discussion Paper was relatively silent on the need to have Aboriginal voices to support biodiversity and needs a stronger focus in the Act. In McLaren Vale too, participants wanted to see more communication and involvement with Aboriginal communities highlighted within the legislation.

In Victor Harbor, a comment from an Aboriginal participant included "I feel daunted that I don't fit in the picture" after reading the reform materials. He noted that it is critical to build strong partnerships with Aboriginal communities in this reform.

In Glenunga, participants prioritised real and meaningful partnerships and engagement with Kaurna and other Aboriginal groups, leading to capacity building and real outcomes for the community. This includes indigenous leadership. Similar to discussions in Scotdesco, it was suggested that if this is to be genuine, then Aboriginal people need to be very much included in decision making, including represented on the boards.

In Ceduna, participants felt that Aboriginal people need to be paid appropriately for their cultural knowledge in natural resource management. In Port Lincoln, one participant noted to never underestimate local knowledge, include Aboriginal people and their environment.

In Leigh Creek, participants felt that NRM groups must have Aboriginal involvement and their voice needs to be considered in the nominations for board positions.

Members of the North Flinders NRM Group would like to see the bushfood industry developed as a potential income stream for landholders and more involvement with Aboriginal people.

The Alinytljara Wilurara NRM Board noted that they provide a model for engaging including co-planning, project developments, program design, community engagement, traditional protocols and cultural leadership, with Aboriginal land holding authorities, their leadership, Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal communities and 'cultural' key movers and shakers, that other Boards can learn from.

In the written submissions from individuals, it was noted that Aboriginal recognition, inclusion, and support needs to be included. Comments included ensuring Aboriginal representation on the boards, quarantining some funds from grant programs to only go to Aboriginal projects, cultural awareness of staff, using Aboriginal-owned business for works, and better engagement with Aboriginal people in consultation, planning, and decision making.

In their written submission, Nature of SA noted that there needs to be understanding that our landscapes and wildlife co-evolved with Aboriginal people. They said that by understanding this we recognise that the Australian landscape has been shaped by people and their relationship with the land for many years and that their knowledge, practices and culture are highly valuable to understanding how the land works and how to live more sustainably. They commended the Discussion Paper for recognising the critical skills, knowledge and interests of South Australia's Aboriginal nations in natural resource management and the importance of ensuring they are well represented in governance, decision making and leadership.

3.17.2 Insights from our focussed conversations with Aboriginal Nations

From our focussed conversations and workshops with Aboriginal communities and organisations during the engagement process, we gained a number of deeper insights in to the role of Traditional Owners in natural resource management. Individual reports from our focussed conversations can be found in the appendices of this report.

Our conversations told us that there is considerable diversity in the way Aboriginal Nations are involved in natural resource management.

Factors that influence this involvement include the nature of rights and interests in land (such as specific rights to land including Aboriginal freehold title and native title), as Traditional Owners (without specific rights or title to land) and in many cases as business owners or operators (for example pastoral, tourism, and aquaculture). Much is also determined by the land use and environment in a particular region.

With the exception of the Alinytljara Wilurara NRM Region (as an all-Aboriginal Board), the extent to which Aboriginal Nations are engaged with existing NRM Boards and regions is determined primarily by the Boards and NRM staff. There is no consistent approach, and the level of engagement varies from region to region.

In regions where there is good engagement with NRM Boards, Aboriginal Nations are concerned that the positive and productive working arrangements are not lost in the reforms. In their written submission, the Alinytljara Wilurara NRM Board said that the leadership role of Aboriginal Nations in landscape management must be addressed through the current reforms

Parks co-management and Indigenous Protected Areas were consistently raised as approaches to land management valued by Aboriginal communities, noting that both of these are not directly related to the NRM Act and planned Landscape SA reforms. In both cases, there is considerable funding and resources to support these initiatives in SA (from commonwealth and state government), providing employment opportunities on country and a high level of Aboriginal involvement in land management. Aboriginal Nations frequently drew on these experiences to demonstrate leading practice for Aboriginal NRM partnerships and programs.

The objective of greater Aboriginal leadership in the new Landscape SA Act is welcomed, although it is recognised there are some challenges in how this is given best effect.

These challenges include:

- Most Landscape SA regions have more than one Aboriginal Nation within its boundaries (and in some cases a large number). While there was universal support for at least one Aboriginal Board Member for each Landscape SA Region, these individuals are in most cases not able to represent all Nations within a region;

- The proposed Landscape SA regional boundaries do not generally align with cultural boundaries. There are several examples of where an Aboriginal Nation will be engaging with up to three (and in the case of the Kaurna People, four) Landscape SA Boards. This brings with it coordination and time/resourcing challenges;

- Currently Aboriginal Nations have little assurance in their long-term involvement in natural resource management policy, planning, project development and delivery, and are reliant on the level of interest or commitment of boards and staff;

- There are leadership and governance structures in place that provide a platform for the new Landscape SA Boards to engage with Aboriginal Nations. Where these are in existence, it was expressed strongly that they should be utilised instead of creating something new that duplicates or conflicts with current structures;

- In many cases, these structures are under-resourced and have limited means to generate income, for example they are unable to collect rates in the same way local government areas can, and limitations on income generation from Native Title or Aboriginal Lands Trust land;

- While Aboriginal Nations share many goals and priorities with other land interests (in relation to *Back to Basics*, examples include concerns over pest plants and animals, and improved water management), there are social, cultural and environmental factors beyond those with an economic focus that do not always align with other interests;

- There is a sense that the value created by Aboriginal Nations' involvement in natural resource management is not fully appreciated and that cultural knowledge and the time of contributors is not adequately valued or resourced;

- Popular elections were identified as potentially problematic for Aboriginal representation, if those elected did not have sufficient connection to the region, cultural knowledge and cultural authority;

- Provision of advice does not constitute decision making. It was expressed on many occasions that decision making authority for Aboriginal Nations was an important aspect of increased leadership and genuine partnerships in natural resource management.

Our engagement process focussed on identifying issues and opportunities associated with the reforms. Throughout our engagement with Aboriginal Nations, the groups who we met with articulated some clear themes in terms of potential solutions to the challenges identified above. These include:

- At least one Aboriginal Person with a cultural connection to the region on each Landscape SA Board;

- There are examples of Advisory Boards or Groups that can provide a more formal mechanism to integrate Aboriginal Nations in policy, planning and project development and delivery. This can be particularly effective where there are many Aboriginal Nations in a region;

- A long-term commitment to resourcing the participation of Aboriginal Nations in the new Landscape SA framework was a common theme of consultations;

- Picking up on the Landscape scale goals of the reform, there is also strong support for reestablishing the Statewide Aboriginal NRM Advisory Group. There is also recognition that some NRM challenges extend beyond regional or cultural boundaries, and larger scale coordinated projects are required to address them.

In their written submission, the AW NRM Board also highlighted the need for adequate representation on the new boards of the Land Holding Authorities (LHA) represented in the region. They advised that this should not be via an election but through nomination from the LHAs as currently occurs.

In their written submission, amongst other many other valuable suggestions, the Kaurna Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Advisory Group recommended cultural awareness training for all Landscape SA staff and board members. They suggested that there should be three phases of this training including general cultural awareness training, Kaurna cultural awareness training and walking Country with Kaurna.

3.18 Climate Change

At the focussed conversation with the Conservation and Primary Production sectors, one participant articulated noted that one thing that unites everyone is that the climate is changing really fast. He said that whether you're coming from an environmental perspective or a farming perspective, or both, we need to build a resilient landscape which is ultimately going to have to be biodiverse. He urged that everyone in the natural resource management space needs to come together and work out how we're going to move forward. He said that the most resilient communities work together.

His sentiments of addressing climate change in natural resource management were echoed in different areas of the state. In McLaren Vale, participants urged for the new legislation and system to be responsive and adaptive to our changing climate. It was noted that a climate focus needs to include water issues and dealing with less water available. In Meningie, it was felt that there needs to be a stronger focus on biodiversity and assisting local landowners adapt to climate change and conserve threatened species.

> **"I was surprised that the document did not start with the key issue for any land manager right now: the impact of climate change on landscapes in the future… I suggest that you start from climate change adaptation as the key future driver of change to landscapes."** Peter, via YourSAy

In Glenunga, one priority was to achieve action on climate change to sustain the landscape for future generations. Participants felt that we need to consider how climate change will impact natural resources as well as contribution natural resources can make to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

At the Mawson Lakes community forum, the resilience of the environment and people in relation to climate change was noted as a priority, with the need to be climate change ready through future proofing. Participants in Marion acknowledged that active action on climate change is required as that is currently the biggest threat to our natural environment and biodiversity. In Gawler and Grange, climate change management was a priority too, with participants noting that it needs to be taken seriously.

> **"We want to see a landscape management system that supports climate-ready, resilient communities, economies and landscapes."** Resilient Hills and Coasts, via written submission

In the Mount Barker community forums, participants stated that the new Act needs to ensure it addresses threatening processes that are being instigated through climate change. The suggested building climate change considerations into everything. Participants suggested the need to be innovative through seeing farming areas as contributing to conservation outcomes, and in turn becoming climate change resilient.

The young people in our focussed conversation in Willunga questioned how this Act will take measures to control global warming. If adaptation for global warming is the plan, does that mean we are accepting it and stopping active work? They asked the Minister if when he's talking about 'adapting' does that mean that he is accepting climate change instead of looking at ways to decrease the development?

> **"To not adequately consider climate change is ridiculous."**
> Deb, via YourSAy

One participant in Mount Gambier noted that a measure of success for this reform process is that we are confident we can deal with climate change. Another participant in Port Augusta noted that a measure of success in 2020 would be that climate change is central to planning and actions.

3.19 Planning Legislation

The connection between the new Landscapes SA Act and the Planning Act was raised at a number of our community forums, particularly those closest to metropolitan Adelaide and peri urban locations.

In Mawson Lakes, biodiversity was a major priority for this group, including its relationship with South Australian Planning Legislation and reform. Frustration was felt that planning legislation took priority over protection the natural environment via the NRM Act and many felt tired at trying to influence the Planning Act and the way natural resources are managed within it.

Participants in at the Glenunga community forum discussed the link between planning legislation and the new Landscapes Act as being absolutely critical to acknowledge. There was concern by several participants that the planning legislation could be contradictory to the contents of the Landscapes Act, with negative implications for natural resources. The importance of green spaces in urban planning was noted, as was urban tree canopies and wildlife corridors. Participants called for an integrated holistic approach to sustainability, minimising impact on natural systems with better urban planning.

In Grange, participants said they would like to see a rebalance of power between developers and the natural environment. Reference was again made to the relationship between the NRM Act and the Planning Act, and that it is important that the Landscapes Act takes priority over planning and development.

In Gawler, participants talked of their fear of housing development occurring on valuable land such food production and environmental value.

At the McLaren Vale forum, the role of NRM in supporting protective legislation for the McLaren Vale region was noted. The written submission from the McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association noted their support for the maintenance of the *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012* and *Character Preservation (Barossa) Act 2012.*

Participants in Mount Barker called for protection of land from built development. Another participant asked the reform to take into account the Mining Act and Petroleum Geothermal Act and the risk to natural resources. She asked that these acts be not allowed to override the NRM Act, on and off shore.

At the focussed conversation with local government, the relationship between the NRM reform and planning reform was discussed. Participants questioned how the new act will integrate with the Planning Act and saw this as a good opportunity for the two Ministers to work together.

A written submission from the City of Victor Harbor noted that urban growth in the area is putting continued pressure on the landscape.

A written submission from Sabine Koolen at the City of Tea Tree Gully notes that integration between the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and the Landscapes SA Act is required. It was highlighted that this hasn't always worked well in the past. Sabine noted that the high

aspirations of Green Adelaide may not be realised if the Minister for Environment and Water is unable to influence planning legislation.

In the written submission from the Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association Inc., they suggested making the Development Act and the Mining Acts subservient to the proposed Landscape Act rather than vice versa.

The Planning Institute of Australia referred to a need for greater education and training of planners about natural resource management in their written submission, as well as training of natural resource management staff about statutory planning.

3.20 Soil Quality

Soil quality was a priority that emerged from early engagement with the Primary Producers NRM Committee. Participants at these meetings listed sustainable agriculture, soil health, and erosion as key priorities. This was followed up in the written submission from Primary Producers SA, noting that soil and land management are critical components of natural resource management.

A participant in Mount Barker requested support to manage soil, including putting carbon back in to the soil, with on the ground support and funding needed. Other participants felt that there needs to be better support for land managers, particularly around reducing costs for land holders and providing incentives for good land management practice, particularly for retiring non-viable land.

> **"Are the soils becoming anaerobic and thereby facilitating the decay of tree tap roots, along with impairing natural soil structure and drainage? A very practical hands-on agency is surely needed to help resolve such soil issues."**
> John, via YourSAy

Soil management was also noted as a priority by some participants on Kangaroo Island.

The South East NRM Board noted that in relation to soil, the current legislation is weak with compliance, messy and difficult. The reform provides an opportunity for this issue to be addressed.

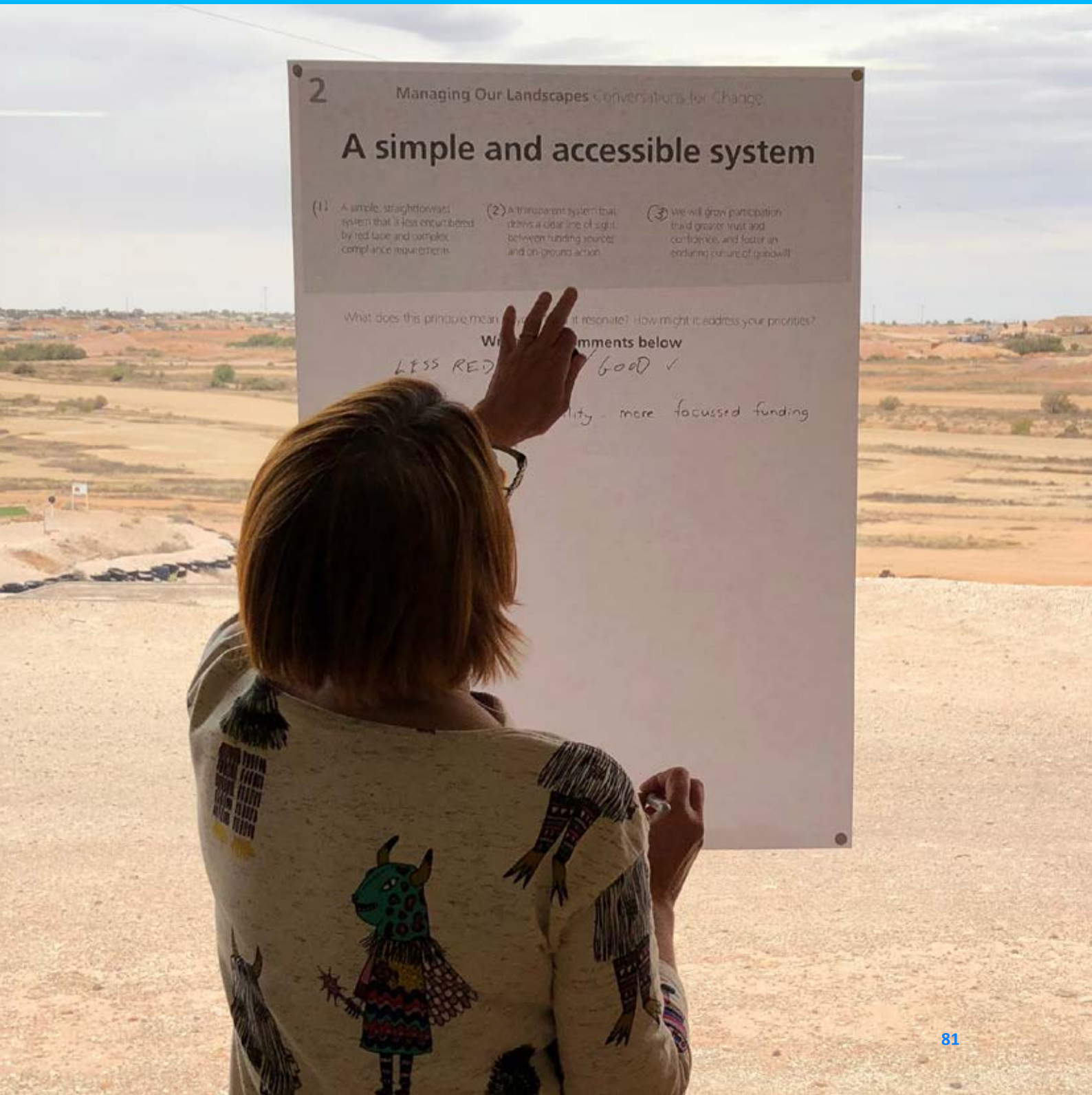
In their written submission, the Northern and Yorke NRM Board noted that there is an obvious link between soils and sustainable agriculture, although the respective responsibilities of PIRSA and NRM in sustainable agriculture needs clarification. The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board also noted the need for focus on protecting and improving soil.

A participant at the Conservation Council member group early engagement session noted that better managed soils, water and biodiversity resilience were a measure of success for this reform process.

A participant in Port Augusta wrote that balanced management of soil, water and biodiversity seen as good NRM and good business by landholders, would be their measure of success. Someone in Victor Harbor said that their measure of success would be a long-term increase in soil carbon levels.

In the written submissions received from individuals, there was support for soil being included in the Landscape SA Bill as it is an important aspect but with some questions surrounding implementation including enforcement of legislation and minimum standards surrounding soils.

4 | Feedback On The Guiding Principles



The Minister prepared five guiding principles to provide an overarching framework that covered the philosophies of the proposed reform.

These principles were used as a basis for conversation at the facilitated meetings and forums, with participants being invited to give initial reactions and opinions to each of them. Notes from all sessions, written submissions and online commentary can be found in the appendices.

4.1 Decentralised decision making

4.1.1 General commentary

The principle of decentralised decision making resonated with many across the state, though many questions were raised, primarily in relation to how it will be implemented and what it will actually look like when it is. There was a general sense gained by the facilitation team that the principle resonated more in the regional areas visited and less so in the Adelaide metropolitan region, though this was not affirmative as there were so many diverse perspectives across the whole state.

Participants at the community forum in Coober Pedy felt that decentralisation is a great concept, and if well implemented and managed it will have significant positive impacts on the community. Participants in Yunta noted that "People with dirt under their finger nails will greatly assist with the decision making process". They also felt that input and funds will give districts in their region the ability to perform activities, properly and responsibly.

In contrast, at the large community forum in Glenunga, many comments were made questioning the approach of decentralised decision making, such as the tension between decentralised decision making and a whole of landscape approach. It was felt that the two are contradictory. At Mawson Lakes it was noted that people in the regions are not the only stakeholders and also that Green Adelaide doesn't sound very decentralised. At Mount Barker, one participant noted that decentralised decision making is crucial in many areas, not all.

> **"…there is a very strong argument to retain a centralised technical and policy capacity that covers the entire state and supports the new Landscape arrangements."** Coast Protection Board, via YourSAy

Members of the Primary Producers NRM Committee were supportive of decentralised decision making, seeking regional local boards to manage regional investment on regional priorities.

Member groups of the Conservation Council noted that if this means an increased voice for community groups and skilled individuals with expertise in decision making then it is a good outcome. At Bordertown, the principle was supported as long as the Board is in 'sync' with the community.

A member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board agreed with the need for this principle, but suggested it be renamed 'Independent Decision Making'.

Members of the Northern and Yorke, Eyre Peninsula, and SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Boards felt that they already operate under this principle, being active, connected community members. The SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board did note that some elements of the reform go against this principle, such as the Statewide Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grants program.

At Murray Bridge, people noted this concept as being "Back to the future" and suggested we examine what went wrong last time, why things were centralised or merged, and what lessons were learnt. One participant in Clare noted that they didn't think the current system felt centralised, other than periodic Ministerial directions, and that the current plan for the Northern and Yorke region was already decentralised.

There was some concern that decentralised decision making might become a failure to make decisions in Mount Barker, or that decision makers are passing the buck. In Grange a participant wrote that the principle was good in principle, as long as it isn't code for government abrogating responsibilities. Conservation Council groups wanted to ensure there is responsibility taken for the decisions, with no opportunity for 'passing' the bad environmental outcomes.

The Minister needs communities to take calculated risks and not be stifled if it becomes 'uncomfortable' for government, was the opinion of a participant in Victor Harbor.

In their written submission, Agriculture KI supported the notion to decentralise decision making and supported the idea of giving greater empowerment for the community to determine the direction of natural resource management in their regions. They hope that the government will liaise closely with the key existing community organisations, in particular farming systems groups like AgKI, who have considerable knowledge of their region, land management issues and key priorities. They attached a paper to their submission, proposing a new way of dealing with natural resource management issues in a more holistic manner.

4.1.2 Access to the information and support for good decision making

In our early engagement with the NRM Partners, it was agreed that we need to enable regional communities to feel like they can make decisions. There was discussion around the support required for regional communities to make good decisions such as having access to all of the correct information.

In Port Lincoln there was very strong support for local decision making. The need to make sound decisions based on facts and science, not on individual agendas was a priority. The same sentiment was expressed in Murray Bridge, noting that regional communities must not forget emerging science. In Gawler and Meningie, many participants noted that local decisions must be backed by good science.

In Leigh Creek participants provided an example of work has occurred in the region with staff on the ground collecting and analysing data, that they felt was an excellent example of what can be

achieved. The staff were eventually pulled back to Adelaide and the data collected is not seemingly available for communities to utilise in decision making at the community level. It was pointed out that there is data available via the Arid Lands Information System, but it seemed as though little was known about the system or what can be accessed. It was hoped that this kind of problem would be solved through decentralised decision making.

In Marion, in response to the concept of decentralised decision making, one participant felt that there must be agreed high level outcome-based principles to provide guidance for the boards. It was felt to be a good concept overall, but one participant noted the need to include experts in community consultation processes.

There was strong support for local decision making, valuing and respecting local knowledge, allowing local decision making and embracing local wisdom on Kangaroo Island. Participants noted that small regions have limited resources and may need outside expertise and resources to enable them to manage their natural resources. Members of the KI NRM Board felt that this priority fits well with their priorities but that they would still want the support of government behind them for legalities, finance and to provide evidence bases.

4.1.3 Good governance is essential

Participants at a Conversation sector meeting noted that if the system were decentralised it would need to still be highly visible, accountable and transparent, ensuring high value for money. Concern was shown that becoming decentralised could lead to a potentially inefficient approach.

Participants in Port Lincoln suggested that to support decentralised decision making, there was a need to develop a governance and operational system or model that can be used by the boards for consistency across the state. In Clare, it was noted that the board needed to be able to speak freely, but decentralisation must not lack oversight of processes.

In Leigh Creek, it was noted that the Landscape Boards will require clear top-down guiding principles and governance and accountability for both dollars and how objectives are being met. The principle was agreed with, but participants also said there was a need for facilitation to enable good governance, links to government priorities and knowledge and communication of management processes. In Clare, a participant noted the need for local benchmarking.

Participants in Murray Bridge supported the concept and noted the need for good governance around potential conflicts of interest around local awarding of contracts to family and friends. In Mount Barker, a participant was concerned that vested interests might ignore science and a wider view beyond their patch.

4.1.4 Coordinated decision making

There were some concerns were raised during the engagement process that the principle of decentralised decision making felt to be ‘at odds’ with an integrated landscape approach and that

the concept needs further definition as at times it does not make sense to make decisions out of context from bigger picture priorities.

At the McLaren Vale community forum, one person noted that it was important that decentralisation doesn't lead to duplication. In Port Augusta it was suggested that inter-region co-ordination is essential, and one participant noted that the legislation should require a co-ordinating forum for all Landscape Boards.

Participants at Mawson Lakes noted that decentralised decision making may empower local communities (which they noted is really good) but will also make large scale projects more difficult. At Grange, it was noted that decentralising can result in problems if every little area does its own thing without regard to the overall good of a region.

Members of the Conservation sector felt that this approach has risks of being adhoc, not strategic and generally inefficient. They suggested that there needs to be an overarching framework. Members of the Primary Production sector also felt that there needs to be connection across borders and across the State through state wide objectives, guidelines and strategies. They suggested that where there are efficiencies in a collaborative approach (such as research on pests) boards should take a partnership or state approach but deliver local programs at board level.

4.1.5 Devolved Delivery

At the community forum in Murray Bridge, one participant felt that decentralising decisions was good, but that Landscape Boards should then delegate the implementation to others.

One participant at the combined NRM Partners, Conservation and Primary Production section session highlighted devolved delivery as a really important model, in boards having their own staff as employees of the board and being contract managers – delivering programs through established non-government organisations, community groups, industry, contractors, and also engaging agencies on a fee-for-service basis. In doing this, it would bring many more resources to the boards.

The written submission from Renmark Paringa Council noted that the South Australian Government should fund environmental programs not just rely on commonwealth funding. Local government should be funded to undertake the work on their behalf. A similar suggestion came from the City of Victor Harbor, noting in their written submission that the levy could be given to councils who then engage contractors to save duplication of contracting, often at the same sites. They said that joint programs have worked well and should continue.

In their written submission, Nature Foundation SA noted that devolved or outsourced delivery would be expected to have the effect of growing the number of people, groups and organisations involved in landscapes management. They noted that this in turn this would contribute more expertise and private resources, amplifying the effort, stimulating regional jobs, innovation and enterprise, and sustaining regional communities.

4.1.6 Resources to support Decentralisation

In Murray Bridge it was felt that the approach of decentralised decision making will only work if levies are spent in the region that they are collected.

In Grange, there was concern that decentralised decision making doesn't work without decentralised funding and decentralised expertise. It was noted that decentralised decision making demands decentralised funds for their implementation, monitoring and for being accountable for action.

In Mount Barker too, participants felt that decentralised decision making is good if there are decentralised funds to empower the decisions.

4.2 A simple and accessible system

4.2.1 General commentary

Many people were in favour of a more simple and accessible system, though many had concerns that simplification comes with significant risks in the natural resource management space, particularly in relation to enforcement of the legislation.

In Glenunga, one participant said that practice may not prove the reality with regard to a simple and accessible system, noting that Boards have different needs necessitating a level of complexity. For example, they noted that simplified levy collection basis will upset a lot of people.

In Gawler, it was said that a simple system sounds good but that the environment is complex. Someone else said it should be a system that is easy to understand and links well with all aspects – water, biodiversity, and the coast but don't lose any important information in the reform process.

In Berri, people felt that this was a principle based on jargon that sounded good on the surface but means nothing. It was also questioned how a simple system could be created that is driven by government department processes. In Grange it was felt that it is not possible to have simple and effective systems for managing complex entities. One participant suggested that this reform should aim to develop management that is responsive to, and responsible for complex natural and social systems.

The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board members liked the concept of this principle but would not want to see good governance and financial accountability lost as a result. The KI NRM Board noted the important role of the Community Engagement Officer in enabling a simple and accessible system. The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board members understand from the outside looking in that it looks complicated but that they are managing and are accountable for a budget of over $33million so there needs to be some sort of system in place. The SA Murray-Darling NRM Board members also noted that some things just can't be simple, such as Water Allocation.

In Glenunga, one participant said, "To every complex question there is always a simple answer – and it is always wrong."

4.2.2 Simple and accessible legislation

In early conversations with the NRM Partners, there was agreement that the system does need to be enabling and as simple as possible. It was highlighted that whilst being simple, the system also needs to underpin property rights around water. The Act can be simple, but the detail needs to come in the regulations.

The Primary Producers NRM Committee acknowledged that there are clunky parts of Act, such as water, animal and plant control and it can be hard sometimes to take required actions or achieve required outcomes.

When asked for reactions to this principle, Conservation Council member group representatives felt that robust and effective regulation is what is required, and that regulation and compliance are needed to protect natural systems from rogue operators. They said that simple is good, but the Act needs to be robust, with participants requesting that outcomes are not compromised for simplicity. They felt that the removal of 'red tape' cannot be used to avoid environmental protections. They noted that compliance requires some enforcement measures.

At the Kingscote community forum, one participant noted that good intentions don't automatically lead to good outcomes, suggesting that some level of guidance and regulation is required to establish best practice standards. In Mawson Lakes too, participants noted that some regulation and red tape is essential for things such as preventing land clearing for habitat protection. They said that simple shouldn't mean that controls and conditions don't exist.

In Gawler, it was noted that streamlining should not remove checks and balances which are protections not merely 'red tape'. In Coober Pedy it was felt that less red tape is good, though it was noted that in cutting red tape, the environment must not be left open to exploitation. It was felt that the existing NRM Act is weak and needs 'more teeth' especially with compliance to land degradation issues.

In Mount Barker, one participant noted that "red tape has a purpose!" and another added that over simplifying the processes can lead to setting a dangerous precedent by allowing decision making by unqualified people. In Bordertown, one participant noted that a simple and accessible system was OK, as long as people cannot pay their way out of non-compliance, and as long as the culture supports legislation and is effective.

4.2.3 Simple and accessible planning

Participants in Port Lincoln noted that they would like to keep processes and planning simple and easy to understand, with a call for no more long-winded planning.

They requested that when making Landscape Boards make plans, those plans must be able to be implemented with accountability. In Victor Harbor, someone noted that they would like to see the business of the Boards come back to local towns and halls.

Participants in Mawson Lakes called for simpler plans, noting that numerous reports and management plans are compiled and then filed away, so they would like to see simpler action plans that are implemented.

4.2.4 Simple and accessible funding

Participants in Port Augusta discussed access to funding for projects, with a current lack of clarity around how to find and apply for grants, and how to fill in forms. One participant said, "Landholders like me are clueless about government departments!"

On Kangaroo Island, the community felt there is too much time spent applying for funding and questioned how it can be streamlined, or specific projects prioritised.

In Yunta, it was felt that a large percentage of funds is being eaten up in administration and participants were very much in support of streamlined governance.

> **"We support the establishment of a Grassroots Grants program… we would suggest a simple, short application process with a level of reporting and acquittal that is commensurate with the funds being made available."**
> Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, via written submission

In Scotdesco, it was noted that one of the challenges in working with NRM is the difficulty in accessing funding for projects with excessive bureaucracy in applications, funding and reporting.

In their written submission, Riverland Landcare noted that they feel secretive tendering and competitive funding arrangements puts NRM groups against each other and undermines landscape-scale approach.

4.2.5 Simple and accessible information

In Clare, when asked for their reaction to this guiding principle, people said that they wanted communication on an annual basis using simplified information graphics so that rate payers know where the levy is being spent.

The same was echoed in Glenunga with participants saying they want to be clear about what money is spent on, and clarity on the purpose for which it was raised. Another participant hoped that community would be able to attend and access minutes of meetings of the Minister and Landscape Boards.

At the Mount Gambier community forum, one participant noted that as a young person in the agriculture industry, it is very unclear and confusing as to who is responsible for what.

4.2.6 Use of Blockchain

One participant at the McLaren Vale community forum suggested that the use of blockchain technology to create a simple and accessible system has many merits. He explained that Blockchain provides an immutable record within a decentralised and distributed network. This means that there is the possibility for a greater level of transparency from the governmental to community level. He suggested that the ease of accessibility of information by all stakeholders could engender a greater amount of confidence in reform implementation which could see a significant and necessary rise in participation and suggested imagining a scenario where user feedback can be achieved through a simple smartphone application that will allow direct comments on policy decisions.

4.3 Community and land owners at the centre

4.3.1 General commentary

The topic of community and landowners at the centre came through strongly in the priorities for people during the engagement process, with engagement, partnerships and collaboration regularly talked about, as well as decentralised decision making and board structure. However, in addition to this the following commentary was made when we asked participants for their reaction to the principles.

Participants who attended the community forum in Coober Pedy noted that this principle is very relevant in their region, stating that their pastoralists are custodians and have a keen understanding of the land and sustainability. They should have a key role in decision making and implementation.

However, in Glenunga, one participant felt that they cannot trust those seeking short term profit and lacking scientific knowledge to sustainably manage. In Clare, participants noted that land owners and community are well placed, but not necessarily most skilled or knowledgeable. There was again concern from a participant that some agricultural producers are more interested in land protection than biodiversity and landscape approaches. It was noted that there still needs to be laws controlling and/water use, not just allowing landholders to do whatever they want without regard to neighbours and the environment.

In Mount Barker, it was noted that this principle will only work if landowners and the community are working for the greater good of the environment. It was suggested that community champions should be identified. In Gawler, some felt that owners come and go but the land and the landscape remain, suggesting that all action on land needs to consider the land in perpetuity.

It was noted in Glenunga that many volunteer groups do not live or own land in the area they work. It was felt that they need to have a say, not just land owners, based on their ongoing and long-term resource commitment. In Port Augusta, a participant asked who is defined as a land user as it currently feels narrow and needs to be more encompassing.

A participant in McLaren Vale noted a similar sentiment that being a 'land user' does not mean competency in landscape management. A member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board suggested removal of the words 'land owners', questioning why they are separated. Members of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board said the same, suggesting that land owners are the community too.

4.3.2 Aboriginal community and land owners at the centre

Participants at the Conservation Council member group session said that those who work on, live on and care for the land are well placed to sustain our environment, especially indigenous people.

It was noted that land holders are key as long as we understand that means government, Aboriginal people, and non-government organisations are significant land owners too. In Gawler, it was suggested that custodianship for land management can be learnt from Aboriginal people. In Port

Augusta, one participant asked consideration be given to how we engage with indigenous people and learn from ancient practices.

In Glenunga, treaties with First Nations were acknowledged, noting that Aboriginal people have sustained the land for thousands of years. They acknowledged that Aboriginal people have a special connection and this needs to be recognised in governance. In Victor Harbor, it was noted as being critical to have Aboriginal partnerships as a key success factor.

At the staff-led engagement session with the Point Pearce Aboriginal community, it was noted that the existing NRM Board has not been accountable to Point Pearce, and there has been only small help for the Indigenous Protected Area at Wardang Island. The people at the meeting suggested that the Landscape Board should start by communicating and visiting Point Pearce. It was noted that transparent dissemination of information is required so that Point Pearce knows what available, what opportunities exist and where they can step in.

During the engagement process, the importance of recognition of Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Landholding Authorities and Aboriginal Nations as 'Landholders' was noted.

4.3.3 Supporting land owners

In Port Lincoln, participants said that local NRM staff need to be supported to be responsive to local community needs, such as in response to natural disasters and ongoing land management. In Mount Barker, it was noted that land managers and volunteers need support such as technical expertise, strategic planning, and workplace health and safety. The principle was agreed with but people felt that it will only work if there are paid staff to support them.

In Gawler, it was noted that history shows landowners are not always good land managers. The same sentiment was acknowledged in Mawson Lakes, noting that "some land owners are terrible land managers" and that we should support the excellent ones, while improving performance of others.

In their written submission, Ag Excellence Alliance noted that broad acre farmers are the largest land managers in the state and that they integrate the management of their productive landscapes with the natural landscapes on their properties. They noted that farmers are very aware of the impacts of their farming systems on the natural systems on their properties and recognise the value of maintaining and enhancing soil health, water resources and native vegetation on their properties.

4.3.4 Community and land owners on Landscape SA boards

During the early engagement process, one member of the Primary Producers NRM Committee reflected on their time on an NRM Board where they would make decisions as a board but there'd be resistance from staff to implement the decisions. This led to great frustration.

At the McLaren Vale community forum, one participant noted the need for a Board and a set of partnership committees all equal in status but with different, complimentary roles. In Victor Harbor, it was suggested that Landscape Boards should be the 'user-friendly' interface between landowners and government policies.

In Marree, one participant noted that they loved the idea of landowners at the centre but said that time away from running their own business could be a barrier to participation. In Mount Gambier, participants noted that community will be involved if their opinions are respected.

4.3.5 Community and landowners working with others

Conservation Council member groups felt that this principle works but the other component to consider is to build successful and supportive coalitions across landholders, industry, government and the wider community. Landholders need support and partners, they are a wonderful part of the solution, but not the only.

In Mount Barker, the need to engage broadly was acknowledged. One participant said, "To say you spoke with one person from a subset or one family group or one organisation is not enough."

On Kangaroo Island, whilst it was agreed that there needs to be very strong representation from farmers, landholders and agriculture, it was noted that there are times when we need to consider broader issues such as climate change and marine water management that are beyond the local island community. A participant noted that there are other stakeholders other than those who work, live on and care for the land who also have ideas about management.

4.3.6 The Environment at the centre

"The natural environment must be at the centre otherwise we are doomed" was noted in Glenunga, and a member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty NRM Board noted that this principle should put the environment at the centre, with community and landowners being a way of achieving what needs to be achieved.

4.4 A whole of landscape approach

This guiding principle was in the majority supported and it was linked to many via the priorities identified including biodiversity, partnerships, and protection and preservation. Many people felt that this represented the approach that has been adopted in recent years and many questioned its relationship with the new *Back to Basics* guiding principle. Many people asked for further definitions of this principle.

Broad support for a landscape-scale approach was also received via written submissions from individuals, as people noted that many issues don't respect boundaries and landscape ecology must be considered. One written submission from an individual suggested that there is somewhat of a contradiction between 'landscape' and the focus in 'back to basics.'

4.4.1 Defining a whole of landscape approach

When discussing a whole of landscape approach with the Primary Producers NRM Committee in our early engagement, the group felt that more information, or at least a definition was needed. The member groups of the Conservation Council noted that they were most committed to this principle but wanted to know more about how this principle might function, stating that a better definition was needed.

The NRM Partners mentioned that the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region is at the end of many of the systems and a whole of landscape approach to them is about integration. The suggested that they can't just work on weeds in one patch and someone has to make decisions about priorities. It was suggested that there needs to be more definition around Back to Basics and a Whole of Landscape Approach.

Participants in Port Lincoln noted that whatever is decided, everything is connected - society, science, and local knowledge. In Mount Barker, one participant said that we need to define whether 'Landscape" is a catchment, a region or something else.

At Glenunga, participants suggested the principle be rewritten in to everyday English. It was also suggested that 'landscape restoration' needs to be defined.

4.4.2 A whole of landscape across both private and Crown land

In our early engagement with the NRM Partners, the question of "Who pays for this?" was raised whilst discussing a Whole of Landscape Approach. Private landholders pay a levy, therefore perceive this should be about private land. It was felt that consideration needs to be given to recognise the impact of what they do on their neighbours. It was also suggested that the Crown should also pay a levy.

In Mount Barker there was recognition that agricultural land contributes to conservation outcomes. It was suggested that a whole of landscape approach needs to include both vegetation and farming on private and public land. In Clare, it was noted that the current approach removes the distinction

between public and private biodiverse land and that it is important to ensure the new focus embraces private land and land managers working with National Parks to improve functionality for wildlife.

In Port Augusta, it was acknowledged that thousands of primary producers care deeply about their native vegetation and need help to manage this for future generations and healthy catchments.

4.4.3 Partnerships and cross-boundary collaboration

In our focussed conversation with the Conservation sector, the desire to remove any obstructions to cross-regional project delivery and cooperation, for example promoting collaboration when it makes sense to do so, was noted. The approach also needs to be backed by long-term biodiversity reform and legislative backing. To have longevity and to be de-politicised, a whole of landscape approach needs community backing and to be driven be grass-roots, from the bottom up.

In Port Lincoln, it was noted that large scale projects and programs require strategic prioritisation and investment and supervision. The Conservation Council member groups also noted that large scale vision needs to be supported by the whole community and strategic, guaranteed long term funding to support it.

In Mount Gambier, it was suggested that Landscape SA needs to incorporate current government departments to avoid 'silos' all having different objectives. In Meningie, it was felt that this approach will require integrated management of land, water and biodiversity, noting that this is difficult to achieve when efforts are fragmented across different issues or land tenures.

In Coober Pedy, participants agreed with the approach and suggested that we need to ensure that strategic prioritisation and investment is managed to achieve high end sustainable outcomes. It was noted that large scale combined efforts will still need community input and raised visibility to meet transparency aims.

In Gawler, one participant suggested some landscape scale fire planning, using reservoirs and horticultural and viticultural areas as fire barriers. A participant at Mawson Lakes suggested that there needs to be state wide inventory and mapping of natural resources to identify threats and achievements, noting that South Australia is very behind in resource mapping. At this session, it was also questioned how a whole of landscape approach will work with decentralised decision making.

In Clare, the need for encouragement of volunteer groups who work across landscapes, such as Trees for Life, was noted.

On Kangaroo Island, the community noted that this approach helps to connect landholders and likeminded passion for conservation and landscape health.

4.4.4 Funding a whole of landscape approach

In Mount Barker it was suggested that a whole of landscape approach requires multi-year committed funding.

One participant in Clare noted sustainable agriculture as a system with the flexibility to fund innovative projects derived by farmer groups and organisations. It was said that we need to acknowledge sustainable agriculture and its role in healthy productive soils and water assets.

Members of the Conservation sector said that this principle demands a whole of sector approach, ensuring non-government organisations and community groups have equitable access to a range of funding opportunities, large and small. It also requires a more realistic timeframe for programs to deliver outcomes, for example a minimum of 3-5 year projects.

4.4.5 More than just the land

A participant in Meningie noted that we must also consider Coast and Marine. In Mount Barker, it was said that this principle needs to take in to account the sea. In Port Lincoln it was noted to recognise importance of watercourses and vegetation to biodiversity and creating resilient landscapes. The same was said in Kingscote, requesting that seascapes be considered for the island.

In McLaren Vale, it was suggested that the whole of landscape should also include the marine and coastal environment via a catchment to coast approach.

In Mount Barker, one participant felt that 'landscape' is a bad name, insinuating that is above the surface and instead we need to also take note and look after what is below the surface.

In Gawler, one participant suggested that nothing should be left out such as biodiversity and waste management. They noted that landscape includes people too. At Mawson Lakes, one participant noted that true beauty is in interfacing of species and land forms, not just landscapes.

Alternative names were explored by participants in McLaren Vale, with suggestions such as Managing our Ecosystems, Managing our Biodiversity, Managing SA Biodiversity, Bio Regional Management and Managing Yerta (using specific Aboriginal language to the specific board area) were included.

In their written submission, Southport Surf Lifesaving Club noted that the reform proposals contain too much of a focus on terrestrial issues, especially considering all by one region has coast as a part of the geography. Along with several other written submissions, they suggest coast and marine management carry as much weight as any other aspect.

4.5 Back to Basics

Out of the five principles, the Back to Basics principle created the most deliberation. Many people noted the tension between this principle and a whole of landscape approach, and many noted the need to include more than just soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control as ways of achieving vibrant biodiversity.

At our early engagement with the NRM Partners, some participants suggested that the *Back to Basics* concept would resonate with farmers. It was suggested by one participant that farm biodiversity should be included as part of the *Back to Basics*. Another suggestion was that this principle should be called Sustainable Agriculture – a more useful, integrated approach.

Back to Basics was a key priority for the Primary Producers NRM Committee members. It was felt that this linked well to the principles of community and landowners being involved. It was acknowledged that as well as soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control, native landscapes or native vegetation was missing from the diagram provided.

At the focussed conversation with the Conservation sector, the biggest concern relating to the guiding principles was the perceived inconsistency between *Back to Basics* and the *Whole of Landscape Approach*. Participants felt that there is a large gap in the back to basics approach of biodiversity, feeling that the principle overall is completely redundant and an integrated approach to landscapes is needed. Members of the group felt that this principle is backwards facing, and it needs to be future focussed.

> **"Back to Basics? Really?... The basics listed are not enough anymore in the 21st Century."** Betty, via YourSAy

The Kangaroo Island NRM Board members felt that this principle doesn't cover the complete biodiversity, ecosystems and whole of landscape approach that is required. The Northern and Yorke NRM Board noted that there was nothing basic about natural resource management! The SA Arid Lands NRM Board noted that a *Back to Basics* approach needs to be balanced with a whole of landscape approach and equitable distribution of funding provided to enable Boards with smaller populations to be effective.

The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board members felt that this principle is delivered relatively well already in their region and that they never left this approach.

Members of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board showed concern around *Back to Basics*, though acknowledged that this is an area they could do more of. Discussion occurred regarding previous NRM approaches that would include going out to spray weeds or do soil management, but there was no logic or strategic thinking around this and they feel that this needs to be there. Members of this group noted that global science is saying that the strategy is more important than ever, and not a back to basics approach and feel that it's not effective to achieve enduring outcomes.

Members of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board believe in social and ecological systems based on catchments and say that there needs to be a strong focus on biodiversity. The feel that the *Back to Basics* approach is simply treating the systems, whereas the whole of landscape approach treats the cause. This board aligns mostly with the latter. They said that the *Back to Basics* approach is what they did twenty years ago and is frustrating because it undermines the work that has been happened. They also noted that what they need to do isn't basic – it's complex – it needs to be smarter than going back to the basics, however the board did note that this depends on the definition of basics.

"We acknowledge and recognise the vital importance of water, soil and pest plants and animals to effective landscape management. In addition, there are a number of other key threats and assets that should be integral to the work of the Landscape Boards and new Act, including climate change, biodiversity and people."
Conservation Council SA, via written submission

In McLaren Vale, participants commented on pest plants in National Parks, stating that they are out of control and being managed largely by volunteers. Participants questioned where the management of pest animals currently is.

Participants in Murray Bridge wrote that this principle should include the basics being pest plants and animal control, soil stabilisation, revegetation and water conservation. In Kingscote, suggestions included funding landholders directly for creek crossings, fencing, lime sand and perennials.

A primary producer at the Clare community forum referenced the summary document where it says that regional communities want to focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals, noting that this is not the case for them, and that they really care about native vegetation, native fauna and biodiversity as a whole.

In Glenunga, one participant wrote that the basics need to be science based, not people-centric. They said that functioning ecosystems support us all.

There was some tension around the concept of this principle at Mawson Lakes with many participants feeling strongly that biodiversity should be one of the priorities listed as part of *Back to Basics*. Several participants noted that they felt this as a narrow and dated approach to NRM, feeling that it won't achieve the results that are needed in the broader environment. One participant noted the coastal communities and said, "We are not all farmers.". In their written submission, the Northern and Yorke NRM Board, along with others, noted that they believe coastal zones and marine ecosystems are part of the landscape and should be actively managed and included in legislation.

In contrast, 300 kilometres away in Yunta, discussion occurred around the need to have more of a focus on having more on the ground staff across the region able to work with pastoralists and land managers to help coordinate programs, provide advice and provide gentle encouragement and guidance to help land owners do the right thing. It was said that NRM has grown into a predictable

bureaucracy and lost its purpose to work on land improvement and allowing Pastoralists and other land users to use funds to address issues adequately. One participant wrote “Back to Basics - This wish is repeated again and again by long-term owners and managers.”

In their written submission, the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board noted the need to retain connection between biodiversity and ecosystem health with going back to basics, including finding balance between protection and recreation too.

In the written submission from Naracoorte Lucindale Council, it was noted that the back to basics principals of the reform were supported, as there is currently a “ridiculous extent of consultation and engagement”.

Responding to a letter from the Minister asking for key priorities for the reform, Conservation SA acknowledged and recognised the vital importance of water, soil and pest plants and animals to effective landscape management but noted that there are a number of other key threats and assets that should be integral to the work of the Landscape Boards and new Act, including climate change, biodiversity and people. The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association also referred to a focus on assets and threats being the most appropriate approach to natural resource management in their written submission.

In their written submission, the Australian Coastal Society SA Branch notes that Minister Speirs makes it clear that the emphasis for the new legislation is on ‘soil quality, water management and pest and animal control’ rather than integrated natural resource management. They feel that such a restrictive approach does not allow scope for proper stewardship of coastal and marine resources.

5 | Feedback On Key Reform Proposals



5.1 Board membership

The Discussion Paper and all forums and meetings held around the state provided information regarding the proposal that the nine Landscape Boards will have seven members, with three elected by the community. The other four members, including the Chair, would be appointed by the Minister in a more traditional recruitment process as currently occurs.

5.1.1 Widespread concern regarding the cost of a community election process

There was widespread concern at the potential cost of a community election process. In many locations it was felt that an election process would be a waste of money, take a lot of time, and participants weren't sure who would vote. It was felt that a community election process could be costly and result in three appointments of the same type of people and thereby missing out on an opportunity to increase diversity.

Concerns were raised from NRM boards about whether the cost of the election process would be funded by the levy.

5.1.2 Concern regarding vested interests and single-issue lobbyists

In Clare, participants noted that the Boards need to comprise of skilled individuals and not people who are wanting to promote their own agenda or who have vested interests. In Berri, there was great concern regarding an election process, including that this could become a popular vote process. It was felt that personal interests need to be kept out of the boards and 'community' needs to be written in to their governance. This was seen as a significant risk with the proposed community election process in many locations.

In Mount Barker, participants were curious as to how the four Ministerial appointments would be selected, highlighting a need to avoid vested interests and suggesting that clear criteria would need to be set.

> **"The really difficult aspect of democracy is for the people eligible to vote getting to know the candidates well enough to choose who they want to vote for."** Robert, via YourSAy

At our focussed conversation with young people, they advised that they felt sceptical about the proposal election process, noting that anyone could be elected via a popularity vote. One participant said, "My grandmother doesn't know about environmental field but could get elected!"

If the proposed model were to go ahead, many people felt it important that clear criteria needs to be set, which candidates being pre-selected or nominated need to meet.

There was concern from Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board members that an election process may lead to bias on boards, and there may be too much self-interest with a popularity approach.

The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board felt that community interest in voting would be minimal. On the Eyre Peninsula it is considered that it would be difficult to obtain enough of an interest.

In Scotdesco, participants felt that whilst the principle of community elected representatives had some appeal, there were some problems or constraints identified for the Alinytljara Wilurara region, including the potential for larger families to have greater influence in the voting process and when people are elected as individuals, they don't have an obligation or requirement to bring information back to the communities they represent, leading to a lack of understanding and transparency.

> **"…how the new Boards will be elected… questions if those with vested or commercial interests and are well known in the community because of their high profile will be elected. Will the bigger picture be the focus, or will they be elected on platforms that suit their own purposes?"** Gayl, via YourSAy

In their written submission, Agriculture KI noted concerned with the possibility of members being elected via a popular vote as they feel this may discount some people from nominating, as they do not have the time or inclination to run a campaign to garner votes. They noted that one of the keys strengths of the current boards is the strong emphasis placed on skills. The said that the popular vote option does not guarantee the appropriate cross section of skills, experience and local community knowledge.

In their written submission, the Electoral Reform Society SA suggested that voting should be voluntary.

5.1.3 Finding balance between elected and appointed positions

Participants at the community forum in Marree suggested that if the current proposal is to be implemented, at least four members should be elected by the community, with three including the chair elected by the Minister, noting that all board members must come from the region.

The same suggestion was made by participants in Kingscote, suggesting that the make-up of the board should be switched from the Minister's proposal so that 4 members be elected by the community, and 3 appointed by the Minister, in order to get true local decision making.

The same sentiment was expressed at the community forum in Victor Harbor, with some participants suggesting that they felt the smaller the better, with regards to board size. However, some participants proposed a board size of eight, with the community electing four positions and the Minister appointing four people.

In Mawson Lakes, participants also asked that four positions be elected by the community, and just three appointed by the Minister, though the cost of the election process was a major concern. In Leigh Creek, participants suggested that if this proposal goes ahead, four people should be elected by the community and three people appointed by the Minister.

In Mount Barker, the ratios between Minister appointed positions and community elected positions were the subject of conjecture and debate. Concern was shown around the Minister appointed Chair, and whether they'd be just a 'yes' person to the Minister. A suggestion was that the Chair should be elected by the board.

In Grange, there was also concern that the proposed approach would be 'stacked' by the Minister, and some participants felt this would be no change to how it is now. They felt that the proposed structure doesn't demonstrate community decision making. Some participants said they would like to see four elected by the community and three appointed by the Minister.

> **"Your proposal to appoint some members through a process that you undertake and another through a community election will create an imbalance, and an inequity inside the board room."**
> DemocracyCo, via written submission

Members of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board showed concern that the proposed mix of minister appointees and community elected members could create a hybrid board who aren't sure whether they are there to represent the community or something else. Members of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board felt that the proposed structure of community elections runs a risk of board members having a vested interest, and only those with great lobbying power, and the loudest voices, would win.

Some members of the group in Port Lincoln felt the whole board should be community elected.

In Ceduna, the group felt strongly that equality is extremely important, particularly when considering board representation. The group also felt very strongly that all residents (not just levy or rate payers) should be eligible to vote for community members on to the Landscape board. Participants in Bordertown provided opinion contrary to this, where they felt that those paying the levy should be eligible to vote, with one vote per property owner.

Most comments received via written submissions from individuals pertained to board membership including wondering why there would be more minister-appointed positions than community-elected, concern about getting people with the appropriate skills onto the boards, ensuring diversity in board membership, and how elections would work.

Members of the forum held in Glenunga felt it odd that the Green Adelaide board would be structured differently to the other Landscape Boards, stating that it was suspicious that there were no community representatives involved. There was also a specific concern as to why Green Adelaide would only have minister-appointed members in written submissions from individuals.

5.1.4 The importance of good local skill and knowledge mix

At our focussed conversation with young people, participants asked how the Boards will ensure that there is equal representation of people from both environmental and agricultural backgrounds.

In Port Lincoln, it was strongly felt that board representation must be skills based, whether appointed by the Minister or elected by the community and that a shortlisting process could help with this. In Port Augusta, there was general support for the structure of the new boards, but participants were keen to ensure the right people are allocated through due process and against relevant criteria. Members need local knowledge and have the ability to contribute skills and experience.

In Marree, it was noted that appointees must be local people who understand the uniqueness and challenges of the outback region.

In Mount Barker, participants questioned that if the community were to elect three representatives on to the board, how this would adequately cover off on the breadth of industries and interests that utilise the landscape across a broad region. It was felt that industries such as fisheries, agriculture, vines, as well as Aboriginal culture all need to be represented and reducing the board to 7 members would limit representation opportunity.

> **"…both community elected, and government appointed board members should be selected from all community representatives. It needs to recognise that tourism in the SA Arid Lands has increased exponentially and needs representation on the Board."**
> Prue, via YourSAy

In Victor Harbor, participants felt that the boards must be made up of a diversity of thinkers including scientists, famers, Aboriginal landholders, including geographic representation across the region. It was suggested that the current boards are dominated by people from government, and perhaps these people could be ex-officio. In Mount Barker, participants felt that there needs to be a better representation of industry sectors and landholders on the new Landscape SA Boards.

In Meningie, it was noted that board membership must include expertise, skill mix and knowledge and that the number of seven appointees is about right. It was suggested that the Chair could be appointed by the community as an independent person and approved and endorsed by the Minister.

At our focussed conversation with young people, participants also noted the need for qualified people on the boards, not just random people. It was suggested that there must be some criteria, including having lived in the region for a while. They suggested teaming up farmers and the best qualified people.

The Kangaroo Island NRM Board members highlighted that the existing words in the NRM Act are good in suggesting the type of representation required on the boards.

5.1.5 Representation of Aboriginal people, women and young people

In Berri, one participant noted that NRM is currently a very closed community that needs to be more open. There needs to be diversity on the boards, including Aboriginal representation and good geographic coverage. Aboriginal representation was specifically mentioned across many of the statewide forums.

Aboriginal Elders in Ceduna suggested that one of the Minister appointed positions should be an Aboriginal person, as well as one of the members elected by the community. In Nepabunna, our conversations told us that Aboriginal people would like an Aboriginal person who lives in the area to represent their interests.

At the focussed conversation with a range of South Australia Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate, it was said that Aboriginal Nations' involvement in the Landscapes Act must be formalised. It was felt that it can't be left as a decision of individual boards as some seem to be not interested in engaging.

At the meeting with the Point Pearce Aboriginal community, it was noted that the new boards need dedicated and identified Aboriginal members, not skills based. It was suggested that one male and one female member was needed and that Aboriginal board members needed to be strong, knowledgeable and need to be living on Country.

At the combined Conservation and Primary Production sector forum, it was noted that women are known not to put their hands up for things and generally need to be tapped on the shoulder and encouraged. The same goes with Aboriginal representation. Participants questioned how an election process would ensure diversity in board membership, together with the skills and good governance.

In Port Lincoln, representation from around the whole region was noted as being essential, plus someone from indigenous community must be on the board.

Participants in Mount Barker felt it important that consideration be given to how to attract young people to the board. Youth engagement was also raised as very important in Mount Gambier and Kingscote, with participants questioning to get representation from all demographics on to the boards.

In their written submission, Tatiara District Council proposed a model where a youth representative could be on each board, with a one-year term.

In Mawson Lakes, it was stated that young people should be on the boards as the voice of the future. Participants would like to see good diversity on the boards, with no personal interest or opportunity for financial gain.

In Clare, one participant noted that there needs to be more of a focus on skills and knowledge and community leadership, than other matters such as gender.

5.1.4 Alternative models

During our conversations, many alternative suggestions were made to the proposed community election process which people felt would provide a more cost-effective, efficient and effective outcome.

At the combined Conservation and Primary Production sector meeting, it was suggested that rather than have three people elected from the community, it is better to have community members to apply. It was noted that this is how it currently is. One participant suggested an alternative model to the election process that still allows for community to have a say, through establishing a selection panel which is potentially made up of peak bodies, or people from the region, and they could choose three people and recommend to the Minister the other four people, or the selection panel could recommend to the Minister all seven members.

Many people in the room agreed with the above approach and it was strongly felt that there are ways of getting community input without necessarily going to a community election. Each region could have a particular focus depending on its need for example, those regions with more of a farming focus would have more farming focus on their selection panel. The peak bodies on the selection panel could be embedded in the new legislation.

Another participant suggested an independent professional organisation could be used, similar to a recruitment agency, with a set of selection criteria for each board, and everyone can apply and then they run the selection process for the Minister and provide a shortlist. They could either make the recommendation or make the decision. This would be completely independent.

Participants in Glenunga suggested that community representation should be via nomination from key groups, including volunteer and land care groups, and not by election. Advisory Groups were also suggested as a way for boards to receive advice, with particular reference to both advice from experts who can provide evidence-based science, but also this being a way that Landcare groups and volunteers could provide input in to decision making.

A similar proposal was made in Kingscote, which no participants disagreed with, being that groups should be identified to nominate people on to the boards, noting that these groups already have a process for electing representatives. These qualified locals should be put forward for positions on the board and appointed by the Minister.

In Berri, Participants also put forward suggestions for alternative approaches to recruit to the Landscape Boards, including that nominations be put forward to the Minister and a panel of selectors make the decision based on what skills the board requires. The idea of a pool of people with identified skill sets could be available to be appointed to the board. It was recommended that local stakeholder groups such as Regional Development and local industry be engaged to determine what skills sets are needed on the board.

The Northern and Yorke NRM Board members were not averse to three community members being nominated by groups such as councils, Primary Producers SA or other relevant organisations, but it must be clearly explained what is being achieved by taking this approach. Members of the South East NRM Board said that an alternative to the community election process could be to establish a community-based selection panel drawn from across sector groups and the region to make either

recommendation to the Minister and/or appoint the community nominated members themselves based on criteria.

In Scotdesco, a similar approach was suggested whereby the Yalata representatives felt it would be preferable for each Alinytljara Wilurara community organisation's board to nominate their Board, for the Minister's approval, instead of a community vote for individuals.

In Leigh Creek it was noted that the existing NRM groups in the SA Arid Lands region work well, and that they should be retained and could be elected by the community. The groups themselves could then elect a representative to the board. It was felt that a broad based election won't work across the region, especially as this region does not have council elections and operates differently. Hence the idea that a more localised approach via the NRM groups would be a better approach. It was proposed that the NRM Board could take on more of a jury model with a diversity of local people that oversee the groups who could be community elected.

In Marree, the group proposed a structure and process for appointment of community members to the Board which delivers on the key principles being put forward by the Minister, and while different from the current proposal being suggested by the Minister, allows for a bottom up approach and representation across the region. This model would ensure the community is well represented across the region and enables the communities and staff across the region to work within their local area minimising extended travelling across the entire outback area. This proposed model is shared in detail in the forum report in the appendices of this report.

In their written submission, the Outback Communities Authority suggested considering the establishment of district groups within the larger landscape regions based on soil board boundaries.

In the written submissions from individuals, one comment made regarding board function suggested the boards appoint 'partnership committees' that can advise the boards on specific aspects such as biodiversity, feral animals, or water. One person was very critical of the duplication that NRM/Landscapes has and wanted to see it abolished, one person though changing the name from NRM to Landscapes would cause non-recognition among the public, and one person was confused as to if the new legislation would apply to all land or just public land.

In the written submission from the City of Charles Sturt, they noted that councils across the State are significant land managers and there should be greater recognition of, and support for, local government as a key stakeholder and delivery partner. With this is mind, they recommended that a representative from local government is required in the composition of each Board.

In their written submission, DemocracyCo suggested a model which would start with an Expression of Interest Taskforce consisting of a diverse blend of stakeholders and community members from all regions be convened to undertake the preparatory work to develop an expression of interest brief that defines the skills required for Board members and Board chairs and outlines the selection criteria. They suggested that the Chief Executive of the relevant departments and the Minister and shadow counterpart also sit on this group and work with it to undertake this work. Together, the Taskforce creates and agrees on the Expression of Interest document. This document is released to the public, and nominations requested.

DemocracyCo suggested the second stage being a Regional Appointment Taskforce whereby a selection taskforce is convened to assess nominations and provide recommendations to the Minister. For transparency, they suggested that one taskforce is established for each Region. This taskforce would include regional stakeholders plus people from an outside region with no previous involvement in natural resource management to ensure that appointments are based on the best, most suitable candidates, for example those which meet the criteria developed in the Expression of Interest.

They suggested that this appointment taskforce has authority to recommend for appointment all members, except the Chair, and that the relevant agency (Department of Environment and Water) has no role in the appointment process. Upon completion of their process, the Regional Appointment Taskforce would provide recommendations to the Minister. If the Minister is not willing to accept any of their nominees, he or she must explain why, and it must only be based on suitability against the criteria. In this case, the Minister would direct the Appointment Taskforce to recommend an alternative candidate. The process would end with the Minister announcing appointments.

5.1.5 Succession planning for boards

Participants in Port Lincoln suggested that grassroots initiatives (funded by the Grassroots Grants program) should include regional succession planning for Landscape SA boards, skilling up younger demographic for future roles on the board, or beyond.

Members of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board echoed a similar sentiment, noting the board felt a better use of $2 million (when discussing the Grassroots Grants program) could be to set up a Youth Environmental Leadership program across the state, replacing one that has recently been discontinued in the region due to lack of funding.

This idea was suggested in Bordertown too, with participants suggesting succession planning be embedded into the education process through schools and that school students should be supported to attend Board meetings as observers to help them to understand what goes on and the importance of natural resource management. They felt strongly that there needs to be an increase in the level of active engagement by involving youth and preparing the next generation.

Succession planning for boards was also noted as important by participants in Mount Barker, at the Primary Producers focussed workshop and at the South East NRM Board meeting.

5.2 Board accountabilities

The Discussion Paper and all forums and meetings held around the state provided information regarding board accountabilities, noting that the new boards would:

- Be responsible for setting their own budgets, shared publicly;
- Employ a general manager, who manages staff;
- Have the power to set and manage their own levies;
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their region, identifying priorities;
- Establish partnerships and undertake outsourcing.

Much of the input received regarding board accountabilities has been captured elsewhere in this report, such as under the heading of Planning, Accountability and Coordination within the Top 20 Priorities for Reform chapter.

In addition to this, the facilitation team used this section of the statewide conversation process with community to ask participants to consider what processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management. Suggestions included, but weren't limited to, the following –

Establish measurable economic, social and environmental outcomes, supported by data.	Develop a governance and operational system/model inclusive of reporting, engagement.	5-year plan have staged progress reports: review process; change process.
Transparency and accountability both within region and to Minister.	Identify key partnerships via planning processes for delivery of plan outcomes.	Use of technology to manage and monitor project deliverables.
Landscape condition information kept in central place.	Reporting on what is delivered and the work of the Board – annual reporting needs to occur in detail.	Surveys – need to know what is in the environment, so you know what you are trying to manage ~ feral, native flora, fauna protection.
Assessment of community attitude knowledge and involvement.	Outcomes need to be well integrated and embedded into other community priorities such as health and education.	Every 'project' must report progress and achievement – publicly available – learning from failures (as well as success).
Standard benchmarking.	Universal definitions.	Meetings open to the public.

Participants at the focussed conversation with young people asked that if the Landscapes Boards are kept 'at arm's length from the government', how will the Board be kept accountable? They also asked how the new Act will ensure that the same issues with NRM won't happen again.

In their written submission, the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board noted that streamlining planning and modern engagement would free up resources for on-ground works and there is need for streamlined planning and reporting, suggesting a single state strategic planning document be in place, with 3-year regional plans alongside it.

5.3 Boundaries

The Discussion Paper and all forums and meetings held around the state provided information regarding the proposed nine new Landscape Boards, plus Green Adelaide.

It was stated that existing boundaries are proposed to be largely retained, however there could be some changes to boundaries depending on the outcomes of the engagement process. The boundaries for the new Adelaide region are not yet drawn.

The facilitation team raised the topic of boundaries when holding conversation events and meetings across the state and provided opportunity for the community to comment on anything they would like the Minister to know about regarding boundaries in each region.

5.3.1 General commentary on boundaries

In our early engagement meetings, the NRM Partners urged the Minister to not change a boundary of any region to address financial security for a board. They felt that there are other ways to address financial security. The group felt that the current boundaries of regions across the state are working well.

In many areas, boundaries were discussed with political, economic or ecology being typically used to determine them. In the majority, it was felt that for natural resource management purposes, ecological factors were the most important. It was noted in several places that this often connects also to the boundaries of Aboriginal Nations, which are generally based on the ecology of landscapes. In their written submission, the Native Vegetation Council noted that managing landscapes as bio-regions is essential for a number of benefits to be realised.

There were some general comments wanting more information about boundaries in written submissions received from individuals, and one person suggested that they follow water catchments and local government boundaries.

The written submission from the Stormwater Management Authority noted similar sentiment, suggesting that the Minister consider making boundary changes with due regard for natural water catchment boundaries and to existing local government boundaries.

In the written submission from the City of Onkaparinga, it was noted that any changes to NRM boundaries incur significant work for council data management, mapping and customer service. Alexandrina Council noted their concern that splitting the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region in to three regions will put funding for the Hills and Fleurieu region at risk.

5.3.2 SA Arid Lands

At the Port Augusta community forum, the Minister specifically asked participants to talk about whether Port Augusta should be included in the Arid Lands area, to which they all agreed it should be, together with Whyalla and the Barrier Highway area heading back south toward the Murray.

Strong consideration should also be given to shifting Whyalla into the SA Arid Lands region as well and it was pointed out that Whyalla do not see themselves in the same landscape as Port Lincoln and Lower Eyre and relate more to the Arid Lands environment. In Port Augusta, there was also strong discussion around pushing the south eastern boundary of the Arid Lands Landscape Board region further south to incorporate the region to the north of the Murray-Darling Basin area as this is semi-arid country and fits more with the northern landscape region.

In Leigh Creek, there was some concern that by including Port Augusta they will dominate how the funding is delivered on the ground given the greater population. It was felt that this is a big risk and has the potential to become what Adelaide is to the regions, albeit on a slightly smaller scale. People in Leigh Creek felt that it makes sense from a landscape perspective to include Hawker region and the Eastern Districts along the Barrier Highway pushing further south. One suggestion was to extend the entire southern boundary to the Goyder Line, but not include Port Augusta. A landscape approach to drawing the boundary was supported.

People in Yunta broadly supported Port Augusta and Flinders Rangers Council coming into the SA Arid Lands region, although noted that this may need further careful consideration, and that consideration should be given to moving the south eastern boundary further south.

At the community forum in Marree, participants felt that Port Augusta should not be included in the SA Arid Lands region. Port Augusta issues are significantly different to the SA Arid Lands region and having them included may result in a redirection of funds away from the outback area to support the community with the strongest voice.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board also noted that Port Augusta issues are very different from the Arid Lands region. While the surrounding area around Port Augusta aligns, the issues for the city itself are very different. Port Augusta is dealing with matters related to an urban environment within a local government area that has a strong voice and in this sense is quite different when compared with the unique issues of the Arid Lands region. The board members noted that there needs to be greater thought given to the possible implications of this boundary change as it would be a risk to make the change purely from a financial perspective or perceived levy distribution benefit which may not in reality deliver the right outcome.

In Marree, it was felt that the region should reflect the unincorporated area, inclusive of the two exceptions, Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs. The south eastern boundary along the Barrier Highway could move marginally south, but traditionally this area has not seen themselves as being associated with the broader Arid Lands region. They felt that this area should decide to what extent they are included with Arid Lands. Hawker could be included in the area, but not Quorn. Participants again noted that this needs to be carefully considered as it begins to incorporate an area that has different administration arrangements, such as Flinders Rangers Council. Participants suggested that there is merit in aligning the region to the unincorporated area to avoid cross over with different administrative boundaries, levy structures and tenures.

5.3.3 Alinytljara Wilu̱rara

In Ceduna, the option to move the Alinytljara Wilu̱rara boundary to incorporate the town of Ceduna was discussed, though the discussion then went broader and no consensus was reached. Participants advised that people in Ceduna often feel unrepresented or heard when Port Lincoln is seen as the centre for the region they are in.

In Ceduna there was also discussion about how the Eyre Peninsula and Alinytljara Wilu̱rara regions do not align with cultural boundaries and native title boundaries.

Alinytljara Wilu̱rara NRM Board noted potential for boundary overlaps between their region and the Eyre Peninsula, including potential for informal or formal partnerships in this area.

5.3.4 Eyre Peninsula

In Ceduna, one suggestion was that there were more accessible and responsive arrangements for people to the north of the region when there was an NRM office based out of Wudinna. There were also advantages when there were sub-regions involved in planning and delivery of projects. Some participants felt that this model warrants further consideration. While some participants (but not all) thought reinstating Wudinna as a Landscape SA hub would work, it was agreed by participants that a Ceduna hub would work best to reflect local issues and priorities.

Members of the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board said that Whyalla should stay in the region as they have worked hard with this area. It was noted that without their levy it may make the Eyre Peninsula region non-viable.

5.3.5 Northern and Yorke

Boundaries were the biggest priority for the Northern and Yorke NRM board to discuss during the meeting, and their written submission also notes this. With regard to the possibility of Port Augusta moving in to the SA Arid Lands region, the group said that if there was no gulf, it might make sense. But as at the head of the gulf, Port Augusta should stay in the Northern and Yorke region, given the amount of coastline already in this region.

However, the board suggested that the Northern and Yorke board could manage the coastline on behalf of the SA Arid Lands board, much like they already work with the SA Murray-Darling Basin Board on cross-boundary projects. The board acknowledged the sense of community in Port Augusta and that it makes sense for Port Augusta to be in SA Arid Lands region. The group highlighted that in making the final decision, the needs of Aboriginal nations in the area should be considered.

The coast was a recurring topic during the meeting with the Point Pearce Aboriginal community and Narungga Country (Yorke Peninsula) people see this zone as key to caring for their cultural heritage, engagement in natural resources management and pursuing economic development opportunities, including tourism, ranger employment, visitor management, and native plant harvesting.

With regard to the southern border, it was strongly felt that Clare belongs in the Northern and Yorke region. Members of the group said that Clare fits with the identity of Northern and Yorke, Clare is the centre and Clare is not the Adelaide Plains. It was also noted that councils to the north of Clare align south to Clare, not north to Port Augusta. One suggestion also included that Northern and Yorke could 'take in' the Adelaide Plains, though council areas should be asked where they would like to sit.

"I am concerned by the proposed boundary changes for the Northern and Yorke Region." Ruth, via YourSAy

Participants in the Clare community forum noted that boundaries for the Northern and Yorke region currently work well on 'landscape function' and focus. Consistency among boundaries used by local councils, Landscape SA and state departments was noted and the amount of work for local government increases if you split a council region across two NRM regions.

5.3.6 SA Murray-Darling Basin

There was some discussion about boundaries of the region with the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board, specifically in relation to the council areas of Alexandrina, Mount Barker and Goyder. The board feels strongly that boundaries should not be the tool ensuring the financial viability of the boards. This board believes in a landscape approach of catchments, bio-landscapes and social considerations.

The board felt that Alexandrina and Mount Barker shouldn't be split as this would be splitting the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges in half. It makes no sense to the board members. From a Murray-Darling Basin perspective, they fit in to the Basin and this was a decision based on science. The NRM Board suggested that where good relationships exist, don't change the boundaries. For example, the local people in Burra would be disappointed to be removed from our region.

In the written submission from Alexandrina Council, they noted their membership of the Southern and Hills Local Government Association and therefore feel they have the most appropriate alignment with the Hills and Fleurieu region, requesting that most of their council area fall in this new region.

In the written submission from Mount Barker District Council it was noted that the people, culture and economy of Mount Barker identifies with the Adelaide Hills and Mount Lofty Ranges region. The submission stated that Mount Barker should not be in the SA Murray Darling Basin region. They also noted that the whole council area should be in one region not two.

5.3.7 South East

The South East NRM Board noted that while there are no proposed boundary changes for the South East region, should consideration be given to the north west boundary north of Salt Creek, which is the boundary that receives most debate in the region, then communities of interest need to be considered together with landscape issues. This includes considering how the community structure operate and their links to key town centres.

One comment made at the Mount Gambier community forum was that the Coorong area needs to be within Murray Darling Basin region. There was also uncertainty from one participant around where the South East upper boundary is. At Bordertown, the community said that the upper south east has distinct issues and characteristics from the rest of the south east region and this needs to be considered when allocating funding to programs and projects. Often the area is treated as the poor cousin to the lower south east.

Participants in Bordertown also said that consideration could be given to the north western boundary of the region and where it is best located. It was acknowledged that this is not a straight forward issue as the lower Coorong is connected to the lower lakes and Murray-Darling Basin. Any changes need to consider levy implications and what's best for the landscape. Where possible, alignment with other regional boundaries, such as the RDA and local government, helps in developing partnerships and management plans and this in itself could be a reason for considering a shift. It was noted that the current arrangements in place have been largely driven by landscape and this should be considered in any review process. It was also noted that Alexandrina Council should be consulted if there was to be any changes to this boundary.

5.3.8 Green Adelaide, Plans and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu

In our meeting with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty NRM Board, members strongly felt that the catchment split in to the three regions is the major flaw of the proposed approach. They said that boundaries must be based on a water allocation and catchment approach and decisions must be made on an environmental basis. This was also noted in their written submission. In our conversation, they added that setting up two extra boards isn't sustainable and may even cause competition between them. A suggestion was made that there could be one board for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region, with three advisory boards. A representative from each of these advisory boards could then attend the main board meeting.

In their written submission, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board suggested that Green Adelaide incorporates all urban council areas.

The written submission from the City of Onkaparinga suggested that the boundary for Green Adelaide should be consistent with the Greater Adelaide urban planning boundary, ending at Sellicks Beach. The boundary line should be based on the natural resources management functions and urban ecology focus. It was suggested that the remaining council area should be included in Hills and Fleurieu region which is consistent with the McLaren Vale Protected Area and considers community identity.

Relating to this, there was a good discussion in McLaren Vale with regard to boundaries of the new Hills and Fleurieu region, following the Minister asking whether McLaren Vale and Willunga should fall within this new region or within Green Adelaide. Whilst many options were explored through the discussion, a poll undertaken showed that the overwhelming majority of participants would like McLaren Vale and Willunga, with the Onkaparinga River being the most northerly point, within the Hills and Fleurieu region. A small handful of people were undecided, and just one participant supported these towns being in Green Adelaide.

The young people in Willunga felt that they suited being situated within the Hills and Fleurieu region. When discussing where the boundary for Green Adelaide should start, it was suggested that Sellicks Beach is too far away to be part of Green Adelaide, and the same for Aldinga, where the beach and scrub fit the landscape of the Hills and Fleurieu region. It was suggested that Seaford be part of Green Adelaide given its more dense, urban layout and larger shopping centres.

"I am curious about why the hills regions are to be centralised in the city and wonder if the day to day operations if the officers will be reduced and trimmed back as a result?" Carol, via YourSAy

In Victor Harbor, a discussion occurred regarding boundaries with no firm outcome. Discussion included use of local government boundaries and being cautious around incorporating areas like Mount Barker as it is more urban than the rest of the region.

In Gawler, discussion occurred particularly relating to the Plains and Valleys, with aligning similar geographies and landscapes within boundaries preferred where possible. However, advice was given to not get too hung up on 'borders' because within each boundary the communities will have access to funding their priority projects.

The written submission from the City of Playford suggested that Green Adelaide should include the urban areas of Playford council, but not the agricultural areas.

In Mount Barker, given the catchments throughout the Adelaide Mount Lofty region, it was felt that dividing the region into two separate boards could be problematic. A participant suggested considering one board with two sub boards to ensure continuity and catchment management.

However, participants in Mount Barker noted that whatever the boundaries are, there needs to be good collaboration across the boundaries, especially with respect to planning. It was also suggested that aligning boundaries with other government regional boundaries could be considered, making it easier to do business.

At the Four Nations workshop, held to consider specifically the way Kaurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri nations could be affected by the key proposals, it was noted that the creation of three new regions introduces some complexity for each of the Four Nations groups, both individually and collectively. It was highlighted that based on the likely boundaries, the new regions will intersect numerous cultural boundaries. This comes with various challenges including the potential demands of the time of cultural knowledge holders in contributing to program and project planning and delivery, and the need for a longer-term commitment to resourcing which would

support inclusion. A coordinated approach to engagement with the Four Nations groups was identified as a priority, to make the most effective use of people's time and input

Suggestions for the Green Adelaide boundary via written submissions from individuals were to include the Adelaide Hills parks and reserves (possibly use Adelaide and Central Hills district boundary), to not only include the CBD, and to include a coastal strip down to Sellicks Beach.

Kangaroo Island

Members of the Kangaroo Island NRM board felt strongly that the existing boundary of the island should remain, with a firm need for Kangaroo Island to retain its own board.

At the community forum in Kingscote, it was noted that the island must remain its own region. One participant said, "We are an island and want to retain our island identity. We certainly do not want to be swallowed up by the Fleurieu."

5.4 Green Adelaide

There was optimism regarding Green Adelaide and the opportunities it brings for innovation and to be a world leader in linking urban life to land management, particularly in the community forums we held in or close to metropolitan Adelaide. Participants in our community forums liked the aspirational goals it could set, and the separation of the city and country.

In Grange, one participant noted that one of Colonial Light's original visions was for Adelaide to be a "Garden City" and perhaps this should be revisited within the remit of Green Adelaide.

In written submissions from individuals, comments about Green Adelaide included questioning why there would be no elected members on the board, discussions around the boundary (that it should only include the CBD and one person wants to see a strip of coast down to Sellicks Beach included), worry that it will be too metro-focussed, support for more 'green streets,' and a desire to see Green Adelaide focus on coasts, rivers, wetlands, and water-sensitive urban design.

In their written submission, Adelaide City Council suggested that the Green Adelaide board needs a representative from each council area, urban planning, green infrastructure, water management, finance, aboriginal and open space or park management.

The written submission from Conservation SA also urged that consideration be given to a high level of community ownership be developed through the governance and operating approach of Green Adelaide, referencing the London National Park City as a fascinating example of a community driven approach to city-wide landscape protection and enhancement.

Through the statewide forums, the community were asked what they believed should be the top functions or priorities of Green Adelaide. This opportunity was offered to every forum, whether close to Adelaide or not.

The following priority themes were what we heard many times.

5.4.1 Urban planning

Participants in the community forums said that would like to see Green Adelaide focus on creating green streets and flourishing parklands, including the retention and preservation of existing natural assets. They would like to see canopy cover both maintained and increased.

They would like Green Adelaide to have a role in maintaining green space within the metropolitan area, giving input into planning and development processes. This includes Green Adelaide being involved in integrated planning processes that ensure quality green spaces are maintained and improved. Participants said that they would like Green Adelaide to have the ability to influence Development Plans that may have adverse environmental impacts.

Within this, participants noted the desire to see builders and developers connecting to Green Adelaide. One participant noted that they would like to see a 'Green Adelaide' that is supported by legislation and that can be achieved, rather than being controlled by developers. They would like to

see Green Adelaide "demonstrating world best practice, and not more bad development". One participant noted that they would like a priority of Green Adelaide to be development that increases ambience of green open space.

In their written submission, the Resilient East Project via the City of Unley suggested that the development sector needs to be legislated to be part of the solution in relation to biodiversity. They noted that the vast majority of urban development currently being undertaken would not past simple tests for a number of things, including preserving, protecting and maintaining natural assets, significant trees and urban gardens essential to habitat and biodiversity connectivity.

> **"I live in Richmond, a fairly industrial area, and I would love to see more greenery within the suburb and in all suburbs for that matter."** Kristy, via YourSAy

Participants believe Green Adelaide has a role to play in maintaining green space and ensuring that new development respects local flora and fauna, as well as having a holistic plan for restoration and conservation of rivers and creeks. They noted that they would like wildlife corridors and trails that are connected to reserves retaining, and bush land settings and habitats rehabilitating. There was a note to stop destroying habitat in the metropolitan area, for example significant trees being removed.

> **"We support the establishment of Green Adelaide and suggest it could establish itself as a world leader in the emerging field of Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design."**
> Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, via written submission

One participant noted that a priority for Green Adelaide should be the coordination of the utilisation of all available open spaces, including very small front and backyards, so that maximum environmental outcomes for biodiversity result.

In their written submission, the City of Marion noted that Green Adelaide is an important opportunity to provide specific guidance on urban design to enhance biodiversity through defining strategic corridors and priority sites for conservation and restoration.

5.4.2 Urban biodiversity

Many participants said that a function of Green Adelaide should be to maintain biodiversity in areas of urban infill and diversity. Urban biodiversity should include private homes, public spaces and parklands.

Biodiversity and habitat must be kept, enhanced and encouraged and participants felt Green Adelaide has a significant role to play in this. A focus on remnant vegetation protection and

restoration and sites of high conservation value was noted as a priority by one participant. It was suggested that large enough spaces for meaningful habitat for species need to be planned for.

Participants noted the desire to see Green Adelaide working with Adelaide's ecologists and environmentalists to determine indigenous plant species lists for street scapes and native strips that will support native wildlife, but also deal with the increasing climate extremes. Fauna in the city and on coastal strips was noted as being important, ensuring wildlife corridors include South Australian native plant species. It was noted that planting should occur for biodiversity and sustainability.

We were told that Green Adelaide should prioritise empowering the urban community to get involved with biodiversity action within and beyond their region.

5.4.3 Greater connection to nature and the regions

Participants hoped that Green Adelaide could bring increased connection to nature within Adelaide and the broader regions, including increased awareness of regional issues and the value of regional communities. In Victor Harbor, participants saw it as an opportunity to link the actions and habits in the city to a vibrant rural community, highlighting how hard farming can be.

One participant said they would like Green Adelaide to "make city people care". Another said that Green Adelaide is an important opportunity to engage the hearts and minds of the Adelaide population base, connecting people with nature and biodiversity.

In their written submission, Adelaide City Council suggested that Green Adelaide needs to have an objective of re-connecting communities to the environment.

5.4.4 Healthy waterways

Healthy waterways were mentioned many times in relation to the potential functions of Green Adelaide.

Participants said that they would like to see Green Adelaide managing river courses as ecological entities, overseeing river health from the hills to sea, including the upkeep and ongoing maintenance of urban rivers. The health of the River Torrens was specifically mentioned, including effective sustained management of the river and creek ecosystems, weed management and water quality.

> **As a Highbury resident close to the River Torrens Linear Park I am concerned about the attention given the River Torrens by the NRM (or is it more correct to say lack of attention)."** Paul, via YourSAy

One participant noted that they would like to see expansion of the 'urban creek recovery project' across Adelaide, to integrate management of stormwater, flood mitigation, habitat, biodiversity,

water quality. Another participant would like to see Green Adelaide managing catchment areas and restoring wetlands.

Community use of water bodies including rivers, such as the Torrens in the City, and still water at places like Craigie Burn and Thornton Park were on the priority list for one participant for Green Adelaide. Another participant wanted to see a focus on practical implementation of the water cycle in green corridors and urban environments.

In their written submission, the City of West Torrens questioned a number of things, including what the role of Green Adelaide will be in caring for urban rivers and wetlands, and whether the River Torrens Recovery Funding will cease.

5.4.5 Community engagement and education

Community engagement and education were suggested as a fundamental function of Green Adelaide many times. This includes nature education, education around valuing ecosystems and sustainable development, and education inclusive of climate change.

It was suggested that groups like Trees for Life are supported by Green Adelaide, bringing together volunteers in urban areas to support revegetation and bush protection in urban fringe and regional areas. One participant noted that education is critical and interaction with the environment essential to ensure that children don't lack understanding of the environment. It was also noted by one participant that the term nature education should be reconsidered.

> **"…education has progressed from nature education, to environmental education, to sustainability education and a now we have a combined environmental and sustainability education focus. I am therefore quite concerned that Green Adelaide is going to have nature education as a priority."** Sharon, via YourSAy

5.4.6 Climate Change

Participants across the community forums regularly suggested priorities and functions for Green Adelaide that address climate change. It was noted that Green Adelaide should engage with longer term changes in urban planning for climate change, including how we protect and include nature in those plans. It was felt by another participant that Green Adelaide should communicate the benefits of trees, shrubs and greening to prepare for continued climate change.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield noted in their written submission that climate change needs far greater degree of reference to this issue, especially for Green Adelaide projects such as AdaptWest. They suggested that this needs to be one of the objectives of the Act, listed alongside other key priorities.

In their written submission, amongst other things across the whole reform, the Premier's Climate Change Council noted that Green Adelaide provided good opportunity to continue and build on existing partnerships created as part of the Carbon Neutral Adelaide program.

It was noted that we need a long-term vision for the state regarding climate change and this shouldn't be tied to election cycles.

5.4.7 Urban Water Management

Urban water management was mentioned as a priority several times. It was suggested that Green Adelaide could have a role in managing responsibilities between councils, state government and boards in this regard.

Urban stormwater management, stormwater pollution, water sensitive urban design to adapt to climate change, and water sensitive cities were also listed as priorities in community forums and written submissions.

5.4.8 Coastal management

Vibrant coastal regions, and future proofing our coastline against sea level rises and climate change was highlighted as a potential priority for Green Adelaide. Participants suggested that this includes coastal and marine management, being a holistic approach of dunes, cliffs and marine.

In the written submissions from individuals, within the broader reform several people want coast and marine issues to be considered as much as terrestrial issues, either by giving those responsibilities directly to the Landscape Boards or by amending the Acts to be in support with Landscape SA. Some people believed that Green Adelaide was better-suited to deal with coastal issues than other Landscape Boards while one person though Green Adelaide would be too metro-focussed to do much with the coast.

In their written submission, the City of Holdfast Bay noted that they would like to see coastal management (including coastal protection) included in the Natural Resource Management reform scope. The City of West Torrens asked what the Green Adelaide responsibilities will be for coastal management.

In their written submission, the Coast Protection Board noted that Green Adelaide could take on the Coast Protection Board role, but it would likely be an add-on and not a priority. However, Green Adelaide could focus on metropolitan coastal issues.

Birdlife Australia noted in their written submission that the coast is a very important part of Green Adelaide. They said that it is a great and easy opportunity to make the coast a connection point with natural resources and to show the community that it is more than just 'sand and seagulls'. They noted that the already long-established programs such as the Hooded Plover and Shorebirds 2020 program connect strongly with the community at the coast.

5.5 Capping, collecting and distributing levies

Funding was identified as a major priority within the reform process and much of the discussions held around that state have been summarised earlier in this report.

The main sentiment that we observed was that however the Minister decides to cap, collect or distribute levies, a critical part of his success will be both the ability to collect and distribute levies in an efficient way that leaves boards with a fair and appropriate share of the funding pot, and the communications and transparency surrounding this.

Further commentary relating to the capping, collecting and distributing of levies is summarised below. Notes from all engagement activity can be found in the appendices.

5.5.1 Capping of levies

In Berri, there were strong views that the government has made an election promise to cap levies, so this needs to happen. Participants in Bordertown suggested that a CPI based restriction on levy increase be implemented immediately, irrespective of the new Act.

Participants in Yunta echoed the same sentiment, suggesting that levies should be capped according to CPI and whoever makes funding decisions should visit the area to meet the owners of property who are contributing more to the cost of activities carried out by NRM boards on their properties.

In Gawler, there was some discussion around levy capping, with the comment being noted by a farmer that those who live and work on the land don't have an income that rises according to CPI.

In Grange, it was felt by some people in the group that the capping of levies limits the future possibilities in relation to the overall amount of money available. In Mount Barker, it was noted that we are at a 20-year low for both federal and state funding for the environment, and one participant questioned how this government expects to do what needs to be done AND introduce a cap. It was felt that this is almost an impossibility.

In terms of calculation of levies, in the written submissions received from individuals, one person thought the levy was too high, another said the calculation methods needs to be transparent, and one specifically commented on water levy saying that the minimum levy is unfair to small allocation holders and that it should be based on usage. People agreed with levy capping and one person specifically agreed with tying it to CPI. One suggested that levy from the cities will need to be redistributed to regional areas to support them and one person suggested combining Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region with Kangaroo Island and Alinytljara Wilurara with SA Arid Lands or Eyre Peninsula, although it was unclear if they were referring to a levy pool or boundaries.

In their written submission, the owners of the Coward Springs Campground along the Oodnadatta Track, applauded the capping of land and water levies according to the CPI and noted that they need to be consistent throughout the State.

The City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters expressed its significant concerns it has, via their written submission, with the extent to which the levy has increased, noting that the increases exceed the CPI. The Council supports the continuation of the value of rateable land being used as the basis for determining the levy, however it does not support increases in the levy over the CPI, particularly where adequate justification is not provided.

Responding to a letter from the Minister seeking input regarding priorities for the reform, Primary Producers SA noted that they believe levy charges need to be contained at the lowest reasonable and sustainable level. They suggested considering the application of levy charges based on licensed volumes rather than volumes of water used.

5.5.2 Collection of levies

The process for collection of levies via councils was noted under "what's working well?" in several of the community forums.

In the written submissions received from individuals, comments regarding levy collections ranged from one person saying they see it as a council levy since councils collect it, another saying the state should collect it since councils don't get the money and some see it as a burden, and another saying collection method doesn't really matter.

In their written submission, the City of Holdfast Bay noted that local councils may not be the appropriate agency to collect the levy as it leads to people mistakenly think that it is a Council charge. The same was said by the City of Onkaparinga, Alexandrina Council, City of West Torrens and others. The submission from the Local Government Association of SA also stated that the state should collected the levy, not local councils. The written submission from the City of Unley noted their support of the Local Government Association position that Revenue SA should take over the function of collecting levies.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield noted this being a timely opportunity to review the collection of land levies in their written submission. They suggested that as the levy is partly used to fund the agency staff it is no longer reasonable to ask councils to gather this income. Levies should be collected through same mechanism as the Emergency Services Levy. It was also noted that reimbursement for councils is too low and needs review.

> **"I understand the need for a levy to enable this work to continue, however this should NOT be collected via council rates because it creates a false impression of where our money is going. For transparency the state government should collect their own levies."**
> Dale, via YourSAy

In their written submission, the City of Campbelltown noted that should the new levy continue to be collected through local government, the reimbursement of collection costs should be retained

and reviewed to better reflect the cost of councils administering the collection and reimbursement to the Board.

The written submission from Naracoorte Lucindale Council supported levies being collected by councils, noting that this process removes the perception that levies support central Natural Resource Management support staff.

In their written submission, Resilient East requested greater recognition of the critical role of councils across South Australia in managing natural resources and supporting local communities can strengthen a whole of community response. They noted that this is particularly important as councils currently collect the levy. The stated that the new framework should continue to support and improve partnerships across local government and the Landscape Boards with representation and engagement opportunities.

5.5.3 Distribution of levies

Across the regions, there was a strong agreement with the proposal that levies collected in the region will be spent in the region. Much commentary around this is reference earlier in this report under the priority of funding.

It was widely noted across the state that there is a need for funds to continue to be taken from the levies collected in metropolitan Adelaide subsidise regional boards income. In their written submission, the City of Mitcham noted that if levies are to be spent where collected then Green Adelaide will get the "lion's share", which is not equitable for the rest of the State.

Many participants suggested that the redistribution of funds from Green Adelaide be done under the proviso that people who live in metropolitan Adelaide utilise regional Adelaide in a number of ways such as tourism, food supply and so on. They therefore need to support natural resource management in regional South Australia via their levy payment.

In Adelaide, the idea that levies collected in the metropolitan region are to be used to provide additional funding to other regions was supported. At the meeting with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board and in their written submission, it was acknowledged that there must be a distribution model to share the income collected in metropolitan Adelaide with the other regions.

> **"I am concerned about the ability of some regions (of vast areas with a low population) as to how to fund their programs. There is a very real inequality between the regions in terms of funding resources from levies that needs to be addressed."** Di, via YourSAy

Members of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board noted that the potential for the levy collection in the Adelaide metropolitan region will be large, and whilst the intention seems to be to distribute some of this to other regions, there is a high risk that much of the funds could end up being spent on large scale projects that are required in metropolitan Adelaide.

One local government representative at the community forum in Grange noted that whilst the council was happy for a portion of levy income to go to other regions, he would like to see a portion of the levy being transparently spent on things important to his area. He proposed that 60% of income collected in the area remain in the area, with 40% being paid in to the 'pot' to spread across other regions or landscape projects.

In Glenunga it was noted that allocation of funding needs to be based on priorities across the state and there will need to be a strong framework to determine where those priorities are.

In the written submission from the Alinytljara Wilurara NRM Board, it was suggested that part of the reform should include a mechanism for a more equitable distribution of the levy funds. An example of how this could be achieved was provided and includes creating a single fund that all levies are paid into and then distribute funds according to priorities. The priorities could be set at a regional and/or state level, with a statewide body deciding the priorities. The statewide body could comprise of the Presiding Members and General Managers with an independent Chair, or it could be an independent body.

As noted earlier in this report, in the final meeting with the NRM Partners, it was suggested that the $2million Grassroots Grants program and Landscape Priorities Fund should come straight out of the levies collected in metropolitan Adelaide, rather than collecting levies back from the regions. It was agreed that this would be a simpler and more acceptable process that is consistent with the principles of decentralisation.

At Mawson Lakes, the suggestion by one participant of a carbon accounting debt model sparked interest amongst participants. It was proposed as a way of spreading the money to the regions, with Adelaide creating higher carbon emissions so the participant suggested that they should pay more towards the state funding pot.

In their written submission, the Native Vegetation Council expressed concern about proposals to have a central auditing body for levy expenditure noting that for this system to work, and be a true community-based system, the buck must stop with the community and its Landscape Boards.

The written submission from the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy noted concern that the current funding model in is flawed. The submission noted that it is structured in a manner that restricts funds to being spent in the region they are generated. They feel that this model is not appropriate to ensure sufficient funding to address the ongoing costs of natural resource management in regions like the SA Arid Lands. They suggested that the introduction of uniform pricing across the State may provide for a more equitable distribution of costs

5.6 Statewide coordination & Landscape Priorities Fund

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries and many issues require cross-regional and statewide coordination. Approaches proposed in the Discussion Paper included partnerships across multiple Landscape Boards and other groups, and a Landscape Priorities Fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes.

5.6.1 Working together and statewide co-ordination

Members of the NRM Partners forum felt that there would certainly still need to be networking across boards, helping each other out. They felt that communities of interest go across boundaries. For statewide coordination, they suggested that the Presiding Members Council and NRM Partners network are still going to be needed. It was noted that these networks are currently an informal arrangement, but they could become something more statutory as both have been very useful and beneficial forums.

In Mount Barker, one participant noted that boundaries shouldn't be seen as "The Great Wall of China" with desire for cross-boundary co-ordination. In Marion, it was noted that there should be partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups. On Kangaroo Island it was agreed by several participants that shared projects are a good idea, but smaller regions don't have the resources to contribute.

In Leigh Creek, a Landscape Advisory Board or Council reporting to the Minister on policy and statewide issues made sense, but it was suggested that it should be a coordination, policy and administrative group and not have any control of funding.

Participants in Gawler suggested that a Landscape Advisory Group could be made up of the Chair of each Landscape Board, or a delegate from each board. In McLaren Vale it was suggested that all landscape boards meet quarterly to communicate needs and priorities within each region, including community consultation.

The South East NRM Board members noted that the membership of the concept of an advisory board presiding over the landscape fund was of interest and wondered how the members would be appointed and where are they would be from.

In Yunta, it was felt that if a Landscape Priorities Advisory Board to the Minister is to be established then this board must have representatives from all nine Landscape SA Boards, or at minimum, representation from all regional areas to ensure that key regional issues are reflected in decision making. It should not just comprise representatives from peak bodies.

5.6.2 Landscape Priorities Fund feedback

Comments received were mostly in relation to the administration of the proposed Landscape Priorities Fund and based on the coordination of the fund. All input received can be found in the appendices of this report but below is a summary of some of the key points raised.

The Kangaroo Island NRM Board members thought that the initiative of a fund sounds good but were concerned that Kangaroo Island would be left out. The Eyre Peninsula NRM Board members would rather the ability to retain surplus funds or extra levy dollars in the region for uses, working directly with boards and groups as needed. At the Ceduna community forum, one participant said that the fund sounds like cost shifting and making it look more streamlined than it is. They felt that the Alinytljara Wiluṟara and Eyre Peninsula regions already have these 'bigger statewide things' covered.

The Northern and Yorke NRM Board members were concerned that they would only be able to access these funds by lodging an application and didn't feel the fund would achieve much. The SA Murray-Darling NRM Board were concerned that this funding wasn't in addition to levy funding and that it doesn't sound like an efficient model, noting that they already do landscape projects across boundaries and there may not need to be a formal link like this.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board members felt that in theory there was no issue with the concept of a central fund, but concern was raised about the ability of their region to contribute relative to return, noting the expansive nature of the region, with a small and sparse population. This region needs the funding but by comparison to other regions does not have the levy raising capacity to contribute to the fund.

In relation to the Statewide Priorities Fund, the South East NRM Board members questioned how an advisory body would make decisions over where the money was spent across the State. They presumed there would be criteria set against which applications would need to be made but still questioned how applications that meet the criteria would be prioritised.

> **"High priority landscape projects should be identified and costed at the front end of regional NRM planning processes allowing amortisation of funds to be allocated against such projects or optional funding to be considered, for example Private Public Partnership depending on project scale."**
> KESAB environmental solutions, via written submission

In Leigh Creek, one participant noted that the proposal to have Landscape Priority Fund seems counter-productive if we are striving to move away from centralisation. In Marree, it was suggested that the region should be able to decide what money is put to landscape projects and grassroots community projects and that there is no need to have separate central funds administered by either Green Adelaide or a Landscape Advisory Board, again believing that this works against the key principles of the reform, especially decentralisation. They said that having central funds which Boards or communities are required to apply for via application will add to overall administration.

5.7 Grassroots Grants program

Many people who joined the conversations felt that the Grassroots Grants program is a good idea. Individual comments received can be found in the appendices within each report.

In early conversations with Presiding Members of NRM Boards, members of the group felt that this fund would give good bang for its buck! The group assumed that the Landscape SA Boards would manage this. If this is the case, they reinforced that they really support this fund being managed at regional board level. Others felt that the fund should be administered by the Landscape Priorities Advisory Body.

In Leigh Creek, it was noted that Green Adelaide must not administer the Grassroots Grants program, and this should be managed by the Landscape Advisory Board or stay with the regions.

Many people were concerned that the funds for the program will be taken out of the existing levy budget and is not additional funding being provided by the state.

Around the state, several comments were made that $2 million too low and participants also noted that there needs to be access to longer-term funding rather than just short-term annual funding. Participants in Kingscote proposed that the Grassroots Grants Program should be doubled to $4million, with the additional $2million coming from state treasury. In McLaren Vale, participants said that the fund is insufficient and questioned the scope of the fund as this will impact the amount of money needed in it.

> **"There will need to be an independent decision maker to make sure that the Boards don't have major disagreements about which applications get funded."** Barbara, via YourSAy

In Gawler, it was suggested that each Landscape Board manage this fund, or the Chair of each board could form a sub-committee to decide.

One participant in Berri requested that the fund not be based or allocated on a Fund My Neighbourhood model. They felt that it shouldn't be based on popularity votes.

It was also noted in many places that the process for applying for the Grassroots Grants program must be simple and accessible. It was also noted that volunteer, community and not for profit groups will require support to access funds.

The written submissions received from individuals included support for the Grassroots Grants program and how it will help volunteers and volunteer organisations with a desire for it to be a clear and transparent process. There was a question asking what 'community' means in regard to the grants and one person was concerned about the grants mostly going to rural-oriented programs.

6 | Measuring Success



At every opportunity during the engagement process, the facilitation team invited participants to consider what success will look like for this reform process. Every single measure of success written down by participants can be found in the appendices of this report, at the end of each sub-report.

Below is a selection of some of the measures of success for the Minister that people identified across the state.

"Imagine it's 2020 and you are the Minister for the Environment and Water. How do you know that this reform has been successful? What does success look like?"

Farmers are happy to engage with Landscape SA.	Boards have numerous successful partnerships and projects up and running.	Aboriginal Elders are applauding it.
Diversity of people represented in process increases	We are confident we can deal with climate change.	An engaged and environmentally vibrant community that is leading the nation.
You haven't been removed by the Premier due to an overwhelming community backlash.	Number of people in FTE employed in on-ground actions.	Minister is re-elected to government.
Zero complaints. Less pest animals and plants. Respect for native wildlife.	Primary production is not only quantified as yield but includes a measure of land health.	Success = biodiversity.
More large shade trees – green spaces – biodiversity - less weeds and feral animals. Healthy soils and oceans. Happy customers.	That the majority of monies has been spent on ground and has had a positive impact on landscape and the businesses in our areas.	You know that this reform has been successful when community projects have been completed and you have many 'Thank you letters' from locals.
Imagine its 2020 and there is no need for a session like this one! i.e. the system is running well.	Indigenous Park Rangers working across the State.	Securely funded community/Landcare groups like we used to be.
Agriculture is stronger (profitable and sustainable).	A flourishing and productive Yerta.	The River Torrens has been opened for public swimming adjacent to Adelaide Oval.
Hear children telling their parents about how to look after the environment.	As minister you are re-elected to the position or advanced.	The unicorns are grazing on beautiful lush meadows…

7 | Recommendations



The facilitation team met face-to-face with over 800 people and received over 300 written and online submissions during the engagement period. This report and its appendices contain thousands of ideas and suggestions for the Minister for Environment and Water to consider during the development of the Landscape South Australia Bill.

Based on what we've heard during the engagement process we are able to make twelve key recommendations in relation to the key proposals of the reform.

It is highlighted that these recommendations are made based on what we heard during the engagement process as independent facilitators. It is essential that these recommendations are teamed with specialist expert advice, particularly regarding topics of environmental focus.

7.1 Alternatives to a community election process

The cost, effectiveness and risks of a community election process for three of the board positions was met with great concern by many people. The process of forming the Landscape Boards needs to result in a strong, equitable, skills-based board with good representation and diversity.

It is recommended that the Minister explore options alternative to community elections to form the membership of the Landscape SA boards, including the suggestions within this report.

7.2 Statewide coordination

Whilst the proposed model of decentralisation was greatly welcomed by many during the engagement process, many people raised questions or concerns regarding the overarching coordination of natural resource management across the whole state.

It is recommended that the Minister look to establish a Statewide Landscape Board that includes peak bodies, Aboriginal nations, Landscape Boards, and government agencies, including local government representation.

7.3 Evidence-based decision making

During the engagement process, whilst many people supported the concept of decentralised decision making with greater local community involvement, there was much discussion around the need for decision making to be based on scientific fact and evidence. This included having access to expertise, facts and correct information and support from experts within the Department for Environment and Water, as well as suggestions of expertise via local government and other partners.

It is recommended that the Minister consider appropriate mechanisms to provide the support required for regional communities to make good decisions that are based on scientific evidence.

7.4 Traditional Owner involvement in decision making

Much good progress has occurred to date in working together with Aboriginal communities in natural resource management in South Australia. We were told that this needs to be built upon.

It is recommended that the Minister ensures that there is required to be at least one Aboriginal person with a cultural connection to the region on each Landscape Board; and that the Statewide Aboriginal NRM Advisory Group be re-established, with the Chair of this group being a member of any statewide coordination body that is created as a result of this reform.

7.5 Community involvement in regional decision making

During the engagement process, we heard from many people who would like to see community and land owner involvement in Landscape Boards decision making processes more streamlined and formalised. In some regional areas, existing structures such as local NRM Groups or Local Action Planning Groups provide a hub and spoke type model that further supports the model of decentralised decision making, providing the regional board with regular insight and input.

It is recommended that the Minister considers ways to build on, maintain and more formally acknowledge local groups as a conduit for supporting local decision making processes.

7.6 Community involvement in Green Adelaide

There was optimism around the concept of Green Adelaide, particularly with reference to it being a world leader in linking urban life to land management. Whilst the concept of an expert board was understood, many people questioned why Green Adelaide was different to the Landscape Boards with regard to the principle of *land owners and community at the centre*.

It is recommended that the Minister consider the Green Adelaide board being made up of both experts and representatives from peak bodies, volunteer group and local government representatives operating in the metropolitan region.

7.7 Succession planning for Landscape Boards

Across the state, many people noted the importance of young people being represented on the new Landscape Boards. Many people also discussed the shortage of available people for board positions, with the right skills, knowledge and passion. Succession planning was highlighted as incredibly important for the survival of Landscape Boards in the long term.

It is recommended that the Minister consider the role of young people on Landscape Boards, including succession planning and opportunities for environmental leadership skills development.

7.8 Ways to achieve vibrant biodiversity

The concept of natural resource management going 'back to basics' in addressing soil quality, water management and pest plants and animals was acknowledged as necessary by many people during the engagement process. However, there was very strong concern that these three activities alone aren't sufficient in achieving vibrant biodiversity with many suggestions contained within this report.

It is recommended that when drafting the new Landscapes Act, the Minister consider placing greater value on other stewardship priorities to achieve vibrant biodiversity, such as environmental restoration and nature conservation. This includes listing biodiversity as an object of the Act, plus clauses or schedules about the stewardship that needs to be undertaken on private land or where private land impacts.

7.9 A contemporary Act that addresses climate change

Many people who were part of the engagement process felt that we need to consider how climate change will impact natural resources as well as the contribution natural resources can make to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Many felt that the legislation and system need a stronger focus on the threat of climate change.

It is recommended that the Minister ensures that the new legislation incorporates and addresses and acknowledges the threat of climate change, including both mitigation and adaptation.

7.10 Distribution of levies

There was strong agreement that levies collected in a region should be spent in that region. The exception to this was in metropolitan Adelaide where people agreed that some of the levy income generated in that region would need to be used to 'top up' other regions in the state with lower levy income. However, there was concern regarding money being taken back from regions to form a statewide Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grants program, with the process feeling like clunky and complicated cost shifting.

Rather than collecting levy income back from each regional Landscape Board to form the funds, it is recommended that the Minister consider the feasibility of the Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grant program being created from levies collected within metropolitan Adelaide as one mechanism for the redistribution of funds.

7.11 Streamlined yet fair pathways to compliance

During the engagement period, compliance was widely discussed. Some people felt frustrated with a system that doesn't act, noting the lack of streamlined processes to enforce legislation. Contrary

to this, others felt that enforcement occurred too harshly, noting the lack of opportunity to address issues where compliance was not occurring through education and working with landowners.

It is recommended that the Minister consider how the new Act can create a visible, streamlined process for compliance that includes steps for education and working with landowners, but that also commits to enforcement occurring if lack of compliance continues.

7.12 Considerations for determining boundaries

The Discussion Paper advised that the existing boundaries are proposed to be largely retained, with a suggestion that there may be some changes as an outcome of the engagement process. Conversations were held in several locations about specific options and can be found within this report. No firm consensus was reached on any of the boundaries discussed within this engagement process, though clear advice was provided by the community to not change boundaries for financial gain.

It is recommended that any boundary changes are made in consideration of social and ecological systems rather than financial gain; and that any changes are made in further consultation with local government and Aboriginal nations.

8 | Appendices



8. Appendices

8.1 Reports from Early Engagement meetings
8.2 Reports from 25 Statewide Community Forums
8.3 Reports from meetings with NRM Boards
8.4 Notes from Focussed Conversations
8.5 Reports from Staff-led Engagement with Community
8.6 Online commentary via YourSAy
8.7 Written Submissions from Individuals
8.8 Written Submissions from NRM Boards
8.9 Written Submissions from Local Government
8.10 Written Submissions from Primary Producer organisations
8.11 Written Submissions from Conservation sector organisations
8.12 Written submissions from other groups and organisations

8.1 | Reports From Early Engagement Meetings



Reports from Early Engagement meetings

8.1.1 NRM Partners – 5 July
8.1.2 Presiding Members – 5 July
8.1.3 Primary Producers NRM Committee – 11 July
8.1.4 SA Regional Organisation of Councils – 18 July
8.1.5 Conservation Council Member Groups – 2 August

PHASE: **EARLY ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **NRM PARTNERS MEETING**
DATE: **THURSDAY 5TH JULY 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

Attendees –

Becky Hirst, independent facilitator

Sharon Starick, Presiding Member, SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board (Chair)
Eric Sommerville, Presiding Member, Northern & Yorke NRM Board
Felicity-ann Lewis, Presiding Member, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
Mark Whitfield, Presiding Member, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board
Fiona Rasheed, Presiding Member, South East NRM Board (via phone)
Faith Coleman, Board Member, South East NRM Board
Rick Barratt, Board Member, SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Brenton Grear, Regional Director, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges
Apology: Janet Brook, Presiding Member, SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Apology: Parry Agius, Presiding Member, Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
Apology: Mary-Anne Healy, Regional Director, Alinytjara Wilurara

Stephen Smith, Director Policy, Local Government Association
Gerry Butler, Chair, Landcare Association SA
Sheree Bowman, Secretary, Landcare Association SA
Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive, Conservation Council of SA
Jill Woodlands, eNGO Nature Facilitator, Conservation Council of SA
Rob Kerin, Executive Chair, Primary Producers SA
Amy Williams, NRM Liaison, Primary Producers SA
Brett Bartel, Assistant Director Agribusiness, PIRSA

DEW Staff:
Matt Ward
Saravan Peacock
Sarah Morgan

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Matthew Ward and Becky Hirst provided an update on the planned engagement process in the coming months.

Feedback included –

- Rob Kerin suggested considering holding a stakeholder forum in central EP
- CCSA - exposure draft before final Bill is critical
- Strong recommendation from the Conservation Council to bring different sectors together which can solve problems together and reach agreements in part of final engagement (focused conversations). PPSA agreed with this. It was added that the mining industry are needed in these cross-sector discussions. Stephen Smith (LGA) and Felicity Anne Lewis supported this too.
- Stephen Smith asked how can we (as NRM Partners) can support associations to engage with member organisations
- Rob Kerin highlighted the importance of this engagement focusing on the structure, not the detail/technical stuff
- Faith Coleman said she glad to see review of NRM Act - need to see Aboriginal consultation too
- Amy Williams asked if the Partners can see the discussion paper or at least the questions in advance? Not particularly to adjust, but to highlight any clangers?

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. Measuring success
2. The 5 Principles
3. Top 3 priorities – individually and sorted in to themes as a whole group

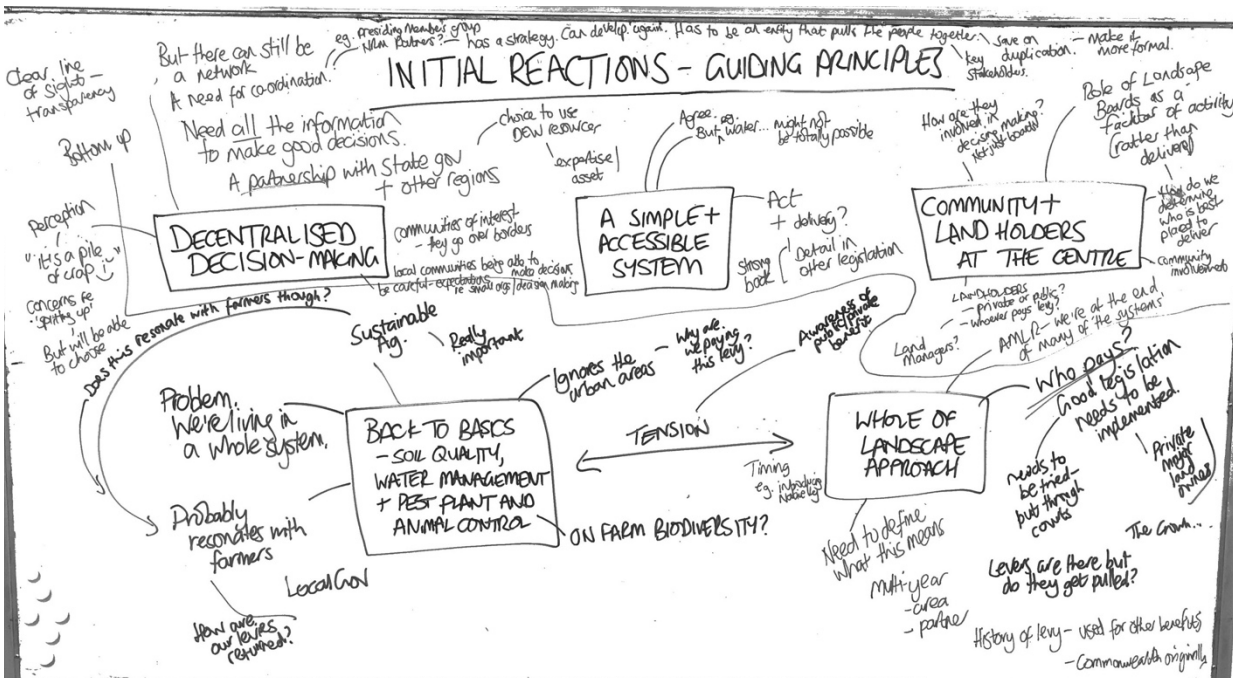
The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

New Legislation is not just a rebadge.	Robust and reinvigorated boards – people wanting to apply for board positions.	Focus of the new act is on long term sustainability of the environment. Governance is clear – NRM Board independence.
Probably longer term: Better environmental/ production outcomes. Resilient communities underpinned by solid landscape thinking. On the way to landscape thinking and practices being embedded across the South Australian community.	A system which efficiently enables good policy making (outcomes = good, fair, efficient, cash-effective policy) and good investment decisions and outcomes (more SA Government investment).	Genuine landscapes approach (integrated, multi-partner, community led) with real, measurable improvement in healthy landscape measures).
Local Government embedded and working closely and collaboratively with communities. Local Government is a partner not a tax collector.	We have legislation that enables the achievement of a functioning landscape, ecosystem and environment.	Modern legislation guiding functional landscape board operating with partnerships and delivering on-ground work.
Landscapes SA is well recognised and accepted as the premium flagship Natural Resource.	All stakeholders are happy with the improved structure/legislation.	Legislation empowers regions to guide NRM endeavours that are important to them. Communities and other stakeholders are actively engaged.
There is overwhelming community and industry support and understanding.	Facilitated partnerships, cross-tenure actively achieving outcomes on-ground.	HAPPY BOARDS and COMMUNITIES (Lack of complaints).
Success looks like the community has more say in management of the State's natural resources.	Most (if not all) NRM issues are able to be dealt with under the Act –much more a one-stop-shop than at present ~ less of 'that's the Department not us".	

2. THE 5 PRINCIPLES



Becky facilitated discussion around the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform.

There was discussion regarding the tension between an approach that goes “Back to Basics” that also takes a “Whole of Landscape Approach”. Many in the group felt these were conflicting.

Some suggested that the Back to Basics concept would resonate with farmers. It was suggested by one participant that farm biodiversity should be included as part of the Back to Basics. Another suggestion was that this be called Sustainable Agriculture – a more useful, integrated approach.

The question of “Who pays for this?” was raised whilst discussing a Whole of Landscape Approach. Private landholders pay a levy, therefore perceive this should be about private land. Consideration needs to be given to recognise the impact of what they do on their neighbours. The Crown should also pay a levy.

AMLR is at the end of many of the systems – a whole of landscape approach to them is about integration. We can’t just work on weeds in one patch – someone has to make decisions about priorities. It was suggested that there needs to be more definition around Back to Basics and a Whole of Landscape Approach.

When discussing “Community and Landholders at the Centre” it was suggested that the Landscape SA Boards should be facilitators of others doing the work, not just doing it themselves. Participants asked questions such as what the role of public landholders is, and could this principle focus more on land managers.

Another tension point was acknowledged that what if landholders have no desire to go back to basics? The group also suggested that community and landholders could be involved in decision-making – and it not just be about boards making decisions – we need to get people involved.

Conversation went on to how good legislation needs to be tested through the courts. This led to a short discussion about penalties, and prosecution costs for DEW being too high.

When discussion a “Simple and Accessible System” there was agreement that the system does need to be enabling and as simple as possible. It was highlighted that whilst being simple, the system also needs to underpin property rights around water. The Act can be simple, but the detail needs to come in the regulations.

With regard to “Decentralised decision-making”, it was agreed that we need to enable regional communities to feel like they can make decisions. There was discussion around the support required for regional communities to make good decisions such as having access to all of the correct information,

Whilst localised, the group felt it very important that the Landscape SA Boards would still work in partnership with state Government, other regions and industry. They would want to be able to take into account a broader perspective.

There needs to be a strong central policy basis to support regional decisions. Participants also felt that it would be good to be able to choose to utilise DEW resources, if they wanted to. Matt highlighted water management and water science as an example – this is a statewide asset within DEW that’s very valuable.

There would still need to be networking across boards – helping each other out. They felt that communities of interest go across boundaries. For statewide coordination, PPSA suggested that the Presiding Members Council and NRM Partners network are still going to be needed – they asked if we want this to be an informal arrangement as it currently is, or something more statutory. This has been a very useful and beneficial forum.

It was highlighted that the NRM Partners group has put strategy together before and can do this again in future as they have broad perspectives. Local voices are important, but they are not the only voices – we still need something there to enable sharing and collaboration. It was highlighted that mining and Aboriginal representatives are currently missing from the NRM Partners.

3. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each participant was given three index cards and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences and it was acknowledged that this was a process to stimulate conversation and not their formal submissions.

The group then gathered around a whiteboard and shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>REDUCING RED TAPE</u>

• Reduce complexity with the Act: Make the Act much more enabling, flexible rather than prescriptive e.g. statutory consultation. Detail could be in regulation which can be changed more readily.
• Simple, Flexible & Efficient Water Resources Management: Provide for improved management of water without increased prescription especially in non prescribed areas.
• Simplification of Water Allocation Planning.
• Streamlined Planning and Reporting: Reduce the time and expense of compliance and reporting to make better use of limited funds.
• More enabling and overarching with detail such as compliance moved to regulations.
• Streamlined Planning - Simple.</td>
<td><u>DECENTRAL DECISION MAKING</u>

• Increased autonomy for Boards: Staffing, Financial, Services e.g. audit, accommodation.
• Ensuring that the Board has full direction/control over its entire levy budget, including what and where it spends funds relating to water planning/science.
• Regional Governance: Strengthening regional decision making. Empowering communities. Ensuring regional communities have capability and resources (including levy). Skills based Boards.
• Regional Boards to be able to employ their own staff and engage contractors as appropriate.
• Regional Boards to control their budgets.
• Decentralised delivery model and decision making.
• Re-empowerment/greater autonomy of regional Boards ~ including for policy making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EMPOWERMENT AND DEVOLVED DELIVERY</u>

• Community Empowerment Involving: A genuine ‘Landscapes’ approach ~ carefully designed. Community involved in decision making. Devolved delivery.
• Multiple participation pathways for community engagement and on-ground activities.
• Community led landscape scale projects.
• Community Empowerment ~ whereby community are involved in decision making and delivery (devolved). ~ Including capacity building.
• Active and resilient networks supported by regions.
• District Groups maintained.</td>
<td><u>INVESTMENT</u>

• More investment from government overall in healthy landscapes. (Context - $ that have been lost from the system over the last 2 decades plus investment in Landscapes SA.
• More $ from Government ~ not just Levy i.e. more investment overall in Healthy Landscapes (DEW, PIRSA, NGO etc.)
• Increased Inclusively: Pigs and sheds Storm water and flood.
• Abundant Species Management (native species).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>COMPLIANCE</u>

• Strong regs
• Funding.
• A more comprehensive, flexible compliance tool kit with lower on the spot fines for minor breaches so we can have an earlier compliance focus, before ramping up.
• Mechanisms to encourage, empower and enforce on-ground action.</td>
<td><u>PARTNERSHIPS</u>

• Active partnerships with all stakeholders.
• Representative structure across SA.
• Community led focus ~ independent from government.
• Government as a partner along with industry, community etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2"><u>INTENT OF THE ACT</u>

• Biodiversity and native outcomes beyond pests and soils ~ need explicit focus on native flora and fauna as well.
• Ensure integrated so that sustainable agriculture is more in focus.
• Balance and Recognition: There is a balanced approach to environment stewardship and social wellbeing i.e. environment doesn’t lose to social and economic outcome. Recognition of social and environmental outcomes achieved by NRM since 2004 and reform builds on this to enable adaptive communities to self-organise and be active for the social environment landscape.
• That intent of Landscape SA Act is based on resilience (systems) ~ thinking applied at a landscape scale for environment stewardship by both producers and consumers of natural resources.
• Integrated landscape approach: Include water. Links or inclusion of other Acts to be more contemporary.
• Management and collaboration: State based body. Include cost, N.V. Greater engagement with Local Government. Decentralised Management model.
• Biodiversity explicit nature outcomes beyond pests and soils (i.e. native flora and fauna). Whole delivery – native conservation outcomes through Landscapes SA including central DEW.
• Integrated Landscape Management ~ maintain connection between Biodiversity/Ecosystem Health – “Back to Basics”.</td>
</tr>
</table>

PHASE: **EARLY ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **PRESIDING MEMBERS DISCUSSION**
DATE: **THURSDAY 5TH JULY 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

Present –

Becky Hirst, independent facilitator

Sharon Starick, Presiding Member, SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board (Chair)
Eric Sommerville, Presiding Member, Northern & Yorke NRM Board
Felicity-ann Lewis, Presiding Member, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
Mark Whitfield, Presiding Member, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board
Fiona Rasheed, Presiding Member, South East NRM Board (via phone)
Faith Coleman, Board Member, South East NRM Board
Rick Barratt, Board Member, SA Arid Lands NRM Board

Apologies: Janet Brook, Presiding Member, SA Arid Lands NRM Board, Parry Agius, Presiding Member, Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board

DISCUSSION

Becky Hirst met with a group of Presiding Members to have an informal discussion as part of the early engagement process. Becky invited the group to set the agenda for the 1.5 hours together, and it was agreed to discuss –

- Boundaries
- On Farm Biodiversity
- Board representation
- Any other initial thoughts

The following notes highlight the key points raised by the participants of the conversation. It was encouraged that each Presiding Member prepare their own formal written submissions with their Boards to highlight their priorities for the reform further.

Boundaries

Felicity shared the options that the existing AMLR board have put forward to the Minister for consideration of the division of their region.

The group urged the Minister to not change a boundary to address financial security for a board. They felt that there are other ways to do this.

The current boundaries of regions across the state are working well. Don't touch them! The group recommended not opening this up for discussion – this will be a pandoras box if you do!

On Farm Biodiversity

Biodiversity is still really important. Members of the group said they felt it was derogatory when people say farmers aren't interest in on farm biodiversity. As part of their survival, if not anything else, they have to be interested in it. This is about proactive management.

The group felt there were a couple of ways this could be included in the Act –

- Listed as one of the objects of the Act;

- And/or a few clauses or schedules about biodiversity – just some principles, just to support the work "that we all do". Be specific – we don't want *all* biodiversity addressed – just on private land or where private land impacts.

Board Representation

There was great concern ("it's horrifying") at the idea of 3 board members being community representatives voted on to the board purely by community vote. The group felt there were large risks in the approach being run like a general election process.

The group felt very strongly that if this approach is to go ahead, the only way the risks could be reduced would be to have a recruitment process that shortlists candidates who have suitable skills and that they are then put forward for community election.

The current recruitment process involves asking the board what skills they need – this works well and is a very important part of the process.

It was agreed that there needs to be a more transparent recruitment process.

Other initial thoughts

There was some discussion around **over abundant native species** and the role (or sometimes lack of role) that NRM Boards officially play in addressing this particular issue. Boards are often involved in research, funding decisions, communication. It can be very adhoc. The Boards have a role to play, but don't want whole responsibility – especially without additional resources! It was suggested that the new Landscapes SA Act incorporates a few words that acknowledges over abundant native species (acknowledging that these too are in the National Parks Act too). This is a minimal approach to just recognised the issue in the act – it can be kept high level.

There was some discussion regarding whether the legislation might highlight more strongly where the responsibility of natural resource management lies – in that it can't be done by just one body/organisation. It's **a whole-of-community responsibility**. Partnerships are absolute key. The new Act is a good opportunity to 'reset' things – this is a new non-blame way (even if some elements remain the same).

There was some discussion around the **$2million statewide fund** and members of the group felt that this would give good bang for its buck! The group assumed that the Landscape SA Boards would manage this – if this is the case, they reinforced that they really support this fund being managed at regional board level.

The remaining **NRM Groups** were mentioned as good to have as a conduit to the community. They help existing boards to bring together different stakeholders.

PHASE: **EARLY ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **PRIMARY PRODUCERS NRM COMMITTEE**
DATE: **THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

Attendees –

PPSA NRM Committee members:
Fiona Rasheed (Chair, PPSA NRM Committee)
Rob Kerin (Independent Chair, PPSA)
Joe Keynes (President, Livestock SA)
Caroline Rhodes (CEO, Grain Producers SA)
Deane Crabb (Policy Officer, Livestock SA)
Lisa Bennier (EO, Wine Grape Council of SA)
Warren Jacobs (SA Dairyfarmers Association rep)
Michael Johnston (Horticulture Coalition of SA rep, Olives SA)

Becky Hirst, **independent facilitator**
Accompanied by Sarah Morgan (DEW) – at request of facilitator given early nature of engagement

Other attendees:
Mark Stanley (Ag Ex Alliance)
Mark Grossman (Chair, Ag Bureau SA)
Amy Williams (NRM Liaison, PPSA)

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Becky Hirst provided an update on the planned engagement process in the coming months.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. Measuring success
2. The 5 Principles
3. Top 3 priorities – individually and sorted in to themes as a whole group

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. MEASURING SUCCESS

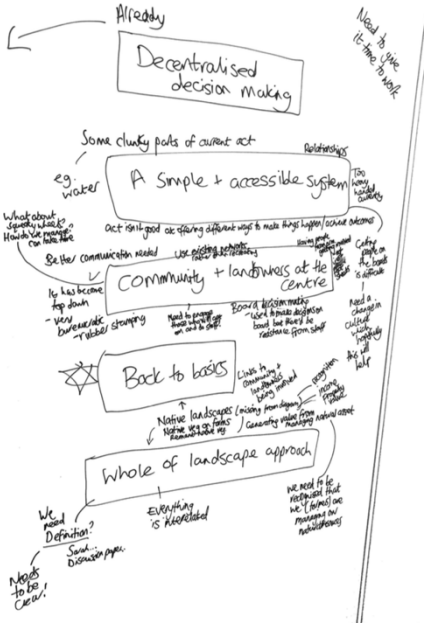
Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Good, fair policy development. Community confidence in NRM/ Landscape science and policy. Key Industry people keen to be on regional boards.	Community and Industry actively engaged in the new Landscapes model – all stakeholders are valued and regions now manage their resources from a bottom-up perspective.	Re-energised NRM System. Community values their investment in Landscapes SA programs. Plans enacted leading to an increase on- ground actions.
Boards would be less likely to open complaints to the Minister.	10 people standing for the 3 elected positions wanting to be part of boards doing good work.	New legislation in place (including regulations).
As Minister? Legislation passed without substantive amendments! And I still hold the portfolio.	Communities engaged and proactive towards Natural Resource Management. Boards skilled and trained to engage with their communities to reach decisions. Land looked after for future generations. Communication	A NRM program accepted by the communities across the state with high engagement with outcomes of sustainable management and easy to use legislation.

	open, respectful and progressive.	
The community is supportive of 'the system', feels engaged and well supported to manage the natural resources on their land and that as a result there are improvements in the overall health of the landscape.		NRM is not a dirty word. Perception of NRM has changed. NRM is exciting.

2. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

Becky facilitated discussion around the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform.



When reflecting on the first principle of **decentralised decision making**, the group noted that they had highlighted this as a key priority already (see below).

Discussion occurred around **a simple and accessible system**, mostly noting that the current act is clunky and can be too heavy handed, often not being flexible in offering different ways to achieve outcomes. The importance of relationships was highlighted in a system being accessible.

The large part of the discussion focused on the principle of **community and landowners at the centre**. One member reflected on their time on an NRM Board where they would make decisions as a board but there'd be resistance from staff to implement the decisions. Others noted that the system had become very bureaucratic with too much 'rubber stamping'. It was felt that better communication was needed with community and landowners – but by using existing networks, and building in person relationships rather than more factsheets! It was noted that getting people on to the NRM boards has been difficult and that there needs to be a culture change. It is hoped that this reform will help.

Back to basics was a key priority for this group. It was felt that this linked well to the principles of community and landowners being involved. It was acknowledged that as well as soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control, native landscapes or native vegetation was missing from the diagram provided.

When discussing **a whole of landscape approach**, the group felt that more information, or at least a definition was needed. Members of the group discussed the need (for farmers) to receive recognition for work they do in managing natural resources, as well as information or greater understanding of how they can generate value from managing natural assets – whether it be demonstrated through income generation, property value, or something else.

3. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each participant was given three index cards and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences and it was acknowledged that this was a process to stimulate conversation and not their formal submissions.

The group then gathered around a whiteboard and shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities. The group went on to divide their priorities in to the overarching principles of the act, and the 'jobs of the act'.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">OVERARCHING PRINCPLES</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>LOCAL DECISION MAKING</u>

• Regional Local Boards managing Regional Investment on Regional Priorities.
• Better information and regional autonomy.
• Decision making.</td><td><u>ENGAGEMENT</u>

• Getting farmers involved in decisions (their knowledge and being educated).
• Community Industry engagement.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2"><u>BOARD CONTROL</u>

• Boards to have the ability to employ their own staff and contractors, as appropriate
• Re-empowerment of boards to undertake decision-making/policy development for their regions.
• Boards to control their own budgets (particularly levy income)
• Board autonomy of decision making
• Board control – the budget and levy
• Boards control over own budgets – accountability and transparency
• Staff work for the Board</td><td><u>TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION</u>

• Transparency of information.</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>REGULATORY CERTAINTY</u>

• Regulatory certainty in land use.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">JOBS OF THE ACT</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>ANIMAL AND PLANT PEST CONTROL</u>

• Feral pest animal control.
• Sustainable Control and Management of native animals.
• Broader range of compliance ‘tool’ for pest animal and pest plant control.</td><td><u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u>

• Allowing producers adequate access to water.
• Water ability to use multiple supplies.
• Water Management and security.
• Water Management.
• Simplified Water Management planning.
• Water security for stock water without fees.</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>SOIL QUALITY</u>

• Sustainable Agriculture, soil, water etc.
• Soil’s health.
• Soil and erosion.
• Soils</td><td><u>OTHER</u>

• Managing climate variability
• Valuing native vegetation/biodiversity</td></tr>
</table>

ADDITIONAL NOTES – TAKEN BY AMY WILLIAMS

Points raised and suggestions included:

- Keep the reform straightforward; focus on the structure to get the legislation through then attend to detail at a later date
- Focus on what you want to achieve first then work out the structure to achieve those outcomes; focus on outcomes
- Address some issues such as water (and integration of native vegetation management issues) later – get some faith back in the NRM system, re-empower boards and restore board control over their budgets
- A query was raised about differences between boards (including structural differences)
- Regional meetings – How will people know? Will it be up to regions to promote these? There will be letters and public advertisements – regional community engagement managers are/will be involved

Reactions to the Minister's five principles (from his communique):

Decentralised decision making – consistent with priorities which had just been identified

Simple and accessible – there are clunky parts of Act, e.g. water, animal and plant control – it can be hard sometimes to take required actions or achieve required outcomes (probably need a better range of compliance tools; current provisions can either be too heavy handed or make things too hard to do); relationships – even in the current system it is possible to develop relationships to make things happen but this takes time; trouble getting people to be on the boards is indicative (also needs a change in culture – which NRM reform and new legislation will hopefully) – issues include time, apathy, relevance, getting hassled by others in the community – but there are people out there with the required skills

Community and land owners at the centre – yes – how does that differ from now? better communication; NRM was going to have a "bottom-up" approach but became top-down and bureaucratic; rubber stamping; input by board and committee members wouldn't necessarily be listened to or enacted, resistance to board directions; good information provision is needed to lead to informed decision-making; "squeaky wheels" can take up 80% of time of a board or organisation – how do you manage that?; "we didn't give the system time to work"; engage those who want to be involved; board representation (3 elected community reps – popularity vs skills); there has been a tendency to develop fact sheets rather than getting community involved – go to the groups and talk to the people; levy expenditure – use the groups (existing networks) to deliver

Back to basics – community/landholders involved; acknowledging what people do as part of their business, as well as part of the NRM system; letting people get on with business, providing support where needed but only where it's needed; native vegetation (e.g. ~55% owned by farmers on EP but landholders not receiving significant financial incentives for native vegetation management; it's costing farmers money instead of generating value by managing native vegetation) – NAB has been talking about valuing natural assets, recognising that they're not valued; we're asking farmers to manage native vegetation but it's costing them money

Whole of landscape approach – tension with "back to basics"; this relates to how the parts fit together (water – soil quality – animal and plant control), thinking beyond your own boundary, at a more regional and cross-regional scale

What does the Minister mean by landscape? Farmers are managing natural resources on farm and need to be recognised; "landscape" can incorporate all aspects (whether farm management or otherwise)

"Landscape" needs to be defined – everything is interrelated; everything has a value (but there are different ways of valuing things)

Public land – e.g. national parks, SA Water, Crown land – how to integrate this and ensure appropriate cost sharing – e.g. queries about levy money being used to support NRM on public land

PHASE: **EARLY ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **SA REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SAROC)**
DATE: **THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

Attendees –

Becky Hirst, independent facilitator
Members of the SAROC committee
LGA staff

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Becky Hirst provided an update on the planned engagement process in the coming months and took on board feedback surrounding the engagement process, ensuring the need for a wide range of stakeholders to be involved and not for input to be skewed.

FACILITATED ACTIVITY

With 20 minutes on the agenda, engagement (beyond the process update) was kept high level and aimed to seek initial 'front of mind' priorities for natural resource management reform from meeting attendees.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Meeting attendees were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Management Program driven by Councils and fund distribution to allow Councils to undertake on ground works.	Success need to embrace a stream lined efficient organisation that enhances the potential in economic benefit to Primary Production in SA.	State Government collect its own tax/levy (no sly cost shift and perception of being a Council rate). This means respect for local government sector. Majority of $ and resources to be allocated to local government for program delivery but based on a State wide strategy and priority list (efficient use of scarce resources).
1. Projects on the ground. 2. DEW a self-supporting department (not funded by NRM Levy). 3. Growing local government businesses.	1. Partnership with local government and have National Parks more responsive to community needs. 2. Rollout NRM work concentrating on weed and animal control.	A useful and functioning NRM!!. Industry in regions.
Low cost base, results driven process.	Some ROCs have alliances with RDAs and NRMs. Drive regional development. 3 way partnership in driving regions. RDAs Business Industry. ROCs Community. NRM Environment.	Faith in NRM restored. On ground **action,** not more planning.

Success for Minister: • Streamlined bureaucracy. • More Levy to on ground works. • No DEWNR involvement (Head Office). • Regional Staff committed and limited to do jobs. • More Local Government and Volunteer involvement. • Local decision making in return. • It's stuffed now ~ make it better.	Less dollars gouged from ratepayers. Less bureaucracy and staff numbers. More accountability for expenditure. Clear guidelines and goals.	Change the risk of sea level rise = water scarce
That local government has more say/voice in the operations of the NRM.	Scrap NRM and start over again.18 years ago when I started on Board Pest Plant Control cost our Board $34,000 p.a. now it is $270,000 with less services provided.	Sustainable Primary Production keeping in mind the environment. Nature based tourism sites accessible to public in an inviting and sustainable way.
That the reformed legislation, as a result of broad based consultation and is inclusive of broad community concerns and addresses future challenges especially in relation to climate change and associated risks.	Leadership Policy Outcomes Currently NRM is a bureaucratic institution of advisors, policy advisors and paid members.	

PHASE: **EARLY ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF SA, MEMBER GROUPS**
DATE: **THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Becky Hirst provided an update on the planned engagement process in the coming months and an overview of the reform, via reference to the published Discussion Paper.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group (approximately 30 people representing around 20 Conversation Council member groups) went on to undertake three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. Top 3 priorities – individually and sorted in to themes as a whole group
2. Top 3 things that are currently working well
3. The 5 Principles – and how these might help in addressing priorities of the group
4. Engagement - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
5. Measuring success

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each participant was given three sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences and it was acknowledged that this was a process to stimulate conversation and not their formal submissions.

The group then shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

BIODIVERSITY	**ENFORCEMENT/COMPLIANCE**	**RESOURCING**
• Maintaining and improving biodiversity, prevention further extinction. • Stronger legislation and regulations that protect biodiversity and natural landscapes in the long term. • Really achieve NO SPECIES LOSS and prevent common species from becoming rare. • Reforms should increase the focus on protection of biodiversity/nature conservation. Particularly the objects of the Act and Duty of Care provisions.	• Strong effective framework of regulation. • Resource and local support ~ community effort, but need to see more compliance. • Implement NRM Act 2004 enforcement. • Biodiversity focus.	• Opportunities for community to directly influence decision making to delivery including access to $. • Decentralising resources ($ and power) for management of natural resources. • Allocation of resources to be needs based, rather than closely tied to areas/NRM region of source.
OTHER PRIORITIES • NRM EDUCATION (existing) to support local efforts and groups of the government. (i.e. recognise local effort/autonomy)> • Landscape Scale ~ scope ~ resilience ~ restoration. • More informal involvement of indigenous groups in co-management of conservation areas. • Improved stakeholder engagement in implementation. (communication) Local 'ownership'. • Weed awareness and management.		

- Currently Mining Act and Geothermal and Petroleum Act function to over-ride NRM Act – not functioning well to protect environment; particularly water ways. ENFORCEMENT?
- Ban fracking outright and no mining in both terrestrial and marine parks.
- Maintain local relationships and funding where working well and local NRM centres (e.g. Willunga) and Youth.
- Genuine protection for Coast and Marine environments.
- Achieve % budget spent on-ground removal of bureaucratic layers.
- Flexibility to focus on pest/weeds for assets not just for control/declare sake.
- MDB Plan in full and on time.
- Encourage more environmental flows in River Murray and other waterways.
- Levy to continue but distributed on need not just per capita.
- Contiguous corridors of native habitat to benefit wildlife.
- Widen linkages (meaningful). Identify how/if NRM could link with Adelaide Airport ~ voluntary coordination effort ~ our Patch.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each participant was given three sticky notes and asked to write down the top three things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Cross scale and boundary collaboration.
- Integrated (include broad scope) ~ underpin NRM approach.
- Useful objects in the Act ~ include ESD and Bio.
- Keep good lower level staff ~ stop saving by cutting out these people who are doing a good in difficult circumstances.
- NRM education.
- NRM/Grape growers ~ elimination of feral trees i.e. olives etc.
- Regional Planning (consultation and plan).
- NRM only ones left standing as funding withdrawn from DEWNR. Council collects levy and not all ratepayers happy.
- Joint projects with Birds SA and NRMs currently working well (e.g. Tolderol).
- Existing Projects ~funding and support distributed to people who care for the environment on the ground.
- Funding and advice on weed management: and extend work on other feral species.
- Insurance for volunteers (but varies across land tenure e.g. Torrens Island).
- NRM providing an integrated mind frame for managing across 'silos'.
- Engagement with schools, teachers and students.
- Youth Program – local centres.
- NRCs including sustainable and marine.
- Engagement with and support of Councils and local government.
- Work with aboriginal communities, but limited and must be extended.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

Becky introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

3.1 Decentralised decision making

- Need a hub and spokes model, so that there is responsibility taken for the decisions made (i.e. decentralisation no excuse for 'passing (?) the bad' about environmental outcomes.
- "Principle of Subsidiary" (look it up as used EV) i.e. management and resources devolved to lowest functional level.

- BS! Should read ‘deregulation’.
- Biggest problem ~ appointments with the Minister with those with greatest knowledge so needs to be broader scope here as basics.
- Longevity of staff/project offices is more important than where they are based.
- Generally: these headings indicate a mentality that is not engaging community wealth and knowledge.
- This relies on investment in these communities to have capacity.
- This is the value of the regional model and should be invested in to deliver this strength.
- Is ‘decentralise’ code for ‘disempowerment’?
- Don’t exclude partners from outside regions from bringing in their experience and strengths.
- There is some considerable value in cross regional and state wide strategy – must be a healthy tension between the two.
- Agree decentralisation is good in theory but must also be constrained by higher thinking.
- Can’t decentralise decisions and responsibility without decentralising power and resources.
- Asking DEW to decentralise power after 10 years of centralising power will be difficult without major changes to the bureaucracy.
- DEW/NR have not done the regions any favours ~ don’t trim at the grassroots, just trim the waistline.
- Regional communities are already over-stretched and don’t have capacity for more involvement.
- If this means an increased voice for community groups and skilled individuals with expertise in decision-making then it is a good outcome.
- Community decision making is critical but must be at a real level, not just small things.
- *“Support greater flexibility and responsiveness to local issues’* - yes, like what you Minister, have already done allowing golf course to rule over precious native vegetation on Kangaroo Island.

3.2 A simple and accessible system

- ‘*A simple, straightforward system that is less encumbered by red tape and compliance requirements’* and allows quicker, less thoughtful development…
- Self-regulation is dangerous and doesn’t work ~ as shown in industries such as aquaculture (an environmental disaster).
- Robust and effective regulation is what is required. Not just about on-ground actions.
- There is a simple system in NRM Act 76: (6) (7) (8). If this is adhered to then everything should fall into place.
- Some regulation and compliance are needed to protect natural systems from rogue operators.
- The extension focus of the existing system has been exhaustive and compliance is last resort – again query if this is broke.
- I think the Bus Plan is a transparent system – query if an issue there.
- Simple but robust – of course but don’t compromise outcomes for simplicity.
- The terminology used here implies distrust and mismanagement are issues. I disagree.
- Science based achievable landscape restorations.
- Removal of ‘red tape’ cannot be used to avoid environmental protections. Compliance requires some enforcement measures.
- All projects must have an allocation of funds to monitor success and/or lack of success = Adaptive Management.
- Uniform treatment of volunteers by different government departments ~ at the moment treated very differently by DEWNR and DPTI (DPTI has no appreciation of what volunteers do and place unnecessary restrictions and red tape – especially insurance issues.
- Self-management doesn’t work in the competitive environment of land management.

- Locally managed for accessibility.
- Dangerous self-regulation-assessment.
- A standardised fair system of regulation with oversight of the whole issue/area is better than individual assessment.
- Need connections drawn and maintained between local voluntary actions and legislated legally mandated responsibilities – biodiversity, fire management and sustainability.
- Will never happen if majority of resources are located in the middle. Empty words if genuine on-ground management is not enabled.

3.3 Community and land owners at the centre

- *Those who work on, live on and care for the land are well placed to sustain our environment* ~ especially indigenous people.
- *The reforms will build on strong partnerships with land users, valuing their knowledge and understanding of the landscape* ~so the person who owns the creek controls the water? Yes – this ignores the community.
- It is impossible to make land/properties safe from fire without removing what we value biodiversity. Only concrete is totally fire proof.
- Yes! But not in isolation. The other component is to build successful and supportive coalitions across landholders, industry, government and the wider community.
- A very important aspect of a changed Landscape Act would be the open and transparent engagement, consultation and integration of community views in the decision making and implementation of on-ground activities and policy development.
- Property rights cannot 'trump' all other interests.
- Landholders need support and partners, they are a wonderful part of the solution but not the only.
- Sound wonderful! How will it work? In principle it means drought assistance, help with improving soils, returning organic matter to paddocks, fencing off dams and creeks.
- Food for starving cattle and sheep.
- No 'circuses' we need real support and also real care of animals.
- Stop mining and fracking being allowed to override so called protection of farm land and biodiversity.
- What about all the rights of the commons.
- Show people the money! Don't lean on volunteers for a definition for 'working alongside'.
- No more 'jobs and growth' mantra! Living standards, sustainability and protection of land (farm, horticulture, biodiversity).
- Wild law jurisprudence – grant standing to nature (particularly waterways).
- Great principle but how will it happen? Community need to be genuinely involved in real decision making for public land. Land holders and community need to be supported with education/training and logistical and financial support – genuine partnerships.
- Land owners are not volunteers.
- What about natural systems that are 'owned' by the state/crown e.g. marine areas.
- Landholders of course are key as long as we understand that means DEW, Aboriginal people, NGOs etc. are significant land owners.
- We need help for those landholders who are stuck ~ can't manage ~ can't sell! We all lose.
- Misconceived? Role of agreement is to set policy parameters and regulate where necessary. 100 years of self-regulation was a failure and gave rise to NRM system.

3.4 A whole of landscape approach

- *A landscape scale restoration approach must also consider interaction between natural systems and people* ~ what about the inherent integrity of natural systems independently?

- A whole bioregion approach = it is more than simple aesthetics.
- All project plans need to include funding to monitor success/or future.
- Working smoothly across landscapes across boundaries of crown land parcels owned by different government departments e.g. DEW/DPTI/Renewal SA.
- Environmental Flows needed for all waterways.
- Is there a fundamental inconsistency between a 'whole of landscapes' approach and a 'back to basics' approach ~ holistic vs narrow?
- Whole of landscape sounds good. Where can we see this? Adelaide Hills has been fragmented in my lifetime!
- Reinvigorate the corridors agenda i.e. NLinks, it is a real solution and a new approach to regulated planning ~ turn existing on head!
- Restoring 41ha has been enormously expensive (to 2 of us) both $ and time. For whole of landscape (a) who will do it? and (b) where is the money coming from?
- How does this principle function? Value added here? Definitions needed.
- This needs to be defined: multi partner benefits; follow international standards; driven by community and owned locally; cross boundaries; at scale to be meaningful; appropriately resourced.
- Most committed to this principle.
- Large scale vision supported by whole community and strategic, guaranteed long term funding to support it and restoring links between remnant vegetation.
- Totally ~ ecology = interaction components – a landscape ~ humans are only …..
- What about whole of seascape?
- There is a fundamental problem with how all these priorities are framed. This is not about natural resource managers (people) it is about nature.
- Reducing contaminations across landscapes e.g. plastics, toxic wastes, soil contamination and pests.
- 'Whole of landscape' can be determined at many different scales. The important aspects are that there is a community social and environmental need.

3.5 Back to basics

- *Communities* – our communities are those where humans co-exist with all other living beings.
- Slogan talk: basics = biodiverse systems (not the route to buggery).
- This makes me nervous because I don't think biodiversity (nature conservation) is adequately reflected in a 'back to basics' approach.
- This is a simplistic view of society and the needs of the community and conservation and management of the environment. We have a complex system that can be managed in parts but they require linkages.
- There are no measurable outcomes mentioned in the documents. What are the changes intended to achieve? What does vibrant biodiversity mean? Too many motherhood statements.
- Take note of NRM Act 76 (6) (7) (8),
- 'Soil quality and water management' – how do these translate into priorities in the marine environment? Need to have alternatives! These are not the only basics – what are the outcomes that they are contributing to?
- Can't just keep managing pest/weeds just because declared – have to manage for an outcome or you fritter it all away.
- You can't manage soil/pest/weeds etc., without integrated landscape management with native central.
- A basic swing.
- Landscape scale restoration is unachievable pie in the sky. Get realistic. Why 'landscape' instead of 'land' or even country. Landscapes exist for all life, not merely for humans: ecology has its own integrity and we depend on that system.

- Don't forget biodiversity – restoration of landscapes and protecting existing habitats.
- What is 'vibrant biodiversity'?
- Make sure 'basics' doesn't oversimplify and sacrifice complex interactive ecosystems. The reality is that we often don't understand the glue that holds our system together ~ need to identify the relationships that underline the complexity ~ not oversimplify.
- Most concerned on this one – integration and landscape – an apparent contradiction to this.
- The most basic thing is balance – centralising protocols is difficult, but a focus on production only is wrong-headed.

3.6 Parking Space

- Contamination including regulation/enforcement.
- Foster a love of nature. We all have a different and personal relationship – needs to be encouraged and shared ~ for the joy.

4. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects. They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Reinventing the NRM Act. • Privileging land ownership over common/community interest.	• Strengthening Acts protecting native assets i.e. parks and wildlife, native vegetation. • Weed/pest control with a biodiversity purpose, not just weed control for weed control sake. • More effective compliance. • Better monitoring of biodiversity assets long term.	• NRM education. • Working with landholders and indigenous communities to improve land management. • Integrated managements: weeds; pests; water; soil; biodiversity; landscapes. Not just addressed individually.
Table 2		
• Stop listening to the loudest voices – vocal minority. • 'strong-arm' engagement – hijack community/NGO initiated projects. • Stop increasing the frequency of control burns in remnant bushland.	• Increased engagement/project delivery via community groups/NGOs (for a good example – as per AMCR coastal work). • Connect City to Country. • Facilitate nature connected communities ~ fostering a love of nature. • More Aboriginal ranger groups. • Identify ecosystem benchmarks via community	• NRM Education and community NRCs but more in regional areas and more in partnership with community groups. • Funding community driven on-ground action informed by Science. • Devolve delivery systems with new funding mechanisms.

	biodiversity surveys and educating people how to maintain healthy systems.	
Table 3		
• Seeking voluntary compliance from blatant offenders of Act.	• A more considered, science and evidence based approach that support the biosphere. • Biodiversity education – engaging children and young people. • Better engagement with NGOs and people other than those with a commercial interest in land use e.g. mining companies, irrigators etc., • Enforcement and compliance of protections. • Recognition of spiritual aspects of connection nature (not just with Indigenous People)!	• Continue (and increase) genuine partnerships with NGOs. A good model is having a formal Memorandum of Understanding – like the Nature Conservation Society of SA currently has with Northern and Yorke Board – as this promotes genuine co-design of projects, as does Conservation Action Planning.
Table 4		
• Stop generating policies and plans which cost much and have no outcomes. • Stop prioritising development over protection of biodiversity and natural resources (not mining either). • Stop using environmental poor weed pest control methods. Need KPIs and monitoring. • No species loss! 2010 – What happened? There was NO real effort to bring about this noble goal. Why? Because development rules! Need to change NOW.	• Board not weighted in forums of government (image of Planning Act). • Prioritise natural landscape and biodiversity in planning legislation. • Create and protect corridors to link habitats. • Developing greater linkages between Conservation NGOs and landholders. • Assess biodiversity in all areas and plan to protect it. Raise awareness and education. • Teach environmental literacy. • Face the danger of climate change. • Mitigation not adaptation. (What will adapt to climate change and temperature rise – we are above 1 degree C now).	• State wide feral pest management must continue. • NRM education – most schools. • Conversations with local land owners/landcare.
Table 5		
• Conflict of interest of the board members – should an owner of land be on a board? • Compulsory contracting to DEW not only for delivery	• Educate landholders about modern land management – ecology etc. – devolve models of delivery,	• Provide information, support, pest control supplies etc., to landholders. • NRM newsletter to schools ~ excellent.

but for consultation – others have so much to give to this. • Stop framing this as being about nature management/managers (people) and focus on nature (and how we can love it better).	• Agricultural students not allowed by parents to change practice. • Teach all children how the Australian/SA ecosystems works in a systematic way: as a teacher I know this does not happen now, even with all our science initiatives. Biology often devalued in favour of 'hard sciences (steam). • Fostering a love of nature in everyday lives of SA.	• Invest in good extension officers with great relationships with landholders. • NRCs and NRM education. • Funding Nature Plan. • Regional Plan consultation in some regions good. • Expanding rate of co-management and the work done to engage with Aboriginal communities.

ADDITIONAL COLUMN: REVIVE

- Youth Nature exchange between Urban and Regional areas.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

People are still talking to him.	The reform has been successful because of the comprehensive community consultation which took place. This resulted in the popular reform which was introduced.	Measure success – the Murray is flowing at the Mouth – the community has made ecosystem health an election priority for all parties.
Positive votes in environmental issues.	Success – we don't have to do this all over again. People understand that 'landscape' is code for 'living ecosystems' otherwise you've just designed a radical reform for the conservation of the most resilient aspect of the biosphere while the rest pegs out.	Greater protection for natural systems and species. Opportunities for communities to deliver projects through a range of mechanisms. Support for landholders to undertake sustainable land management. Greater funding/employment for people engaged in land management. Strategic oversight.
The environment portfolio is properly funded.	Success is all South Australians (especially our future elders) are feeling much closer to nature and dedicated to its destiny (alongside their own).	Success? Everyone respects land and other life forms. Links provided throughout State for all forms of wildlife. Farms productive and well managed. Weeds controlled if not eliminated. Education includes biological studies for all – equally important as other STEM subjects.
There will be practical, measurable ways of showing: how the environment is improving, (not commercial measures); how the community	Indigenous leaders and group having a stronger voice and presence and engagement in landscape projects.	I would actually go back and work for NRM again, and be proud of what it is achieving.

is aware of and caring for the environment.		
No one queries the levy. Communities and environment are connected to each other at a landscape scale. Nature and environment influences decision making. All agencies see NRM for SA as part of their business too.	Everybody will understand why nature is so important, and caring for our environment will be second nature (I wish!). There will been enough money provided, and everyone will be able to view the future with optimism.	Two years time! gosh I wish I had realised that most of it was in the NRM Act Section 76 (6) (7) (8). Success – a platform for voices to be heard. Where is the question for what stops it being successful?
I'd be a happy Minister of Environment if no more known native species had become extinct, and more had been re-introduced.	Two years is short and there's a lot of aspects and it might be hard to tell but success to me would be: several (8? One per board) large scale restoration projects are successfully up and running. There is a robust monitoring program in place to discern success.	Success – healthier biodiverse landscapes; corridor linkages between remnant habitats; a more engaged community with nature; recovery of threatened species populations and environments; NRM field staff working hand in hand with community groups and landholders to achieve positive biodiversity outcomes.
There will be no need for organisation like the Conservation Council because the systems are fixed.	No more species have been lost. Less species threatened. Population growth (human) is stable and reducing. People living in communities not 'economies'.	Build post implementation monitoring into all aspects = Adaptive Management. This lets you build on the good and avoid repeating failures.
Success ~ a greater proportion of funding is accessible to on-ground projects.	Better managed soils, water and biodiversity resilience.	Success is: increased % of environment budget in DEW spent on the ground = reduce expenditure in head office and middle/upper management – more frontline spending.
The community has fully accepted the reality of Climate Change and there is a clear and dedicated plan to reduce all activities that are leading to the oncoming catastrophe.	There are no measurable objectives in the documentation produced so far. Therefore there is little prospect of determining whether or not a success. Wouldn't it have been more logical to start with exactly what is sought (in measureable terms) and then come up with a structure/process?	People start voting for the environment. We see changes towards more environmentally and friendly behaviours. More natural systems are protected and functioning.

8.2 | Reports From 25 Statewide Community Forums



Reports from 25 Statewide Community Forums

8.2.1 Port Lincoln – 7 August
8.2.2 Ceduna – 8 August
8.2.3 Port Augusta – 10 August
8.2.4 Victor Harbor – 13 August
8.2.5 McLaren Vale – 14 August
8.2.6 Murray Bridge – 16 August
8.2.7 Kingscote – 21 August
8.2.8 Clare – 22 August
8.2.9 Glenunga – 23 August
8.2.10 Mawson Lakes – 27 August
8.2.11 Gawler – 28 August
8.2.12 Coober Pedy – 29 August
8.2.13 Mount Barker (1) – 29 August
8.2.14 Mount Barker (2) – 30 August
8.2.15 Berri – 3 September
8.2.16 Yunta – 4 September
8.2.17 Leigh Creek – 5 September
8.2.18 Nepabunna – 5 September
8.2.19 Marree – 6 September
8.2.20 Grange – 6 September
8.2.21 Scotdesco – 12 September
8.2.22 Mount Gambier – 17 September
8.2.23 Bordertown – 19 September
8.2.24 Meningie – 20 September
8.2.25 Marion – 4 October

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**PORT LINCOLN**
TIME/DATE:	**2-5PM, 7TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**BECKY HIRST/STEVE DANGERFIELD/JON BOK**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A lively session with 35 participants representing a good mix of interest groups - ranging from local government to Landcare groups, primary producers and former board members.

Whilst the full depth of input can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- Very strong support for **local decision making** and **local representation** on boards;
- The need to make sound **decisions based on facts** and science, not on individual agendas;
- **Water management** is a critical topic for the Eyre Peninsula and must be addressed;
- Consideration should be given to **succession planning** for future board members, with one suggestion being to use money from the Grassroots fund to support this;
- Desire for **more transparency** in how rates are calculated, especially expressed by those in local government;
- Board representation must be **skills based**, whether appointed by the member or elected by the community – a shortlisting process will help with this; and representation from around the whole region is essential plus someone from indigenous community must be on the board. Some members of the group felt the whole board should be community elected;
- Develop a **governance and operational system/model** (inclusive of reporting and engagement) that can be used by the boards for consistency across the state.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by Becky who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process. The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation and board accountability
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priorities for reform at this meeting in Port Lincoln were –

- **Planning and engagement**
- **Water**
- **Local decisions**
- **Board representation**
- **Funding**
- **Education**

The below table includes all input received under each theme.

PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT	**WATER**
• Simplified planning with measurable outcomes. • Re-engage Community Engagement and trust and re-incorporate local knowledge into plans. Need the Science in decision making. • Improved abundant native species control/management. – Planning. • Stewardship priorities e.g. Coast Care ~ planning.	• Five thing to reform: ○ Greater local control of Native Vegetation; Coastal Conservation. ○ Improved abundant native species control/management. ○ Support of funding redistribution to Regions without overall fund reductions. ○ Regional focus on partnerships need to be supported by funding i.e. 80%. ○ Water security. • Water management. • Water management outside of PWA. • Licensing. • Prescription. • Water management pre 2006. • Water resources.
LOCAL DECISIONS	**BOARD REPRESENTATION**
• Local Decision Making. • Accountability. • Expertise based in Regional areas. • Weed management along roadsides and coastal areas. • “Landcare” groups ought to be reinstated. • On-ground works. • Greater control of Native Vegetation and Coastal Conservation.	• Board Selection Criteria. • Balanced boards ~ mix of skills and representation. • More sub-groups within the board system.
FUNDING	**EDUCATION/COMMUNITY GROUPS**
• Streamline/reduce red tape: ○ Reduce burden of applying for funding (especially for small groups). ○ Speed up approval processes (including for marine industries e.g. aquaculture). • Less red tape when applying for community funding ~ Funds/Process. • NRM Fund ~ will be useful to get funds from City out to Regions. • Regional focus and partnerships need to be supported by funding i.e. 80+%. • Clarify spending on Parks vs Working Landscapes. • Support funding redistribution to Regions without overall fund reduction • Redistribution of funding to Regions.	• More education for sustainable practices in modern context: business opportunities; climate change and best practice.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management. The following work was noted -

- Accessing grant funding (e.g. National) for Councils/Regional areas.
- NRM (local) working well with Regional organisations e.g. RDA and EPLGA.
- Local staff connection with community.
- Support for farming systems groups ~ has been good but slipping a bit; good to recognise that this is an import part of NRM.
- Level of local professionalism within local ranks.
- Funding model = works as it was intended, but is it right?
- Native vegetation, fencing etc., heritage.
- Skippy! He's a great resource! (Member of staff).
- Collection of levies through council is efficient.
- Local NRM staff to facilitate programs ~ crosses bounds ~ landscape approach.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Decisions need to be integrated.
- Decisions need to be based on evidence.
- Still need some consistency across Regions.
- Need flexibility within Regions to deal with local issues.
- Within a Regional Strategic Planning framework inclusive of economic, environmental and social priorities from ground up not top down.
- Local knowledge and science (locally) respect (so decentralise).
- Evidence, facts based decision making.
- Evidence must not be that of his or hers personal ambitions, this quite often happens with coastal process to make their department, bigger and powerful.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Keep processes and planning simple and easy to understand ~ (no more long winded planning).
- Education (landowners, schools and public).
- When making plans, plans must be able to be implemented with accountability!
- Distribution of information via media sources.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Engagement with landholders by NRM.
- Enable local NRM staff to be responsive to local community needs ~ e.g. in response to natural disasters and ongoing land management.
- Encourage volunteering: less red tape across the board ~ it is critical local knowledge is listened to and implemented.
- Increasing the recognition and usage of local knowledge in developing plans and actions.
- Trust local knowledge developed over lifetime.
- Encourage and support local interest/volunteer groups.
- Recognise natural scrub and revegetation as an improvement to land management.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Whatever is decided = all is connected! (Society, Science, Local Knowledge).
- Agreed ~ combined action needs the ability to mobilise increased resources in the short term to reduce cost in the long term.
- More research in the short term to inform action for the long term (increased partnership between all levels of government/university/research bodies).
- Large scale projects/programs require strategic prioritisation and investment and supervision.
- Recognise importance of watercourses and vegetation to biodiversity and creating resilient landscapes.
- Increase protections for roadside vegetation.

e. Back to basics

- Water planning and management pre 2006 is non-existent.
- Never underestimate local knowledge ~ include Aboriginal people and environment.
- Prescription and licensing is critical for the whole of E.P.
- This management is not occurring under the present NRM Act!
- Get volunteers ~ re-engaged in "NRM Landscapes" action on-ground etc., (less red tape).
- Natural biodiversity and cultural and historical connections need more priority and the engagement of Barngarla people. (Preservation for future generations).
- Water security needs major rapid action across E.P. – A long term achievable action based approach is needed.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Skills based only. Balanced for the whole Board (skills) not all from the one area. • Community representation (not government).	• The ability for the Region to have direct input into the section. • Good manageable size	• Degree of community input. • Chair – only casting vote (steering role e.g. chair in local government).

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Diversity in Region: Whyalla vs Port Lincoln vs Ceduna vs Wuddina. • More Board Members from Community (majority). • There is no mandated indigenous representative. Must be regional. Minister has power veto.	• How we ensure member appointed by the Minister are recognised and respected in the region. • How do we know (make sure) TG 4-3 mix, differently appointed will work cohesively to achieve shared goals (having the right balance of skills). • Prefer 4 elected by community, 3 by Minister including Chair.	• Community elected members should be independent of state agency recommendations and be elected only by the community. • Elected Members have appropriate skill sets.

	• Chair to have a deliberative vote, rather than a casting vote. • The need to ensure good EP Regional representation. • Want to maintain existing knowledge.	

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Chair – local from Region. • Membership from sub-regions.	• Understanding of the need for a well-balanced Board of local knowledge, specific skills and regional recognition. • Tenure and Board renewal – ensuring knowledge is maintained. • Setting the vision for what the Board needs to be. • Increased priority resourcing to ensure engagement with the region is achievable. • Skills based not stakeholder board. • A very carefully developed induction process for all Board members. • Ensuring that collaboration and partnership with local governments (EPLGA) and RDA are maintained and enhanced.	• Complete transparency. • Public access to all decisions e.g. minutes published on website. • Minister not able to give instruction to Minister appointed roles. • Establish process for election of Community Members.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Establish measurable outcomes (supported by data) Economical, social and environmental. • Transparency and accountability within Region and to Minister.	• Develop a governance and operational system/model inclusive of reporting, engagement. All the templates finalised with Boards.	• Levy to be enough to run a corporate structure. • Partnership agreements with Community Groups/Councils/ Farming Systems Groups. (Mutually driven by Trust). • Appropriate Governance for the level of the Board.

• Regular timeframes (e.g. 6 month Region/12 month Minister). • Use of technology to manage and monitor project deliverables. • Identify key partnerships via Planning Processes for delivery of plan outcomes.		• Responsive post disaster event. • Complaints mechanism?

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Activating key industry groups across (and beyond) the Region. • Must be skills based Board with good local regional representation (Not single Board agenda people). • Board needs direct line to Minister.	No comment.	• No personal agendas or alliances. • Transparency • Accessibility of Board Members. • Social media capacity. • Prepare state wide templates for board/corporate governance (in partnership with local government) that can be tailored at regional level - help to retain some consistency across regions and efficiency.

Additional notes made in whole group discussion –

Board:
- Local – but consider representation from across the Region (Four sub groups) – consider skills based.
- People independent from Government.
- Community representatives need to be elected by the community.
- Four members who are land owners whose income is derived from the land.
- Consider Aboriginal representation – Who? How?
- Complaints management process.
- Balanced set of skills.
- Set the vision for the Board.
- Region to establish the merits – planning process.

Accountabilities for the Board:
- Template in the State context around Corporate Governance/HR –Corporate package to not reinvent the wheel – not to force upon the Board.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	**START DOING**	**CONTINUE DOING**
Table 1		
• Statement of Intent should remain in Department of Planning (this is not what happens now). What happens	• Put minutes of meetings on website. • Staff to live in their own district with security –	• Strategic approach to the region (and drill down to regions). • Keep priority on good staff ~ committed people.

now is it goes to other departments. • Having closed meetings and keeping minutes secret. • Taking legal action against council – use mediation instead.] • Using tenure as means of justifying zoning and refusing building applications.	employment not short term contracts. • Board and advisors to be accountable, make plans so they can be implemented. • Allocation of resources, people, time, budgets to support engagement. • Incorporated local knowledge.	• Make decisions around science, facts and evidence that is not to their own personal agenda – independence. • Decisions cannot be made to make a department have influence that only they have full control of. • But outcomes on ground – needs to strengthen up.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Transparency over process for establishing Annual Levy. • Declared portion of all levies collected to be allocated to: Landscape Priorities (state wide); Local Projects; Administration of Local Boards.	• Who questions base levy? Too high or too low. • Good that spent in Region. • % to go to local community groups e.g. over 20-50.	• Generally happy – in long term have more involvement with Landscapes Boards for future settings. • Make transparent to 'levy payers' of how and why – make clear. • Prioritising Regions. • Important ~ very transparent process ~ how calculated? Link to planning. • Need to see benefit of levy. • Don't let levies hold up process. • Collection via Councils is efficient (e.g. vs ESL). • How do we know it's right now? Is the base levy the right place to start? • How will staffing be determined? • ISSUE: Boards having to pay inflated salaries to attract/retain staff in regions.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.

- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table	Table 3
• Priorities – leverage. • Strategic approach to cross Regional projects (targeted). • Funding priorities should align with Regional strategic priorities.	• Yes – but what level of funding. • What does DEW do? • Co-ordination across Boards – better idea/reduce costs.	• Supportive of these two initiatives and of this approach, particularly if we see a greater redistribution of metro NRM resources to regional areas.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Easy efficient acquittal process. • Needs to be simple enough that it can be managed by small groups. • Provide funding that promotes sustainable volunteering/other funds/projects. • Consider tax incentives for landholders who undertake environmental initiatives on their land.	• $2M not enough ~ $20M more like it – could be part of levies?	• Good – supported. • Simplified application process and more onerous acquittals. • Encouraging partnership projects. • Focus support on small community with large areas to maintain. • Fair and equitable distribution model. • Local knowledge on assessment panels. • Investing in volunteer capacity. • Needs simple application and reporting process. • $2M not enough. • Could be 20-50% local levy to grassroots. • Redistribution via grassroots to better see where it goes. • Succession Planning/strong leadership. • Strong pool of community leaders. • Long term sustainability in the system that goes beyond election cycles.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

That legal action by the NRM against Local Government Councils never once was allowed to get to the Courts. Mediation in every case was successful.	The reforms have an overwhelming approach. Lack of complaints. Transition to renewables incorporated.	Regional plans being effectively implemented. Community engagement in environment projects. Target ~ Zero ratepayer complaints re levy.
All groups are happy with outcomes and works are happening on-ground from levy monies.	That there is an effective, respected structure in place that has the resources to make measureable positive difference on-ground. Natural resource priorities.	If you can get the reform in 2 years you're a miracle worker.\
Communication still with Minister and their relationship with Local Government.	Activated local groups ~ less overhead expense.	An extensive range of established Community Groups dealing with local and regional issues.
Communities are not adjusting. Less complaints to local member.	You know that this reform has been successful when community projects have been completed and you have many 'Thank you letters' from locals.	Think it will take more than 2 years (more like 2021). Co-operation outcomes will be shown in volunteer groups that have been established and are operating with project outcomes.
I'm still Minister for Environment. 9 Landscape Boards set up and running smoothly. Partnerships created in Regions.	Community ownership in managing sustainable landscape.	Boards have numerous successful partnerships and projects up and running.
Use more local groups ~ land holder.	Confidence in ability of boards to deliver on local projects re-established.	There is an increase in GDP (GSP, GRP) and employment directly attributable to NRM projects!
More on-ground works. Improved economic situation (SA). Improved environment. Improved social capital. Community satisfaction ~ high. Value for money ~levy.		

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledged that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The following notes were made –

- NRM focus on working landscape, rivers and creeks.
- Re-engage with local landholders, friends of groups, agriculture bureaus, and councils.
- Complexity for community groups – safety, grant funding.
- Water security for sustainability (John Hyde).
- Re-distribution from metro.
- Capping NRM levy to CPI/council rate capping.
- Coalition of councils to deliver NRM programs (e.g. weed spraying officers).
- Developing desalination plan (sea water to fresh water) across West Coast, SA, and using renewable energy surplus and graphine filtration. (Low cost ~ big benefit).
- Joint Local Government collaboration ~ enhancement of EPLGA/NRM partnership.

Extra note found whilst clearing up after session:

- More Rangers and the Volunteer Ranger Program.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **CEDUNA**
TIME/DATE: **2PM ~ 5PM 8TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Becky Hirst/Jon Bok**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A constructive session with 20 participants representing a mix of interest groups - including the indigenous community, local government, local tour providers, primary producers and a former DEWNR staff member.

Whilst the full depth of input can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- **Co-management** was highlighted as something that was working well, with outputs and outcomes well planned, realistic and linked to a budget.
- A good discussion took place that focused on **native title boundaries**, **co-management arrangements** as a model for good practice, and the difference in **Aboriginal representation** between co-management and NRM.
- In context of **boundaries**, there was discussion about how the EP and AW regions do not align with cultural boundaries and native title boundaries. There was also discussion around the focus on Port Lincoln and surrounds for EP. It was suggested that there were more accessible and responsive arrangements when there was an NRM office based out of Wudinna. There were also advantages when there were sub-regions involved in planning and delivery of projects. This model warrants further consideration/reconsideration. While some participants (but not all) thought reinstating Wudinna as a Landscape SA hub would work, it was agreed by participants that **a Ceduna hub would work best** to reflect local issues and priorities.
- The group felt strongly that **equality** is extremely important, particularly when considering board representation. The group also felt very strongly that all residents (not just levy payers/rate payers) should be eligible to vote for community members on to the Landscape board.
- Concerns regarding temporary short-term employment of NRM staff was raised at this forum, with participants asking the Minister to consider **longer term employment** contracts to provide security for local people.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process. The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions and comments for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation & boundaries
4. **Funding** – Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
5. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

After the first activity, the group seemed to prefer a whole group conversational style session and so the use of the workshopping tools were not used. Instead, the facilitators explored topics of interest to the participants and took notes accordingly.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table of the two tables were given a set of large sticky notes and asked to write down their top priorities for the Landscape SA reform process.

The priorities for reform at this meeting in Ceduna were –

- **Traditional owners/co-management model**
- **Local knowledge**
- **Local action and decision making**
- **Communication/transparency**
- **Board representation**
- **Board accountability**
- **Levies and funding**
- **Water**
- **Mining & exploration**
- **Partnerships & engagement**
- **Employment**

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS/CO-MANAGMENT • Aboriginal Participation levels need to be high – for all aspects including: Legislative Reviews; Reforms. • Aboriginal representation. • Recognition and respect for traditional and current owners of the land. • No Aboriginals on Management Boards. We need more involvement. • Aboriginal people for their cultural knowledge need to be paid appropriately. • Co-Management needs to happen with TOs holistically – not happening all over at present.	**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE** • Fair and equitable recognition of knowledge ~ whether from a degree or on-land experience. • GIS spatial mapping of: Cultural knowledge; Pastoral; Animal management; Plant management etc., • Recognition of Cultural/Experience knowledge not just University recognition. Levels of pay for knowledge over certificate.
LOCAL ACTION AND DECISION MAKING • Local autonomy e.g. Nitrebush and Buffalo Grass. • More on-ground works. • Feral animals – cats, foxes and starlings. • Regional managed locally, so that local knowledge sharing.	**COMMUNICATION/TRANSPARENCY** • Process to be transparent and inclusive. • Transparent communication – What do they do??
BOARD REPRESENTATION • Board representation needs to be local.	**BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY** • Enforcement – What authority? Make it easier. Accountability. Authority. • Greater autonomy requires greater governance! How to hold board accountable?
LEVIES AND FUNDING • Funding model for very large areas such as the far west. • NRM Levy collections process.	**WATER** • Water protection - outback and coastal. • Important relationship with mining and exploration.

MINING AND EXPLORATION	EMPLOYMENT
• Role of NRM boards in commenting on mining and exploration.	• Aboriginal Rangers.
PARTNERSHIP/ENGAGEMENT	**OTHER**
• Be creative and innovative in partnerships. Think outside the square (box) to deliver programs/projects. • Meaningful input into the process (listened to).	• Consultation and Information sharing prior to Discussion Paper coming out. Start to finish. Not partway through the process. • New structure to uptake of existing healthy country planning and regional management plans.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Co-Management with Traditional Owners and locals happen in some areas and are working well.
- Current co-management e.g. Yumbarra Conservation Park.
- Have been visiting Councils improving transparency.
- Education with schools.
- Local offices – local staff.
- Public access to board meetings (also good to meet in a range of areas.

3. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the conversation was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities.

3.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this board membership structure?

- The group felt very strongly that all residents (not just levy payers/rate payers) should be eligible to vote.

What concerns you?

- Question from one participant – Why should the Minister appoint anybody?
- One participant suggested that one of the challenges of the community election process is that it could become a popularity contest.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Chair – should have casting vote in case of a tie.
- Need to get boards together (from across the State) to share learning.
- One participant suggested that one position appointed by Minister should be Aboriginal. Members of the group went on to suggest that one position elected by community should be Aboriginal.

- Aboriginal Elder – expertise, knowledge. Aboriginal cultural knowledge needed and/or a Native Title holding authority representative on board.
- Equality is extremely important.

3.2 Boundaries

Initial discussion on boundaries focused on native title boundaries, co-management arrangements as a model for good practice, and the difference in Aboriginal representation between co-management and NRM.

While there are 4 reps on the co-management board, the same level of representation does not apply for EP NRM, where there is only one person on an advisory group to the EP NRM Board. It was also noted that funding provided to FWC reps on co-management boards is topped up by FWC native title corporation as Board members are adequately resourced for their contribution and knowledge. Concern was expressed over inequality in representation and resourcing – inclusion is sought. Co-management was highlighted as something that was working well, with outputs and outcomes well planned, realistic and linked to a budget.

In context of boundaries, there was discussion about how the EP and AW regions do not align with cultural boundaries and native title boundaries. Earlier in the session, participants discussed the concept of anchoring – breaking down silos and creating a collaborative table, anchored on traditional boundaries. This came up again in the boundaries discussion, where it was suggested that cultural boundaries (ie native title boundaries or boundaries of Aboriginal nations/cultures) would be a more effective way of determining Landscape SA boundaries. Existing boundaries are currently associated with Council boundaries. This issue was also highlighted in the context of Wild Eyre, where programs are linked to ecological associations, not arbitrary boundaries.

There was also discussion around the focus on Port Lincoln and surrounds for EP. It was suggested that there were more accessible and responsive arrangements when there was an NRM office based out of Wudinna. There were also advantages when there were sub-regions involved in planning and delivery of projects. This model warrants further consideration/reconsideration. While some participants (but not all) thought reinstating Wudinna as a Landscape SA hub would work, it was agreed by participants that a Ceduna hub would work best to reflect local issues and priorities.

4. FUNDING

4.1 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes.

Comments made –

- Just sounds like cost shifting. Making it look more streamlined than it is. AW and EP NRM already have these bigger 'State wide' things covered. There is already a state wide plan – though it doesn't have investment priorities (input from Saravan). Do the NRM boards work together?
- A month ago (a couple of months ago) everything was fine. It wasn't so bad.
- Who would decide who gets this?

4.2 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

Comments made –

- Would want projects that can be funded over a period of time – longer than a 12-month timeframe.
- Concern re temporary employment through programs like this – 12-month contracts – what do you do if your employment ends because you're on a temporary contract when you get funding for 12 months?
- I find the grants program across government completely confusing. Is there a better way to do it? Some seem to duplicate.
- Central Regional Hub for grants – people coming together to apply for things together?
- How will it be distributed? By landscape habitat?
- Would need payments upfront – shared services is a problem! Difficult to get money. Need to tell the Minister this. It is a big problem.
- Needs to be simple.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

All the parity are being met. Increase employment. People are working together sharing knowledge and respecting each other reconciliation. Educating our young people to look after our natural resources. Spreading knowledge about Aboriginal culture.	Full time employment for Aboriginal people. Environment thriving = animals and flora etc. Culture (Aboriginal) accepted and respected. Acknowledgement of aboriginal prior learning in young people.	Removal of feral animals and plants.
Indigenous Park Rangers working across the State.	After 2 years I hope that you know how to do a competent acknowledgement of Country – a good reply to a Welcome to Country. RESPECT.	Community knows what NRM Boards are doing and can see on-ground project success.
The Community knows what the NRM does. Actual project on the ground cemented. All members of the Community are included. Increased employment in the area.	See real change on the grass roots, coming from grass roots people. Employment on country projects.	Whole Community involvement and on-ground works.
Tangible environmental outcomes arising from genuine Aboriginal inclusive actions that results in improving the quality and wellbeing of the Aboriginal people and Country.	All you promised in your Election Speech.	

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**PORT AUGUSTA**
TIME/DATE:	**10am-1pm, 10TH August 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Steve**

A group of 13 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. Attendees comprised landowners, NGO's, primary producers, PIRSA, volunteers. One of the NGO representatives was a former employee of the NRMB in a senior position.

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were as follows –

- **Port Augusta** should be included in the Arid Lands Landscape Board region. Strong consideration should also be given to shifting **Whyalla** into Arid Lands as well - it was pointed out that Whyalla do not see themselves in the same landscape as Port Lincoln and Lower Eyre and relate more to the Arid Lands environment. There was also strong discussion around **pushing the south eastern boundary of the Arid Lands Landscape Board region further south** to incorporate the region to the north of the Murray Darling Basin area as this is semi arid country and fits more with the northern landscape region.
- **NRM Groups** are invaluable to the region and should be continued. Given the vast area these groups are able to maintain an on the ground / community presence and should be further supported and their role enhanced.
- In relation to the levy, **the region needs to be subsidised by Adelaide**. This subsidy arrangement must continue to ensure the region is able to maintain its programs. Bringing Port Augusta and maybe other areas into the region will help by increasing the population but this alone won't be enough.
- There was general support for the **structure of the new boards** - but participants were keen to ensure the right people are allocated through due process and against relevant criteria. Members need local knowledge, and have the ability to contribute skills and experience.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process. The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priorities for participants at this session included –

- **Funding**
- **Planning/co-ordination of programs**
- **Local staff knowledge/education**

FUNDING	**PLANNING/CO-ORDINATION OF PROGRAMS**
• Lift and guarantee Treasury funding in addition to NRM levy to 3% of State budget. • Declare Pests/Weed Control funding. • Cease the capture of funds and control by SA Government agencies. • Funding for education in pasture cropping practices. This also encompasses HM training and leads to resilient farms, biodiversity etc. • Funding for educating landholders/managers on livestock/Holistic Management practices. • This knowledge is a game changer in:- ○ Biodiversity. ○ Soil health. ○ Soil moisture. ○ Resilience in landscape of communities. • Funding including committed State and Federal Government contributions outside of levy – written into legislation contribution. • Self-determination of budgets by new Boards. • Flexibility of funding to include boundaries of new 'Boards'.	• Integrated land use planning. • Co-ordinated pest/weed control across land tenures. • Compliance and monitoring. • Integrated approach in the future by combining Landscape Act; Pastoral Act and Native Vegetation Act. • More realistic co-operation in feral pest and weed control e.g. funding; landholder's requests. • Development of actual working partnerships that shows true collaboration, not just box ticking. • Compliance for wild dog control that can be enforced.
LOCAL STAFF KNOWLEDGE EDUCATION	**EXTRA**
• Retain and build NRM Corporate knowledge. • Staff engagement with the community – not via email/phone but by face to face. • Community education on NRM. • Access to technical/scientific knowledge from a range of sources e.g. Department, Community and Local Government. • Embedding of NRM staff out into the regions e.g. offices based in Coober Pedy and Hawker. • Workshops on Weed identification; Buffel Grass and Climate Change. • Access to locally based NRM staff: Head Office currently in Clare; One part-time staff member in Port Augusta. • Mangrove education ~ health issue support.	• Embed devolved delivery, as this will sustain non-government groups and organisations, engage more people and bring more resources to bear.

• Visibility of Boards and Departments – priority of government in promotion, community engagement. • Weed Management training. • Landscape Boards being given all the factual information of what's happening in the regions. • Local native species: plant, insect, animal education.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

PROGRAMS • Biteback concept/model ~ different to Bounceback ~ Biteback is best practice community engagement. • Volunteer programs.	**THE ACT** • Soil, water and biodiversity in one Act – for landscape scale co-ordination.
STAFF • NRM staff in rural areas (with 'non-boundary' consideration. • Regional staff remained true to core values despite moving closer to department in structure. • Department as a facilitator and co-ordinator and to some extent State funding (which needs to increase). • Local decision making; local staff; local community. • On-ground staff not necessarily middle and upper management. • School and Community Groups engagement and support in achieving on-ground work.	**BASE FUNDING** • State budget appropriation to provide base funding for SAAL Board.
BOARD MEMBERSHIP • Community Board membership reporting to the Minister. • Boards having direct access to the Minister. • Inter-dependence of Boards and community representation.	

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. Participants were asked to comment around -

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Key identification of key industries/sectors within EA Region ~ contribution/representation at the table e.g. Industry Education.
- Current ~ Department Representation ~ Community ~ narrow
  Future – broaden.
- If NRM funding is centralised ~ it's very simple to spread it to the country?!
- What is the regions' Holistic goal?
  What are people trying to achieve with regards to:
  Soil.
  Water.
  These all work in concert together. Either it's a cacophony or a symphony.
- Knowing what is needed?
- Maintain Regional Representation e.g. district groups.
- Inter-region co-ordination is essential.
- Suggest legislation require a co-ordinating forum for all Boards – must be skills-based/community (non-government).

b. A simple and accessible system

- So where do the $ go?
- Simplify the red tape of compliance so it's not all legalese.
- How do I apply for grants? How do I fill out forms?
- Red tape too restrictive.
- Landholders like me are clueless about government departments.
- Help neighbours work together.
- How to access funding for projects in the urban environment i.e. education of coastal protection.
- Currently ~ information is mostly located in PIRSA website rather than individual NRM websites.
- Balance between economy and conservation.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Young people – we need more of them.
- Indigenous people ~ how do we engage them and learn from ancient practices?
- Essential to engage with other landholders. Pastoral/Conservation/Mining.
- NRM education is critical for inspiring and raising up leaders of the future.
- Have NRM education as central part of curriculum of schools in SA.
- Who are identified as land users ~ narrow (feels) ~ broader: individuals; sectors; industries – needs to be more encompassing.
- Totally agree with all 3 statements ~ how are these going to be delivered?
- Consideration of taking reform to another level ~ Environmental ~ PIRSA ~ Environmental PIRSA.
- What help is available to landholders to care for their land. Where is information, resources, people etc., available?
- Delivery devolved to non-government organisations and groups, businesses. Must be choice of Boards.
- Co-design and plans with shared decision making.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Totally agree, HOW is this going to be implemented?
- Climate ~ change ~ extremes ~ seasonal change.
- Water evaporation ~ water holding capacity.
- Resilience: communities; plant; animal; people/young people.
- Financial ~ economies ` jobs.
- Soil: types; microbes; fungi; critters.
- Holistic Management. What is Holistic Goal? e.g. a landscape that is a haven for people, plants, animals…
- Add Aboriginal consideration to all that we do in NRM.
- Must prepare for climate change ~ real and present danger, and very past.

- Small landholder group – hobby farmers.
- Issues ~ large scale developers (Energy farms) in remote landscapes. (Responsibility for management of pests/weeds/dust issues). No real on-ground presence.
- Asset Management: describe/define your assets? Natural/Physical – soil type; Personal – shed/infrastructure/fences/maintenance/replacement.
- Maps: soil, vegetation; aspect; rainfall.
- Integration of similar Acts.
- Develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- Must treat soil, water and biodiversity with equal emphasis.
- Thousands of primary producers care deeply or their native vegetation and need help to manage this for future generations and healthy catchments.
- Cross border/boundary, whether it be pest animals/plants/water/soil.

e. Back to basics

- The assets are soil, water and biodiversity.
- The threatening processes are different: Pests, salinity, dieback.
- Restore SA Government Treasury funding to NRM to 3% of State budget, in addition to NRM levy (co-funding) i.e. shared responsibility.
- Correct livestock management will help salinity, dieback, erosion.
- Will National Parks (state run) work with bordering landholders?
- Holistic Management.
- Stewards of the environment.
- Custodians of the land.
- Urban dwellers (consumers) vs Land Managers (primary producers).
- Biological control agents.
- Waste management (innovations recycling): educations starts in schools.
- Quarantine areas ~ Hygiene protocols.
- Environmental Management Systems on farms.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

Table 1
• Community will see they have a voice through community elected members. • No agency appointees. But need agency support. • Chair is critical – right skills to manage. • Review current 12 skills required. • Ensure correct relationship with Region. • Review approving process to meet pre-requisites/criteria ~ need right character.

Table 1
• Minister could call for nominations ~ screen against criteria and put names back to community to vote. • Needs to be a transparent process but right screening to ensure right people. • How are three members nominated or elected? • Who votes? • Cost of the process ~ manage $$.

- Balance if Minister appointed vs community.
- Why ~ maybe % in order to pick up representation ~ Landowners; Fisheries; Mining; Coastal.
- Making sure the sectors are represented.

Table 1
• Consider gender balance. • Risk ~ worry about the Board being divided between elected communities or board. • 2 – 3 cap on term for Board members to allow for progression to Boards from NRM Groups. • Create need for young people. • Promotion ~ go to them. • SA generative farmers. • Manage conflicts of interest. • Good Governance.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

Table 1
• Board staff vs Department staff. • What is the State contribution? • Staff members of the public sector. • When staff are accountable to the Board this is a good position. • Manage $$ but not reinventing the wheel (i.e. HQ etc.) • Board accountable to Minister ~ does this mean that the 4 appointees are there to deliver the Minister's agenda? • Right process in place in the legislation to prevent this from occurring. • Comprehensive Governance training. • Cross leadership partnerships.

Table 1
• Leverage from existing partnerships and groups working well and are respected. • Like to see primary production to have responsibility for compliance but waiting to see more productivity.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

Table 1
• Investigate trade off regarding $$ distribution and resources. • Whyalla ~ consider bringing pastoral.

• Port Augusta has merit {include in SAAL}. • Far north climate change stragey ~ Port Augusta links. • Include Flinders Ranges Council – Hawker and Quorn. • Pastoral leases south of Barrier Highway ~ relate better to arid lands (currently Murray Bridge) does not work.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

Table 1	Table 2
• Yes CAP at CPI	• CPI is if Boards want to do it.' • Need assessment of what levies are actually needed to address NRM priorities ~ maybe a period of adjustment. • Regional community needs to decide if increase above CPI is to be approved.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Table 1	Table 2
• Yes ~ does work ~ needs to be encouraged?	• The NRM levy contributions needs to be matched $ for $ by SA Government (Treasury). • Good idea to have such funds,

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

.Table 4
• Compelling case to achieve significant Landscape scale projects for SA Government match the NRM levy component of the funds $ fir $ and embed this in policy and legislations. • Oversight of the fund by CM independent of panel

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Regional communities that are attractive to young people and that keep young people. $s are exciting, vibrant, diverse in every way economically viable and most importantly, happy resilient communities! Farming and land management that are cheap to get into will encourage more young people to the regions. Education in schools might help kids see they can earn a white collar income on the land.	Farming communities that actively encourage and give long term opportunities to young people so they settle and stay. Farming practices to change from current chemical model to ecologically viable models as these types are sustainable from generation to generation forever, are financially very profitable and employ a lot of people. These types of farming models are ones young people with no money can get into.	My inspiration to farm: Alan Savory TED TALK. If everyone adopts ecological practices as shown in the video, our landscape issues will diminish. You can do this on a backyard scale through to the state level. Stations in landowners, farms in SA, VIC and NSW are seeing great, wonderful changes to the landscapes they manage.
Success by 2020: • The environmental portfolio is high status within Cabinet. • SA Government contribution in addition to NRM levy is 3% of State budget. • Balanced management of soil, water and biodiversity seen as good NRM and good business by landholders. • Boards established with their staff and their own bank accounts and systems independent of agencies. • Delivery is the majority of each Board's budget and devolved through non-government organisations and groups of businesses. • Climate change central to planning and actions. • The consultation input is evident in the legislation, policy and practices.	Overall SA improvement – Rural. Election results?! Success of changed Boards. Population reactions. Clear directions in future.	That people in the regions are fighting to get onto both Landscape Boards and NRM Groups because they believe they do make a difference to the communities in that the community members believe in them. Belief by community is these groups are paramount to success. Community needs to see their levies working for them through a transparent process.
Success = biodiversity.	Landscape Boards alive and thriving and accepted by wider community. Resilient landscape adapting to climate change. Stable long term funding achieved for Boards. Vibrant productive food and fibre enterprises. Integrated approach to land care.	Urban NRM ~ issues are being addressed to educate and raise community awareness with school/AALBG (Botanic Gardens). Farm Open Days. Sustainable home practices (weed, soil, garden, waste management).
Port Augusta ~ the centre for a NRM Head Quarters with staff that are skilled; connected; on the ground; capacity/resources to work with/facilitate NRM projects.	Buffel grass spread is contained/new technologies to treat it. Prisoners used to assist with control of declared pests.	Diversity in the numbers and type of activities/industries in each region ~ e.g. 5%.
Baseline data collected in 2018 re 'Health of Environment' has 5%	Productivity of landscapes up by 5% improvement.	

improvement e.g. % of native vegetation up. Access all regions/landscapes. Health rating ~ low, medium, high.		

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**VICTOR HARBOR**
TIME/DATE:	**2-5PM, 13TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky/Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 60 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was a good mix of interest groups - ranging from local government to Landcare groups and local volunteers, primary producers and an indigenous representative. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- A rigorous discussion regarding **board membership** including a request for the Minister to consider 4 Minister appointed members and 4 community elected members; and that Board positions must be skills based – with the Minister undertaking **some 'preselection'** as happened in the democratic process he refers to of his own election. There was some **concern regarding the cost of a process** for establishing community elections; The boards must be made up of a **diversity of thinkers** - scientists, famers, Aboriginal landholders, geographic representation across the region; it was suggested that the current boards are dominated by people from government, and perhaps these people could be ex-officio;
- There was **optimism regarding Green Adelaide** and the opportunities it brings for innovation and to be a world leader in linking urban life to land management;
- Natural resource management should include **coastal marine areas**;
- There was interest in **more local information and support for the farming community**, with reference made to the important role local government plays in supporting this; plus access to on ground officers – people who are in charge of programs who are empowered to make decisions;
- A discussion occurred regarding **boundaries** with no firm outcome. Discussion included use of local government boundaries, being cautious around incorporating areas like Mount Barker as it is more urban than the rest of the region; plus one suggestion was to refer to Champagne, France where it was understood there to be a model where the wealthier companies in the region contribute towards the bigger region via a levy or tax system.
- A comment from an Indigenous participant included "I feel daunted that I don't fit in the picture" with reference to the priorities of the reform. It is critical to **build strong partnerships with Aboriginal communities** in this reform.
- There was some commentary on the term Sustainable Land Management with a suggestion that the Minister consider using the more innovative term **"Rejuvenative Land Management"** with an aim to make the land even better that it was to start with.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process. The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries

5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priorities for reform at this meeting in Victor Harbor were –

- **Commitment to projects**
- **Education/engagement**
- **Big picture approach**
- **Sustainability of water resources**
- **Decision-making**
- **Collaboration/partnerships**
- **Workforce/employment**
- **Pest plants and animals**
- **Preservation/protection**
- **Funding**
- **Less bureaucracy and red tape**

PROJECTS/COMMITMENT	**EDUCATION/ENGAGEMENT**
• Legacy Ongoing Projects – commitment to follow up and ensure effectiveness of the project. • A commitment to see project through. • Transparent budget process.	• Recognition of the landholder/owners contribution to Natural Resource Management. • Include and ensure ongoing engagement with local groups and organisations. • More community engagement and education. • Landowners have a lot of knowledge and concern for the environment and this needs to be captured. • "It is hard to be green when you are the red." •
BIG PICTURE	**SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER RESOURCES**
• A big picture approach to agreed healthy environment.	• Achieve sustainability of water resources: bores between aquifers, wet sands, management of dams.
DECISION MAKING	**COLLABORATION/PARTNERSHIPS**
• Want clear definitions and principles. • Clear distribution between strategic and operational matters. • No political interference (enabling fearless decisions). • Some want Regional boards with autonomy and others like some integrated State oversight. • Support for strong local network to support the Boards.	• Collaboration and co-operation between all relevant agencies and key stakeholders.

• Need decent representation on new Boards i.e. representation across various interests in community/industry. Less ministerial appointees. • Decentralisation (increased autonomy), Good!	
WORKFORCE/EMPLOYMENT • Utilise resources to create employment. • Country towns are dying and agriculture has an ageing workforce.	**PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS.** • More control over pest, plants and animals at a local level. • Control of pests and weeds in an environmentally and sustainable way ~ less paperwork and red tape ~ more facilities on the ground. • Invasive Species ~ conservation of local threatened species flora and fauna and management of over abundant species. • Pest, plant and animal control ~ deer, roos, foxes, corellas, and gorse/blackberries. Government must be seen to be doing the right thing on their own land. • Control of pest plants and animals through integrated landscape plans – liked old model of Council working on this. • All need to be involved including government and overabundant natives and no cost to farming community.
PRESERVATION/PROTECTION • Preservation of quality (agricultural and all) land and the right to farm. Integration with landscape, not destroying any land. • Proactive and wise strategies for population increases that are happening in our region. Need to feed people from good soil, water and land.	**FUNDING** • Funds are used to achieve objectives and not go to administration and management. • NRM levies be proportioned/allocated to where problems are. • Water levies – too much $. • Continuation of funding and works program.
LESS BUREAUCRACY/RED TAPE • Less red tape. • Need transparency re government decisions i.e. how are they made, who inputted into them etc. • Rules/regulations: ○ Simpler process. ○ Clearer roles of organisations involved. ○ Compliance clarity. ○ Greater application of science. • Lot of money is paid in levies – concerns with how much is spent on the bureaucracy. Also includes number of offices and staff within the AMLR.	**OTHER** • Sustainability vs regenerative policy. • NRM Levy transparent. • Peter Wotten LFL. • 58 average age ~ unpaid work (farmers). • Protection of marine and land. • Weeds and pests. • Co-ordination of water resources. • Approach/collective including investment into Aboriginal perspective. • Regulatory costs of land management. • Invest in commercial organisation focuses on education. • Payment for scrub de-vegetation and conservation on private land. • Threat of urbanisation (weeds, land costs, dilution of 1% producer vote). • Investment in youth education.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Retain current spread of funding within the Fleurieu.
- Sustainable agriculture grant program – could be more funding.
- Keep well qualified staff/experts e.g. Local District Officers good model.
- Continuity of funding.
- Retain funding for the Hooded Plover/Beach nesting birds and bandicoots on the Fleurieu.
- Keep long term projects.
- Maintain and support for 'Friends of Parks' groups.
- Maintain networking between stakeholders.
- Retain volunteer support officers.
- Government incentives for repairing scrub fencing.
- AMLR engaged well with Aboriginal Groups.
- Continued marine sanctuary protection.
- Bureaucracy ~ NRM running own show not engaging.
- Marine Parks and Coastal Protection remain.
- Retain funding.
- Decentralisation to remain.
- Possibility of landholder influence/representation ~ could be much better – simple process.
- Retain community natural resources centres.
- Keep information sessions for stakeholders.
- Keep NRM people have the ability to communicate with landholders.
- Keep money actually directed to ongoing projects – less on bureaucrats in Adelaide.
- Positive working relationship with Council programs. NRM/Council.
- Clear Aboriginal representation on Boards. Keep the AW Board ~ the only full Aboriginal Board in Australia.
- Love NRM business ~ keep and apply better with practical management.
- Some feel NRM Officers are passionate and do their best.
- Some feel little has been achieve at Regional scale.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- The Minister needs communities to take calculated risks and not be stifled if it becomes 'uncomfortable' for government. (Guide policy not action).
- Decentralise is good but with fewer people making it easy for busy people 'to do' is better than just 'decentralising but keeping bureaucratic processes'.
- Local groups have their own list of ideas which should be looked at e.g. Fleurieu farming systems have a list of needs/ideas for future project opportunities.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Community driven projects.
- Transparent process.
- Bring business of Boards back to local halls and towns.

- Absolutely agree – other countries get things done without all the red tape – give people tools to get things done. If you don't like what they do – change the guidelines not micro-manage.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Landscape Boards should be the 'user-friendly' interface between landowners and government policies.
- Critical to have Aboriginal partnerships as a key success factor.
- Community to include the next generation.

d. A whole of landscape approach

No comments made.

e. Back to basics

- Air/climate are a part of the basics.
- Co-ordination of effort – don't duplicate ~ co-operate.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region. Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Democracy. • Representation means better accountability. • Is anyone else e.g. other states/countries (e.g. VIC) voting members to NRM Boards, see what works elsewhere. • Community members should be equal in numbers appointed by the Minister.	• More local input than previous Boards.	• Members of the community are at least involved. • On the surface this looks a better model than the current one.

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Diversity ~ geographic ~ male and female. • Appropriate skills ~ scientific background. • Cost around elections ~ can you link to Council elections. • Board is not democratic (3-4 composition). • Cost.	• Ensuring accountability. • Election needs to ensure candidates don't push own issues. • Can you consider application for board membership based on credentials, track record and fairness representation?	• Board is still potentially in the hands of the Minister (why 3 out of 4). • Board members have to have relevant knowledge. • Who will have oversight of the Boards? • How will the election be done?

• Accountability.		• How will the candidates be selected? • How will the Minister be advised re ministerial appointments? • What will be the criteria for electing community members ~ transparent, democratic? E.g. water and marine, biodiversity etc., expertise (not just based on who is popular!). • Use a pre-selection process.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Good models from elsewhere! • Good recruitment (for short listing). • Avoid too many likeminded people. • Avoid over representation ~ community members must be from within the area.	No comment made.	• Make sure that the Board is a working effective group. • Chair should be rotated frequently (2-3 year terms). • Good governance training ~ support for clear and well defined legislative framework. • Need diversity – balanced. • Aboriginal representation. • Intergenerational membership/link.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Need realistic funding for monitoring and evaluation of projects ~ use of drones/auto processing of data. • Landscape plans need to be longer than 5 years. (5 years is a good evaluation point). • Reporting needs to be easy to access so can get on with projects e.g. scorecards. Including to community (not just to government).	• Engagement ~ monthly meetings to be in towns throughout region, open to public. • Minutes to be published promptly on website. • Set up sub-committees on topics i.e. Soil quality; water management; pest plant and animal control to meet regularly in towns throughout the region.	• South Coast Environment Centre or similar to stay in our region as a conduit to relay information, advice, resources and co-ordinate groups and individual efforts.

• Accountability ~ visibility of Board members to community e.g. public meetings with feedback loop. • Maintain Resource Centres ~ one stop shop for environmental information.	• Risk based assessment/management. • Templates and procedures for good governance.	

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Decisions need to be backed by appropriate science. ($ resourced). • Who would appoint the General Manager (Board or Minister)? • Good communication skills from the Board and Manager down. • Who goes to jail if it all turns to poop?	• Gauge customer satisfaction via surveys and face to face interactions. • Farming communities have been largely ignored in the past. • Size of staffing should be proportionate to risk/population size. • Budgets in line with diversity of community concerns/regional priorities.	• No comments made.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

Table 1	Table 2
1. Approve of Hills and Fleurieu as separate entity. (1.5) Be more flexible re boundaries ~ collaborate on similar issues. 2. Consider shifting Alexandrina/Mt Barker to Hills & Fleurieu ~ give more urban base to area without including Adelaide. 3. Where do people identify socially/community connections? E.g. urbanisation vs agricultural land. (3.5) Should be more about similarities of land and environments e.g. Hills, Fleurieu and Alexandrina have large commercial amongst many hobby farms. 4. Rainfall factors and other environmental similar land uses as important input (not just on catchment areas). 5. Where should northern boundary be? E.g. Seaford vs Willunga; Stirling vs Mt Barker ~ add Alexandrina to Eastern Boundary.	1. Boundaries should consider ranges water flow on the easterly/westerly catchments. Consider Onkaparinga, Yankalilla, Victor Harbor, Alexandrina boundaries. Presently there is a big boundary (wall) separating fishing and farming, marine and land. 2. Include consideration of marine environments out as far as possible into the ocean since land source water runoff impacts marine catchment boundaries ~ marine communities.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being

the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

Table 1	Table 2
• Viable healthy waterways and coastal regions. • Waste Management ~ recycling. • Retain Parklands and enhance Green Street Scaping = biodiversity concentration.	• Reduce reliance on State's water supply e.g. rainwater tanks and desalination water reclaiming initiatives. • Integrated water management e.g. green infrastructure, WSUD. • Urban biodiversity – food production. • Health of River Torrens. • Provide funding to Regions.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

Table 1	Table 2
• Opportunity to link actions/habits in city to vibrant rural community – how hard farming is. • Increased connection to nature within Adelaide and the broader region.	• Urban levy to support Hills and Fleurieu Rural Landscape Management. • To be a leader for innovative research and development. • Make and increase awareness and understanding of NRM to urban people. Gives them ownership of their own issues. • Urban canopy target may get met. • We will be working together across the state.

Table 1	Table 2
• Funding distribution ~ city to support rural landscapes needed. • Productive partnerships e.g. local government. • Transparency. • Duplication of cost – 3 Boards and loss of expertise or more difficult access.	• Understanding of reality and real environmental issues amongst urban dwellers. • Metro levy currently subsidises programs in rural/regional areas. Ensure non metro areas have sufficient funding to be sustainable. • There are bid issues with coastal environments.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• NRM integrated approach to biosecurity and export markets. • Integrity systems was funded to support farmers.	• 15 years ago ~ look how it worked. • Partnerships with LGA approachable. • One on one accessible. • Practical. • Authority on the ground to get things done. • Knowledge. • Numbers – person. • Website – easy to navigate.	• Regional Towns ~ continue with township groups – funding.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Good start ~ live within means review. • Gradually with experience establish mechanisms for raising additional funds. • Have a separate pot of bigger funds which can be bid for by the Boards.	• Yes cap levies. The Board needs to stay within its core business. Funds collect spent specifically on Landscape projects only.	• Concerned with CPI base. CPI doesn't reflect many incomes, especially rural, pensioners and primary producers. Their income is less than CPI. • Levies need to be tied to NRM needs more. • Exceptions are very vague. • Smaller boards supported by larger ~ according to need.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Capping OK if the existing levy amount is OK – otherwise not OK. • Levy needs to be collected on one thing ~ land not water.	• Water levy should be same across all regions. • Cap as is. • If NRM levy is capped, how do we fund what is required? • Separate levy collection from rates?? Is that too costly? • Total water levy take should be proportioned across all farmers and not just selected few, who choose to drought-proof their farms. • Separate to levies, need to address appropriate funding levels for Environment Department.	• Transparency important. Why a levy is important for city folk too. • Better explanation of outcomes/benefits e.g. biodiversity supports our unique wildlife and eco-tourism opportunities. • No change needed. • Yes – important to spend across boundary/landscape projects.

Table 7	Table 8	
• Value out of levies needs to be transparent. • Based on regional issues and opportunities. • Not necessarily spent on region. • Production and quality of output based incentives for efficiencies – utilise them. • Money well spent. • Least bureaucracy method preferred.	• Levy revenue needs to be more efficient (value for money) and then a cap is reasonable. • Probably not enough funds for environment.	

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Yes ~ more cooperation especially on problems like pests, diseases and feral animals.	• Yes – treasury should fund state wide large scale projects across landscapes. • Corporate input with political levies to safeguard corporate self-interest.	• Yes – links to national and local priorities. • Need to make it easy for this to occur.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Boundaries will result in duplication of efforts. • Is the current NRM model broken? Does it really need fixing (in the main)? • No need for Green Adelaide – keep the region as it is.	• Definite need for coastal and catchment areas to work together. • Also important for climate change adaptation. • Connectivity across landscapes is necessary. • Both processes may be important dependent upon nature of project. • MOUs between Boards and monitoring process.	• Where a common problem exists.
Table 7	Table 8	
• Yes agree on both value for money and ensure all regions that the issue affects are engaged. • Work with other industry groups to overcome an issue e.g. Livestock SA, PPSA, MLA, GRDS and Kangaroo	• Partnerships need to be managed and justified. Not just for the sake of inclusion of all groups. • Avoid duplication of environmental works between Council and NRM.	

Management Grove to integrate approach.		

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Make $2M into $100M long term projects – commitment. • Technical advice provided to enhance results and project design. • Landscape co-ordination of funds and technical advice as well as these groups.	• Yes keep the process simple and open to broad range of groups or individuals.	• That will be great for each Board. But it's a start with $2M. • Simple process with low overheads for community groups and individuals.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Is $2M enough? • Provided it is in addition to existing funding for local groups etc. • Should not be used to fund the operation of groups – this should be guaranteed.	• Not enough across whole state. • Is this from NRM levy or general revenue? • Not enough clarity how it would work and how decisions are made.	• Is it really new $$ - very welcome. • Grant money to support weeding creates jobs and improves on-ground outcomes. • Long term – before weeds flower – timely and strategic weed management programs.
Table 7	Table 8	
• Could be overlap with current local board groups. • More bureaucratic and box ticking. • More consultation on this needed. • Local Board could foster this. • Volunteers important and currently pushed to limit. • Manage environment separate. • Environment important – animal protection, habitat etc.	• Not enough money to be worthwhile ~ managed at local level. • $2M is a drop in the ocean.	

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

2016/2017 Western Mt Lofty Land levy raises 26,700,000. Division 2 water levy – 325,000.	How we know it has been a success. That the community of SA see that the landscape has	Hold local meetings/forums throughout SA where the community can come along and

Abolish water levy and ill feeling in Fleurieu will be gone. Maintain existing Western Mt Lofty area but give regions representation otherwise areas will have insufficient funding without Adelaide levy base.	changed enough that they want more funding to natural resource issues.	discuss biodiversity, environment, water quality etc., and find that we get 100x the people interested in attending.
Success indicators – increase in native biodiversity.	Landholder participation.	Monitoring and evaluation. Effective reporting on this.
I have abolished NRM in its entirety.	Do we really need Green Adelaide? Adelaide City Council is very proactive. On and within the South Coast and Fleurieu, we can see ourselves being de-funded and much reduced.	Conservation of flora and fauna.
We have cleanest seas and coastlines in the world.	Public complaints have disappeared to the Minister.	Rural landowners are happy.
Thriving local action to enhance natural resource management.	Budgets were met. Community (grassroots) driven.	Success because more positive feedback from community. Much less negative feedback. Get re-elected.
Ability to discuss in an open forum.	Success should be judged by the community involvement. Land holders acceptance and satisfaction with the achievements of their levy.	How do I know it's a success ~ partnerships have been developed with all groups within the community and these partnerships are working amicable and above party politics. The environment including our native fauna is thriving.
It has been a success because the attendees all participated and the facilitators appeared to listen.	Improved soil health measured. Reduced weeds measured. Improved landscapes measured – trees, native grasses and biodiversity. Reduced pest measured.	Has the landscape improved?
You will know new program is successful when you come back to us in 2 years time and we give you feedback. Congratulations on your initiative and ideas.	More $$ for weeding supporting volunteers and farmers leading to vibrant diverse native vegetation and wildlife.	Do not be tempted (as Minister Caica was!) to tax the rain. That is, no metres on our ordinary farm dams.
Have identified and prioritised risks and have a robust management system in place to achieve long-term vision (e.g. 100 years).	Largely eradication of feral animals (deer, rabbits, foxes etc.) and major plants (e.g. blackberry, gorse). Good roadside appearances.	Community input. Good Floor input. Practical comments. Future applications.
Demonstrate that the environment is in balance. E.g. more native species, grasses and animals.	Agriculture is stronger (profitable and sustainable), people are happier and the Fleurieu Peninsula is well known globally.	All Boards are known and respected in their communities because they reflect the values of that community and produce useful outcomes that promote successful, optimistic communities.
It is successful it shouldn't need any more reform or new legislation. And all groups across the board, landholders, industry and communities should feel that	Long term: soil carbon levels have increased; pests and diseases have declined.	We have increased the water use efficiency by increasing irrigation crops grown around the Fleurieu. Also the average age of a farmer in the Fleurieu is starting to get

they have been heard and their views have been considered and helped to make it work.	Short term: Landscape Boards are meeting monthly throughout regions, and attracting bigger community attendance.	younger than 58 years old, as it is at the moment. Need to make more use with what we offer ~ water, tourism etc.
I didn't get elected out. I'd be happy to see a unified and effective weed control everywhere.		

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Justify Green Adelaide.
- Green Adelaide and educating urbanities is important!

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**MCLAREN VALE**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM -12PM 14th August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky/Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 60 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group provided a wealth of input and was a good mix of interest groups - ranging from local government to Landcare groups and local volunteers, primary producers, youth group leaders and indigenous representatives.

Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the McLaren Vale session were –

- There was very strong support for the existing **Natural Resource Centres**, with particular reference Willunga. It is critical to maintain this highly regarded local resource;
- The participants highlighted that there are **very positive partnerships with landholders** and there are many examples of good practice, including the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project who have planted over 10,000 trees in the region via a partnership between local landowners, over 100 volunteers, NRM Willunga (who provide great technical advice which has significantly contributed to the success of this initiative) and the City of Onkaparinga. Going forward, funding is critical to drive technical advice and on ground projects;
- Historically **low trust of NRM** by landholders was highlighted by one participant, particularly stemming from property access issues;
- The **local expertise and guidance of NRM staff** is invaluable and participants raised this as critical to maintain;
- Water reform can't wait. One participant urged the Minister to consider looking at the business of **water management** as soon as possible. The local grape growers were congratulated on the work they undertook in the early 1990s and it was suggested everyone involved be talked to again to reflect on what's going well but also looking at what else we need to do;
- Some good discussion was held with regard to **boundaries of the Hills & Fleurieu region**, following the Minister asking whether McLaren Vale and Willunga should fall within this new region or within Green Adelaide. Whilst many options were explored through the discussion, a poll undertaken showed that the overwhelming majority of participants would like **McLaren Vale and Willunga** (with the Onkaparinga River being the most northerly point) within the Hills & Fleurieu region. A small handful of people were undecided, and just one participant supported these towns being in Green Adelaide;
- There were participants who were very passionate about **NRM education** and the provision of existing programs, which they urged to continue – specifically the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AUSSI) SA model delivering education for sustainability in educational settings. It was noted that over 50% of South Australian primary schools are supported by NRM in education to effect school community cultural change and delivering Education for Sustainability (EFS) within the curriculum. NRM education is the envy of other states and territories and a beacon of leadership.
- Some participants shared their dislike of the use of the word Landscapes in the title for this work. A proposed alternative was that it be called **"Managing the Yerta of the Regions"** with Yerta being a Kaurna word for land. Several participants supported this, but several participants also said they liked the title of Landscapes SA;
- There was acknowledgement of the level of knowledge and experience in the room and it was noted that participants were keen for **ongoing engagement** from the Minister.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process. The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priority themes to emerge in the McLaren Vale session were –

- **Local**
- **Responsive**
- **Boundaries**
- **Water - Surface/Groundwater**
- **Communication/partnerships/involvement**
- **Compliance & monitoring**
- **Resourcing and funding**
- **Behaviour**
- **Accountability**
- **Landholders**
- **Coastal focus**
- **Education**
- **Cross-regional/landscapes**
- **Employment**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Plant/animal control – protection of native species**

LOCAL • Maintain representation of NRM/LSA in the local community e.g. Willunga and office Willunga Environmental Centre.	**RESPONSIVE** • New legislation and system be responsive and adaptive to a 'changing climate', and external pressures changes and find ways to adapt. • Climate focus to include water issues and dealing with less water available.
BOUNDARIES • Boundary ~ McLaren Vale Willunga Basin to remain the Regional boundary not in Green Adelaide.	**WATER/SURFACE GROUD WATER** • Stormwater reuse and retention and domestic. • Connection to riparian management and storage.
COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING	**RESOURCING AND FUNDING**

• Compliance ~ officers on the ground to talk to landholders. • Education and compliance. • Monitoring of stock and domestic bores.	• On-ground works on private land – currently 3 year package – not long enough. • Greater resourcing, support and credibility for local action groups (e.g. Friends of groups etc.) to create stronger partnerships between community and levels of government.
BEHAVIOUR • More on ground staff for meaningful on-ground work. • NRM presence in the community is important to help promote community engagement and action. • Language which carries structural change and prioritises integration of ecology over the subordination of 'environment' to the economy and social concern. • Concern that decentralising will weaken transparency and accountability by Government who represents all our interests. • Build trust. • Less government and political jargon. Less 'motherhood' statements.	**ACCOUNTABILITY** • Focussed ownership and resolution of issues. **COASTAL FOCUS** • Coast and Marine. • Preserve and enhance our existing open space – particularly coastal. • Preserve and enhance our existing remaining open space ~ particularly coastal.
LANDHOLDERS • De-emphasise landholders. Emphasise landscape. • Landholders need to manage their land with reference to the landscape within which it sits. • Education for new landholders.	**CROSS REGIONAL/LANDSCAPE** • Cross regional and state wide priorities must be taken into account with 'decentralised' Boards.
EDUCATION • Hobby farms ~ pest plants/land management. • Remember Green Adelaide/type education needed for urban blocks in townships. • NRM to support protective legislation for McLaren Vale region. • External Australian Sustainable Schools Incentive to all Regions ~ AUSSI. • An understanding of sustainability is essential to the transition to a genuinely sustainable society. AUSSI is the proven vehicle for student but needs more support. • Education ~ schools; landholders; community.	**COMMUNICATION/PARTNERSHIPS/INVOLVEMENT** • Environment must be the top priority. Community group recognition crucial. • More communication and involvement with Aboriginal community ~ within the legislation. • Regional decentralisation ~ to promote inclusion of local people, groups NGOs etc. • Washpool Range Scrub Coast ~ deeper integration working together. (landholders/government/ friends and groups). • Improved communication between government departments. • Working with farmers/landowners. Concentrate on education and overseeing large and small parcels of land. • Communication with our Indigenous community ~ integration top priority. • Communication between groups and facilitation of large groups, systems.
EMPLOYMENT • Increased co-ordination and resourcing of cross boundary pest animal and plant control. Too much responsibility on individuals, need to bring multiple landholders together and co-ordinate implementation. • Develop seasonal work force to sustain ongoing on-ground work. • Technical Advice ~ on-ground visits from qualified staff how to control plants ` provide a program. • Local Willunga type offices – staff need and have NRM focus.	**BIODIVERSITY** • Biodiversity matters and needs to be included in the new Act. • Biodiversity still needs to be incorporated in the Fleurieu/Hill Zone. • Why not: Soil; Water; Pest Plant/Animals and Native vegetation. • These elements are closely related and inter-dependent. • Strengthen the focus on Biodiversity protection and restoration of habitants. Preservation and extension of remnant vegetation of systems.

PLANT/ANIMAL CONTROL ~ PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES

- Pest Animal/plant control ~ much more focus; officers and funding; compliance and education.
- Weeds and feral animals control.
- Pest Plants and Animal Management.
- Includes feral and kangaroos ~ over abundant species important ~ more strategic and proactive approach.
- Emphasis on using organic controls, methods.
- Protection of threatened and vulnerable species.
- Protect the natural landscape via ongoing removal of feral weeds from cracks and roadsides.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- NRM is working well in Adelaide.
- Partnerships between NRM and stakeholders are working well.
- Partnerships with outside organisations financial, staff etc.
- Private land-owners, work programs for land restoration.
- Access to technical advice from staff.
- Willunga Environment Centre – it's a community hub and invites partnerships with community groups/land owners/Council.
- Important interactions with character preservation Act (McLaren Vale and Barossa) and the Landscapes Act. Need to protect the region.
- Officer and landholder relationships can be extremely productive (but inconsistent as dependant on Officer Skills and passion). McLaren Vale Bio Project great example of good relationship.
- Funding contributions to roadside weed control.
- NRM education and schools based learning is a major strength especially in partnership with Local Government.
- Local NRM Teams – immediate access to expertise.
- Education: NRM; Schools; Community; Nature Play.
- The funding process is fair and reasonable for this region.
- NRM education – extend to community!
- Continue funding in Community Natural Resource Centres as a valuable resource between landholders and NRM Boards. But create a stronger connection between NRCs and NRM to facilitate communication with community.
- Natural Resource Centres big link between NRM and Community.
- Natural Resource Centres.
- Easy access to expert staff across a whole range of areas of expertise.
- The support of the Natural Resource Centre and the educations programs for kids.
- Volunteer groups across the region.
- Community collaboration with council.
- Maintain landscape oversight via regional ecologist role.
- Leverage funding e.g. Council/NRM – Urban Creek Recovery Program.
- Officer/landowner relationship – need continuity of staff essential.
- Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.
- Relationship with DEW – sharing of expertise.
- Willunga Environmental Centre and regional office continue and expand.
- Shop front representation and access to NRM resources at local level.
- Positive personal relationships between NRM staff and land managers ~ trust!
- Existing – private land conservation agreements e.g. Heritage LA.
- Guaranteed funding via the Levy.
- Education and expertise offered to farmers, landowners and community (particularly small block owners).
- Landowner education and schools.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Ensure that decentralisation doesn't lead to duplication.
- Get the right mix (community, landholders, volunteers etc.)

b. A simple and accessible system

- Don't make 'transparent' mean more time with oversight, recording and over scrutiny.
- Trust the local staff managers. Use better technology, but not too complicated e.g. the graph supported with tax refunds on you your money was spent, is simple but gives good informed indications.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Being a 'land user' does not mean competency in landscape management.
- Need a Board and a set of Partnership committees all equal in status but with different (complimentary) roles.
- Most people who pay levies are not 'land managers' – don't forget those who love the land, shared spaces, and their own 'land' ~ gardens.
- Maintain and develop relationships with the Sustainable Australia Wine Growing system through McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Whole of landscape to also include the marine and coastal environment. Catchment to coast approach.
- But 'landscape' is an inadequate name ~ does not infer biodiversity.
- We need to know 'are things getting better?'
- What does "landscape" mean? – Managing our ecosystems?
- Managing Yerta (specific language re specific board area).
- Managing our biodiversity.
- Managing SA diversity.
- Bio Regional Management instead of, Landscape.

e. Back to basics

- *Communities:* and native re-vegetation, all urban, peri-urban – those paying the levy.
- *'vibrant biodiversity, a sustainable economy and resilient communities:* education in schools.
- Community partnerships.
- Education in schools:
  - Raising up a passionate generation who are empowered to take action.
  - Starts with expert advice to schools and ELCs.
  - Multi-layered: sustainable practices in schools that students harness and run; advice into educational program; powerful voice in committees.
- Pest plants in National Parks are out of control and being managed largely by volunteers.
- Pest animals – where is the management?
- Essential to get terminology right 'landscape' minimises regional uniqueness. Suggest Bio regionals with Aboriginal prefix e.g. Tadunya.

- Working together.
- Resilient communities will have to include Climate Change adaptation. We're pm track, and locked in for dangerous levels.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region. Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Size should ensure good, focussed decision making. • Greater community representation.	• Balance of membership – skills, knowledge. • Community. • Primary producers • Connection to community. • Criteria for members clear – like a job specification • Want transparency in the democratic process. • 7 a good number.	No comment made.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Not much. • Appointed by Minister = 3 By community = 4. • Chairperson appointed by Board at initial meeting. • Ministerial appointments must be from the region (or have long ties with region).	No comment made.	No comment made.

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• No elections if insufficient interest. • Potential lack of diversity. • What is the criteria for appointment by the Minister?	• Must have Aboriginal representation. • Election could be expensive, must be a simple process, not expensive. • Potential lack of knowledge. • Whilst election/democracy nice idea Minister could retain ability to make final choice from a pool of elected/nominated people. • Don't give to Local Government.	• Section 202 LGA – loss of community rights to challenge planning. • If only 3 community members how will we get diversity across land, water, coast etc.? • In a big board – board members too distant from regions – there for own expertise (planning, law…). • 4 appointees should have skills – understand legislation, governance, community

		engagement, budgeting and planning.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Board must be made up of people who understand/expertise in landscape (ecology – mountains to sea) with 4 community elected members. • Board can be in the Act (not Regulations).	• Indigenous representation. • Community election needs to be by environmentally education community. • Who votes? • Numbers of people on board dependent on boundary size.	• Balance – should be 4 community/3 elected. • Too rigid – may need larger groups.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Capacity building to understand roles and responsibilities for board members for both community and appointed members.	• Community support. • Good balance of membership and knowledge. • Ability to access expert knowledge and skills. • A nomination process before election. • Retain option to have sub-regional groups – they are the local connection. • Electronic election.	• Board members familiar with and experience with local community. • Appointed Board members should have greater % of time on Board work. • Community means not just landowners – farmers.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Board = Broad-scale (landscape) planning and must have members with broad experience. • Crate a complimentary set of Partnership Committees with local experience in soils/vegetation. Weeds etc. • Board and Partnership Committees are of equal status – each consults other – answer each other's queries.	• With effective, transparent communication.	• The right skill set (qualifications/experience) in biodiversity and environmental science.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

Table 1	Table 2

• Strong financial management. • Planned fund allocation. • Board terms (time) and method of turnover (rolling e.g. keep some experience on when new members appointed). • Professional Guidance and parameters. • 5 year plan has staged progress reports: review process; change process. • Leveraging outside funds e.g. Council and other government departments and private sector. • Managing priorities particularly along boundaries between regions.	• All of minutes to be publicly available. • Annual reporting to community in person explaining expenditure in past year, and coming intentions. Must answer questions from the floor. • Every 'project' must report progress and achievement – publicly available – learning from failures (as well as success).

Table 1	Table 2
• Who are they accountable to and who is accountable to them i.e. councils, NGO etc.	No comment made.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
1. We like the smaller area but need a decent rate base – or equitable allocation of resources away from central Adelaide. 2. Council boundaries – these boundaries – what are interactions. 3. What are regional and state wide boundaries? Conflict between whole and parts!	1. Do not include McLaren Vale/Willunga Basin in Green Adelaide ~ include in Hills & Fleurieu. 2. Consider character preservation Act – McLaren Vale as a guide e.g. Willunga Basin. 3. Include the coast and marine – the current scope and line is good. 4. Support the formation of Green Adelaide for the urban area.	1. Green Adelaide to stop at Seaford Heights and then cover the area west of South Rd to Sellicks. 2. Preserve farm land so all the high quality/producing cropping land isn't built on!
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
1. By ensuring that Native Vegetation/Biodiversity is a focus across both regions will benefit landscape scale conservation efforts. Ecosystems don't respect governance boundaries! 2. Many catchments are fully contained with the City of Onkaparinga: Sellicks – Sliver Sands; Ingleburn – Willunga; Pedler and Christie Creek – Field. These could be split dependant on the boundary –	1. How will the delineation of these boundaries affect/impact indigenous communities/nations whose traditional lands may encompass areas that cover greater reach and continuity? 2. Will 'Boundaries' reflect the landscape functions of metro Adelaide vs more rural areas in the South/North i.e. divers Biodiverse Ecosystems vs Urban landscapes. Will the boundaries affect/represent	1. Boundaries need to reflect the community of interest. 2. Minister should define 'Green Adelaide' and then consult on it. 3. Willunga Basin is not part of Green Adelaide.

might make catchment planning more difficult. 3. The strengths/opportunities and weaknesses/threats within our residential areas are diverse – demographics. Need a tailored approach to community engagement. 4. Remnant vegetation patterns are varied. Willunga Basin disproportionally cleared.	identity of residents/community? 3. Across the boundary lines, how will the Ministry ensure cross-communication to factor for the borderless nature of natural ecosystems and water ways?	

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

Table 1	Table 2
• Green Street and Flourishing Parklands. Retention and preservation of existing natural assets – building on and enhancement – increasing canopy cover, reducing heat island effects. • Coastal management – future proofing our coastline against Climate Change. Integrated management (including mapping) between levels of government. • Urban rivers and wetlands – expansion of 'urban creek recovery project' across Adelaide, to integrate management of stormwater, flood mitigation, habitat, biodiversity, water quality. • Community engagement and education.	• Input into planning and development to reflect green and cultural spaces. • Climate Change minimisation and management. • Education.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

Table 1	Table 2
• That urban and peri-urban people will get some attention, more funding etc. • Small/garden landholders get an opportunity to support their environment.	No comment made.

Table 1	Table 2
• It will be all nature focussed – not broader sustainability. • Too much money will leave Adelaide.	No comment made.

• Climate Change preparedness will be ignored. Green streets, walls, roofs to cool for now and future – 50 degree C days!	

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Levies should not be capped. • Funds insufficient. • Maintain real value/at least CPI.	• Levies, other state budget? Not enough knowledge, clarity about total budget for Boards – lack of knowledge restrict capacity to answer – contribute to these categories. • What proportion? Who decides? • Is other funding (State Government) from other sources? • If State Government funding – how does $300M relate to Board use – decision making. • Clarification - $2M in addition to levy? (Or part of levy). • Do community grants already in place stay? • Reverse department budget not over 2 decades.	• Capping to CPI – unless the local community has a specific project it wants to fund, would not be a general increase. • Are levies the best way to achieve funding? • State Government should also contribute.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• CPI link.	No comment made.	• No. • Distribution of funds is the issue City raises more money than e.g. Eyre Peninsula. How is this to be made more equal to each Region's tasks?
Table 7	Table 8	
If you cap levies – what gets cut? (Inflation exists e.g. for staff).	Metropolitan levies should be used to subsidise the Regions.	

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Need to be a transparent mechanism by which priorities are managed. • Yes ~ to L.P. fund. • What's the decision making mechanism for funding in Landscape Priorities fund?	No comment made.	• Yes to Statewide Landscape Priority Fund ~ Adelaide to contribute and % of total levy of all regions to contribute. • The chairs of boards come together to prioritise and connect and meet with Minister multiple times a year.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Cross boundary project sharing capability. • Enables cross boundary communication channels. • Where is the funding for NRM education in schools?	• There needs to be a resource to develop and facilitate partnerships and cross communication for cross regional projects (including funding). • All landscape boards meet quarterly to communicate needs and priorities within each region (including community consultation).	• Cross regional projects cam be developed by adjacent Boards in applying for funds.
Table 7	Table 8	
• Yes. • Effective communication re State Plan. • Data collection. • Objectives • Reporting e.g. plant and animal pests.	Yes	

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
Fund insufficient.	• NRM and NRC interaction complement each other but different – offer different services. • Concern about cost to set up Boards? Administrative support? Transparency costs?	• Positive. • Question around what's the scope of the fund – this will impact amount of money needed.

	• Does funding stop at General Manager? Secretarial assistance?	
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Access to involve larger or special projects.	• Needs to be a much larger fund – this amount distributed across such a wide area, diminishes returns/outcomes due to administrative demands.	• More than $2M. • Climate Change will need more money particular issues may require increase in Levy.
Table 7	Table 8	
What region gets % of funding? Under what criteria? Different boards/different criteria.	No comment made.	

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

A web page documenting the strategy/programs/budgets and POLICIES which is well visited.	Less Ministerial received from community re process change!	A flourishing and productive Yerta.
Greater coverage of native vegetation.	Reawakened sense of the whole South Australian community being responsible for the restoration and care of our land and creatures and natural dynamics and people, and committing to the change that this entails away from consumption of land for production and recreation.	The model is operating in an integrated way, there is accountability and transparency, and our environmental health land is improving.
Across the state ~ including Adelaide ~ regional improvement in biodiversity knowledge and action on climate change and many more educated community members.	Clean natural looking rivers, marshes and waterways including backwaters of St Kilda/Outer Harbor i.e. Barker Inlet etc. Less small acreages not looking like 'rubbish dumps' and 'container depots'. Penalties and much closer inspection of offending property owners e.g. by Local Government.	We have all taken responsibility for our land.
There is no method for him to measure success. The New Act will not be in until at least 2019, it will take over 6 months for implementation. There has been no NRM for this entire period (projects). And it has to be measured against what? This question is a motherhood, feel good statement of the Minister. This question should be for 2024 or 2025.	Everyone (our people) is fed, watered and nourished equitably by our collective bio-physical (natural) resources. 25% or thereabouts of land mass is utilised to support bio-physical (natural) systems. Land owned by governments (3 levels) sets the bar/example – woeful now.	Long term data collection of key environmental measures – before and after pictures. Commission a photo on this very difficult measure.
A continual growth of knowledge on land management and biodiversity that is shared throughout South Australia. Knowledge gained through a consultation process with experts	2020 The room at Serafino is filled with community celebrating success with you and wanting to be involved in the next chapter – particularly	No complaints. Happy faces. Happy places. 'Go indigenous'.

and traditional owners that is used to secure the health of the South Australian ecological regions and the future of South Australia.	younger generation of change makes who have had their voices heard.	
People know what natural resource management is and are aware of the rabbit, fox weed control advice and programs that are underway.	The levy is being spent of meaningful activities that have improved, nurtured and developed our Yerta. Many happy people enjoying what nature has provided.	When we consider the environment and native biodiversity seriously.
When all the olives have been removed from National Parks.	The Minister has listened to the community ~ the community can see their interests reflected in the Act (Yerta).	Success = positive community, feedback and feeling.
There is no simple answer – only the state of the environment in 20 years is meaningful. The best approximation requires the input of expert ecologists.	2 years is way too ambitious. If this is fully implemented in 2020 that will be impressive. However NRM education in all schools and available to landowners. Major partnerships developed between organisations.	Education for sustainability has been extended to all citizens and they are contributing to developing a sustainable society/economy that is managing our landscapes sustainably.
You will only know that this has worked when: • Species stop going extinct. • Native vegetation is protected. • Society lives sustainably. • And the community is socially conscious.	Universal participation across all ages, groups, organisations, political, apolitical, genders and races in South Australia in direct action in continuously improving our natural ecosystems. This includes but not limited to: • Full transparency. • Engendering confidence. • Continual education. • Participation DO! DO! DO!	As Minister for the Environment I know our reforms have been a success because: • Every school incorporates the Australian Sustainable Schools Incentive in theory and practice. • Every neighbourhood has pride in revegetating their place and sharing local biodiversity information.
Measurable improvements have been noted in all managed landscapes, Landcare groups, environmental groups, biodiversity groups etc., under the umbrella of Ministry. More people are aware of their environments and issues relating to their environment. More people care.	Diversity of people represented in process increases Number of people in FTE employed in on-ground actions.	The majority of the population values the natural world and supports increasing budget priorities and allocation to preserve and enhance. It. The Regional Boards come together quarterly to share successes and strategy for future proofing and environmental sustainability.
The arbitrary boundaries of the regions are not relevant anymore as the landscape approach has created an environment that is equally resourced and cared for by its community.	Communities/level of governments working together to preserve and build on our existing environmental elements across regional boundaries with landscape based project planning. Reduction in loss of native vegetation cover and urban canopy cover – projects aimed at increasing health.	Positive community engagement in the care and protection of Natural areas. Strong connections in the community between all stakeholders from local groups, local government, state government. All groups well-resourced to achieve and meet the needs for the region.
I would be promoted to a bigger portfolio. I would be re-elected.	Having community support for my ideas so that they would vote me back in	Positive personal relationships between NRM staff and land managers (trust).
Energy and vitality in local areas for making positive change. Sense of ownership by locals for those changes. Central websites for feedback – then need to follow up negative concerns. Transparency of expenditure. Improvements in regions – progress, pride.	Communication will be fully engaged and adequately resourced to tackle the long-term project of sustaining biodiversity across our landscape.	All your constituents know about the reform, and care about it. Children in schools through to landowner, urban and rural residents are informed, motivated and involved in managing the environment according to their means and abilities. All stakeholders feel they have a say.

Schools have action plans for sustainable practices based on expert advice to come ecologically sound.	There is a 'Landscape Expertise Board" in equal partnership with Partnership Committees mode of regional expertise in water, vegetation, soils etc.	No complaints. Happy Regions.
Halting extinction. Species stop going extinct.	2020 Community are developing partnerships across the regional landscapes and more funds are allocated.	More people know about Green Adelaide/Landscape SA/Nature. More people love, support and protect it.

7. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Maintain the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AUSSI) SA model delivering education for sustainability in our educational setting. This baby is too precious to throw out with the bath water. Over 50% of South Australian primary schools are supported by NRM in education to effect school community cultural change and delivering Education for Sustainability (EFS) within the curriculum. NRM education is the envy of other states and territories and a beacon of leadership. Here here!!!
- To enable our people to develop a sustainable society/economy we need to educate them how to live sustainably. NRM education and AUSSI are the current excellent programs but their effectiveness needs to be reinforced and extended. All people need access to Education for Sustainability on a whole of life basis to enable them to help solve our existential crises.
- Expert advice in schools – NRM have been invaluable. Raising a generation of people who deeply understand how they are connected to the environment and are empowered to make a difference ~ creating sustainable schools and helping implement best practice. Keep NRM education and AUSSI initiative.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **MURRAY BRIDGE**
TIME/DATE: **1-4PM 16TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 30 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session.

There was strong focus on the following:

- **Partnerships:** these need to be elevated and be considered a priority for the new Landscape Boards - but they must not be treated unequally. They must be true partnerships based on trust, mutual respect and clarity around roles and responsibilities. One example given was that the Department (Adelaide) contacted one of the NGO's and instructed them to deal with an issue for which they are not funded. There was concern that funding is removed, there is a lack of certainty and longer term security (one NGO said her organisation had 8 weeks funding and didn't know what was going to happen after that) and therefore an inability to effectively plan. The group was all for partnerships, very supportive of this approach as a principle but wanted to ensure that partnerships going forward were meaningful and real and that there be a recognition that the delivery of regional on the ground programs can be done more effectively and efficiently through partnerships if the right support and recognition is in place.

- **Funding**: A concern that the $2 million grass roots grant fund and the Landscape priorities fund will be taken from the existing levy. There was a statement that the Department should contribute funding to the Landscape Board programs. There was also strong support for the reallocation of funds from Adelaide to the regions to support on the ground initiatives.

- **Regional focus:** strong support for greater focus on programs that deliver on the ground benefit and transparency of spend. While back to basics was supported biodiversity is seen as a critical component that needs just as much focus.

- **Ongoing engagement:** a need to loop back and ensure key groups especially those who are likely to be involved in key partnerships have opportunity to see how their input is being used to shape the legislation. Ensure that this engagement process isn't just ticking a box and engagement for the sake of it.

A key comment was made and echoed by some in the room:

- **Dairy farmers:** Concerned about ongoing support with respect to land management programs to support their operations. One person in attendance whose husband is a dairy farmer felt that the advertising about the sessions weren't effective enough to ensure that dairy farmers were clear about what changes are proposed and the need for them to attend the session to have their say.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process.

The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants, including –

- What mechanisms will be in place to foster stronger partnerships with the Councils, especially where it relates to agreements around projects and programs?
- While the reform appears to be heading in the right direction, there will need to be careful consideration not to reinvent the wheel. Boards do need to be more accessible and connected to the community and

landowners need a single point of contact. Consideration of the previous model and how it worked would be a worthwhile starting point.

- A lot of money is currently wasted ion administration – there is a need to remove red tape and leverage from significant voluntary contribution which currently occurs
- How is the new legislation going to get traction and make a difference given bureaucracies become more complex and by their very nature require more process over outcomes? In order to get less planning and administration and more on the ground action will require significant change not just at the Board level but department level.
- Is this engagement just token, or will there be ongoing engagement especially in implementation to ensure that the reform is working?
- NRM Groups are working well in the SA MDB . This should be recognised in the legislative changes.
- The Landcare model also works well in the SA MDB. It is a trusted model and could be looked at more closely as an example of how to deliver practical outcomes through volunteer groups. Other groups include the Nature Foundation SA, Trees for Life, Bush Heritage, Greening Australia.
- Partnerships – those working well should be retained and supported. NGO's should also be considered and how they might be able to adequately funded to deliver real outcomes on the ground (most likely more effectively than Government).
- Put equity back into funding model
- Water allocations are currently included in the NRM Act. There needs to be clarity about this going forward – will it be the responsibility of the Board in future – is it in our out?
- Dairy industry was not represented (only one person attended whose family operates a dairy). The dairy industry needs to be adequately engaged and consulted and be given opportunity to identify what they need from this reform process.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes.

The following theme headings emerged at Murray Bridge –

- **Partnerships**
- **Water**
- **Delivery**
- **Levy and funding**
- **Planning**
- **Board Structure**

WATER

- Water allocations ~ has worked well in SA. Interstate there is a disconnection. Partnerships.

DELIVERY

- More $ on action rather than planning and bureaucracy.

LEVY AND FUNDING

- All levy funds collected in a region should be used entirely in that region and not spent within government.
- The levy should fund the programmes (too much now on administration). Bureaucracy out of control.
- State government commitment to NRM/Environmental funding.
- Unpaid levy has to be collected by Councils.

NRM levy being diverted to fund public land and agency costs.

PARTNERSHIPS

- In SAMDS, taking key decisions to the community to decide together.
- Volunteers – NRM lost many.
- Volunteers end up doing a large % of projects and all the follow up.
- A model to value and increase numbers of volunteers needs to be framed/implemented.
- Communication ~ losing the end users, many farmers don't spend time on internet.
- Diverse partnerships through all processes of NRM planning and implementation – supported by representative boards.
- Better connection to local community; land holders and indigenous.
- Community as equal partners from outset of NRM planning and investment decisions including delivery process.
- State government funding to environment and sector restored.
- Funding models and approaches to promote greater collaboration and less competition between community delivery organisations.
- Is there a safety net for not losing groups in the process of transition?
- Partnership – local government.
- Maintain and build local connections and volunteers and organisations.

PLANNING

- NRM to remain in control of water planning.
- Simplification of plans – clear achievable goals, shared with stakeholders.

OTHER

- NRM officers more approachable.
- Increase government, business and community investment in environment sector.

BOARD STRUCTURE

- Smaller the better. Communication essential different priorities/each area.
- Balance of government representatives/elections 4 government 4 elected (chair 2 votes).
- Board to have autonomy – staff budges and bank accounts.
- Developed delivery of all programs by non-government organisations.
- Biodiversity must be included as a priority asset along with soil and water ~ remember 1000s of farmers are landscape managers.
- Separation of former DEH – Plant Board.
- Old Plant Board more accountability; it was more approachable; need 'teeth'/enforcement.
- Workable areas ~ don't need to reinvent the wheel. Plant Board worked ~ subsequent hasn't.
- Reinstate an overarching body e.g. NRM Council – it could help to appoint community to Boards. Elections are a concern.

Extra notes taken as part of whole group discussion regarding priorities -

- Process to reflect the word 'partnership' – currently a power and control relationship. Get very little financial support/market failure.
- Validate of a true, equal partnership.
- If you want to draw on the community need to build the capacity to be involved.

- Funding must be on sustainability to be effective rather than fighting over the scraps. There may need to be some rationalisation.
- Funding needs to support the sustainability over continuum.
- Can't spend time trying to secure survival.
- Partnerships – planning decision making and implementation – need to be provided and supported.
- Good models need to be acknowledged.
- What does it mean – meaningful definition?
- Legislation principles to drive culture and attitude at Board level.
- Disconnect between (within) department sending landowners to groups for help – without funding.
- Requests to promote the department's work (with no funding).

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Education programs in schools.
- Aboriginal learning on country.
- Local LAP groups ~ Coorong, Goolwa to Wellington. - Need more funding.
- Have employed the right people.
- A workable size/region (too big no good).
- Land Care groups in this region ~ we are still here – action – volunteers.
- Build on updates to Regional LGA from NRM presiding member every 3 months is the only interaction between these 2 organisations.
- NRM groups and partnerships with LAP and Land Care groups deliver close connection with community.
- Water planning is a community and industry – up partnership.
- The NRM levy is a fundamental finance base to support land managers efforts (although much has been diverted to central government).
- Boards are community based.
- Opportunities for community to be involved in water allocation.
- Groups with connections to LAP groups/ Land Care groups and boards.
- NRM education has had a powerful influence on the next generations – leaders.
- Aboriginal programs have been incredibly effective in getting the Aboriginal community making a significant difference on ground.
- Balances soil, water, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage in planning and investment.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Decentralised decisions but not doing it.
- Delegate the implementation out.

b. A simple and accessible system

- % of each $ spent on 'doing' rather than talking, planning, reporting etc.
- Fund environment groups to exist (core funding) to create/maintain/build capacity to deliver on-ground works.
- Leverage Federal/Local Government/private sector funding.

- Needs to fund by priority actions not smoothed across interest groups.
- Sustain existing 'umbrella' groups that support smaller 'Landcare' groups = to get on with the work they want to get done at a locale scale. This has a nett gain and leads to more small groups helping with action

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Core value/
- Decide important matters with the community with those organisations affected.
- Encourage land managers who are sustainable managers and address those who are damaging land, water and biodiversity assets (compliance).
- Devolved grant systems have proved to be an effective way of engaging community and getting better land outcomes.
- Regulation and enforcement of laws around vegetation clearance and pest, plant and animal responsibilities still need to be in place.
- Community to be involved in NRM planning, investment decisions and in the deliver process from the outset – devolve delivery.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Biodiversity must be a focus. Soil and water management will not save endangered ecosystems.
- Climate Change must be at the centre of landscape planning and management.
- Pest plants and animals are not the only risk to biodiversity in the Adelaide Hills – don't forget development.
- Landcare = 25 years of working together on action.
- Send the fun seals back to somewhere else – save the professional fisherman/women!
- Community at the centre of providing knowledge (e.g. Aboriginal communities) planning, resolving competing priorities, delivering beneficial management.

e. Back to basics

- Community involved from the start in planning and the important decisions.
- Government at all levels needs to lead this – make solid commitments to make a difference – advocate better for the environment – influence the community/private sector to make the environment a priority. NRM funding private and programs, not public land.
- Yes, focus on the basics! Pest plants and animal control; soil stabilisation; revegetation; Water conservation.
- Basics: sustainable soils, resilient biodiversity and sustainable water resources.
- Make these a priority – on ground work.
- Bring all the Aboriginal Nations into the same room – for a true conservation. (not a talk fest)
- Government funding progressively cut by past governments, is returned to the basic level of about 3% of the state budget, in addition to the levy.
- Biodiversity to be considered as an asset in same way as water and soil and is included in landscape decision making from the start (not secondary outcome).

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
• Good if it covers skills. • Expect Board to operate on a very strategic level.	• Not much.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Elected does not work as elected view they have more say. • Independent group to select people/skills for Board membership. • What process – compulsory vote by levy payers? What cost? • Could become self-interest blocks.	• Hybrid model potentially dysfunctional. • Fully elected model could be stacked. • Expense of elections. • May not give a good skills balance across the board. • May never get an Aboriginal person on the Board. • 4 government, 4 elected local. Chair to have casting vote… • Very few valued community people currently want to be on NRM Boards. How will this be addressed? • Hard to achieve worthwhile projects without enough funding. • Current procedure of all annual funding needing to be spent in 1 year not conducive to careful financial management or saving for big/ongoing projects.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Board have issues based committees for advising on strategic issues (e.g. drought and water). • Board needs to be a funder • As a funder it would drive the partnerships with local government.	• The Minister's appointments are not chosen from the bureaucracies. • Good induction process for members including governance. • Pre selection process to ensure mix of skills is obtained and then voted on by the community – all members are elected, not just three. • Cap the term 2 X 3 years.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• *Own budges, shared publically:* own bank account outside of agency. • *Employ a general manager who manages staff:* very important. • *Power to set and manage own levies:* with community – or if supported by regional community. • *Partnerships and outsourcing:* co-design plan, majority of budges devolved to non-government organisations. • Future climate consideration. • Biodiversity must be one of the 5 priorities with a future view of climate change. We have to actively manage to maintain and enhance/improve biodiversity, not by weed and pest control alone. • Effective system of monitoring and evaluation. • Landscape condition information kept in central place. • Assessment of community attitude knowledge and involvement.	• Simple plan to set funding priorities. • Transparent use of $ from levy in the region. • Partnership between water planning in region and government.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1	Table 2
• Clear vision and mission and roles and responsibility. • Empower and enable people, communities and industries. • Accountable to community, Minister and parliament.	No comment made.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
1. Small community boards and no regions, perhaps based on Council Boundaries. No high paid management. 2. Existing NRM Region offices too expensive. 3. Prefer to involve lots of community members in smaller bodies, less travel	1. Burra 'out' of MDB and Mt Barker 'out' of MDB 2. 7 to 8 board nett increase = like for like but concern over increased cost/bureaucracy etc. 3. Clean slate – starting 'now'. 4. AMLR break-up is a good thing. 5. Impact of funding from Alexandrina and Mt Barker on viability NRM.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management

- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

Table 1	Table 2
• Urban biodiversity – role model of global green 'cities' – waste management etc., water consumption, pollution climate change – public transport. • Water/River health – catchment flow to sea. • Maintain 'green space' – increase awareness of regional issues/value. Make city people care more.	• Retain their green areas – not subdivisions etc., on ovals and schools.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

Table 1	Table 2
• Green Adelaide can focus on its 'own' stuff.	• Less bureaucracy. • Less bureaucrats.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Green Adelaide get a proportionate amount of funding not based on population/ geographical size – its boundary needs to care about all of metro Adelaide not just City of Adelaide. Collaborate with urban neighbours.	• Persuading Adelaide people to let some of their levy go out of Green Adelaide region.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

Table 1	Table 2
• NRM committee of parliament consider in order to address issues. • What to do for larger unknown issues i.e. drought?	• Levy collected by Council but debt managed by Council. • NRM levy parliament committee. • Attractive 'idea' that levies generated in a region get spent in a region. Local $ for local projects = happy community. They can see what it does and they are involved and interested but how is

	this translated in reality to/from regions with high or low or no levy. • Cross boundary projects may already be known – not new. • ?? Boards setting their levies?? • Cost of having 'regulator' set cap – may be huge.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

Table 1	Table 2
• Coastal – Marine Parks funding? • SA government has reduced our contribution to about 1% - restore to 2.7 – 3% of state budget. • Be underpin viable regional communities, plant, soil and water. • Leadership needs to be important to government to put environment back on the map.	• Yes – like it. • Already most projects known – we have a good idea what needs to happen because all regions have plans/targets. • Landscape scale = one giant project that sucks all the money. • Additional $ investment – don't take out of levy – leave levy to regions.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

Table 1	Table 2
• Does this need to come from levy money? • Consider treasury. • Will government return levy money? • Fee for water policy $2.2M	• $ needed immediately – don't wait for new legislation. • $2M small amount across many groups. • Who decides? • Not 'new' money. • Could be political. • Grassroots $ investment has the greatest multiplier gain (ROI). • $ and volumes and ongoing and long-term and landholder and next generation and cross-culture and diversity. • Need more groups not less should invest in umbrella groups to support smaller Landcare action.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Establishment of functional and effective cross regional and organisational partnerships that have community at the centre and are involved and viewed as equals from planning to implementation. Bureaucracy = Contraction. Local government/Landcare and community led NRM = Expansion.	Equal partners with community starting at planning and going through to implementation.	Securely funded community/Landcare groups like we used to be.
In 3 years time a meeting like this would attract a large diverse group of people engaged in NRM. We still have the same number of community groups (or more) working to help our environment at this stage it looks unlikely. Better funding for the environment. The environment recognised as important and essential.	Board has GM and small staff in place, is operating independently but in partnership with agency deploying its levy and other funds from its own bank account to Regional Plans priority projects through non-government organisations and the change in condition of soil, water and biodiversity is measured.	Community groups actively involved in non-decision making. Community members are keen to be Landscape Board members – competition for board membership. Landscape scale projects under way in each region. Active and visible community groups and involved in NRM planning and delivery of projects through a devolved funding process.
There are a lot of happy people out there seeing things are getting done and not funding wasted on overpaid bureaucrats. Things are happening like the old days, where the money went on things done that could be seen. No red tape and bullshit and unproductive employees.	Success is people being happy environmental/landscape management by state government. Funding being sustainable to help people with environmental/landscape projects.	Secure annual funding for NRM boards and LAP groups into the future.
Public happier with the new system. Funding effectively allocated. Less repetition with government staff – less trash emails.	Grassroots environmental groups have sustainable funding; large number of volunteers and trusted relationships with landholders and Landscape SA Boards.	Show real leadership and commitment to the environment by state budget not just NRM levy.
I work for Council as an Environment Officer for past years. Prior to this I was with PIRSA for 20 years as a Soils Officer. I would like to see less red tape, empire building and more on ground works, help for Primary Producers and Environmental groups.	Communities working together achieving on ground activities on each other's land: pest control; weed control; erosion control, revegetation; threatened plant and animal species protection.	NGOs will generally spend their money on outcomes rather than administration. To be effective in this they have to be independent and sustainably funded. They are out there but limping along and coughing up hard. In three years time, if these groups have been suitably registrationed your reform will be viewed as a success.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**KINGSCOTE**
TIME/DATE:	**2PM ~ 5PM 21st August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky & Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 45 participants were welcomed by the facilitators who set the scene for the session. The group provided a wealth of input and was a good mix of interest groups and included two existing board members.

Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the Kingscote session were –

- Strong support for **local decision making, valuing and respecting local knowledge, allowing local decision making and embracing local wisdom**. This included discussion around the Kangaroo Island board currently being all local people. The question of 'who controls the board' was asked, and suggested that this was currently centralised government. Participants were keen to see the board with **independence from the Department of Environment and Water.** One participant asked if the board was a 'puppet' of government – because it certainly shouldn't be. Another participant highlighted that there were often good processes of local people making decisions, but that it isn't always possible to please everyone even when this occurs;
- There was some strong discussion on board structure. One proposal (which no participants disagreed with) was that groups should be identified to **nominate people on to the boards**, noting that these groups already have a process for electing representatives. These qualified locals should be put forward for positions on the board and appointed by the Minister. It was felt that an **election process would be a waste of money, take a lot of time, and participants weren't sure who would vote**. Another suggestion was that the make-up of board should be switched from the Minister's proposal so that **4 members be elected by the community, and 3 appointed by the Minister**, in order to get true local decision making. It was noted that everyone appointed should have appropriate training, governance knowledge and 'big picture' understanding. It was suggested that the Minister consider retaining **9 board members** because it enables better representation. Tenure should be fixed to two terms only. Some participants suggested that skills and knowledge need to be a focus rather than focusing on things like gender balance. One participant asked 'why even have a board?' to which other members said because there needs to be governance and people to set vision. Financial skills was identified as something at least one member of the board should have.
- Participants raised questions as to whether the **State Budget allocation** will continue (and how much), and the **appropriation of levy funds** from Green Adelaide – as both are critical for Kangaroo Island. Participants proposed that the **Grassroots fund** should be doubled to $4million, with the additional $2million coming from Treasury. The region must set its own priorities for funding;
- There were a number of comments made regarding **funding** as being a priority, including more on the ground funding, funding being less 'top heavy', grants for private farmers, and appropriate funding for the new board
- A number of table groups raised **pest management** as a priority for the reform, including more focus on feral species management, weed control, and cats and pigs. It was noted that one of the areas of success on Kangaroo Island had been goat and deer eradication;
- **Connection to land holders** was highlighted as important, with local primary producers seeking more **collaboration**;
- Some discussion took place between the whole group around **biosecurity**, as this had been listed as a priority for reform and also an area that was currently working well. Participants provided opposing views as to whether biosecurity operations were currently sufficient;
- One table group highlighted the need for the reform to recognise the uniqueness of the Island – recognising **"our Island-ness"**;
- Some members of the group highlighted that they **didn't want any further regulation such as meters on dams**, asking that there be no further restrictions on economic development and farm management. Local century-old knowledge of farming practice should be leveraged – with a greater focus on trust rather than regulations;
- One participant highlighted that there was a perception that if **a farmer benefits financially** from a program then it mustn't be good for the environment. He felt that this perception needs to change.
- In general, the **guiding principles** for the reform were felt to be good. But participants felt that these types of principles or words don't often translate to success so shared this is why there is an element of cynicism and scepticism as to whether the principles will become true.

- It was felt that there is often a 'local voice' on the Island but that it is often overturned so there is a general **lack of trust** that the reform will be effective;
- Members of the group were pleased to have a Minister that is not so risk averse, but **the Minister needs to have a direct relationship with the local Boards**, and those boards need direct access to the Minister. Decentralised decision making is good, but this direct relationship is important;
- One participant highlighted that whilst Kangaroo Island is unique, there are **issues that are broader than the Island** so input from external expertise is needed and a bigger, broader focus;
- **Youth engagement** is very important – how do you get representation from all demographics on to the boards?

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities, as follows –

SUPPORT • Access to support: ○ Data. ○ Funding. ○ Resources. ○ Technical knowledge. ○ Communication.	**UNIQUENESS** • Recognise our Islandness; consider the interaction between land and sea.
WATER • Equitable use of water.	**RED TAPE** • Reduce red tape and complexity to allow action.
NATIVE VEGETATION • Roadside vegetation (a) fire control (b) council input. • Native Vegetation Legislation – seek a more collaborative approach. • Manage native vegetation on all land.	**BOARD STRUCTURE** • Board includes representatives of NPWS, Fire and Weed and Feral animal (pest management). • Board representation – one manager the rest community representatives.
EVIDENCE BASED DECISIONS	**SOIL**

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- Remote monitoring.
- Technology innovation.
- Evidence based decisions.

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- Liming.
- Soil management.

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FUNDING

- More on the ground funding.
- Money to hit the ground effectively – less top heavy and more on-ground.
- Reliable long term funding for environmental management.
- Grants for private farmers.
- Appropriate funding for new board.

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PEST MANGEMENT

- Wildlife, not only native totally out of control.
- More focus on feral species management.
- Weed control.
- Pest plants and animals need to be controlled.
- Pest, weed management including over-abundance of native animals.
- Cats and pigs.

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ENGAGEMENT

- Locals having a major say for their region.

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PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION

- Planning for future sustainability.
- Long term views and planning.
- Co-ordination between departments.

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LOCAL DECISIONS/WISDOM

- Localised decision making.
- Independent of the Environmental department.
- Valuing and respecting local knowledge – allowing local decision making.
- Embracing local wisdom.

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CONNECTION/COLLABORATION

- Local Primary Producers seek more collaboration.
- Connection to landholders for landscape NRM delivery.
- Communication.
- Increased partnering with farming community.

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OTHER

- Effect of forestry transportation.
- Economic activity will change planning.
- Idea for anther speaker ‘Dr Judy Carman’ ~ knowledge/science – GM food testing.
- Board has a role.
- Biosecurity.
- Funding cuts was full time.
- Remove the barriers to food commerce between consenting adults.
- AREAL spraying.

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2. WHAT’S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- High community representation on the Board.
- NRM plan ~ we’ve been through a process that involved the community and developed a plan – will this be lost?
- Introduced the community to NRM – responsibilities of landholders??
- Community diversity in NRM – connectedness and contacts linkages.
- Cross-landscape approach needs to be maintained.
- Revegetation of local species – including work of seed bank/nursery.
- Current competent staff delivering effective outcomes.

- Land Care projects.
- Fencing.
- Current Board composition and range of competencies: works very well.
- Biodiversity: working well but needs continued support.
- Strong community support for carbon neutrality.
- Goat and deer success.
- Great speakers visited in the last year.
- Got rid of goats and deer (now pigs).
- Open collaborative forums between different groups - ☺
- Plant Nursery.
- Re vegetation program.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Small regions have limited resources and may need outside expertise and resources to enable them to manage their natural resources.
- Can there be a body on KI that can operate without government control?
- Islanders should be in control of their futures.
- External influences on decisions to pass through local community before implementing.
- Landscape Boards to report to Minister not through government department.
- Reduce 'risk adversity' of government and encourage, facilitate innovation and 'bespoke' solutions for local regions.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Funding – positive land care initiatives i.e. fence off native vegetation – lime sand.
- Some red tape = accountability and transparency (the Banks did very well out of less red tape!)
- Understand that landowners are responsible.
- Totally agree - % funding hitting on ground works.
- Too much time spent on applying for funding. How can it be streamlined? How can projects be prioritised?
- If red tape means that there are constraints on irresponsible action, or that the imps on other stakeholders – have to be considered then it's not unnecessary.
- Devolve decision making and associated accountability to lowest level possible.
- System must be responsive – timely.
- Good intentions don't automatically lead to good outcomes – some level of guidance/regulation required to establish best practice standards.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- There are times when we need to consider broader issues (e.g. climate change, marine water management) that are beyond the local KI community. There are other stakeholders other than those who work, live on and care for the land who also have ideas about management.
- We need a very strong representation from farmers/landholders and agriculture in KI.
- Totally agree – high priority.

- Opportunities to connect community members who are not land managers to our landscapes and utilise their skills and resources will enhance the outcomes to our community and our natural resources.
- Need to take the Islands' uniqueness into consideration – don't want unnecessary off Island and Whale State Legislation on decisions impacting us. Need local input.
- A balanced view including the economics of the region.
- How can we optimally use absentee landowners?

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Imperative to have whole of landscape approach (plan) to best inform localised efforts.
- Allows for multiple issues to be tackled through effective application of local resources/activities.
- Whole of landscape approach is about the landscape conserving biodiversity on a broad scale so that we have a slim hope of protecting it.
- We need to plan on phasing out the use of glyphosate on KI because it causes cancer. Perhaps the place start with this is to stop its use by the KI council.
- Helps connect landholder sand likeminded passion for conservation and landscape health.
- Won't the plans to NRM Management separate DEW from the parks – break up the landscape approach that has been effective in many areas like weed and pest management and habitat restoration, biodiversity monitoring?
- Nature blocks must be managed to maintain natural diversity.
- Consider Sea Scape for Islanders – don't confine to landscape only.

e. Back to basics

- Funds never more effective than funding landholders directly: creek crossing, fencing, lime sand, perennials.
- Needs to be balanced with introduction and incentivising new practices not rewarding for what should be considered standard accepted practice.
- Need to broaden view of what plants are useful and not be too hung up on killing what are considered weeds. Peter Andrews has shown us we can use many different plants including weeds to hold more fresh water in the landscape and improve soil fertility.
- What about biodiversity protection. Also climate change will have major impacts on NRM?
- Back to landscape model, less top heavy, and red tape and more $ for on ground works.
- Shorten chain of communication for reasons made.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Better than what we have – community to vote.	No comment made.	• Nothing. • Why change number of board members? 9 work well and ensure the board is quorate.

		• 9 is too many – large boards are not efficient.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Bad. • Election for 3 people! Who is going to vote? • Cost.	• Local people who have the skills should be identified and elected/appointed.	

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Criteria and financial acumen. Will the Minister be screening the community nominations? • How do you set up the election? • How do we balance the community representation to reflect the differing land use and sizes managed? • Primary industries. • Marine natural areas. • Urban areas.	• We don't know how the Minister will appoint people – will it be from nominations from the community or direct appointments? • Expense of elections.	• All members including the chair must be Islanders. • Does not ensure skill set. • But it does guarantee background knowledge and experience.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Not 9 members – too many. Chair and 6 is OK. • Query election? Nominate and appoint model. Minister appoints – his party is then accountable.	• That we will become part of a mainland board – we need KI on it – owned. • What criteria is used to determine who is elected? Need to be relevant to the broader KI economy. • We would hope that this will cost the tax payer less and be more efficient than the current system. • Membership should be multi-skilled: agriculture/forestry; fisheries/aquaculture; environment; finance; governance; tourism; food/wine.	

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Directorship training for governance. • Knowledge and skills in varying management areas/issues. • Community lead with government support. • Presiding member needs to be local. • Combine elections with local government elections to save money.	• Representation from different sectors of the community. • All members to be from the region. • Fixed term membership. • Around 9 members – no less than 7. • More elected from community than ministerial appointments.	• Clear specifications of skill set required for balanced membership.

Table 4	Table 5
• Nominate organisations: CFS; Agriculture KI; KI Council; Fisheries; Forestry; environmental organisations. Each of these get to nominate 1 member. • Each of these nominating entities have 'elections; and hence accountability. • Independent Chair	• 3 ministerial appointed and 4 elected (must be a commercial landholder – broad acre farmers). Minister appointees are non-voting. • Need to relook at Land Care – people volunteering to benefit the environment. • Chair should be local. Ministerial appointees should be local where expertise exists.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• Share levy funding across all regions – base income for each region. • Clear biosecurity role – resources to be in budget.	• Soil quality and biosecurity. • Adaptation to Climate Change. • Own budgets, shared publically – consulted prior to setting budget. • Power to set and manage own levies – how population = very small levy funding issues must be addressed • Simplify to current NRM Planning and Process. • What happens to our existing Natural Resources plan?

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
1. KI must remain its own NRM region – we are an island and want to retain our island identity – certainly we do not want to be swallowed up by the Fleurieu. Many varied unique ecosystems on KI. 2. Biosecurity – we need to work closely with neighbouring boards/councils.	1. Keep KI as is. X3 2. Include coast and marine area within region as per current situation.

3. The diversity of KI and the size, over 500km of coastline (10% of the state) plus high level of native vegetation means that we must have our own board.	

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

Table 1
• If there is true regional autonomy then Green Adelaide Board should be deciding their own priorities.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

Table 1
• Broader issues can be looked at beyond council areas. • Nothing.

What concerns you?

Table 1
• Creation of 2 more boards will divide resources more thinly. • Why should Green Adelaide co-administer the $2M fund? It will erode local levy-base. X2 • Green Adelaide has largest levy funds. • $2M fund administered by joint presiding member group. • Wouldn't like to see cost shifting from government to Green Adelaide e.g. Botanic Gardens etc.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Keep same for KI. • Independent body – don't invent new administration.	• Cap levies at current rates CPI increase. • Farmers are already spending a lot of money managing their own landcare and environmental issues and can't afford big increases in levies	• Unless KI gets top-up funding this would be a total catastrophe for KI. • KI doesn't have water levies. • Board should have the right to increase levy beyond CPI if needed.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Our levies are only 10% of our budget, will we still receive our 90% top up?	• Agree.	• We are all in favour of capping levies. • Is there any state budget allocation for the boards across the state? • Depends on starting point for CPI increase.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Cross regional projects important. • KI will always need outside $.	• Yes. • Difficult when you are on an island. • Positive initiative.	• Shared projects are a good idea but smaller regions don't have the resources to contribute. X2
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Yes. • Who makes these decisions? Our voice as Islanders should be considered.	• State wide view critical. • Inter board partnerships/projects as needed and agreed.	• Relevant for the mainland regions but KI must remain as a separate entity.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Double it to $4M and co-fund from Treasury. • Spreading the love (responsibility) across all tax payers.	• OK	• If grants program means cut to core programs then that's not a good idea. • Volunteer groups often not equipped to administer grants.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Need more clarity: Will the $$ be distributed equitably? Who makes decisions? Who determines priorities? (Government).	• If allocated on a per capita basis KI will get little. • More information needed.	• $2m is a drop in the ocean. Biodiversity conservation is long term and needs to be done thoroughly.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

The agricultural industry on KI is going great, with the pristine beauty of the environment and landscape remaining.	Landscape scale management of threats, resulting in improved agriculture, environment, engagement of community.	Keep your word. Keep your mind open – talk to everyone concerned.
I know that this reform has been successful because there is a sustainable plan for the future of KI.	Re-election – minimal impact to land owner: money - improve targets to solve problems. Needs to be in questionable.	I have reformed NRM that now has a better focus with boards that realise the importance of environment and the economic benefits.
Success is a result of having local ownership of the board, reducing regulations and minimising red tape,	Local communities have been empowered and supported to plan and deliver activities - on-ground, policy that are making a positive difference to our environment.	Measurable improvement in soil health. Organic carbon (farming system). Ground cover (native vegetation). Systems need to be profitable if it's not profitable there will be no custodians.
People enjoying their surroundings (parks/farms …) looking positive into the future.	Independent boards that ae functioning well and are contributing to all members of the community`	Get the governance right. The current proposal is a bit 'elaborate'. Local engagement is of course critical – but it also needs your leadership – then trust.
If everyone is happy.	This has been a success because : The boards are now balanced between industry and conservation – previously very green weighted. More control of board is local and balanced.	I would consider this process to be a success if climate change targets have been met and the economy of Kangaroo Island is sustainable, the community is resilient and the environment is improved.

	Much more of the levies is reaching on ground work and not lost in office jobs on its way down.	
The whole KI community is not divided on how best to manage Natural Resources – Greens don't hate farmers!	KI will be world leaders in sustainability and the island is feral cat free.	Community commitment and participation.
Message for the Minister. Will know if this has been successful if environmental indicators actually improve.	I will know it has been a success when levies have not increased and the bureaucracy has not grown.	Hi David, Just a quick comment – remember the KI Jury Process: please consider that in your solution for KI. Appreciated the opportunity.
Landscape ethic is future of community life.	As minister you are re-elected to the position or advanced.	If it has been successful, the agricultural community and the conservation community will be working in unison and not almost geometrically opposed. Most farmers are excellent conservationists and get really annoyed by all the ridiculous rules and regulations that the 'green' side of the community place on them, re controlling wild life, water restrictions, and economic performance.
The key measure is the trees are regenerating and the ocean has less plastic.	I have listened to the people – in this case the Kangaroo Islanders.	That water will be valued as a precious commodity and shared equally.
If changes made and implementation put into action deemed successful – its success – needs to be felt by those it affects not by those who changed a region.	There won't have been huge amounts of money wasted on branding, consultancies, and less meetings and the environment will be a critical part of government not the poor relation. We won't have lost any more animal or plant species nor will any become endangered/threatened.	It will be a success if regional boards have long term secure and sufficient funding to keep skilled staff and their families employed in regional areas with flow-on benefits throughout the regions.
We are back like the decade of Land Care $ there is million dollars being spent on ground. Works with minimal spent on administration – the aim of the game is to improve the environment so that dollars need to spend on the environment through on ground work not administration.	I know it has been successful because landowners – farmers – are driving new tractors and living in new houses. They have been given the tools (funding of programs) to care for their soils, livestock, land and water and in return are making a profit. No feral animals running the Island.	Kangaroo Island remains an autonomous zone. Has identified its unique qualities and leveraged these. We are 'feral free' as an example. Also Broadacre agriculture is leveraged to gain maximum benefit for community and landholders.

7. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- The KI Natural Resources Management Plan had huge community participation in its development and there were agreed objectives – what happens to this in the new NRM Landscape?
- Centralise/decentralise lump/spit etc., etc., etc., here we go again – nothing ever changes at accost of $millions and massive disruption. When will the pollies ever get over it
- If it is working well, why change, fix it. Board has achieved.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **CLARE**
TIME/DATE: **2PM ~ 5PM 22ND August 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 30 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. Attendees represented a mixture of landowners, volunteers (Landcare, Trees for Life, Progress Associations), Clare Gilbert Valley Council, Primary Industries, Wine and Grape Growers Association, community general. A full account of input received can be found below, however some of the key points to arise from the Clare session were –

- Less time and money spent on administration – **more staff on the ground** connecting with key groups, facilitating partnerships and delivering programs that make a difference.
- A need for more **Park Rangers** (noting that this is not necessarily part of the Landscape SA reform but that the Minister had noted it in his presentation and there was strong support for this as a Statewide initiative.
- The Board needs to comprised of **skilled individuals** – not people who are wanting to promote their own agenda or who have vested interests. A criteria needs to be set for which candidates being pre-selected or nominated need to meet. There needs to be more of a focus on skills and knowledge and community leadership than other matters such as gender.
- Boards can't be operational – they must be **strategic**
- Strong focus on **native vegetation** including **roadside vegetation**. Weed management needs to work on the basis of allowing native vegetation to flourish. Consideration needs to be given to how the Native Vegetation Act fits with this reform and the role of the new Landscape Boards relative to native vegetation management and preservation. **Strong partnerships** with Council in this regard are considered important, with Council to be educated around the importance of adequately managing and preserving bush tracks (unmade road corridors) and associated native vegetation. Roles and responsibilities with respect to native vegetation need to be better defined.
- **Compliance** needs to be looked at – a lot of compliance has been centralised – there is a lack of compliance officers on the ground and the Boards appear to be restricted by administrative issues. This is especially so with respect to the native vegetation and clearance.
- **Biodiversity** is critical and fundamental to good landscape management. This cannot be ignored or forgotten in going back to basics.
- The group did not like the **change of name** – the emphasis needs to be on the **MANAGEMENT of the NATURAL landscape** for the benefit of future generations, tourism and primary production. This is not reflected in the new name. Landscape doesn't address the importance of biodiversity.
- **Coastal management** – appears to be an afterthought – needs to be high on the agenda especially for the Northern and Yorke region.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, boundaries
5. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities –

- **Back to Basics – focus area**
- **Planning/decision making**
- **Transparency/accountability**
- **Water**
- **Board**
- **Public clarity of role**
- **Partnerships**
- **Decentralise roles/responsibilities**

BACK TO BASICS ~ FOCUS AREA	**PLANNING/DECISION MAKING**
• Retain existing native vegetation and paddock trees, and bush tracks. • Weeds ~ more money and time spent on eradicating weeds in National Parks and private land. • Feral species ~ more effort to eradicate feral animals in National Parks and adjoining land. Many land owners not doing anything to control feral animals. • Cats ~ more controls on domestic cats – de-sexing, curfews and limits on cat numbers. Feral cats – more effort to eradicate feral cats. • Trees/Native Vegetation ~ encouragement for land holders to plant more trees and preserve or re-create native vegetation. ○ To plant wind breaks. ○ Strengthen native vegetation Act & Regulations – more staff to administer the Native Vegetation Act – currently gutted. ○ Need more habitats for animals, more trees to reduce damage by mistletoe. ○ More staff to manage all this. • Coastal protection for vegetation (unlawful access and use. • Protection of salt lakes. • Protection of native birds, fish and animals.	• Increased local input into Planning and Decision Making. • Decentralisation of Decision Making.
TRANSPARENCY/ACCOUNTABILITY	**WATER**
• Value for money/transparency.	• Better regulation of irrigation/bores. • Is irrigation necessary? • If we are having to irrigate crops then are those crops really viable in that area? • Maintain biodiversity along water catchments and impact on the coast. • Encourage people to use less water in general. • Monitoring of our ground and surface water supplies.
BOARD	**PUBLIC CLARITY OF ROLE**
• Autonomy of Boards – 'Good' Governance.	

• Skill based appointments.	• People have an understanding of 'the purpose' and 'scope of the Board'.
PARTNERSHIPS • Delivery through established and appropriate networks. • Use existing resources of not duplicating delivery of programs. • Flexibility in delivery of service by locals.	**DECENTRALISE ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES** • Local support and contact person. • Decentralisation of administration.
OTHER • Concern with reform focus 'looking back' to soil and pest, weed and plants rather than a focus on functional landscapes, productive landscapes, engaged people. • Getting the right balance. • Better food producer and landholder engagement ~ support primary industry. • More support and education for pest and weed control and stronger enforcement of the Act. Education. • Bushfire ~ build in a natural resilience against fire using in native vegetation (fire breaks). Proactive Fire Management – water resource and availability. • That the levy distribution is equitable across regions.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Maintaining support of sustainable agriculture and farming practices.
- Fox baiting and deer control.
- School children education.
- Landscape planning process ~ Conservation Action Planning.
- NRC and NRM education to stay. Connecting with community.
- Major project – Burra to Kapunda.
- Willing to work with, engage and support small community groups.
- Funding mechanism – Federals trust the current Board process.
- Diversity of Board representatives and diversity of projects.
- The existence of NRM Board.
- Current DEW staff and location and skill set to deliver programs i.e. Federal-funded Green Army.
- Relationships between staff delivering NRM and communities/stakeholders.
- Approachable and timely small scale project/idea identification ~ low bureaucracy funding.
- Landscape biodiversity projects. South Flinders/Living Flinders; Southern York's/Rewilding York's.
- Biodiversity on production and private land.
- Retain the things that are currently working well ~ i.e. projects on-ground/activities relationships.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. **Decentralised decision making**
   - Do not feel the current system is centralised (other than periodic Ministerial directions).
   - NY Strategic Plan is decentralised in my opinion. Ability of board to speak freely and make appointments ~ often 'controlled' however.
   - Need to ensure that decentralisation doesn't result in a lack of oversight, processes etc., needs to be moderation.
   - There may be a need to bring in 'outside' experts due to lack of expertise within regions.
   - Consideration of local, state, national, international legislation, obligations and conventions ~ other Regional plans (threatened species – local populations); JAMBA, CAMBA, EPBC ACT, etc.
   - Decentralisation at what scale?
   - Strategic decisions ~ local decisions.
   - Need flexibility/local benchmarking.
   - Need understanding of local issues to make decisions ~ weigh up 'conflicts' in priorities.

b. **A simple and accessible system**
   - Clear goals – measured performance – accountability – focused. And timelines, defined end point of re-assessment point/date?
   - Ability to access resources to perform on-ground innovation.
   - Communication with Local Progress Associations and groups.
   - Communication on an annual basis using simplified information graphics so rate payers know where levy is being spent.
   - Need effective and adequately resourced Compliance Officers.

c. **Community and land owners at the centre**
   - They are well placed, but not necessarily most skilled or knowledgeable. Concern that some agricultural producers are more interested in land protection than biodiversity and landscape approaches. X 1
   - There still needs to be laws controlling and/water use, not just allowing landholders to do whatever they want without regard to neighbours and the environment.
   - Good to have them at the centre but initiative for new projects can also be shown outside these groups and discussed.
   - There seems to be only a minority of landowners who have any regard/support for environmental issues – so landowners need to be strongly encouraged/supported by knowledgeable resources.
   - At the moment there isn't enough people in the Native Vegetation Section. They're been gutted as a group. Can't expect landholders to understand the legislation and need officers to provide support to the regions.

d. **A whole of landscape approach**
   - Point one – agree, especially in regional area where people (low population) and resources are less.
   - Where is sustainable agriculture in the documentations?
   - We need to put a value on native vegetation and privately owned land.
   - Who has backbone role for this approach?
   - Current approach removes distinction between public and private biodiverse land. Important to ensure new focus embraces private land and land managers working with National Parks to improve functionality for wildlife.
   - Need to acknowledge sustainable agriculture and its role in healthy productive soils and water assets.
   - Need encouragement for Volunteer Groups who work across Landscapes e.g. Trees for Life.
   - Sustainable agriculture as a system with the flexibility to fund innovative projects derived by farmer groups and organisations.

e. Back to basics

- Needs to include coast.
- Maintain Landscape Function Focus. Improve ecosystem health whilst maintaining productive landscapes. Not 'just killing weeds, pest'.
- Soil quality is focused on agriculture – what about environmental needs? i.e. dune erosion in coastal areas.
- What is the role of PIRSA? They do many innovative programs in production ~ we don't want to see duplication.
- Needs to include monitoring and evaluation. If you don't survey and monitor what is in the 'landscape/environment', how can you evaluate whether you've achieve a particular outcome? (e.g. protecting 'X' native plants and 'Y' animals etc.
- If it is back to basics ~ what is it that Boards need to stop doing?
- What is the definition of 'Vibrant Biodiversity?' Defined unclearly in the discussion paper and summary.
- On page 2 of the summary document (under Back to Basics) it states …*'issues that matter most to Regional communities – soil, water and pest plants and animals'.* This is not correct in my case. I'm a Primary Producer and I REALLY care about native vegetation, native fauna and biodiversity as a whole.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
• Members ~ is plenty of board enables skills, geographic and demographic variety. • Self-governance of strategic, landscape and internal (finance etc.) plans. • Board appointment of the General Manager.	• Good community and Minister appointed positions. • Size at 7-8 members. • Good that no merges of the 9 landscape boards.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Criteria used for appointment of Board Members – skilled based. • Clarity of term length and total number of terms possible. • Election process, risk of 'stacking' boards to push agendas, cot of elections, and engagement of voting community. • Due diligence over performance against plans.	• Balance of 3 community and 4 by Minister. • Prefer to see 4 community and 3 by Minister. • How to implement a skill based board with this structure? With geographic spread across the region? Landscape/function? • An election process is not going to get you the diversity/spread you want. How to capture regional spread/issues? • Decentralisation ~ changing the skills required by board members.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Focus on skilled Chair appointments. • Industry standard professional director induction/training of Board Members. • Clear terms of engagement of Board Members – performance expectations and review processes. • Board Independent review processes. • Board needs skill to focus on 'delivery' not 'staffing' – don't need to have full control of each delivery person, 'strategic' focus not 'operational' focus. • Transparency around who the 'Board' is accountable to. Is it the Minister or Levy Payer?	• Need to be clear what skills and experience is required to be on the Board. • List of possible community candidates with local government voting them in? • A voting process that is open and transparent.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- Surveys – need to know what is in the environment, so you know what you are trying to manage ~ feral, native flora, fauna protection.
- Monitoring ~ but can monitor things and watch them die. Monitoring the effectives of a project (not by simply 'tick box' mentality.
- Program budget liked to a strategic plan.
- Budgets and expenditure to demonstrate effectiveness and value. (Not by 'tick box' mentality).
- Reporting shouldn't be just be about accounts, but needs to show how people engaged ~ less weeds, protection of YFR wallabies – increase in the bird numbers etc.
- On-going review of 5 year plan.
- Are we achieving targets?
- Are thing just aspirational?
- Some things might be impossible to achieve.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3

1. Consistency among boundaries used by local councils, Landscape SA and state departments. Doubles local government work load if you split a council region across two zones. 2. At a State level splitting Mt Lofty and Adelaide into 3 changes the number of Board members/power in that region. Flow on to funding? 3. Links to moving the boarder of plains and valleys further north ~ consistency in boundaries,.	1. Suggest KI, Hills and Fleurieu become one board. Currently highly inter-tangled already. Plains and Valley join with Northern and York to create one board – similar agro-ecologically and socio-economically. 2. Keep coastal and Port Augusta within NY region. 3. Keep focus on working across boundaries. 4. NY boundaries currently works well on 'landscape function' and focus.	1. Distribution of funds ~ a fair distribution overall landscape regardless of population density. 2. Representatives from a broad area of North and Yorke Landscape Board. 3. Accountability of levy money use. 4. Diversity of area, coastal, saline lakes, range lands, farming, public parks, Crown lands etc. buffer zones, grape growing, heritage. All areas in need of projects. River systems parks.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Outside the cap costs involved to apply outside the cap.
- Good in theory but not in practice.
- CPI less administrative ~ but which CPI?
- How to spend in the region? (if capped?)
- Administration and back charging would need to cease.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways

- Is this available to Statewide groups (as well as boards) for Statewide projects? i.e coastlines/farming practices.
- A way of getting Green Adelaide money back into the region.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Should be retained within the region ~ should take control ~ they know ~ stay as is.
- Statewide levy collected by the state and then distributed equitably.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

If we were the Minister ~ make sure before change that all avenues have been looked at thoroughly. All regions to be accountable for spending of levy money. And look at the cost of the change and keep down administration costs.	As an outsider I would point out that and came today with two issues: Cats and Trees. The Dog & Cat Management Board should explain what they are doing to 'manage' the huge problem of cats in the environment. There should be more action to increase the number of trees planted on farms. It should remain a personal choice for farmers.	That the environment actually sees some improvement and is held in higher regard, especially by this government. Not seen as a Junior Ministry that is expendable.
Happy and healthy residents of South Australia who have access to wonderful natural resource to enjoy. Our community has reduced our reliance on chemicals and fossil fuels, and takes the time to appreciate out natural wonders within the state.	More people of all ages and from all walks of life being involved in their environment at all levels.	We have a healthy landscape, and all landholders are happy.
The environment is the winner.	8/10 farmers say 'Landscape NY' is focused on sustainable agriculture.	Success would be that all members of an NRM region know and understand the plan for their region; how the levy is expended and agree with it!
Biodiversity is enhanced, the endangered species are surviving and thriving. The communities are happy and feel listened to and supported.	That the money that is collected has been better spent on projects. Reform has taken too long and productivity has been lost.	Participation by land managers in assessing and adopting new sustainable practices. Short term measures can be difficult to monitor in short term.
A majority of the state's population understand what	To have made a significant change to the landscape as a	Clear accountability of funds raised in our region. How it was spent? What are the results if

Landscape SA is about and are enthused by what it is achieving.	whole continuing far beyond 2020.	accountability for weeds controlled vegetation planted etc., for money spent?
I could walk up to a levy payer/grower and they could tell me where their levy goes and positive change they have seen in their region.	As the Environmental Minister, I would feel satisfied if the community felt that generally their levies were being used productively and wisely. With benefits and outcomes being very visible and maintained.	Water is the most significant integrated resource ~ irrigation is enlightened. There is a natural resource inspired resilience against bush fires. Park Rangers, emphasis on ingenious knowledge of the landscape. A coherent strategic plan linked with a program budget that demonstrates achievements. State following Bill Mollison's Permaculture principles.
2020 ~ I am Minister for Environment & Water. There would be connected patches of native bushland amongst farm land. Landowners and DEW would be required to control feral plants and animals. Water of good quality being shared and enough to flow out to sea.	Climate change impacts. Public support. Murray River water controls fairly administered.	No extinctions of locally, State and Federally threatened native flora and fauna. Increase in native flora and fauna population. No 'tick box' mentality Compliance with local, state, national and international conventions, legislation and targets. Native vegetation protection and conservation ~ not just revegetation. Protection of existing native vegetation. Coast protection - no poor planning in flood prone areas.
Local Progress Association (non-profit) taking control of projects. Protected unmade roads, corridors living biodiversity. Protected, recovered coastal areas. Healthy rivers with fish/frogs. Birds, fauna in balance. No further loss of native, heritage areas. Government/local-state-federal working together for our water systems. Backing farmers for cheaper water/drought resilient and self-sufficient. Carbon credits.		

7. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Animal licencing:
    - In SA there are no requirements for people to rescue native animals. They can hold for 4 weeks before applying for a licence. I am concerned there is no training or requirement to be a member of an animal rescue group and do any on-going training.
    - I have recently seen a woman advertising on Facebook for a kangaroo joey, claiming she already has a licence for it. This can't be true as the goes with the animal not the person, so how can she have a licence for an animal she doesn't have yet?
    - I am concerned what will she do with it once it has grown up? Is she just looking an unusual and cute pet/
    - In NSW it is illegal to keep wildlife as pets. You have to be a member of a registered wildlife rescue group to be able to rescue and rehabilitate native animals.
    - I think SA should look at some of the other states and consider reforming some of these animal licencing laws.
- Concern the focus is on private and ~ what about public land?
- Youth – how do our youth become engaged in this new management? Green Adelaide has a focus on nature education ~ what about the other Boards? That then allows all of the community to be active in landscape management.
- Coast ` seems like an after-thought ~ needs more attention in the reform.
- Protection of remnant vegetation, includes birds, wildlife, corridors of 'Crown' lands for public use.
- Buffer zones around Towns (vegetation for protection of spray drifts, etc.)
- Protection of wooded areas (from cutting old trees for firewood, home of owls etc.).
- Reinstate protected flora program. $110K just axed from Trees for Life program to protect threatened flora. (It was funded by Federal Government but now axed?). Now nobody caring for out rare plants.
- Stop crops burn off - re-educate and prosecute.
- Lower the use of chemicals.
- Protection of natural heritage and mad made government dams, wells, pioneer buildings etc.
- Sustainable agriculture and its role in NRM. Focus on improving and positiveness. Not just the big stick approach.
- Better communication between local Boards and all parts of the community.
- Carbon credits.
- SA needs a Biodiversity Act or equivalent.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**GLENUNGA HUB**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM-12PM 23RD August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky & Jon**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 80 participants were welcomed by the facilitators who set the scene for the session. A full account of input received can be found below, however some of the key points to arise from the Glenunga session were –

- The **link between planning legislation** and the new landscapes act is absolutely critical to acknowledge. There was concern by several participants that the planning legislation could be contradictory to the contents of the act, with negative implications for natural resources;

- Members of the group felt it odd that the **Green Adelaide board** would be structured differently to the other Landscape Boards, stating that this was suspicious that there were **no community representatives** involved; **Expert Advisory Groups** were suggested as a way for boards to receive advice, with particular reference to both advice from experts who can **provide evidence-based science**, but also this being a way that Landcare groups and volunteers could provide input in to decision making. **Community representation should be via nomination from key groups (including volunteer/land care groups)**, and not by election. A **skills base** must be considered for the boards, finding a balance between experts and community;

- Volunteers at the session highlighted that natural resource management is not just about landholders. Recognition must be given to **the role volunteers play** in managing the environment, both in on ground works, but also at a board level;

- Boundaries were discussed with political, economic or ecology being typically used to determine them. It was felt that ecological factors were the most important and this often connects also to **the boundaries of Aboriginal Nations**, which are generally based on the ecology of landscapes;

- Funding, particularly the distribution of levies, was acknowledged as being a very tricky and sensitive topic , but collecting a levy on a state basis with allocation then being based on environmental needs or values would be ideal. This can be problematic if boards have to bid for their budget. If the model that is being proposed goes ahead, then **Green Adelaide should give a bigger proportion of dollars to the regions.** The issue of recent funding cuts was raised, with participants concerned about the impact on resourcing, and also staff morale;

- Commentary around the functions of **Green Adelaide** was very optimistic with participants liking the aspirational goals it could set, and the separation of the city and country;

- **Biodiversity** was identified as a priority, with recommendations that this be integrated in to the landscape approach – it must be included in the priorities and be clearly stated;

- Real and meaningful **partnerships and engagement with Kaurna and other Aboriginal groups**, leading to capacity building and real outcomes for the community. This includes indigenous leadership. It was suggested that if this is to be genuine, then they need to be very much included in decision making, including represented on the boards;

- **Planning** processes need to be integrated and holistic with **overarching coordination** across regions;

- Whilst it was acknowledged that this engagement was focusing on the reform of predominantly the boards, several participants felt it very important that they have the opportunity to contribute to **the operations of the Department for Environment & Water**, as this has just as much impact on their activity;

- Better **protection and compliance** is required, particular reference to protection of native vegetation being made with concern that this is very much at risk due to poor compliance and limited resourcing for enforcement;

- **Engagement and volunteering** was highlighted as critical, including improved dialogue between the boards and volunteers. Communities need to have a real voice in decision making, including at the board level. Volunteers felt that their voice isn't currently heard at board level;

- **Partnerships** - Several participants said that it is important for everyone to take responsibility for natural resource management, and not just assume it is a government role;

- **Education** was highlighted as important, not just for children and young people via schools but educating and empowering the greater community;

- **Resourcing** was identified as a current issue, with reference being made to both **adequate funding** being needed for on ground works and better resourcing of community groups, and **staffing**, with "more staff being at the coalface and less in the office";

- One participant highlighted that there are few **wetlands** left in Adelaide now, with one of the remaining best being on private land. Working with **private landholders** is critical.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priority themes in Glenunga were –

- Protection & Compliance
- Planning
- Stormwater/catchment
- Efficiency
- Legislation & Policy
- Kaurna & Aboriginal Groups
- Biodiversity
- Pest animals & plants

- Accountability
- Governance
- Staffing
- Funding
- Decision-making (science)
- Climate change
- Education
- Engagement/Volunteers

PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE • Better protection of native vegetation ~ this is very much at risk because of low compliance – clearing for CFS electricity one of the problems. • Better legislation and resourcing of compliance for natural resources.	**PLANNING** • Urban Planning – importance of green spaces. Urban tree canopy and wildlife corridors. • Collaboration and interaction across government structures and boards. • Better urban planning to achieve a green, walkable/cycle able city. • An integrated holistic approach for sustainability, minimising impact on natural systems. • Urban Planning – developments have been given 'carte blanche' to completely denude housing blocks. Return local voices to Panels. • Recognise and respect heritage landscapes i.e. Glenside site. • Over-arching planning and co-ordination across regions and state.
STORMWATER/CATCHMENT • Better integration of hills – city – marine environments. • More enforcement of land owner's duties to manage catchment areas. • Community use of water bodies – dams, reservoirs, streams etc. • Stormwater management reform – responsibilities of state/Board/council.	**EFFICIENCY** • Improved efficiencies: power administration and improved field based outcomes.
LEGISLATION AND POLICY • Simpler legislation. • Clear policy direction for plus definitions: ○ Climate change adaptation. ○ Landscape restoration (what does this mean?) ○ Relationships with land use planning	**KAURNA AND ABORIGINAL GROUPS** • Indigenous leadership in partnership. • Real and meaningful engagement with Kaurna and other Aboriginal Groups leading to capacity building and real outcomes for the community. • Address intellectual property rights – art, customs, and protection of sites. • Kaurna people would like support of burial grounds in perpetuity .
BIODIVERSITY • Develop and deliver main focus on biodiversity.	**PEST ANIMALS AND PLANTS** • Adequate resourcing for long term strategic pes (animal and weed) control including over

• Better understanding of natural biodiversity values is needed. Some education is needed. • Parks are emphasising active recreation rather than biodiversity. • Economic value on ecosystems and biodiversity. • True improvements in biodiversity including wetlands and ecosystems. • Ensuring that biodiversity is integrated into the 'Landscape' approach. It must be included in 'Priorities'. It must be clearly stated.	abundant native species (e.g. kangaroos, koala (K.I.) and wild dogs).
ACCOUNTABILITY • Looking for certainty and transparency on how decision, priorities program and Government and Board interactions. • Ensuring that environmental monies are spent on environmental projects. • Transparency of NRM funds spent. • That governments cannot lease/sell to other interests (i.e. private companies) areas that have previously been declared Crown Land or National Parks. • Checks and balances on the local Boards (measureable outcomes) – Rangers engaged in core role.	**GOVERNANCE** • Clear governance that defines roles of Community and Board – Government links. • Transparency • Accountability. • Funding – levy staying at source or shared with other regions.
STAFFING • People in the sector – no jobs for highly qualified individuals – job security. • More Rangers – with smaller regions to look after. • More NRM staff at the 'coal face' and not in the office.	**FUNDING** • Fund cutting of 25% across DEWNR doesn't help support any of this – demoralising for staff. • Allocation of funding based on priorities across the state. Will need strong framework to determine priorities. • Adequate funding and clear separation of sources and targets for on ground works (non-competing with each other). • Clear funding for Parks: landholders (as individual). • Funding for community groups clearly and fairly allocated. • Better resourcing of community groups ~ financial but also mentoring, knowledge etc.
DECISION MAKING (SCIENCE) • Decisions to be science and evidence and research based (nothing in current proposal demonstrates this). • Science based management – water, weeds, pest animals.	**CLIMATE CHANGE** • Achieve action on climate change to sustain the landscape for future generations. • Need to consider how climate change will impact natural resources as well as contribution NR can make to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
EDUCATION	**ENGAGEMENT/VOLUNTEERS**

• Community having a real voice and influence in decision making, and being 'at the table' from the out-set. • Empowering community to be active agents of change: education; awareness; funding; capacity; visibility of their own contribution on the ground; participation in decision making. • Education and engagement for schools and community. • Empower and educate the community. • NRM education working well – education and support for on-ground programs and outcomes. • Engaging children with nature and environmental sustainability – momentum in community – positive approach. • Making NRM relevant to community – environmental stability – why should it matter to people: triple bottom line.	• NRM Boards to bring together communities on equal footing. • Decentralisation – local engagement on-ground delivery of work. • Changing community culture/attitudes to vale natural environment. • Strengthen community ownership and involvement. • The planning process needs to be simple and engaging volunteers not just owners. • Many volunteers travel to remote sites and don't own them. • Improved dialogue between Board and volunteers. • Less hierarchical management of volunteers.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Collection of levy by councils.
- Education support for student involvement and expansion of 'Green Army' projects – education and upskilling.
- Support of on-ground volunteers with equipment and training by NRM.
- NRM network well with each other agencies and organic stakeholders – very appreciative of volunteer network that helps tireless.
- Funding streams e.g. NRM levy for priorities: reliability of funding source; long term viability impacted; crucial for staffing and volunteer consistency and momentum.
- NRM education – but still could do better.
- NRM education: schools; landholders; volunteers; groups; individuals; collaboration and volunteer support.
- NRM schools program –SEMP support.
- NRM education.
- Maintain education programs especially in schools to develop environmental awareness in future generations.
- Good support from local NRM and volunteer groups. Sharing of knowledge between groups and agencies.
- Induction and on-going support and education for volunteers.
- Disappointed if there is less on-ground funds for projects and education.
- Our Parks – don't cut and manage them and promote! People love them and NRM engage people to enjoy them.
- Maintain specialists in-house to prove best available science.
- Continue the education focus – resources to be more available to the community; on-ground staff are crucial for achieving this. Staff need to be supported by government funding.
- Education – great outcomes and influence; investing in our future – experience.
- Education – programs/funding for community education e.g. children's education – flow on benefits to families and communities – voluntarily, social outcomes and health outcomes.
- Volunteer support.
- Current knowledge and skill base of NRM officer's needs to be retained (not lost).
- Practical support for friends groups – equipment; herbicide; training.
- Whole of landscape approach e.g. managing pest plants and animals across public and private land.
- Nature Play in our Park network – open days; information; experience.

- Retain and enhance skilled and experience staff.
- Continue to generate environmental flows in summer from reservoirs.
- State level coordination, planning and integration still important. Not to lose over-arching strategy and momentum.
- Volunteers support officers and work well, are passionate. They have great local knowledge – keep them.
- Connections at the 'coal face' – working with land holders as partners in NRM.
- Retain our existing reserves – urban parks.
- Diverse perspectives on decision making bodies – NRM Board.
- Board connections to others: Local government; Friends groups; school/education programs.
- Current staff are knowledgeable and passionate.
- Science (data etc.) informing, planning and practice e.g. water allocation planning but need independent/peer review.
- Natural Resource Centres work well. Need to rebalance the mix between theories to practical on-ground works.
- AML even have come a long way in Kaurna engagement especially language and signage.
- Community partnerships.
- Landscape scale planning.
- Retain and enhance existing support for volunteer groups.
- Have had some opportunities for cross-regional sharing of knowledge, skills experience etc. don't want this to be reduced – support, retain, built up over years in staff and share this.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Authority/responsibility/accountability needs to be defined!
- How is it decentralised if the Minister is making centralised decisions on the reform and its guiding principles?
- You can either have decentralised decision making OR a whole landscape approach – not both (contradictory). We have spent 20 years learning how to effectively prioritise NRM activities – why throw all of that out to introduce a slogan of 'decentralisation'.
- Giving power to those with local (include First People) knowledge has to be a step in the right direction.
- Checks and balances to minimise vested interests. Who supervises that money and activities are within guidelines?
- Still needs to be state level planning, collaboration and reporting (data management etc.). Also needs clarification of all the roles of the numerous boards and authorities (EPA, NRM, Coastal protection, stormwater etc.) risk of doubling up etc.
- Yes – but based on good information proved by scientific land capability approach that maintains community aspirations. Need to inform well in first instance for better local decisions and planning.
- This is at odds with landscape scale planning (and maybe delivery). How will these 2 (of 5) guiding principles be reconciled.
- The current system is based on the Minister managing the actions of Boards and is politically motivated. If it's to be decentralised there needs to be capacity for local Board action – within frameworks – without Ministerial intervention.
- There must still be a strong science base to decision making. It is important that single issue individuals do not dominate the process. X2

- Partnerships to include schools and preschools – already part of building stronger/more resilient communities. Schools = families = community.
- Water planning (surface and ground) needs to consider the impact beyond the very local and sustainable management may need decisions to be made outside local.
- Supportive of decentralisation, but need to make sure some of the less populated regions are given the resources and support to succeed.
- Decentralised decision making demands decentralised funds for their implementation, monitoring and for being accountable for action.
- Good in principle as long as it isn't code for government abrogating responsibilities.
- Some issues (water, soil, pests) cross boundaries and locals need to collaborate across state (and nationally) e.g. foxes.
- How does each Board ensure decisions made on evidence (consultancies can be quite expensive/repeating costs).
- Is decentralisation and Landscape Scale able to work? Need over-arching policies to work within, so the system is guided for the state's best interest – future proofing biodiversity.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Sounds good but what does it look like and how can complex outcomes be delivered.
- Needs to be clear about what $ going to and clear on purpose for which it was raised e.g. water levy for water management, land levy for land management. Business plans to be clear.
- Agree bureaucracy needs minimisation.
- Hierarchy is a problem.
- Transparency is key as it is a complex (wicked) problem.
- A simple and accessible system underpinned by sound science and technical knowledge.
- Accessibility essential. Simple is the idea however with so many competing priorities it is unlikely then end result will be simple! Likely to be ongoing complex if it is inclusive.
- To every complex question there is always a simple answer – and it is always wrong.
- Grow participation – need education/learning/capacity building in the principles somewhere.
- A use of technology with a clear measurement framework to more directly link funding with the work actually done – transparent. This also includes more sharing of date (maps) between stakeholders.
- Practice may not prove the reality – different Boards have different needs necessitating a level of complexity e.g. simplified levy collection basis will upset a lot of people.
- Yes! All good – please do it.
- Stronger community bonds (social capital) can enhance the ability to access systems.
- Transparency? Will we be able to attend and access minutes of meetings of the Minister and the Landscape Boards?

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Yes, we need to be on-side with landowners and see them as partners.
- History has shown landholders do not always manage their land in a sustainable way leading to soil degradation and over extraction of water, vegetation clearance etc. There still need to be a process for providing checks and making sure people don't do the wrong thing. X3
- Environment and ecosystems need to be at the centre. People are prone to self-interest.
- Good environmental management needs to be tenure-blind. Landholders need to be accountable for their actions, as well as encouraged.
- NRM at centre – manage within sustainable limes i.e. ecosystem health.
- Important part of the decision making process, but not in isolation. Science and landscape decision need to be drivers!
- The natural environment must be at the centre otherwise we are doomed!
- Community and landowners need to follow well-thought, well established outcomes that are cognisant with NRM objectives.
- Include marine environments as well.
- Aboriginal people have a special connection and this needs to be recognised in governance.

- Many volunteer groups do not live or own land in the area they work. They need to have a say not just owners, based on their ongoing and long term resource commitment. This is especially important as rural communities weaken.
- Decisions need to be science based. We cannot trust those seeking short term profit and lacking scientific knowledge to sustainably manage, there needs to be checks and balances.
- Getting/strengthening communities to community groups is really important. Lack of understanding of how inter-connected our landscapes are only serves to remove care factor e.g. most people see 'green' and assume it is OK – whereas most are invasive weeds that only destroy the ecosystem.
- Landowners from source to sea responsive to water quality and sustainable us.
- Treaties with First Nations – they've sustained the land for 1000s of years.
- Some landholders have no idea how to manage natural resources – much education is required for better understanding of what NRM is by the community.
- Different groups have different agendas – how will the boards ensure power is equally shared – skills and facilitation to run these sessions.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Rewrite this heading to everyday English. X1
- Need to define 'landscape restoration'. X1
- This is working already. Need to ensure continued connections between parks and adjacent landholders. NRM does this well.
- Whole of landscape and seascapes interconnected and marine national parks – should not be interfered with.
- The impact of Climate Change on natural resources as well as the role NR can play in climate change adaptation and mitigation must be central to the legislation – absolutely. X1
- Respect and retention of historic landscapes in urban and country areas.
- Planning Act need regulation and legislation for developer's responsibility in land care.
- All land use subject to landscape analysis.
- Proposed plan separating Hills/country from city is the opposite of a 'landscape' approach.
- Would like to see mechanism for 'landscape; management of creeks and waterways. Presently private ownership of rivers and creeks prevents any landscape approach. Should provide option to have process for agreed maintenance – vegetation, debris, rubbish and environmental.
- Based on capability assessment (in particular re agricultural land). Bill Mathieson style – classification; permaculture style; sustainable agriculture style.
- We are already doing this – why break up the system?
- Must include people's role in the landscape and how landscapes are valued for amenity, cultural, spiritual reasons.
- Funding programs that pit applicants against each other do not result in landscape management – need programs that support groups and landholders to work collaboratively. X2
- How does backyard biodiversity fit in?
- Landscape and Marine Environments.

e. Back to basics

- The role of education in environmental management through local schooling sector. Kids influence parents.
- Intergenerational experience impact choices of career paths, environmental and social attitudinal shift – environment values.
- Involve Aboriginal know how.
- Biodiversity and protection of native bushland.
- Schools and preschools = families = communities.
- NRM education program already achieving on-ground, positive outcomes for biodiversity, water etc. – great model.
- Resilience requires education.
- Need to also pick up coast, estuarine and marine environments as part of integrated landscape management approach. Include Caring for Sea Country.

- The basics need to be science based. Not people-centric. Functioning ecosystems support us all.
- Biodiversity improves productivity. We need to farm Australian plants and animals, kangaroos and yams.
- Urban green spaces – wildlife corridors – tree canopy restoration.
- Re-institute, reinstate Green Army program.
- Complex issues need a lot of thoughtful partnership management – this principle doesn't fill me with confidence.
- The 'basic' is biodiversity.
- Education in schools and community needs to be a priority.
- Resonates – yes! Scientific knowledge and volunteer input/support needed.
- Strong neighbourhoods – strong social capitals focused on NRM.
- Restoring native plant and animal communities and conservation protection of species with a conservation status also needs to be a priority (not just water, soil, and pest species).
- Land use planning needs to incorporate threatened species conservation e.g. the lease of Crown land containing threatened species.
- There is a perception that if we get back to basics it will be like the old soil board days. People will be disappointed because the funding has been cut so much – this is the reason 'basics' aren't delivered.
- Basics is often code for volunteers doing the hard work while governments ignore the real issues like biodiversity loss and climate change.
- The general community needs to be better informed about natural values – importance of biodiversity. Environment is always at the bottom of the list. X3
- The current Act was cobbled together from the basics of soil, pest plant and water. Is this a revisit?
- Minister talked a lot about Climate Change but his hasn't appeared in the discussion paper. Whereas 'landscape restoration' is all through and this seems to confuse the message (if it is not a 'back to basics' term).
- Political spin – what is the real agenda?
- Climate Change mitigation is very important.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Majority represented by the Minister so will keep decision making on track with objectives. • Mix of appointed and elected members. • Different process for Green Adelaide to the others.	• Green Adelaide Board all appointed by Minister. • Ministerial appointments can ensure range of skills and experiences. • Fundamentally any Board appointment should be skill based emphasis on natural	• Small numbers.

	environment skills and experience.	

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Majority appointed by Minister may mean they are aligned with his agenda. • Single interest representation for both appointment and elected – must bring broad skills, views etc. • The election process seems fraught – who is the 'community' doing the electing? Who runs the election? • Could be dominated be large, influential landholders from the region. • Candidature needs to explicitly address land care qualifications and experience.	• Potential for election process could be expensive, politicised. • How would process work? Minister appointment first? Then see who community nominates. • Learn from CWMB experiences in mid 1990s – nominate. • Loudest voices get elected – may not represent community and get perverse outcomes. • Need to have proper accountability for every Board.	• All Boards including Green Adelaide should have a greater number of community elected members than the number of Minister appointed (3 + 4). • What is the election process – open and transparent?

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Criteria that facilitates objective of Act, diversity of views and is skills based. • Needs local representation from the region including Aboriginal representation. • Consider Regional/Planning representation as a member of the Board. Integrate Regional planning with landscape management. • Consider statutory requirement for appointment by Minister for representation on Board e.g. particular sectors. • Code of Conduct for Board members. • Clearly articulated election process. • Be complemented by community forums/input on a regular basis e.g. quarterly to enable community input/participation. • Members to be versed in the science of land care.	• Nomination process (if having community elections) needs some checks. • Need buy-in from Local Government. • Easy to understand priorities and plans. • Transparency of Ministerial appointments – process and reporting.	• Election of community members – true reflection of all community views – rather than specific interests. • Elected members having access to quality information and expertise, which will allow them to make good decisions. • Board members need to have the desire and attitudes to proactively appreciate different perspectives. X2

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Public reporting – outcomes based; traffic light reporting; clear milestone reporting. • Board meeting open to the public. • Valid milestone is also community engagement and development (number of active subgroups etc.). • Must still be state wide strategic oversight e.g. presiding members working formally together.	• Who votes board's representation in Regional and Friends Groups? • Good governance – board tenure. • Milestones in specific areas (education, science, biodiversity, community engagement). • Audit review. • Achieve budget outcomes. • Partnerships – quality and relevant 'expert' advisory group/advice – central to keeping consistency/state wide action able to occur. • Representation of Kaurna and other Aboriginal countries, who overlap the boundaries. • Yearly reporting. • Clear objectives and targets and then adequately resource monitoring and reporting and ensure reporting can be understood by the community.	• Don't waste resources on reinventing the wheel. • Starting point for 5 year plans should be existing plans. • Don't rely on volunteers to be the main delivery mechanisms unless they are well supported with administrative staff, funding etc. • Evaluate on land care achievement not frequency of meetings, length of minutes and empire building.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Skills based boards are important. • Will elections only serve to cost levy funds? What will be the genuine public input? • Accountable to the public but also to government. • Effective use of levy funds. • Why are all Green Adelaide Board Members appointed by the Minister, different to all other boards? • Elections could result in perverse outcomes if small interest groups lobby.	• What is the relationship between the boards and PIRSA? • Independent from government – able to speak out with independence.	• What mechanisms are in place to assess accountability? • If targets are not being met how will it impact on: • Ongoing funding. • Reviewing priorities. • Existing board members. • Staff facilitating delivery.

• Expensive and balance of power still up to the Minister.		

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
1. Kaurna nation will have to deal with 3 boards not 1 as now. And following that will a 3-way split in funding occur? There needs to be a whole of landscape 'cultural' approach. Each board would have its own priorities for Aboriginal issues, which is bad. 2. Contradictory to 'whole of landscape' approach i.e. ecological boundaries. 3. Eastern Ranges excluded from Green Adelaide e.g. Mt Barker – is a bad thing. 4. No consideration of ecological boundaries and Aboriginal cultural boundaries – which any boundary should have.	1. Registered volunteers to have a vote in the Landscape Board area of service. Regardless of local council residence. 2. Care needs to be taken in defining urban and non-urban boundaries in Landscape Board constituencies. 3. Allow Green Adelaide residents a vote for their Landscape Board. 4. Landscape Board Boundaries to be based on local soil, plant, water ecologies. 5. Is Mt Barker going to be in Green Adelaide? Is an urban area – would have more in common with Adelaide regions.	1. Need to keep consistency between approaches and decisions of each region especially storm water management. 2. Need to know where boundaries are? Each region should be decided by geography – not gridlines (ecological boundaries and catchment boundaries.) 3. Hills and Fleurieu and Plains and Valley are too small and socially don't work – consider not having and join with SAMDB and N & Y or have a Hills Board which would pick up the western and eastern together and Plains area go to N & Y. 4. Use currently defined or understood boundaries so people can relate to them – not lines on a map. 5. Valleys could include Clare and Gilbert valleys and catchment and how do we connect with marine bioregions?

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals

- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Planning includes mandatory greenspace – compliance enforced – vision driven. • Nature education and engagement with community. • Coastal and Marine management. • Climate change adaptation.	• Training pool – education. Graining understanding commitment and empowering urban community to NRM biodiversity action within and beyond their region. • Focus on remnant vegetation protection and restoration and sites of high conservation value. • Urban Water Management – managing roles responsibilities between Council/DEW/Boards so that clear functions and funding is clear.	• Integrated planning involved in Urban Planning to ensure maintaining and improving quality of green space. • Community engagement. • Effective sustained management of Torrens and creek ecosystems. – weed management and water quality.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Maximise environmental outcomes for what is left of the natural environment. Maintain urban tree canopy. Manage catchment areas and restore wetlands. • Opportunities to facilitate a consistent approaches across all council areas and other existing authorities. Collective approach. • Community use of water bodies including rivers (Torrens in city!) and still water (e.g. Craigie Burn and Thornton Park	• Clear co-ordination of strategy will planning and other agencies to integrate NRM outcomes into planning and legislation. • Having aspirational target to be global leader – most ecologically vibrant city. X2 • Water sensitive cities engaging the community – Adelaide population base, connecting people with nature and biodiversity. Important opportunity to engage hearts and minds.	

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• The possibility that climate change mitigation and adaptation can be incorporated into planning e.g. renewable/solar incentives in Adelaide. • Community is being brought into decision making.	• Jobs, native vegetation and wildlife in urban area. • Partnership with Backyards 4 Wildlife, sewage nutrient pollution solutions. • Cleaner stormwater – KESAB.	• Local accountability. • Long term viable sustainable engagement in processes which affect my community.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Ability to maximise what is left of the natural environment given that Adelaide is an urban environment mainly.	• Greater integration of strategies in environmental areas.	

• Metro coastal management undertaken by one body. • Opportunity for all metropolitan water bodies to be managed by one organisation. • Walking City planning.	• Focussing on bringing biodiversity to Adelaide and populace. • Opportunity to plan for growing city, taking into account biodiversity and stormwater management (densification impacts and role of open space/public realm). Environmental input into planning process. • Most ecologically vibrant city in the world – global leadership, showing commitment to ecological and community vibrancy. ASPIRATIONAL. We want aspirational goals and vision.	

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Appointments to Boards may be political – all appointments by Minister. • Need to see science represented on Board and in decisions. • Poor transport structure – too many cars. • Nature education seen as visiting parks – needs to be recognition of us as part of natural world – air, water, food etc. • 25% funding cut – what will we lose? • Separation of Adelaide from Hills catchments.	• All positions appointed by Minister. What about democratic and participatory representation? Diverse, scientific community, environmental groups like Trees for Life, Backyards 4 Wildlife, KESAB and LGA. • Will state wide funding still be available to Green Adelaide thereby unnecessarily increasing their funding pool and reducing the regions pool? • By separating from rest of region, sends wrong message to community re Landscape approach. • Inefficient use of levy $. • Back to the Past – rather like the Catchment Board days – when we fractured NRM. Please include Green Adelaide in the Hills/Plains and Valleys. In fact why not leave AMLR as it was? River systems need to be managed as a whole. • More red tape.	• Deletion of funding outside the Green Adelaide regional boundaries. • We need long term planning – say 30 to 100 years rather than 5 years. • Lack of leadership primarily informed by science and ethics. • Where does NRM education fit? Particularly with respect to regions beyond Green Adelaide.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Why should this be different from the other Boards? • Government appointing all the Board members (no community participation at Board level).	• Interaction with neighbouring boards. • Funding balance across boards; uncertainty of divesting of NRM levy.	

• Lack of clarity around the role of the various bodies e.g. Greening Adelaide – SA government and local councils.	• Level of environmental voice in decision making. Value not put on environment. • Coastal work funding – coast and marine biodiversity and conservation **versus** coastal management (sand management, infrastructure). Splitting region into thirds can impact co-ordinated approach i.e. seascape management.	

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Take the 'ideology' out of it. People see throw that. • No more abstract planning processes involving volunteers	• Is there a strategy about how to deal with stakeholders (volunteers, community) across the Boards? • How are engagements evaluated? • How are engagements facilitated to best practice? • Give genuine feedback on all engagements. • Engage universities to providing objective science rather than science controlled by government.	• Continue volunteer co-ordination roles. • Schools engagement must continue in current format. • Commitment to projects over more than 1 year.
Table 2		
• Short term planning.	• Long term planning. • Job security for staff for expertise and relationships. • Learn from other successful communities e.g. Scandinavia. • Monitor, review and adapt – adaptive management.	• Support volunteers (funding by NRM $5K/yr/park, accesses to regional ecologist, access for equipment, work plan with NRM staff). It's never worked so well. • Working across public and private land boundaries. • Including marine environment (not just coastal).
Table 3		
• Stop assuming that everyone uses/views social and digital platforms for information sharing.	• Begin promoting NRM outcomes to the wider community who fund $s to programs. • Employ educators for in-school programs; i.e. Outreach Education Officers,	• NRM education officer roles (YEC and YELP). • Educating landowners, both urban and rural, environmental assets of their landholding.

	plus employ EO in Botanic Gardens, Waite, Urrbrae Wetlands, local councils and Heritage Officers – important for early primary education. • Promoting involvement in environmental opportunities in programs for retiring persons. • Funding promotional signs, such as 'ROADS TO RECOVERY'. Federal signs for NRM projects.	• Continue/increase signage for NRM projects on landholder properties. • Emphasise and continue to value the knowledge of the landholder who works and owns the land. • Continue to acknowledge the value and work of volunteers (not miniscule).
Table 4		
• Glossy brochures.	• Face to face conversations. • Ensure boards are not just another part of the bureaucracy but a conduit to community. • Use social media to spread good news stories e.g. school uptake of programs. • Develop partnerships between NRM and marine productivities. • More understanding of social changes and ways to engage a wider range of people e.g. Volly.	• Education: schools connection; on-ground actions; signage where works have been done. (But more education officers required). • Balance between productive landscapes – sustainable farming. Social/economic and environmental benefits - working with farmers. • Better connection with marine and coastal community. Maintain responsibility out into Gulf of Vincent and other marine environment. • Advocate to retain marine parks as is – not caving into the fishing industry pressure.
Table 5 EXTRA NOTE: "ENGAGEMENT – TO STAY WITH THIS – I AM REALLY DISAPPOINTED ON THE VALUE YOU PUT ON 'ENGAGEMENT' IN THE LAST SESSION, YOU HAD TIME FOR JUST ONE COMMENT AND THEN WE MOVE ON. IF THIS IS HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SEEING 'ENGAGEMENT, ARE WE ALREADY STARTING ON THE BACKFOOT?"		
• Stop removing on-ground officers who relate to the community. • Need governments to not take funding/positions every 3 years or less.	• Employ more on-ground officers who relate to community and are part of community. • Sharing knowledge. • Building trust. • Enduring partnerships. • Need stability of tenure in these positions. • Volunteer groups need more resourcing to write, administer and deliver larger grants (volunteer burn out) for landscape scale projects.	• Environmental education in schools.
Table 6		

• Ad-hoc approach to accessing grant funding and opportunities to volunteer/participate in programs – sometimes see 'low hanging fruit' approach. • Abdicating responsibility for environmental management issues. Some groups feel undermined.	• More strategic approach to how volunteers can be involved in initiatives. • Balance autonomy of groups with strategic priorities/mandate of Boards. • Leadership, direction and accountability – risk in indecision. • Approach to NRM that taps/persuades current 'non-believers' into action/makes relevant – engaging in dialogue – speak their language. • Aboriginal engage – genuine, authentic engagement; not tokenistic. Valuing Aboriginal Nation knowledge and connection to Country. Work collaboratively.	• Continue providing grants and support. (NRM education grants) (Training support) and network building support. • Volunteer support is critical, contribute so much – need to ensure investment and incredible effort to protect environments $ value of volunteers is like hidden economy.
Table 7		
• Overlapping that creates confusion. • Stop cutting funding of staff who have the responsibility to engage/link and support. • Need general funding to the environment.	• Communicate to/with/from consultation in early planning and priority setting (not only when programs up and running). • Quality recommendations able to be used in planning, decision making and community action. • These issues are complex and multiple stakeholders – wicked problems.	• Continue social media and newsletters which tell us what is happening in parks e.g. wildlife, events such as working bees, guided walks i.e. 'Good Living' by AMLR. • Urban food network – work to promote. Links between sustainable and locally produced food – farming in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Suggest: levy to be collected on a state basis and allocated based on environmental needs but we understand this is politically unpopular OR • If do as proposed, have higher proportion from metro Adelaide	• Distrust of independent bodies. • Prefer link to CPI.	• **Good** – levy increases are controlled. • **Concerned** – what about regional environmental issues that arise. • Can developers/businesses contribute as well (Green

being allocated to regional areas that are under resourced and have high environmental value.		bonds?). Additional to 12% open space levy? • Is levy (initial) determined by local need?
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Of course we should fund the rest of the state. • Revisit how much to (cost) collect the levy by: ESL notice **vs** by council rates notice. • Principle of cost efficiency should apply. • NRM levy – cost impact is lost on landholder when levy is included in Council Rate Notice. It would be easier if there was on levy collection across the state with Board Budget Bids. But this would disenfranchise each Board/Locality determining their own priorities – not decentralising.	• Need clear and transparent spending of water levies – consistent with NLWP principles. • Need line of sight from levy collection to spending. • Capping levies could prevent ability to fund new projects in the future.	• No cap.
Table 7		
• Most urban community happy to pay levy. • Focus – source to sea. • Project prioritisation – based on a strategic environmental need – scientifically based. (Top 3 priorities) • Urban folk have a connection with rural and natural reserve areas. • Council collection good. • Provided funds are spent wisely on appropriate environmental projects.		

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Yes, good ideas but 'devil in the detail' of partnerships. • Role of government agencies in these projects. • How develop framework for identification of priority regional projects. • Look to existing examples e.g. whole of catchment approach,, regional council procurement for waste collection.	• Some regions are large and sparsely populated (funded) and will need support from metro area. • Finances do not match need. • Still need more funding for National Parks and DEW.	• Yes – we are keen to see cross region collaboration and projects. • Can resources of local council be employed to co-operate with the board's work? • How are state wide priorities determined?

Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Yes – especially major environmentally issues – state significance. • Establish a criteria against which to apply merit of requirement with funding.	• Is there a State Landscape Plan? Are there State priorities for landscape management? Who makes decisions on what priorities are? Compared to State priorities. • People benefit from landscapes outside their region e.g. beaches, Flinders Ranges. • Support outback wellbeing of the state. • Contribution to Landscape Priority Fund needs to be fair and balance regions' capacity to contribute. • Mechanism for redistribution needs to be well thought-out with input from all Boards.	• Yes and national. • Population to levy base does not reflect the real needs across the state. • Create a government commitment to spend 3% of State Revenue on land, water and coastal care. (Priority on biodiversity and ecosystems).
Table 7		
Plan for greater community good – Top 3 projects for sustainable landscape management for SA.		

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year state wide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Visible outcomes to the community – show NRM in action on the ground. • Easy to track how spent, spread across state.	• Initial reaction is that this must be a plus for small environmental groups and projects. • Concern over how to be distributed according to environmental value.	No comment made.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
No comment made.	• How does this compare to current funding allocation to works? • DEW assets need funding and not rely on funding from others, volunteer grants etc. • Is this coming all from Green Adelaide? • Is this for individuals – should be accessible to individuals. • How are $ prioritised for distribution? Based on	• The $2M fund needs to come from general state funds not the levies. • Reinstate previous grassroots grants.

	outcomes/location/biodiversity priorities? –Broad area.	
Table 7		
• $2M not enough – make sure there is provision for funding that can be project based (greater than 12 months). • Greening cities – generating and selling renewable energy to fund other NRM interventions.		

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

When I see destruction of vegetation by developers in housing/building sites stopped And funding increased for Education Officers in Botanic Gardens and Heritage Officers in Local Councils.	None of this will be a success unless major advancements are made in halting climate change. This is small scale landscape discussion. Move your focus to global scale landscape discussion.	Natural environment has become a stronger community owned issue which has resulting in more funding and policy commitment. Election issue in 2022.
Hear children telling their parents about how to look after the environment.	A happy community in a safe, clean environment.	All creek lines are cleared of housing and replaced with natural fauna and flora – wildlife corridors.
It is now 2020 with 2020 vision that the truth about how SA, this state's history and up hold the Letters Palent for all Aboriginal people in this state.	Kaurna people – meaningful engagement in decision making and employment.	Funding has been restored to DEW and the total environmental expenditure increased to 3% state budget because SA government (cabinet) has been persuaded as to the importance of the environment.
No more housing Fleurieu Peninsular.	More on-ground action.	Friends and experts in power on Landscape Boards.
No species extinct, all native species rebounding.	An increase in biodiversity state wide and no loss of species.	There is collaboration and agreement across all boards including Aboriginal Boards.
No further loss of biodiversity. People are educated enough to recognise this.	Success as re-generation of habitats is widespread and obvious with an increase in wildlife.	More - better informed/educated people concerned about environmental issues and spreading the word further.
A positively inspired populace in biodiversity.	The future generations are educated as the next leaders to drive the reform. Aboriginal First nation people are consulted and satisfied with outcomes.	Sustainable communities. People taking responsibility for their part in regenerating natural spaces and recognising that fresh air, clean water, healthy food and wonderful places to be part of have been achieved through cooperation with others. Schools and preschools as dynamic hubs of sustainability and biodiversity in their communities.
People in this room are asked again if it is a success.	Aboriginal Elders are applauding it.	See action on the ground where it matters.
The people of SA have become so interested in protecting their environment that the State Government funds the environment properly.	Restored wetlands. Plan for Climate Change – long term. Whole of community involvement. International recognition for our work.	Increase in biodiversity. Increase in education of officers for natural resource management. People are happy and content.

Healthy catchments. More renewable energy sources in place.	The health of the Mount Lofty catchment has improved – measurable.	No species loss.
Raised levies and on-one complained as they all understand the value they are getting.	That the environment is valued and properly funded, backed by community support.	Reform would be a success if: Biodiversity in arid areas increased. Reduction of feral species. Whole of catchment management achieved. Minister of Environment as Premier.
International recognition of change that has been undertaken for a sustainable lifestyle and care for our planet.	Minister promises have been delivered 100%. The new Boards working together and bringing in business with local government plus volunteers. This needs a coordinated approach.	Walking through the Adelaide Hills I see a lovely diverse ecosystem (no weeds, olives, blackberries) with abundant evidence of fauna (no feral cats) and a view across Adelaide of a healthy canopy (OK…maybe 2050!)
10% of community actively involved in NRM across city, towns and rural areas.	People on the street/paddock understand what NRM is and its value.	Legislation in place.
Use of parks and greenspace by public has gone up. Biodiversity is increasing in SA. Funding to Rangers/on-ground staff has increased so times on ground increased.	Climate change is front and centre in the new Act: considered as an impact; identified for contribution to adaptation and mitigation.	National Parks having funds and rangers so they can be managed and are managed and biodiversity improved.
People value the intrinsic benefit the environment and functioning ecosystem provides. Parks and natural species are no long seen as thing to be exploited but one respected for their intrinsic value. Pest species – kangaroos, koalas, invasive wees – including olives are controlled and sustainable. People are engaged and feel support in caring for the environment.	The community is engaged with the new strategic approach and see real hop on the horizon rather than continuing to keep a sinking (unsupported) ship afloat.	People are comfortable that the government is serious about dealing with the effects of climate change and that the natural environment is showing signs of becoming more sustainable.
NRM integrated across government; DPTI planning reforms – development assessment; department education. NRM advisors drive outcomes/ongoing involvement in the process with stakeholders.	The SA community is engaged and values our natural environment.	Belief is same vision and values – high wellbeing. Less mental health issues. High community involvement. Green environment – biodiversity.
People listening to others about what is important in NRM and acting in a way that benefits the majority and future generations.	There will be a Landscape Board process that has clear state wide and regional priorities and targets, a transparent funding/budget process and annual reports (common across the state) that identify money spent and progress towards targets.	Community are fully supportive and active in NRM. Boards and legislation no longer required because everyone just doing it.
Protected remnant vegetation – biodiversity. Greened urban environments and stormwater management. Feral pest under control – animals and weeds. Valued and included volunteers. Funding and support for volunteer groups. Protected Crown Lands and Marine Parks. Valued and supported and extra funding for DEW. State wide enhancement of our natural resources. No drilling in the Bight: protected marine environment.	The population of committed, knowledgeable community has increased hugely. Improvements in biodiversity are evident – measureable landscape management is more than just jargon.	

No nuclear waste dumps at Kimba/Flinders Ranges – protected landscapes.		

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- No costings for new arrangement.
- Increase – do not cut budget allocation to DEW. Make funding 3% of State budget, not the current 1%.
- 'Reform' is a loaded negative word. 'Review' would be more appropriate.
- Why the change from 'NRM' to 'Landscape' – this change won't be helping people in regions understand what NRM is and this will just cause scepticism.
- Nowhere in any of the documents is the word 'Science' mentioned. How can any useful decision be made if the decision makers are ignorant of the latest knowledge, evidence and research.
- Relevant research needs to be funded, driven by NRM decision making – gaps in the knowledge.
- No cap – additional funding need beyond the levy. Agree – seems disingenuous to say 'more board independence' to then limit the funding tax and ask contributions to Greening Adelaide priorities fund.
- The devolution of Native Vegetation Act to regional staff needs to be taken into consideration – they aren't adequately resourced currently and if cut then what is left isn't enough.
- Ensure that adaptation to Climate Change at forefront in decision making. X3
- Some of the principles conflict with each other e.g. simplified decision making and decentralisation of control. If you increase the number of regions it will increase administration cost.
- Can you show us what the sums actually are in collecting the levy? ESL was not in place when original process for Council collection – at least if the number is known relieves uncertainty.
- We need long term bi-partisan commitment to NRM and biodiversity conservation not start all over every time there is a change in government, it isn't all about economic growth.
- Need a principle relating to using science to inform.
- Citizen Science opportunities (adequately resourced).
- Adaptive co-management approaches to be establish on long term time frames.
- Fire management/mitigation.
- SA government should commit to 3% of SA budget allocated to environment.
- Qualification of staff – practices on farms at various seasons. Past experience in land management needs to be taken into account.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**MAWSON LAKES**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM~ 12PM 27TH August 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Becky**

A group of approximately 45 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were:

- **Biodiversity** was a major priority for this group, including its relationship with **South Australian Planning Legislation** and reform. Frustration was felt that planning legislation took priority over protection the natural environment via the NRM Act and many felt tired at trying to influence the planning act and the way natural resources are managed within it;

- There was some tension around the concept of "**Back to Basics"** with many participants feeling strongly that **biodiversity** should be one of the priorities listed as part of going Back to Basics. Several participants noted that they felt this as a narrow and dated approach to NRM, feeling that it won't achieve the results that are needed in the broader environment;

- Many participants highlighted that they would like to see the environment as a whole valued, taking **a more holistic approach**, that doesn't just looking after the environment being about economic viability;

- With relation to board membership, **young people** should be on the boards as the voice of the future. Participants would like to see **good diversity** on the boards, with no personal interest or opportunity for financial gain. Participants asked that **4 positions be elected by the community**, and just 3 appointed by the Minister, though **the cost of the election process** was a concern;

- There as some frustration around there being limited information on **Green Adelaide** in the current Discussion Paper to be able to make comment;

- Bringing the community together, through good **community engagement** was highlighted as important;

- A farmer in the room who didn't want to speak out but was keen to share his concerns with the facilitator privately that **compliance with the existing NRM Act is too heavy handed** and he wants to a good relationship with NRM staff to work together through issues, rather than just handed a fine at the first point of contact. He felt that a lot of the statements being made, including the guiding principles, were very 'nice' but how does working with community and landholders actually translate when it comes to compliance? He asked the Minister and Department to consider how it makes him feel when the first contact he has with them is the threat of legal action. Another participant joined this 1-2-1 discussion and the conversation broadened to needing great **education and empowerment of the community** in general – so that they want to do the right thing by the environment, rather than because they'll be given a fine if they don't;

- There was a lot of interest in the room, and support for, **NRM Education**. There was some concern around the term 'Nature Education' with it being recognised as a very dated term from the 1960s. Participants would prefer to see **'Environmental & Sustainability Education'** as a more contemporary approach;

- There was a feeling of acceptance that a portion of **levies raised within Adelaide** would be distributed to the rest of the state, as long as it was well explained and there was a clear strategy and coordination across the state. However, participants questioned whether this could end up with boards bidding against each other for the money;

- A one off idea that sparked interest was **Carbon Accounting Debt**, as a way of spreading the money to the regions. Adelaide creates higher carbon emissions so they should pay more towards the state funding pot.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

COMPLIANCE • Too heavy compliance – landowners and farmers looking for empowerment. • Relationships? – overzealous compliance	**FUNDING** • Adequate sustainable (realistic) funding included in new Act. • How will the levy funding be equitable across different landscape boards? How will reform achieve this?
PARTNERSHIPS • Clearer look at benefits and problems of centralisation and decentralisation. • Landscape board – bio-region approach. • Partnerships not adhering to boundaries. • Effective representation. • Aboriginal people as managers. • All stakeholders including researchers, managers, conservational organisations etc.	**GREEN ADELAIDE** • How is 'Greening Adelaide' going to improve Natural Resources Management?
CLIMATE CHANGE/RESILIENCE • Resilience of environment and people in relation to Climate Change e.g. nature based responses. • Climate Change readiness, future proofing. Benefits of landscape to health and wellbeing. • Climate Change – response to and planning for including sustainable design; impact on coasts, rivers etc.	**BIODIVERSITY** • Recognise value in ecosystems services. • Relationship with Planning Reform. • Engagement with Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 – 2030 to achieve its outcomes.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT • Sell the benefits of good landscape management delivered through effective education and awareness leading to engagement of community.	**LESS BUREAUCRACY?** • Simplify paperwork.

• Bring community together in environment/NR e.g. education officers, volunteer co-ordinator NRCs (value the people we work with). • Community involvement with interested and trained groups. • Well designed and funded community engagement – including active citizenship.	
VALUE ENVIRONMENT • Viable sustainability ….rather than 'vibrant' sustainability including riparian and estuarine ecosystems.	**OTHER** • Holistic (system) approach. • Sustainable development • Recognition of inter-connected of Acts. • Valuing the environment and knowing about it: mapping (consistent state wide); habitat protection; restoring degraded areas. • Situational analysis of the current status of the actual environment not just the economy e.g. species incidence; location of threatened species and endemic species. • Continual programs. • Education (schools ramp up). • Storm water management. • Less contamination within landscapes. • Effective feral animal control. • Less urban sprawl into the Mount Lofty region and across the Greater Metropolitan Plan to protect agricultural lands and improve biodiversity.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- NRM Educational Programs and support e.g. Bush Kind, Site Environmental Management Plan.
- NRM Educational Programs – opportunity to build upon.
- Education for sustainable development.
- Authorised Officers and development – good to be based at Councils.
- Evidence based science that backs up (1) NRM with professional support (2) sustainability.
- Keep Tony Flaherty! His work is invaluable.
- NRM Education: expand training for teachers; increase funding for student projects; enhance 'hands on' activities for kids.
- In many regions such as Willunga the GWLAP group have been networking with Heritage Agreement Landowners for re-vegetation, weed management and providing advice and expertise, and achieving successful outcomes. Is this the same across other regions?
- Community NRM Grants e.g. proof of concept trials. Brings community together.
- NRM Act is not broken – it has biodiversity at its force. Keep the good parts e.g. NRM officers and their connections with already established community groups and landholders.
- Volunteer groups.
- NRM Officers supported the community to prevent sale of Crown Land.
- Community Advisory/Action groups have been working well e.g. South Para 'Land Care' group established 1998 before NRM – still effective. Co-ordination vehicle for community, public lands staff, volunteers, Councils, FSA, SAW to deliver biodiversity outcomes. Acknowledged that this model hasn't worked or can work in all areas.
- Co-operation between NRM and DEWNR staff after merger has worked well with a number of Friends Groups.

- Support: education; training; support for local groups etc.; community engagement; staff very good.
- Valuing and community involvement. Volunteer groups.
- Some good funded projects e.g. River Torrens Recovery Project.
- Partnerships with Aboriginal communities.
- Partnerships work well with contractors; work well with stakeholder groups.
- Greater relationship between Green Adelaide and Local Government.
- Visible point of contact for issues.
- Insurance for volunteers and other support e.g. attendance at conferences for volunteers.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Agree with theory, but seems to conflict with whole of landscape approach.
- People in regions are not the only stakeholders. This principle has opportunities and risks!
- You have to start from the beginning of the source e.g. water courses, drainage and collection of in urban areas of rainwater.
- Green Adelaide does not sound very decentralised – could be good or bad. Not clear with expert Board, appointed by Minister, how community will be engaged in decision making.
- Develop buy-in and interest from local communities.
- Consider WIIFM (What's in it for me).
- Decentralised important provided not at the expense of strategic thinking.
- Levy payers in the main population base should accept some responsibility for contributing to management of state wide natural assets. The outer regions are resource poor and will need a straight forward mechanism to subsidise their delivery; project in outer regions should not exclusively be determined by their residents and levy payers.
- Board member selection should be based on skill sets and sympathetic to objectives. X2
- Need perspective from outside experts.
- Accountability with clear understanding about the destructiveness of conflict of interest (I also agree and second this – with strong concerns).
- This needs to be supported by a state wide focus and leadership – so we are all on the same page.
- Strongly see the need for governance state wide and co-ordinating (leadership) across regions.
- It may empower local communities which is really good, but will also make large scale projects more difficult.
- Don't lose the large scale project and a state wide vision.
- What role do Councils have in NRM policy and implementation?
- How is the new reform supporting the building of capacity for people/community to become involved i.e. greater decision making?
- Decentralisation is important but so are the linkages between regions and central government.
- Empower communities – need to focus on active citizens not government representatives.
- Education for sustainability for active citizens in addition to schools.
- Decision making needs to be strategic – ensure this is not lost in decentralisation.
- Decision making in the regions – need to think beyond the regions boundaries.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Yes! Numerous reports and management plans compile and then 'filed' – simple action plans that are then implemented.

- This needs to be informed by a shared focus and values – e.g. biodiversity, habitat protection, sustainability, and restoration of denuded/degraded areas.
- Some regulation/red tape is essential e.g. to prevent land clearing and for habitat protection.
- Consideration of development and its impacts.
- But 'simple' doesn't/shouldn't mean that controls/conditions etc., don't exist!
- Pay for monitoring effectiveness of money spent.
- Don't forget about transparency!! 9 boards plus is not too simple.
- The environment management process are clearly funded to achieve outcomes expected. That means partnerships across levels of government resourcing the environment appropriately to achieve this i.e. employment, healthy living etc.
- The NRM educational officers have been extremely accessible and have acted as drivers for sustainability – great on the ground support… - agree totally!!! This is currently one of the most accessible government organisations that I deal with – complexity and red tap come from government landowners IMHO.
- Yes, but also need to consider interaction of other Acts e.g. Development Act.
- Flagging projects which are state funded.
- Need to streamline reporting across local, state and federal governments. Get rid of all the unwieldy volumes of reports hardly anyone reads and turn into strong messages that are relevant to communities.
- People having to account for their use of our natural resources e.g. water, is a good thing.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Some land owners are terrible land managers – want to support the excellent ones while improving performance of others.
- Recognise the good examples in your region – perhaps a ripple effect could be achieved by example and education for those not performing.
- Community will require an evidence based starting point/baseline to assist decision making.
- Users of lands should also include visitors/other users who come outside of the community.
- With community at the centre, must be accountable for ensuring current protections are enforced and regulated effectively so we don't keep losing species and damaging our ecosystems.
- Need on-going monitoring of what's happening.
- What's in it for me will create interest and pride within communities.
- Some challenges with engaging large numbers or urban rate payers – invest in educating their children.
- Encourage (reimburse) land owners to set aside areas for re-vegetation/renovation.
- How do you legislate and oversee for Conflict of Interest between private gain by individuals and public monies.
- Community/land owners will need evidence based support to better manager.
- Managing the land with community input and while supporting good land managers is the right way forward but cannot be separated from management of public lands and private lands for positive biodiversity outcomes.
- Informed by a shared focus and values so we as a community have a shared purpose.
- Increase and improve/reinvigorate extension services. Essential for community education and best practice management.
- Delegating responsibility from government to land owners.
- Guard against self-interest that makes chaos; read Chamala & Mortiss "Working Together for Land Care".
- Agree, but need to see how the landscape benefits.
- Who sets priority of works and funding for on ground action?

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Agree! Include all stakeholders, may have issues regarding who is acknowledged as stakeholders. Good resource management doesn't just involve people who live in regions.
- No the true beauty is in interfacing of species and land forms – not just landscapes.

- As long as humans don't dominate the landscape to the detriment of biodiversity.
- Yes! Link up the fragmented, damaged landscape by meaningful corridors of functioning ecosystems. Then monitor and celebrate the effectiveness.
- Do not forget the importance of RIPARIAN and Estuarine ecosystems also each catchment has a different focus/need/approach/value.
- Take a whole of systems (solution ecosystem approach) working more effectively to manage NR.
- Yes definitely – both large scale and small scale and valuing biodiversity.
- Need to also include the impacts of development.
- Agree but who facilitates/resources how do groups access?
- There needs to be state wide inventory and mapping of natural resources (so we know threats and achievements). SA is very behind in resource mapping.
- Show (make visible) results to the general public in a more accessible manner.
- Agree, but need to value (volunteer and community work) to the maintaining/strengthening of local biodiversity.
- Bring back Botany as a subject in all schools – then students will 'walk the talk'.
- Stay focussed on a bioregion approach and invest in establishing frameworks that promote cross regional collaboration.
- Examine all of the evidence. Collect and share the data.
- How will a whole landscape approach work with decentralised decision making?

e. Back to basics

- Concerns re narrow focus – where is community involvement/biodiversity wast/recycling and education fit?
- What about coastal communities? We are not all farmers.
- Its more soil, water and pests.
- Let's not lose the thinking and work already done.
- Work with Aboriginal communities to save the natural water holes to assist with the eradication of feral animals in north of state
- It's not just about soil, water and pest plant and animals – get the house in order (biodiversity) and the rest will come.
- Need to determine what the basics are (conservation and biodiversity),
- Too narrow – we need to address risks of climate change now and plan for climate impacts e.g. plan for wetlands to take increased stormwater load from increased rainfall intensity.
- Need sustainability focus?
- Have to add coasts, estuaries and marine.
- A back to basics is a mantra that does not keep focus on our responsibilities to manage complex ecological systems that are connected across habitats. We have local, state, national and international responsibilities for stewardships.
- Increase stewardship of what we have – we must not lose it!
- Must include biodiversity and vegetation rendition in rural and urban areas. Beware of land clearing on private land.
- Vague buzz words.
- Basics is a euphemism for short-term profits.
- Define vibrant.
- May just mean reducing oversight and compliance e.g. we don't want those greenies as city bureaucrats telling us what to do. Dangerous!! We all have a stake in NRM.
- Biodiversity needs to be central to this.
- Back to basics won't achieve results such as sustainable economics and resilient communities – need to recognise the completely involved.
- Document wording to date is very 60s -80s. Need to recognise. We have moved past nature education. Even past environmental education. Now we are at Education for Sustainable Development.
- NRM reform assumes people value the environment and understand why it is important for many people this is not a priority e.g. when paying bills, mortgages etc.

- Need to use language that the greater community understands.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
• Local decisions will be made, and are important for defining local issues. Yep!!	• Need to exclude public servants from board (otherwise it's stacked to Minister's views. • Hang on! Most people have public servant backgrounds and have excellent skills to participate effectively on boards.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Who the 4 members are to be appointed by the Minister and what are their priorities. We would like to have a say. Who decides on how they vote? Do they have a vested interest? Are they paid? By who? • Does the Chair get to vote? Will they have majority every time? • We're concerned about the composition of the Board. • Need balance in the board (diversity). Include Aboriginal representation. • It's worrying Green Adelaide will be in charge of the entire coast. • Who is representing the Adelaide international Bird Sanctuary? Implementation of the AIBS draft management plan.	• That the board will be stacked with 'yes men' are they really independent if appointed by Minister? • Follow transparent nomination processes so Minister has a good spread of potential appointees. • How is diversity ensured?

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• I would like to see a young person on each board. Yes – voice of the future. • More positions elected by community. • An environmental person. • Need sustainability interest. • No personal interest. • Diversity in members. • No financial or personal gain from being on the board. • Need security by independent people/experts. • Need volunteer group representation. • Ethic council consideration of public interest. • Independence, knowledge/interest. • Agree with the above,	• There needs to be state wide principles and outcomes e.g. biodiversity. So we are all working with the same purpose. • Boards need to be skill based. • Appointment process needs to be consistent – consider independent committee to appoint all board members. • Diversity e.g. gender preference, ethnic groups, age, holistic and inclusive.

• 4 elected, 3 appointed. • Genuinely integrated. • Accountable to community. • Practical outcomes that deliver a benefit to the environment.	

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• How to measure? Complexity within current state? • Principles are not yet well defined as are only describing tasks. Future Boards to co-ordinate the principles that they are to follow. • Social, economic, environmental and cultural measures need definition and application.	• There is real opportunity for people with vested interest e.g. 'shooters lobby/mining interests' to dominate the community-elected representative process. • Good to have some requisite skills and leadership, knowledge for nominating themselves to participate effectively on the board. • What would the community election process look like to allow for incidental by-election situations? • Disclosure of vested interest needed at time of nomination to provide transparency to the board membership and agenda. • Board needs an evidence based baseline to make effective decisions. This will come from a science based 'feet on ground' workforce. • Outcomes need to be well integrated and embedded into other community priorities e.g. health, education. • Stop slashing environmental budget.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1	Table 2
• Concern of boards to set own levies – high **vs** low levies. • Should be central pool of money that distributed based on need. • No accountability for community engagement. • Boards to set or limit/priorities (5 might not be appropriate). Need voice of the youth on the board! • Need for Ethics Council review of process design and audit of actions. • Will the health of our environment be part of the NR audit of each region?	• Non-metro areas need funding to manage management/projects because its city people who also use these e.g. National Parks. • Rate capping levy capping puts at risk NRM programs. • Greater "youth" participation on boards or staffing and indigenous participation and representation.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.
What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
1. Use biogeographic boundaries as far as possible. 2. Cutting the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary in half? How would this affect decision making? We have international responsibilities as well as local.	1. Boundaries should be guided by natural catchments/geographical forms rather than political areas. 2. Boundaries where possible should align to other government boundaries for better analysis. 3. Areas - North and South have very large populations. Their areas would have similar needs, issues, and concerns as 'Green Adelaide'. The same focus areas and priorities should be aligned (mandated) across all 3 or set 'Green Adelaide' to Aldinga, Gawler or Mt Barker. 4. On balance, boundaries need to reflect local government boundaries otherwise there will be conflicting/contrasting management (and biophysical boundaries don't have political legit). 5. There needs to be specific reference to the coastal and marine environment of the Green Adelaide sections. Their needs are connected to but significantly different from the built-up urban areas e.g. Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary area. 6. Flexibility at boundaries is necessary to reflect landscape scale management aspirations i.e. cross boundary projects should be enabled and encouraged. NB: implications of Climate Change and building resilience.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

Table 1	Table 2
• Protect, enhance and conserve ecosystem services. • Education around valuing ecosystems and sustainable development (economic and social wellbeing outcomes).	• Sustainable waste management, mitigation of Climate Change impact. What measures are there? • Maintaining biodiversity within environment in area of urban infill and diversity. • Focus on practical implementation of the water cycle in green corridors and urban environments.

• Priority for the areas around Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary – world-wide significance and international tourism,	• Engage with longer term changes in urban planning for climate change – how do we protect and include nature in those plans.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

Table 1	Table 2
• Possible link to Development Act. • Genuine focus on GA. • Opportunity to pursue urban biodiversity on a landscape scale. • Reduction of 'het sinks' in our urban environment.	• Opportunity to plant lots of trees – let's have a target. • Opportunity to holistically manage coastal and wetland environments beyond simple technological solutions. • Further opportunities for community based WSUD practices and experimentation. • Community fund, if it adds to $$ available, to support community projects. • Greater focus on estuaries, coast and marine.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Lack of information on GA. • Development has already dominated. • Sustainability **vs** NRM. • National Parks included? • Interface with volunteers and Friends Groups. • Levies collected in GA all spent in GA? • Links to Development Act? • Communication channels.	• Conflicts with Planning Acts and Regulations which always seem to ignore ecological processes. No value put on biodiversity, nature etc. • Transparency of where funds go and inappropriate use of $ e.g. sand casting, engineering fixies etc. • Very concerned with #7 Nature education… narrow – sustainability is more than nature. • Lack of focus on pollution reduction. • Priority focus on sustainable non-polluting technologies e.g. electric car, clean air focus and noise mitigation. • Who is appointed? Too urban focused! • Shouldn't manage the entire coast. • Should have members elected by community.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Using multiple channels for the same message targeting the same audience – repetition ad nauseam.	• Participatory budgeting process to allocate project funding to engage community.	No comment made.
Table 2		
• Stop cutting funding to community engagement programs. • Using environment funding to prop up services that should	• Properly fund engagement programs. • Allocate funds from levies to the landscape projects that cross regions and allocate	• Continue engagement programs. • Continue NRM education program.

be funded by the services the tax base – sorry wrong piece of paper - transfer to Levy topic.	funds from the tax base to properly fund environmental targets. • Develop consultation framework to engage across sectors.	• Work with WAITE campus and Agricultural programs in Rural Reception to Year 12 Areas schools. • Expand extension and support services from NRM Boards to land holders, managers and community groups etc.
Table 3		
No comment made.	No comment made.	• Education and building community capacity/awareness. • Facilitating education programs. • Being accessible, with continued relationships with volunteer and organisations.
Table 4		
• Using jargon specific to understanding. • Utilising local government to collect levies it disenfranchises the community from (NRM) Landscape SA.	• Localised events with stakeholders for sustainability of efforts e.g. Citizens Science. • Utilise existing communication avenues e.g. Local Councils, Community Centres/group. • Having information in a simple/clear language – current. • With media promote good news/positive environment/sustainable conversations. • More directly with the community.	• Education engagement (Youth Environment Council). • Regional centres with localised resources and staff. • Research in larger landscape issues.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Where and why will funds be distributed? Who sets the priority? • In principle it's good to have cross boundary fund distribution	• Funding from Green Adelaide needs to contribute to lower population areas.	No comment made.

but it needs to be justifiably equitable and accountable. • Have federal money too.		
Table 4		
• Capping is a negative when it comes to having sufficient funds for National Parks. It would be better to allocated spending as part of state fiscal priorities. • Capping will put at risk to community projects. • Expecting Councils to tender for projects adds cost to rural councils already stretched by rates capping.		

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• We need to link up the fragmented landscape with viable natural corridors. Functional habitats. • We need all ecosystems both novel and historic. We don't know what will survive Climate Change. • Monitoring and eluviation needs to be paid for. • Support for Greening Australia (SA) who have been doing landscape planting for decades.	• There is a need for both.	• Yes! Adelaide residents are stakeholders in state wide NRM issues and projects as well as landowners, bioregions and landscapes span admin boundaries across board –co-operation is essential • Funding for cooperative projects with NGOs where joint projects can better build resilience across landscape e.g. Bush Heritage, NCS..
Table 4		
• Buffer zones between zones should be treated as a priority area between boards and co-funded.		

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Prioritise threatened ecosystems! • Initiate carbon accountability, should be taken into account by	• Follow Grants SA process – already simplified. • Auspicing guidelines and assistance. • $2M state wide not enough.	• How will proposals be prioritised? Do we need an over-arching group to distribute funds across Landscape Boards?

Green Adelaide – they are in debt. • Pay for biophysical in cities e.g. green walls and roofs to sequester carbon. • Is the funding enough to pay for our ecosystem services? e.g. water purification; pollution; clean air; nature for well-being; restoring lost habitats (98%) (Gibbs, Zoo loss)	• Also need funding for evaluations.	• Will this involve cross-board exchange and decision making and engagement?
Table 4		
• $2M has to come from somewhere! This will mean less money for the NRM area. Community groups have to raise their own money for projects now (currently).		

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Healthy creeks, rivers, catchments, reefs, biodiversity, flora, fauna showing a great response to the relevant actions to reverse the degradation occurring currently.	Review the role of evaluating what is done and what is not done. Have goals that relate to a stronger environment and healthy future for our community. Integrate legal authorities to reduce reliance on false information. Engage Access Economics to dot the sums for a healthier environment. Community surveys increase.	Public engagement across all kinds of people who are aware of the importance of environmental sustainability and working together toward specific outcomes in integrated and holistic ways.
This reform has worked if the majority of people have engaged with and/or are aware of how landscapes are cared for in their region. Understanding and interact from the community rather than apathy and distrust.	The environment and biodiversity is at the centre of our planning and implementation of how we design our economy and way of life.	We are living in a sustainable environment which has set South Australia apart from other states. Environment and sustainability is a key driver for development and living/lifestyle.
Community is aware of and engaged in the Landscape approach. Boards are appointed and projects underway with positive feedback the majority.	Sustainable environment that can weather climate events such as drought/flood/heat etc.	My cabinet colleagues value the environment and are supporting my programs through their departments. This is because their constituents are demanding action as climate change and environment sustainability – biodiversity.
Cabinet has supported a large budget increase for environment especially for climate adaptation.	Are you brave enough to delay this reform process to allow better consultation and better development of a new Landscape SA Act?	Education of our young. They are the future.
Everyone in SA is engaged and aware of sustainable landscape management.	Condition of Parks greatly improved i.e. weed eradication, facilities and infrastructure.	Reform success: farmers/landowners stop feeling like criminals for managing the land in a truly ecologically sustainable way – get rid of NRM big stick.
50% of State schools have an environmental plan.	If SA citizens are engaged in sustainability.	The reform has engaged the community and users of the land to value and protect our natural resources.

Including youth in decision making. The voice of the people is somewhat satisfied – habitat is being restored (slowed species loss rate).	Urgent – in 2 years (almost too late). 35% of the landscape has been restored to functional ecosystems based on regional land sustainability.	Clear objectives and action plans.
You haven't been removed by the Premier due to an overwhelming community backlash. The community see and understand environment as their lifeblood.	The River Torrens has been opened for public swimming adjacent to Adelaide Oval.	2025 That all communities in SA have seen an improvement in our environment. That all people (young and old) value Sa
In 20 years hence; There has been effective community engagement, increased indigenous participation and custodianship and improved restoration, improved biodiversity, less urban sprawl, improved monitoring and data recording of SA natural resources.	Measured improvements in sustainable quality of SA environment. Those measures would include: • Coastal, marine and inland environment. • Successful restoration of habitat and biodiversity within. • Responsible and equitable distribution of funds. • Clear and accountable involvement of community groups and volunteers (with diversity within) in what has happened in tandem with government appointees.	By 2020 The state is known widely internationally as a leader in sustainability and habitat such that both locals and visitors engage with a whole range of environmental values: habitat, resources, climate response.
An increase in public engagement and stewardship by individuals which has resulted in positive actions and groundwork towards improving habitat and ecological systems throughout our state – we are moving forward collectively!	Go and visit the area to see the actual benefit of funding has made to the particular area and is able to be sustainable without pouring more money into a particular project.	More youth involvement in decision making processes. Youth are the guardians of the future – they will be inheriting the Earth so they need a say on what happens now. More transparency on department spending, funding and personal and financial interest of those involved.
Positive programs working in all zones and funding not stopped.	Community groups, local government and individuals are working together for common goals, with good direction. Live mapping and record keeping is made available for all to view.	A landscape charter that we all work towards – led by the Minister. Improved outcomes for the environments. We need key deliverables with possible targets e.g. increased tree coverage and improved air quality.
DEW will be reduced to a precinct rather than a department. NGOs will be working co-operating across regions and across borders. You will still be in parliament.	Significant support on existing situation. Dealings with measure of hot that is expressed. If it fails go back to the catchment to coast concept which was safe and easy understood.	Rate payers are largely happy with CPI levy caps. Community groups supported by Landscapes SA and DEW staff are building resilience and increasing biodiversity across local landscapes, incorporation public lands. Adelaide rate payers are contributing to biodiversity management on Aboriginal lands and in Arid lands and other board areas. Urban biodiversity is improving land management for cropping and forestry, mining. Decision making based on triple line bottom.

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- NRM reform going on at same time as Department of Planning who offer more detailed and clearer discussion papers. This NRM reform appears rushed without a clear vision and defined objectives. Many of the questions asked should be dealt with under Planning. Some questions are more party political than with NRM reform.
- Will there be further workshops about the 'Green Adelaide' regions? Yes please.
- Rate capping/levy capping puts at risk programs.
- Integration with PDI Act (avoid double handling).
- With the 'de-merger' of NRM and DEWNR what will consequences be on DEW?
- There is little mention of National Parks and Friends Groups in the discussion document. How will they affected by the Landscapes SA Concept?
- Too much emphasis on 'trees' to ameliorate Climate Change – not enough on grass lands and salt bushes, native grasslands are a low cost low maintenance solution to maintain open space. Sports turf for active playing fields native grasses for amenity open space.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**GAWLER**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM ~ 12PM 28TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 70 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was made up of a good balance of volunteers, conservationists, primary producers, local government, and others. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- **Biodiversity** was raised, specifically around the need for better management and enhancement of conservation and biodiversity. It was felt that this was missing from the Back to Basics approach and participants were keen to see it highlighted as a priority;

- **Education** was a key topic raised throughout the session. It was felt strongly that people need educating, particularly relating to **compliance**. A story was told by a participant to the group around a situation between a land owner and NRM officers gaining access to a property. When explored, the desire for the reform relating to this story was a need for **greater empowerment and education of primary producers**, acknowledging that not all land holders doing the right thing – they need strong support and education. Participants also suggested that as well as education and empowerment, they would like to see **a respectful process around compliance**. When something wrong is being done, fair enough, but the process must be sound, respectful and fair. Some felt that there must be **greater presence and control around compliance**. But others, as noted above, felt that there needs to be work done around the process of enforcement and the power that NRM officers have;

- Participants suggested working closely with **farmers who are progressive** – those who are doing the right thing. Use them as examples and work with them to move things forward;

- **Funding and resourcing** was identified as a key priority for reform, including providing support to land holders in making change, demonstrating how change can work - again linking to education. It was noted that there is only so much that can be done by volunteers and their good will. **Staff resourcing** was also seen as a priority, with particular reference being made to enforcement in Parks where visual damage was being conducted, with no repercussions as staff not visible;

- Participants in Gawler would like to see **clear and regular reporting** of works being down locally;

- Several people in the group noted that good access to scientists or other experts through DEW or local Councils, where good partnerships are in place. Participants felt caution needs to be made in how boards might access this expertise;

- There was some discussion around levy capping, with the comment being made that those who live and work on the land **don't have an income that rises according to CPI**. There was discussion around finding **innovative ways to raise funds** other than via the levy, such as tourism assets which ultimately attract people to the region;

- Discussion occurred around **boundaries for the region**, particularly relating to the Plains & Valleys, with aligning similar geographies and landscapes within boundaries preferred where possible. However, advice was given to not get too hung up on 'borders' because within each boundary the communities will have access to funding their priority projects;

- One participant highlighted the **lack of good agriculture courses** available locally, with 8 courses recently lost at Roseworthy College. This means that good land managers aren't coming from that source anymore;

- **Engagement** with volunteers to achieve local action was a priority. Greater communication is needed within the community. Participants would like to see **more primary producer involvement** in things like

water allocation. Some suggested that the Boards need to **stop being invisible**, stating that much good work was happening but the community weren't aware of it. **Citizen Science** was suggested for providing great partnership opportunities;

- Participants suggested that a **Landscape Advisory Group** could be made up of the Chair of each Landscape Board, or a delegate from each board.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

COMPLIANCE	**BIODIVERSITY**
• Enforcement. • More appropriate jurisdiction between land owners and NRM Officers – with regards to more power than the police.	• Biodiversity and conservation. • Biodiversity. • Biodiversity – better management and enhancement. • Halt biodiversity loss – stop clearing and start replacing our vegetation and habitat.
COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT	**STAFF - RESOURCES**
• Broad range community education and engagement leading to better understanding within community of local and broader environment issues. • More primary producer engagement in water allocation (better understand from both perspectives). • Education. • Greater communication with the community on the management of resources: monitoring and reporting. • More engagement with volunteers to achieve local action.	• Increased staffing and capacity of staff: including: Rangers; Project Officers. • More feet on the ground – more management – less planning.

• More interaction and consultation between broad acre farmers (and community in general) and natural resource managers – engagement on the ground; NRM representatives missing in action after Pinery fire; more practical approach required – more NRM officers were needed – better emergency response – strategy was needed. • Education with respect to environmental issues – support community groups – providing training to community groups and primary producers.	
LOCAL DECISIONS WITH SCIENCE • Locally driven provided it is backed up by sound science and expertise. • Climate Change management.	**PARTNERSHIPS** • Working together –holistic approach – upstream and downstream working collectively. • Greater linkage with local government.
PLANNING • Sustainable Economy: ○ Strategic partnerships. ○ Fear of housing development occurring on valuable land such food production and environmental value. ○ Link to current Planning Reform.	**ACCOUNTABILITY** • Smooth transition and clear 'lines of sight' to reform outcomes. • Clear and regular reporting of works being done/delivered locally. • Accountability; engagement; communication. • Management by systems: ○ Able to cross land tenure. ○ Boards, local and state view. ○ Accountability and authority to manage river systems as a whole.
FUNDING (RESOURCING) & INNOVATION WITH RESPECT TO REVENUE RAISING • Access for Private landholders. • Volunteer groups. • Committee representatives. • Liaising with councils and agencies. • Education. • On ground land management. • Levies distribution state wide. • Landholder support in change (financial and educational support needed). • Demonstration of how change can work. • Influences identified and engaged. • More funding for current NRM projects. • Greater equity of funding across the state rather than in each region. • Greater distribution to low revenue regions. • Innovative way of generating funds to protect landscapes i.e. Tourism.	**PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT** • Protection and maintenance of natural parks and other areas of natural vegetation against mining, buildings and other man influences. • Better protection for the environment not worse. • Preserve our agricultural land for agriculture Australia – food bowl of the world. SA relying on small area of productive land.
RECOGNITION • Recognise and reward good land managers. • Carbon pricing.	**OTHER** • Fire Management. X3 • Need an overarching Board.

• Reduction in levies.	• Water allocation. • Decentralisation of decision making state wide. • Climate Change management. • Wedge Tail Eagles poisoning. • Illegal collection of firewood. • Increasing biodiversity. • Levies being distributed evenly across the state. • Need improved compliance with regard to plant pest control and animal pest control. • Very cumbersome system at present which doesn't work well. Need greater presence on the ground of NRM officers/rangers and $ to ensure compliance. • Environment protection from development and mining. • Water catchment management and water use and reuse. Minimise erosion revegetation.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Current level of expertise in Boards: specialists; staffing levels (maintain or increase).
- Level of expertise may diminish if relying on volunteers (need paid resources to oversee and engage to ensure ongoing improvements).
- Engagement with indigenous community.
- Incentive Programs:
    - Rural land management.
    - Fence funding.
    - Roadside weed management.
    - Free insurance
    - Do not (please) erode funding and support for projects.
- Community Natural Resource Centres e.g. Gawler Environment Centre; Barossa Bush Gardens NRC; Mt Pleasant NRC etc., cannot lose these! For community engagement – need support and funding.
- Funding for councils – NRM Education; NRC; Sustainable landscapes.
- Good staff with expertise regarding scientific understanding.
- Yes, this has been lost in recent times. Federals introduced back in 99! Monitoring evaluation, reporting improvement. Retain existing datasets, methodology and capacity.
- Working well already good work being done on Gawler region by NRM with respect to pest plants – great improvement in 5 years; water quality – very clear; ++ reeds; wildlife increase in number of native frogs and birdlife; controlled release of water from upstream.
- NRM Staff and Networks: local NRM staff work well and have built up good networks. Those close to the ground.
- Protections: There are some checks and balances that provide good protection. Need to be careful that when reducing red tape these are not lost. (Some protections have already been lost from well-intended effort to stream line processes).
- Passion for NRM objectives.
- Funding for waterway restoration and remnant vegetation has been beneficial.
- Biodiversity.
- Volunteer and community support from current NRM Board and staff.
- Council Partnerships – NRM placement in Council. Big benefit for budget. Hosted positions.
- Don't lose all the integration between bodies/boards/departments that's been achieved to date.
- Maintain Biodiversity as a priority.
- 'Can do attitude' – continued partnerships with LG and private landowners.
- Maintain current level of sophistication in system.
- Long term relationships i.e. irrigators; council – NRM education; NRC; sustainable landscapes.

- Working with broad acres farming – no or little involvement of NRM (e.g. after Pinery) – no decision making i.e. did not work well.
- Community gaps doing a great job and need more $ support – e.g. Trees for Life; Barossa Bush Gardens; Kersbrook Land Care and Nursery; Buffers to Bushland – City of Playford project.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Local decisions must be backed by good science. X4
- There will always be need for appeal process.
- More staff to assist in educating the public. Build public opinion to support the local Boards decisions.
- Within a consistent National framework of good land management.
- More local decision making but backed by science; expertise; good management.
- Outcomes to benefit the local environment and the broader picture – retains and increases local participation.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Sounds good but may have issues sourcing expertise. To decentralise may need to look at extra pay/conditions for staff to move to remote/out of metro areas. SA not densely populated, so reliant upon centralised decision making.
- Should we decentralise Treasury, Health etc., as well?
- Get the big picture right and the rules consistent. The remote boards are find for advice but should not be doing the work.
- Till need strategic oversight of environmental systems and issues of state significance e.g. coastal ecosystems.
- Strong representation of local Aboriginal people on the Board.
- Simple sounds good but the environment is complex. Best decision's can be made using good science experience and expertise. X1
- Clearly funds should be spent on the basis of need and strategic importance e.g. the protection of 1,000,000 acres of nature compared with a trivial piece of furniture in a park in Adelaide.
- Streamlining should not remove checks and balances which are protections not merely red tape – seconded.
- A system that shows clear links with other legislation. It currently sounds/reads more like it waters down protections systems when it refers to red tape.
- Where do I write protection for the natural environment and planning for projects dealing with biodiversity and conservation?
- Make it a system that is easy to understand and links well with all aspects – water, biodiversity, coast etc. Don't lose any important information in the redevelopment.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Owners come and go but the land and the landscape remain. All action on land needs to consider the land in perpetuity. Agree.
- Custodianship for land management – learn this from Aboriginal people.

- Partnerships can come with strings and can involve corruption, domination of Boards and misuse of State Funds by pressure groups and powerful businesses and individuals. Safer to have independent experts spending funds and exercising diligence.
- Advice given by NRM is to be always based on sound scientific understanding. NRM staff need to have knowledge for long term management of natural and recovering systems.
- Resourcing has become major issue to deliver. Can't rely solely on Landholders and community to deliver on a volunteer basis.
- Volunteer burn out is a huge issue.
- Recognise good land managers. Not all land managers operate with land's best interest.
- Education required on biodiversity and ecosystem management and ecosystem services.
- Good science must be behind local decisions.
- History shows landowners not always good land managers –erosion, extinctions agricultural weed escapes e.g. olives.
- Time poor, limited $ and capacity to change the way they have always done things.
- Limited understanding of science behind good land management.
- Outcomes that benefit the environment, local and landholders to increase engagement and participation – not divide.
- Community Engagement – prepare the community so it's ready to deliver the skills NRM need to deliver NRM goals. NTM works with TAFE, local plant growers etc.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Tenure blind management in catchments.
- Consistent management of declared species.
- Whole of landscape approach needs to include the protection of biodiversity and halt the continued loss of species and habitat they rely on. Enhancing landscapes will have flow on effects to achieving this.
- What approach for decision making is being proposed? – With a 'Landscape Scale' approach greater consensus will be required to achieve results – does a large board actually achieve more on ground?
- 100% agree – must all work together on what is best for the entire environment.
- Latest AMLR plan does this, by using systems thinking. Hopefully this work is not lost.
- Bio region investment where allocation of funding is irrespective of where the funds are collected. It's about management based on need and priorities.
- Nothing left out – included biodiversity; waste management (local, household, bigger picture), wast as resource. Landscape includes people too.
- Vote 1 – York Peninsula Fox Proof Fencing.
- Let's see some landscape scale fire planning. Using reservoirs and horticultural and viticultural areas as fire barriers.
- Climate Change amelioration and adaptation should be at the heart of all of this. It is a central job.

e. Back to basics

- Biodiversity basic to life and economy – ecosystem service primary importance.
- Enforcement of wildlife and native vegetation protection laws. More money for prosecutions and publicity of same.
- Education.
- Investment that gives multiple outcomes and good investment return.
- More funds for on ground investment in land management and biodiversity.
- Government will never have enough money for own staff – so reliably fund volunteer groups.
- Don't allow commercial development to over-rule biodiversity.
- Monitoring of firewood being sold in the media – legally sourced?
- This sounds like a political throw-away line. Look at the work involved in QA of the boards – layers and layers of it.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
No comment made.	• Greater relevance for local community due to representation by local members.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Expense and governance of community board member elections. • Lack of definition about the knowledge to be represented on the board (skills based). • Boundaries need to be eco type not administrative – base it on land-use issues etc. • Who oversees the Boards?	• Boundaries – edge effects conflicting with 'Landscape Scale' approaches. • Semi-rural, rural and urban areas require different approaches – how will the different boards manage these varying demands? • How will the new boards be funded?

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Priorities of boundaries selection should be land-use, land-type issues. • Transparency of interest of board members. • Ensure there is representation of all the key sciences and expertise related to landscape management. • Screening process requirements for appointees' **vs** requirements for community representatives.	• Lateral thinking required for the benefit of boundary decisions.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• Governance – Annual Report and Audit. • NRM – State of Environment Report (conditions). • Water – Water Sampling – water quality – currently results not being fed back to landowners. • Human/Social – Community Resilience Assessment (i.e. NSW) – benchmarking. • Historical Journal – Plan – Deliver – Review – Evaluate – Communication.	• Mandatory reporting requirement cross Area Analysis. • Requirements to report outcomes back to regions. • Reports in a meaningful way: layman terms; actual achievements; recommendations to regions; feedback loop.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1	Table 2
• SWOT Analysis – business plan. • Centralise data collection/access (i.e. NRM portal). • Standard benchmarking. • Universal definitions. • Evidence based decision making - management of resources. • Greater transparency. • What can the board control and what it can influence!	• Independence of board members. • Qualified. • Experience. • Balance of knowledge in boards (diversity)>

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
1. Cross Board Communication – East – West relationship (LRC, TOG, TBC, APC) works well for water catchment management soils, etc. North – South relationship (APC, COP, COS, PAE – Adelaide)- sub-committee (coastal) across several landscape boards with coastal areas, all except SA Arid Lands. Bird sanctuary, marine ecosystems etc. 2. Relationship to PDI Act – Joint Planning Boards, Regional Assessment Panels follows Council boundaries not midway… 3. Size of Landscape Boards – administrative/reporting requirements (still the same regardless of size. 4. State Funding to Landscape Boards – transition from NRM – ongoing and local funding from levy?	1. Align similar geographies and landscapes within boundaries where possible. 2. Don't get too hung up on 'borders' within each boundary the communities will have access to funding their priority projects. 3. Funding System – allocate according to 'need' to prevent issues crossing boundaries (not local levies alone). Should come from State and Federal Governments. 4. Reference council borders in metro area and include those border councils in the Plains and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu areas.

5. Green Adelaide – what will it mean? What will it cover? Etc.	

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

- Armouring against Climate Change.
- Richness of Green Adelaide through levies should help fund/distribute funds to less populated regions of SA – money required to support our food bowls.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

No comment made.

What concerns you?

- Boundaries – need to have an over-arching and coordinating body of all the Landscape Groups – must avoid power of vested interests, and have a representative diverse membership.
- Landscape Boards setting their own levies – large individual impost where decreasing population density and distance challenge.
- Long term planning – not 5 years. 10 years to implement and monitor success and keep future government accountable to board priorities (long term approach **vs** term of government approach). X9

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Stop being invisible – you do great work!	• Start engaging more with other existing communities and authorities involved in land management.	• Continuing doing grass roots engagement but with more resolve and transparency – share the success stories.

	• Lead by example with investments on public lands (e.g. weed management of olives). • Raise awareness about themselves and opportunities to collaborate. • Raise awareness of the urban community to Natural Resource Management – community benefit the function of Landscapes SA e.g. community consultation forums as part of the Planning Process. • Use more technology to connect with the community including citizen science (excellent partnership opportunities here – including with councils/local government.	• Continue to build education and engagement opportunities, particularly for young people. In and out of school opportunities. • Stronger links between PIRSA and NRM engagement with Landholders.
Table 2		
• No comment made.	• Board communicate directly with the community through local media and community organisations. • Board raises its profile directly with the community; field days, public events. • Boards conduct networking events. • Websites – boards to become aware of the 'consultancies' across the state e.g. Vietnamese Farmers Association; translations services – link with industry groups.	• Making use of community organisations e.g. Barossa Grape Growers/Wine Makers Associations or others.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• This is confusing – depends on what State Government is passing on to NRM fund and	• Support CPI: less administrative burden;	• Not happy with individual Landscape Boards setting levy – prefer current levy system

this suggestion for much less reliance on levies. • No great logic on levies from land owners (only) funding most NRM. • Levies good but not major $	people now what they are up for; manages expectation. • Is council still best placed to collect levies?	(fairer to areas of low population density). • Disbursement of funds from central body is by application from individual Landscape Boards. • Agree with capping levy rises. • Local Landscape groups does not have to expend all $ raised in 1 year (i.e. by June 30).
Table 4	Table 5	
• Capping at CPI. • Spending in the local region. • Green Adelaide raised levies to be proportionally distributed out to regional projects that have disproportionate landmasses requiring urgent work.	• CPI is an issue – gets higher and higher – not supported. Evaluate levy every 5 years not annually – present business case for increases. • Need to have alternate sources of funding to reduce reliance on levy. • Use of Tourism revenue at key landscapes across the state (i.e. Birdsville Races) how can we market off these landscape values? % of Tourist dollar – NRM. Airport and Rail levy.	

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Most funds should come from State Budget or commonwealth. • No need to collect Adelaide funds for non-Adelaide. • Yes for State priorities and a State funding priority process (Minister administered committee) with each board represented.	• Holistic approach. • Committee to administer fund – not Green Adelaide – making sure regions get 'Bang for Buck'.	• Yes, a need for cross regional etc. • Education a priority around sustainability of environment and management of landscape issues which cross borders.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Greater funding for on-ground works requires greater funding of supportive administration.	• Equity in fund distribution across the state metro Adelaide needs to support outback SA (lower rate base).	

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Just let each board manage this.	• Why is Green Adelaide administering this? • Needs independent review/consideration. • Not the Minister – money where votes are. • Chair of each board to form sub-committee – solution.	• $2M not adequate across state – ridiculous! (2 houses in Parkside or $36M for tram to North Terrace – NRM is key to state economy – more funding priority). • Grassroots community fund should not be administered by Green Adelaide. • Certain industries should be contributing e.g. tourism industry.
Table 4		Table 5
• Volunteer, community and not for profit groups will require support to access funds.		No comment made.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Increase in soil carbon.	Success is the environment and biodiversity is better supported. It is our children's future.	Biodiversity has improved. Education and sustainability is encouraged.
Fully funded Environmental Centre with full time co-ordinator and volunteer co-ordinators in sub-regions.	Balanced approach to use of land, water, soil and biodiversity. Consultation with and engagement of all stakeholders across all landscapes. Long term view! Not dedicated to political terms – education.	Reduction in land degradation – including by development – understanding by development.
Biodiversity decline has stopped.	Community believe that their levies actually do some good.	Co-ordinated landscape scale on-ground projects being undertaken – tenure blind. An inspired and invigorated community.
Extinctions halted.	Set KPIs achieved.	I will have heard about many success stories and hopefully even been part of one. Tourists and others will want to flock to SA, when they see how good we are in an interstate benchmarking exercise. To achieve this, a good marketing plan with awareness raising being key. Need to be transparent.

Increasing population and its land use has been controlled. Most new jobs are in sustaining the natural environment.	Positive feedback from all boards and evidence of environment actions and improvements.	Content public with the place they live.
Seeing actions on ground. Education, respect and understanding – better knowledge and appreciation from the community.	Water allocation plans finalised and operational. National Parks and State Parks looked after.	Success is landscapes being uses sustainably to their capacity and allowing multiple species to thrive.
Large community support and lower community distaste.	A fully integrated system of resource management and inter-relationship with associated legislation that relate to the use/management of land and resources.	Greater funding.
Community goodwill for NRM remains- they are still happy to pay the levy.	Central Adelaide has an allocation plan adopted, implemented.	Community enthusiastic feedback.
Working harmoniously with all parties concerned.	It's working at grassroots, solid foundation to build on.	No complaints.
Boards functioning and projects delivered and reported on.	Working together as one.	All Landscape Boards have been appointed. On ground works have commenced.
Green Landscape SA (not just Green Adelaide) – Blue (coastal) Red (Arid lands).	Biodiversity funding from state is sufficient.	Biodiversity increasing.
No complaints about the NRM board.	All landholders understanding (by survey) the meaning of 'resilience' in the face of changing climate.	No tilling undertaken on any property in Australia.
Increase in NRM projects and not a decrease.	Biodiversity audits confirm no biodiversity loss in past 5 years. Weed infestation of public lands down 10% on 2018 levels.	Biodiversity increase.
An engaged and environmentally vibrant community that is leading the nation.	Funding is state based and there is an increase in biodiversity.	Communication of what has been achieved and successful community engagement, happy staff, great results apparent.

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Tenure blind river system management.
- Better education in process management. Allow Primary Producers to understand certain legislation and how it relates to their business. How this can go hand in hand for a beneficial outcome for all (including greater community). Better education to improve respect for legislation.
- Education for NRM Agriculture is in free fall. Very little at TAPE and nothing much at universities.
- Data sharing – centralised system for entering and reporting data.
- Will the state agree to fund and invest in more on-ground activities?
- NRM reform should not repeat the mistake of the previous reform and delay the reform of operational aspects (i.e. permit/license). This was previously promised. Government never delivered Stage 1 and 2 should be concurrent.
- Putting resource back out in community and regional areas (gone to city focus).
- Employing people local to their community.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**COOBER PEDY**
TIME/DATE:	**1PM ~ 4PM 29TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Jon Bok**

8 participants, including pastoral, co-management, tourism, wildlife rescue and Aboriginal community representatives, were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Key discussion points included:

- The reform objectives are **already happening** in the region, question the need for change;
- The region utilises **NRM groups** in accordance with the existing legislation (ie SAAL has **6 NRM groups** representing geographic regions), this works well and gives people a say in what happens locally;
- The participants would not like to see any change that impacts the **NRM groups** and the way they currently work
- Discussion on **boundaries** focussed on Port Augusta coming into the SAAL region. Most attendees felt Port Augusta was a better fit with SAAL than Yorke and Northern, although at least one attendee was concerned that there might be too much of a focus on the Port Augusta area if they were included;
- There were no other really contentious topics, some discussion and **general support for the additional statewide and strategic funds** for large regional or larger cross-region scale projects;
- Key takeaway was that **things are working pretty well in the region** - please don't make any changes that impact that, while more and easier to access resources are always welcome.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

The group identified the priorities for their region to be -

- More funding – made accessible easily.
- Better communication with community – especially town e.g. pamphlet drop.
- Managing feral species that are compromising native biodiversity:
    - Banning cats in travel.
    - Domestic feral pests.
    - Large feral herbivores.
    - Roger the Roving Vet.
- Recognition of community input – empowerment and visibility.
- Government agency accountability.
- Transparency – who gets funding? What they did with it? Did it achieve the outcomes?

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- NRM groups – community input is critical.
- NRM plans – use what you have already invested in.
- Starting to work together with community and other groups.
- NRM groups work – retain at all costs
- Field days (but communicate more widely).
- Community Engagement Officers and regional staff – and the ways in which they communicate and enable funding and projects.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Yes – resonated.
- Nice but not sure how to do it well – how does the community select?
- Decentralised decision making good, but how do you achieve objective membership?
- Decentralisation is a great concept, and well implemented and managed will have significant positive impacts on the community – the 'how' may be a little more complex.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Less red tape – good.
- Greater accountability – more focussed funding and expenditure.
- Need to ensure in cutting red tape don't leave environment open to exploitation.
- NRM Act is weak and needs more teeth especially with compliance to land degradation issues.
- Good.
- To build >trust etc…need long term commitment which doesn't change with the state government parties

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Listening and acting accordingly.
- So relevant in our region – our pastoralists are custodians and have a keen understand of the land and sustainability.
- They should have a key role in decision making and implementation.
- And community who use the land.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Agree to all of the above.
- Need to ensure strategic prioritisation/investment is managed to achieve high end sustainable outcomes.
- Large scale combined efforts will still need community input and raised visibility to meet transparency aims.

e. Back to basics

- Managed well, it would significantly address out priorities of sustainable and prosperous pastoralism.
- No point reinventing the wheel if something is in place, but don't mess with things that are already working.
- There is a risk with back basics in the loss of community involvement in longer term aims. Something to be aware of.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities, and to make comment on boundaries.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

No comment made.

What concerns you?

• How are community empowered with decision making unless the appointments by Minister are also community members. • Reference to SAAL's size – how will representatives elected by community come from such a large area? Are 3 representatives enough? • Criteria of 'Elected by Community' and 'Appointed by Minister' – location; skill set –environmental, governance; knowledge. • Board members whether elected or appointed should be from or have an affinity to the areas. • Cost of elections. • Process of elections.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

• Appointments by Minister would also need to be open and transparent – perhaps with similar process. • Membership needs to be skills based and not gender based.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- Work with existing plans.
- Don't only measure short term outcomes.
- General Manager who lives in the region.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- Board decision should be public and transparent.
- Board to ensure reporting to public is a key priority and in many different formats.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

1. Port Augusta should be in the SA Arid Lands region as office is in Port Augusta. Port August will benefit from having office in council area. Port Augusta area should not be included. Boundary need more consultation just to clarify pros and cons.
2. NRM levy needs to be evenly distributed. NRM levy needs to be distributed state wide.
3. Should Flinders Rangers be brought into the SA Arid Lands it would erode the say of the Arid Land people.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Meetings during office hours – should have evening sessions so available to more people. • Or have some kind of technology that enables distance participation e.g. teleconference (explore other models e.g. 2 sessions on same day.	• Be respectful of time and commitment already invested in decision making process.	• Field days. • Community Engagement Officers

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Levies should be capped to CPI.
- Levies collected should be distributed state wide.
- Given that the Arid Lands is a large geographical region with a teeny tiny population, $ in a region needs to be reconsidered to enable investment in our region (which provides enormous benefit to the state).

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- Feral pest control needs to be state wide.
- Yes, as long as the process to access such funding is transparent and easily managed and matched to needs – most important to less important.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Develop a simple application process to apply for funds.
- And a transparent system for allocating and acquitting funds.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Greater community involvement and knowledge with higher % of people knowledgeable and vocal about positive outcomes.	Landholders happy with projects etc. Consultation happening regularly with all.	A co-ordinated success in eradicating feral pests' state wide. A notable increase in bird life across the state landscape with

Improved management of feral pests and landscapes. Improved value for money - $$ spent strategically and effectively – minimal wastage of $$ and greater accountability.	People feel as though things are happening. All stakeholders involved: Councils, Pastoralists, Landowners, leases, parks etc.	birders coming to SA from around the world.
NRM is going well. Landscapes are being sustained successful. Levies being put to good use.	Transparency and accountability across government agency. More pastoralists involved in sustainable land management. Reduced landscape droughting. Improved roads. NRM accountability. People prosecuted for doing the wrong thing. No talk of drought and drought funding – land management needs to run as a business.	

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**MOUNT BARKER - SESSION 2**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM ~ 12PM 30TH August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky & Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 65 participants were welcomed by the facilitators who set the scene for the session. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- Finding the **balance between conservation and sustainable production** was felt to be important, including taking **a long-term view** of natural resource management. This was highlighted early in the session during the prioritisation exercise, but the group returned to this when discussing board accountabilities later. Participants suggested rather than a 5-year plan for each board (which was felt to be too short when dealing with landscapes), **each board prepares a 20-year vision**, and then has **5-year plans containing actions to help reach that vision**;

- During this session, there were several links made to **other legislation that interrelates** with the NRM Act, including when the legislation conflict against each other. This included **Planning Act** and the **Mining Act**. Climate Change was a priority issue, with a need to draw in the **Climate Change Act**, if there is one.

- The pressure put on biodiversity by **over population** and **urban sprawl** (including its impact on production areas) were highlighted as a frustration in this region by some participants. It was however acknowledged that this is an issue that goes beyond the NRM Act;

- The term **Back to Basics was felt to be too basic**. There are other elements needed to create vibrant biodiversity, such as restoration, propagation, consumption, and more. The activities currently listed under the back to basics principle are not enough;

- Participants were curious as to how the **4 Ministerial appointments** will be selected, with a need to avoid vested interests. Clear criteria would need to be set. Concern was shown around the **Minister appointed Chair**, and whether they'd be just a 'yes' person to the Minister. A suggestion was that the **Chair should be elected by the board**. If the community were to elect 3 representatives on to the board, how will this adequately cover off on the **breadth of industries and interests** that utilise the landscape across a broad region? Fisheries, agriculture, vines, Aboriginal culture all need to be represented and reducing the board to **7 members would limit representation** opportunity. Participants felt it important that consideration be given to how to **attract young people** to the board;

- It was noted that we are at a **20-year low for both federal and state funding** for the environment, how does this government expect to do what needs to be done AND introduce a cap – it was felt that this is almost an impossibility;

- There was some commentary around the relationship between South Australia and other states – particularly relating the **Murray River**. We are affected as a state by decisions and activity that occur upstream;

- Discussion around **boundaries** occurred, with agreement that boundaries shouldn't be seen as "The Great Wall of China" with desire for cross-boundary co-ordination. There was some discussion around catchments being appropriate to consider when deciding boundaries;

- A focus on **pests** (including rabbits and foxes), **soil management** and **weed control** and specific mention of the management of weeds on road reserves (who is responsible – it's not clear in the Act);

- Relating to **soil management**, a participant requested support to manage soil, including putting **carbon back in to the soil**, with on the ground support and funding needed. There needs to also be more support provided to farmers to create things like wind breaks and fire management practice;

- **Partnerships, engagement and empowerment** was another high priority area, including collaboration with industry – farmers, government, volunteers – get all the right people involved. Participants requested **recognition of volunteers**, hoping that the government will respect volunteers and truly engage them. It was also highlighted that partnerships is something currently working well in this region;

- More **long-term funding** was requested, relating to the longer-term plans. **Timing of funding** was discussed, with specific examples of processes taking up to 6 months to receive support for weed control – by which time it is too late, and the weed has gone to seed!

- **Aboriginal partnerships** were a priority;

- **Threatened Species** need consideration;

- Better **support for land managers** was requested, particularly around reducing costs for land holders and providing incentives for good land management practice, particularly for retiring non-viable land;

- **Water management and allocation** was mentioned by two of the small groups as a priority. This included the right to farm, the costs, and also the impact of upstream damming and the impact that this has on biodiversity, such as red gums;

- A large number of participants highlighted how much they valued **NRM Education** and this is currently working very well, particularly in schools. This needs to continue and be enhanced.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

COMPLIANCE	FUNDING
• Lack of enforcement on compliance issues e.g. removal of native vegetation on property or roadsides.	• Proportional, regional levy investment. Where does it go? What is it? How much is available: How much received back to Council from NRM for use? • An ongoing funding commitment where access to funds, information and advice is readily available when needed. • More long term funding in protected areas on and off shore – timing.

	• Access to funds – locally e.g. native vegetation funds; S.E.B. offset criteria (how to promote local offsets). • Continuity of funding for projects. Too often projects (olives e.g. Nurragi Reserve – ex railway corridor) gorse in Totness; Boshoms Reserve – rabbit control – good start but no follow up done to termination of funds. • Funding – equity between community/local government/state.
PESTS, SOIL AND WEEDS • Soil management: health; native vegetation; water courses; erosion management; insectariums; chemical use (appropriate); skilled people. • Weed and pest control – using processes that are not damaging to others; roadside and properties. • Rabbits and foxes: 1080 kills dogs; Pendone kills birds, possums. Need better solutions targeted program. • Road reserves and the onus of responsibility and liability re weed control – tree care. • Woody weed control NRM should access carbon content in soil. • Pest Plant – natural environmental education, local governments, environmental management, and landowner responsibility – legally established. • Land Management – responsibility of pest/plant control.	**ENGAGEMENT/ PARTNERSHIPS/ EMPOWEREMENT** • Finding the balance between conservation and sustainable production – including long term view and strong partnerships (e.g. farmers and conservation sector. • Need to be innovative e.g. farming areas seen as contributing to conservation outcomes. e.g. Climate Change resilience. • Stronger collaboration: Industry; Farmers; Government; All Stakeholders. NOTE: the right people are key to its success. • Community – empowerment; awareness; active education. • Better autonomy to local groups: More empowerment; more of a bottom up approach; NRM to set strategic direction with local groups.
VOLUNTEERS • Trust that this government will respect volunteers. • Trust that this government will truly engage and respect volunteers (ageing and diminishing) not assume we will pick up and cover the retraction of NRM specialists and funding.	**CLIMATE CHANGE** • That NRM will move quickly (and proactively) to respond to climate change – not just to rising sea water levels putting coastal areas at risk in Adelaide. • Climate Change advice – water; vegetation adaptation. • Climate Change – land use and capability analysis – expert advice re species.
PROTECTION OF NATURAL ASSETS • Add the words 'contamination' or risk of contamination in *objects Part 1 – 7 (3) a & b.* • No mining or petroleum activities in National Parks or Marine Parks	**OTHER LEGISLATION** • To take into account the Mining Act and Petroleum Geothermal Act and the risk to natural resources and not let these acts not override the NRM Act (on and off shore).
BOUNDARIES • LGA and NRM boundaries – there is not a hard line between vegetation etc.	**ABORIGINAL NATIONS** • Improve on Aboriginal partnerships and involvement. • Failure of Kungan, Ngarrindjari and Yunnan. • Waymouth Street not engaging with right people (choosing).

	• Failure of Ngarrindgen Regional Authority approach “knowledge’ given from certain families NOT community. • Genuine ongoing engagement across all levels; community groups; councils; landholders; everyone within regions; Aboriginal Groups.
BIODIVERSITY • Vibrant biodiversity – ‘vibrant’ this term is ambiguous – ‘resilience’ preferred.	**WATER** • Upstream damming and impact on biodiversity i.e. Redgums. • Water management and allocation; right to farm; cost to manage; levies.
SUPPORT TO LANDOWNERS • Reduced cost for landholders. • Incentives ($$) for people who are managing land (long term) in an ongoing way – including retiring non-viable land • Including native vegetation and farming land.	

2. WHAT’S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Boards already exist in communities giving good effectiveness.
- Environmental funding to be increased.
- The current NRM Act is functioning well if adhered to. Other Acts must not override the NRM Act.
- Strong partnerships with Non-government sector (NRM and local government).
- Partnerships between NGOs, community and government – joint projects = good outcomes.
- Access to technical support (Land management issues – water course management). Plus revegetation projects to link remnants.
- Focus on education: schools (NRM education); landholders (field days/workshops); Farming Field Days.
- NRM Education: currently working with thousands of students, teachers, parents and the community. This is future proofing and it would be disastrous to lose this.
- Education awareness and presence. Access to NR centre (information leaflets). School: Citizen Science; Ranger programs and Youth Council.
- NRM education.
- Things working well? – Nothing – poor management; interference with farmers; too removed from reality.
- Support from NRM for on-ground activities – for trees please!
- Native vegetation is strong but agriculture is weak!
- Management of Boards: Good people; correct people skilled; not just seat warmers; Collaboration – Government/Regional people.
- What we don’t want to lose:
    - Expertise of NRM and existing staffing.
    - NRM working with landowners – training and expertise development.
    - Focus on sustainable biodiversity/recovery of threatened species.
- Stakeholder workshops – e.g. workshops for community members i.e. visit local landholder and hear directly from them, plus learning skills and processes.
- Current level of support from DEW staff and management at all levels.
- Addressing Pest/Plant issues through targeted funding (to contractors).
- Going back to (prior NRM) Local boards and local compliance.
- Water licensing.
- Landcare – native tree planting; education of schools; community focus; good people.
- Paid NRM staff – vital needs to support volunteers (Volunteers cannot take over role of paid staff).

- Supporting and encouraging volunteers: Equipment; Training; Small grants; On-ground works. Getting people interested in local areas.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Can vested interest ignore science and a wider view beyond their patch?
- If decisions are independent and autonomous is there no oversight by higher authority.
- Excellent – so long as there is decentralised funding to empower the decisions.
- Will only work for small amounts of funding and therefore bigger picture projects/plans will be missed.
- Don't let decentralised decision making become a failure to make decisions, passing the buck. In some instances a centralised decision than compromises conflicting legislation is required.
- Centralised decision making is crucial in many areas, not all. Allow community group authority to implement programs, many of which need guidance centrally.
- Don't let flexibility provide a loophole or let-out for people who don't have protecting the environment as a priority.
- Hopefully not views as a means to reduce people's ability to question bigger 'overarching' issues and keep them to 'small local' ones (still important) but at the moment each board reports to a state board (?).
- If you decentralise decision making negotiate allocation of responsibility authority and resources. Apply principle of subsidiarity (multi-level governance).

b. A simple and accessible system

- Please avoid a 'one size fits all' or 'broad brush' approach which disadvantages the situation that is different from the majority.
- Simple trigger system which lists the NRM obligations for activity or land owner.
- Transparent decision making is essential and environment needs a voice.
- Meaningful interaction with planning system with revegetation to decision making process for development.
- Those recognised with authority should be heard at Natural Resources Commitment in Parliament.
- Open source data sharing to support community decision making.
- Use technology particularly decision making models.
- Reduce red tape for volunteers especially WHS requirements – too onerous.
- Having landholders set in place before funding 'hits the ground' minimises the potential engagement. Unable to get neighbours on board as sites are set. Need to have flexibility.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- As sovereign people we need to be engaged with. To say you spoke with one person from a subset or one family group or one organisation is not enough.
- Support and empower Landcare groups. Provide resources and autonomy.
- If there are geological hazards and activities such as mining or petroleum risks to the air, soil and water these should not be allowed as communities need to be protected.
- Land managers and volunteers need support – technical expertise, strategic planning, WHS etc.
- Support indigenous ranger program. $$$ needed to make it to the ground.

- This also needs to take into account education, skill building and enabling communities to build the capacity of future generations.
- Agree but this will only work if there are paid staff to support them.
- Shared responsibility based on scientific data and community priorities – all for the longer term viability of water, soil, native species.
- Climate monitoring to asses impacts on fertility, sustainable food production and water resources.
- Not all landowners have the expertise/resources to manage the land appropriately. They need support for this! And accountability to do the right thing by us all.
- Mapping system where landholders can enter their observations regarding their 'patch' which is accessible to all.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Recreational trails to get a mention as all over the state.
- Built heritage (relationship with NRM).
- Intangible heritage 'how; we do what we do – landscape cultural values.
- Model landscape scale biodiversity actions – there is too much ineffective piecemeal action.
- Land capability analysis – below, on ground and climate trends should form the basis of land use and management decisions. Principles supported.
- Need to take into account the sea – potable aquifers in SA go under sea, mining and petroleum on either area risk both areas.
- Recognition that agricultural land contributes to conservation outcomes. Whole of landscape approach needs to include both vegetation and farming – private and public.
- Landscape is a bad name. It is above the surface – we need to take note and look after what is below the surface.
- More protection for native plants. Trees over a certain size are protected. We also need to protect things like Banksia and Burgaria.
- OK in relatively intact landscapes but restoration of very degraded landscapes is a very long term process growing out from smaller sites over decades until they work together across the landscape – a long term process not a short term project.

e. Back to basics

- This scares me. Let's not forget what we have learned.
- Sounds like a populist election slogan.
- Biodiversity and threatened species important.
- Multi-year activities – continued follow up of works – 12 months doesn't change enough.
- Protect our reservoirs, our drinking water, from public recreational water activities. Risks are too great.
- Does landscape scale restoration mean 'ecological restoration' or something else? If it is ecological restoration then science and practice are the basis and work needs a very long term vision.
- Let's disband Ngarrindjeri approach.
- Let's disband Waymouth Street or at least get rid of dead wood.
- Let's apply what is already in the Act (NRM) including Chapter 3 Part 1 object particularly (3).
- Can't assume that managing pests and weeds will result in resilient biodiversity with only 10% remnant vegetation left there will need to be ongoing active management and restoration needed.
- Need focussed efforts on threatened species and communities over the long term.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Independence of state government. • Autonomy.	• Good community representation. • Chance to build trust with communities. • Fresh start. • Encourage younger generations.	• Insufficient information to make comment or decision.
Table 4		
• Good that there are community elected members.		

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• If appointed on basis of expertise. • Need for skills based: what criteria/qualifications/experience would be required and will this criteria be in the legislation? • Role of local councils? Are they considered in order to involve local government in environmental management and board representations: • Elected – expensive and complex, uncertain voting. • Suggest current system of ad, invitation to be considered, and include details of community involvement in natural resource management and on-ground local expertise – selection by local government or selection panel.	• Members need to be skilled in NRM, the location and community concerns. • Self-interest. • Independence of the Chair person. • Wrong people will retain positions. • Having the right funding allocation to make a difference.	• How do we ensure the majority will be independent of government? – 4 appointed and 3 community. • Not use confidentiality to opt out. • Term of election/appointments 2 or 3 years? • Are all positions paid? • How do we ensure strong partnership? • That this board is prepared to work with community! • Skills of 3 elected members to include: industry; community; public servant (under government control); qualifications (relevant).
Table 4		
• Why change the current system? Seems no different. • Government appointed members can over-rule community members. • Chair should be appointed by Board not by Ministers. • Too few people for larger representatives with lots of differing issues and wide area to cover. • Structure needs to reflect needs of the individual region. • How are community members elected? To avoid vested interests and conflict of interests. How will voting process happen? Will it be compulsory? Who will administer it? Why are Board members appointed by Minister? One only.		

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3

• Use existing plans as basis (do not reinvent the wheel). • Either on the Board or supporting staff e.g. soil/water/vegetation management skills, all scientific expertise in botany and biology and related subjects. • Resourcing Board's activities. • Boards must be independent.	• Robust regulations regarding appointment to the board. • Accountability. • Measurable objectives/performance indicators. • Exceptional consistent communication across all stakeholders. • Collaboration between all 9 boards.	• Ensure all appointed members are independent. • Independent Chair. • Review body sits above board. • Transparency. • Public access to board meeting: public can listen and observe; not use 'confidentiality' card. • Re-election based on every 2nd member up for re-election biannually.
Table 4		
• Accountability of Board to avoid being stacked. • Have a representative from different sectors to represent different interests in each region: Agriculture – dry land, irrigation, horticulture; Environmental; Indigenous; Local Government; Fisheries; State Government; Wine Industry; Youth. • Technical support provided by government staff experts. • Sub-committees could provide specialist advice.		

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• General Manager must be competent. • Accessible report cards (real time) for the community. • All reports structured the same. • Regional and state level reporting so regions can be compared (using consistent metrics).	• Boards will need adequate funding to assess, monitor and evaluate programs. • 5 year plans alone are not enough! • Reviews that include expertise from across region. • Training for board members and access to experts when needed. • Unfair to hold them accountable to outcomes they aren't resourced for. • What about qualifications or knowledge or relevant skills, if citizen science skills. Sometimes people without degrees have more knowledge.	• Employ a General Manager who lives within boundary or not – value to both options. • Accountability.

Table 4
• Additional funding for under resourced boards sourced by various sources (including state budget). • Annual Reports – define deliverables in 5 year plan. • Scientific natural resources staff appointed to advise board. Track process of targets.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Consistency in setting the levies across all boards. • Concern that regions with fewer levy payers will have less resources – but have larger areas to manage. • Concern that back to basics may be an excuse for cost shifting and laying responsibility on local boards. • Boards should have longer term vision than 5 years (although 5 year projects are OK to move towards long vision). • More support (protection) for volunteers and groups like NGOs who partner for projects e.g. inductions, training, tickets, WHS and insurance.	• How can board be accountable to landscape if they are separated further? • Overlapping concerns e.g. in Green Adelaide with Stormwater Management Authority and Brownhill, Keswick Creek flooding. • Need the 3 groups to meet for cohesion e.g. if pollution from Terramin mining impacts water. If streams from Adelaide Hills are polluted groups down-stream should be allowed a say. • What decision does the Environmental Minister base for selection of the people on for his 4 of choice? • Appointments – how is there protection against vested interests? • Are political donors exempt for boards?	• Are they paid positions? • Are the positions advertised?
Table 4		
• Concerns over political appointments. • Role of local government representation needs clarification. • Cross section of skills important.		

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond

Table 1	Table 2
1. Politically influenced boundaries as opposed to biodiversity/environments. 2. Proportioned Investment i.e. Adelaide population **vs** Rural areas. Is it based on population or needs? 3. Remove boundaries and tackle the issues of	1. Maintain catchment boundaries e.g. Mt Barker stay with SAMDB. Keeping source and sea within same board. 2. Include whole of one conservation park within a simple NRM region. 3. NRM boundaries should not be impermeable – activities, communication, funding should flow across boundaries. Working across boundaries critical. 4. Levy funds must be spread across the state. If Mt Barker and C & GV kept within new Adelaide regions, other regions will have major cut to levy base.

importance from topic based Boards – be more holistic. 4. Education/community programs on key features of your area – history, production etc.	5. Clear principles/expectations about working together across NRM boundaries. 6. No more boundaries and no more $ spent on changing logos etc.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Unify LGA decisions on environment (needs overriding decision making role).	• Watercourse rehabilitation to moderate impact at coast (reduce high nutrient, turbidity, pollution on coast – need to rehabilitate seagrass). • More appropriate street trees but still prioritising need for biodiversity – unground more powerlines and use bundled cable where possible to facilitate need for large trees. • More WSUD by prescription – must do for developers. Retrofit when renewal needed. Worlds 'best practice' not more bad development.	• Urban biodiversity (including private homes, public space – significant trees to be included, parklands) – ensuring biodiversity/habitat is kept, enhanced and encouraged. This takes into account planning and offsets. • Fauna in the city – ensuring wildlife corridors, including native plant species and connectivity with existing corridors (i.e. Linear Park). • Education – critical and interaction with the environment. (ensuring kids are not scared/apprehensive/ lack of understanding of the environment.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Coastal management. • Education is fantastic – but needs to include landscapes education not personal/school based environment projects.	• Potential to reveal sections of Adelaide's 6 creeks (Brownhill to Montacute) for public enjoyment and biodiversity.	• Green Adelaide is confined to metro Adelaide. It's good that outer lying areas will be grouped into Plains & Valleys and Hills & Fleurieu.

	• Need to ensure watercourses all provide continuous biodiversity corridors.	• Puts responsibility within the Adelaide region for urban quality of life. • Will enable the recognition of value of non-native species in Adelaide urban area (e.g. this still can be valuable habitat and food).

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Street trees isn't NRM. • Parklands should stay with LGA. • National Parks funding should be DEW not Landscapes – NRM levy can't stretch that far. • Where is reference to Climate Change and greenhouse emissions reduction Act 2007 and EPA act? • Need realistic funding to support all these aims.	• Climate Change/sea arise storm events impacts on coastal infrastructure (sea walls, groins etc.) must come from a separate dedicated budget not Green Adelaide budget. Some land acquisition will be needed. • Environmental funds must not be used to replace/defend coastal property and infrastructure. • There is good sense in retaining catchments as boundaries: Western (Adelaide high rainfall – reservoir catchment) Eastern & Fleurieu (catchment to River and Lake Alexandrine).	• Fully minister appointed board. • Levies, majority of, will be raised in Adelaide and this will see most money spent in Green Adelaide rather than spread across regions.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	**START DOING**	**CONTINUE DOING**
Table 1		
• Under funding the Department of Environment. • Reinstate 3-4% of budget allocation and do not cut.	• A combination of state and levy funding. • Involve young people through schools and tertiary programs. • Consider including youth representative as an observer on Board meetings. • Greater level of compliance for weed control.	• Regular community fora support friends of Parks. • Training sessions in Landcare. • Education, education, education.
Table 2		
• Saying you have consulted to the Aboriginal community,	• Ensure that when engaging with the Aboriginal community, this is with all	• Workshops for landholders.

when you have just spoken to one person. • Micro-managing regional communications i.e. radio interviews, press releases, social media and TV interviews. This is community driven, and needs to be localised and relevant. • Facebook posts should not have to go past Adelaide based person, for a local page/post.	subsets and family groups (and multiple people within). • Outsource delivery to local NGOs, volunteers, NFPs – particularly specialised groups e.g. LAP.	• Funding of technical expertise and support (e.g. plant survey, soil survey). • Education in schools – Youth Environmental Council (separate). • Citizen Science.
Table 3		
• Entering private property without notice or permission. • Less of the levy spent on administration and sitting fees.	• New strategy to engage youth and those not engaged. • Invite input from those who pay the levy. • Education needed. • Results driven process (not job creation as the MDB Plan has fostered).	• Revegetation work in catchments and on creek lines. • Continue to communicate with and encourage landowners to protect, restore and provide linked patches of native vegetation.
Table 4		
• Ignoring science. • Charging people to come into National Parks (already paid for in our taxes).	• Listening and adhering to current GPA Act, NRM Act, climate greenhouse reduction Act. • Take into account NUD (National Vendors Declaration) and implications that threaten it. • Increase the numbers of compliance staff to ensure adherence to environmental legislation (e.g. keep feral animals out of National Parks and Conservation Parks).	• Agriculture – farmers at paddock level. • Funding volunteer groups and listening to them.
Table 5		
• Department focus (Adelaide). • Confusion of roles/department. • Unnecessary work (paperwork). • Letters – introduce email and soft communication.	• One point of contact. • Educating; kids, community; business; all stakeholders. • Communicate to help not hinder (fear of reprisal). • Encourage involvement and ownership.	• Landcare. • Supporting community volunteers. • Governance. • Engagement (like today).

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• CPI – good as relates to economic conditions.	• Directly indexed to federal politician pay rises and allowance increases. • Not supporting independent body to set increases.	• Good for the rate payer, perhaps not good for the regions. Due to lack of transparency in respect to proportional levy investment.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Support this approach but: the environment needs priority funding from the state's central revenue and dependent on levies (and all the inequities that levies imply).	• Climate Change will have major impact on people and economy and agriculture. We need to be able to respond and adapt and this will require increasing $. • Rate capping would stop frivolous expenses. • Federal and State government environmental funding going down – how will natural resource management be paid for if levies get capped? • Need certainty of funding.	

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• As long as doesn't detract from local projects.	• Support for cross regional and state wide projects. • How are state wide or cross regional priorities? e.g. all boards could meet together regularly (6 monthly or annually) to agree on priorities working across boundaries.	• Yes, but don't get stuck in 'states' – we are one nation. • Environment first – we all live here. • Appropriate action not just words and publications.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Yes – should be science and issue based.	• Funding to cross boundaries. • Levy to be spent in other regions where levy base is lower. • Clear priorities for biggest impact on biodiversity. • Consider the ecological footprint of population.	

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 1</td><td>Table 2</td><td>Table 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Need to know basis – total levy collected for state.</td><td>• This fund should go up (annually) at same rate as levies.
• Support this fund.
• Ensure this $2M is not a decrease in the mount currently available for volunteers and community.</td><td>• Try it and see what works. Be aware of divers needs/sharing.
• Keep on with what is working well and work to improve the gaps/faults.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 4</td><td colspan="2">Table 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Refer to state's overall budget contribution for major issues.
• Consider out of region volunteers (also out of councils areas e.g. Gammou Ranges) who need to support to travel to remote areas where local volunteer population is limited.</td><td colspan="2">• $2M is completely inadequate.
• Must be increased but not out of levy – must come out of revenue.
• Environment is not a non-essential service.
• We won't survive without a healthy environment.
• Timing of funding doesn't work for conservation projects i.e. financial year with natural cycles.
• Less on glossy brochures and more on action.</td></tr>
</table>

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Environmental destruction due to development (including individual trees) stopped. Increase in native vegetation cover. Weed infestations greatly reduced. Public awareness and behaviour improved in regard to native vegetation and how weeds destroy native bush. Woody weeds no longer sold in Garden Centres etc. (i.e. broom).	Increased public use/involvement in the environment, greater understanding of the importance.	Happy people – knowing they had an input to the landscape, Landscape – adapting methods to changes of weather.
Solid base structure created that will support biodiversity, production and lifestyle. Emphasis moved from administration and policy to on-ground change and improvements.	Primary production is not only quantified as yield but includes a measure of land health.	Public survey/comments – has $ spent shown in landscape improvement. Have key measures (tangible been met – if not - why not? How do we proceed from there?
Regenerative projects have been rolled out across the state under the new Act and science backed research is telling us we are having	All ecological restoration in SA is based on best knowledge and practices with long term commitment to an ongoing	The reform will have been about increasing funding and ensuring compliance of the current act and voting it the act that overrides other acts (i.e. mining).

a nett positive impact on natural resources across the state. Commendation is received from government and community across the state borders.	process rather than short term project funding. Ecological restoration and management is not a branch of horticulture and landscaping, it is not a program of evert tree planting.	A survey of NRM staff on their ability to do their job to the best of their ability has shown an increase over time.
Measurable increase in native vegetation and biodiversity across each landscape boards.	Climate Change responses. More trees, species and habitat increase. Local environmental heroes. Support for relevant NGOs	It is not part of this reform but I do hope that our reservoirs **vs** our drinking water will be protected from public recreational water activities. Deliberate or accidental contamination is too great a risk. We have many beautiful nearby beaches for water activities.
Funding reflects the real value of the natural environment to the viability of future communities. That broader issues/policy strategies are linked to NRM/Landscapes – especially population and planning/development control. Functional, multi-led governance arrangements are in place.	Collaboration – engaged communities of all demographics (age, race, sex, employment channels etc.) re NRM. Both farm users and other stakeholders working together to look after our natural resources. Focus should be a mindset for all 'Preserve and Protect" our natural resources for all future generations of farmer, environmentalists and communities.	Challenges for sustainable worldview values and behaviours have been established for a sustainable state. Population is under control, ecojustice is well understood and promoted. A vision for a sustainable state/country has been agreed upon and is being implemented. We now have a community of learners with compassion for natural and human systems (the cultural commons) in the geosystem and biosphere supportive of human/natural systems. Community working towards sociable and ecological justice and sustainable communities. Our politicians are excellent role models with Eco science wisdom. Long term (rather than short term) thinking.
Verify a core issue and establish a long term program to resolve it. Access the progress made to resolve the issue and its benefit to the broader community.	Healthy River Murray. Water resources secured. Native flora and fauna bouncing back. Tighter controls on population having a positive effect – lesser impact on the environment. Healthier, happier, more productive environments. Captured the positive imagination of the younger generations input.	The onus of responsibility and liability on roadsides is determined. Between a landholder and the current obligation to control declared weeds on road verges. Currently it is still understood that the NRM Act 2004 directs the NRM Board to direct the control and the respective council government's permission. Where does the landowner or person sit legally, undertaking the works in this situation?
The full care of the Murray and our areas of parks in our state. Full thought in the Development Plans for our Hills and farmland. Interaction between all bodies involved.	That our land and natural environment is thriving. That we operate co-operatively as a nation of states and regions. That the Murray Darling Plan works for all its regions. That cheating and self-profit is no more.	Rate payers fully on-board with paying NRM levy and completely understand why the levy is important and why it needs to increase annually.
Community groups have been supported without gaps in funding, to continue the support they provide to local landholders.	Zero complaints. Less pest animals and plants. Respect for native wildlife.	Being re-elected.

There has been no community groups closed.		
The levy payers understand and support the value achieved from this act – not 'penny pinching' value but a sustainable future in terms of natural resource use.	When people stop complaining about an issue.	Community contentment (via media) that issues met.
Less cost to land owners.	Happy farmers and conservationist.	All endangered and threatened species populations are back to sustainable limits.
Politicians, NGOs and community all recognise the environment as of the highest priority for all of us to become engaged in and do something about it. No more political footballs. No more second rate status. It is important.	Landscapes that are resilient, enhanced and improved. And a community that understands, appreciates, celebrates and engages with these landscapes.	Youth are aware of Natural Resource/Landscape issues in their local areas. Landholders/community feel they are supported by government to manage their natural environments.
Everyone – large and small are treated fairly and equitably.	A significant reduction in declared weeds across the Adelaide Hills.	Gosh, we had most things in the NRM Act all along. Now, I have managed to confirm it.
People are engaged and informed and acting upon the new NRM Act.	A cohesive happy workforce well qualified staff in the DEW department with excellent community support and feedback.	Measured improvements in biodiversity.
Youth and community engagement leading to new innovation preparing us for Climate Change and sustainable natural ecosystems.	People have not been complaining about the NRM bullying going on.	That more 'real' funding has been devoted to 'our environment' reflected by: More Rangers and personnel (paid). Real increase in on ground (volunteer group) support. Improved NRM education in schools.
As a small primary producer I wish all the success with the implementation of the new conservation change.		

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Equalise funding to support under resourced remote regions and provide expertise to local groups.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**MOUNT BARKER – SESSION 1**
TIME/DATE:	**2-5PM 29th August 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Steve**

A group of approximately 30 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Focus Areas

- Define biodiversity – it requires a better definition and is not clearly articulated in the material to date. The discussion paper is relatively silent on the need to have Aboriginal voices to support biodiversity and needs a stronger focus in the Act. Biodiversity needs a workable, practical and operational definition.
- Where does water prescription and management fit? The current Act is poorly written and water needs to be reviewed as part of this transforming process.
- The new Act needs to ensure it addresses threatening processes that are being instigated through climate change
- Responsibilities in managing land need to be better extended to large Government landholders and the Crown and they need to be held accountable.

Planning

- What is the status of the current plans? Will they be rolled over? A lot of work has gone into these and this would not want to be lost in the transition.
- A review process needs to be built into the transition to the new Act. It should be reviewed after three years to ascertain whether improvements have been made and advances to resolve current issues.

Boards

- Board membership – it's not a popularity contest. Board appointments need to be made carefully – individuals need to have the right skills and knowledge. Essentially board members should be selected based on skills, location and diversity (including age). A community election process could be costly and result in 3 appointments of the same type of people and thereby missing out on an opportunity to increase diversity. Succession planning and good governance needs to be considered in the context of Board skills and appointment process. Consideration could be given to community nominations but appointments are made based on an interview process to ensure the right skills are appointed. The ratios between Ministerial appointment (4) and community elected (3) was also the subject of conjecture and debate.

Boundaries

- Boundaries – Given the catchments throughout the Adelaide Mount Lofty region, dividing the region into two separate boards could be problematic. Consider one board with two sub boards to ensure continuity and catchment management. However, whatever the boundaries there needs to be good collaboration across the boundaries, especially with respect to planning.
- Consider how the Hills Face Zone is managed and whether it is better placed in the Hills region.
- Could also consider aligning boundaries with other Government regional boundaries making it easier to do business.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

FUNDING: APPLICANT PROCESS FOR GROUPS/CONTINUITY • Funding continuity. • Reduce time spent applying for grants. • Greater amount of funds hitting ground via NGOs/NFPs. • More secure funding from NGOs/NFPs. • Retain levy but ensure that it is used wisely.	**TRANSITION TO NEW MODEL** • Transition period need to be managed better than last time.
INTEGRATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS • More integration between Government departments, local government and communities.	**COMPLIANCE** • NRM compliance more proactive and supported by more $ to assist landholders – joint effort.
CLIMATE CHANGE • Build Climate Change considerations into everything.	**BOARDS: BENEFIT OF DECENTRALISATION** • Boards – promoting and implementing best practices. • Show how decentralisation will enable landscape approach e.g. cross boundary. • Have small boards that are autonomous, have a plan and outsource delivery. Do reporting = nimble and effective and efficient. • Look to use hosting arrangements and proven delivery partners.
ENGAGEMENT/SUPPORT • Toolkit for landowners to assist their work in managing the natural environment. • Funding for remote Aboriginal communities for NRM projects. • Target other cultures e.g. ESL and Z generation for environmental involvement.	**BOUNDARIES** • Scale and boundaries are appropriate to shared priorities e.g. Adelaide separate to Hills & Fleurieu. • Landscape is target, but sometimes local or regional (e.g. bandicoots and kangaroos).

- Strengthen bush care and water catchment management through $$ and education of landowners.
- Proactive – community engagement: Facebook; community groups; email.

URBAN SPRAWL

- Protection of land from build development.

WATER

- Water allocation in Act.
- Water prescription impacts on production.

EFFECTIVE SPEND

- More cost effective spending on on-ground works.

BIODIVERSITY

- Conserve rare and threatened species. Flora and fauna and insects.
- Policy and funding to promote SA native flora in horticulture and gardens.
- Stronger legislation to conserve existing native vegetation and re-instate native corridors.
- Don't forget frogs, bats, micro insects, other invertebrates, mosses, fungus, micros, and forbs – the small stuff.
- More explicit on biodiversity: not specific; was tacked on to 2004 NRM Act; more integrated; more landscape based.
- No species lost?? – What is landscape?
- Cross tenure/coordinated pest plant management – integrated with fire management to support biodiversity conservation.
- Ensure adequate focus on ecosystem maintained and restored.
- Inclusive of all native biodiversity and their biota interconnects: animals; plants; fungi; other organisms that are tiny yet critical for healthy environments.

LEVY DISTRIBUTION

- Redistribute $$ to ¾ of the state's landscapes and species with low human population e.g. SAAL and AW and EP.
- In recognising the differences between regions (issues, conservation values, Rate Base) ensure equitable funding between Board areas.
- Better resourcing of NRM.

EVIDENCE BASED

- Understanding how the environment is working and best timing for what is needed.
- Evidence based to improve function, not just symptoms of pests.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABLILITY

- Sustainable agriculture.

BACK TO BASICS (But needs to be limited to biodiversity

- Pest control (plants and animals) include over abundant species.
- Landscape – large enough – include public and private land.
- $ Funds including for declared plants.
- Help and support in weed and pest control (e.g. inactive olives – interested new landowners.
- Renewed focus on pest and weed management and soil management.

BUSHFIRE MANAGMENT

- Bushfire protection must be better integrated and account for landscape management plans. Plans currently are not holistic. Biodiversity and bushfire management need to be carefully worked together.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>PARTNERSHIPS</u>

• Current partnerships with local groups – maintain and improve.
• Delivery through high performing well established NGOs e.g. in South-Eastern Fleurieu Lower Lakes. Do not want to lose due to any boundary changes, but rather, support further as a key delivery partner.
• Working with farming systems groups to achieve a greater 'bang for buck'.</td>
<td><u>EDUCATION PROGRAMS</u>

• Useful website and resources – NRM education.
• Education for next generation.
• Environmental education has touched 100s of children – working well.
• School programs through curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>FUNDED PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE</u>

• Good to have a levy for environment.
• Most projects with communities that are funded are working well.</td>
<td><u>STAFF</u>

• Local Project Officers allocated to area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2"><u>ANNUAL ANIMAL CONTROL GRANTS</u>

• Annual urban animal and plant control grants (AMLR) also other landholder grants in AMLR are good ways to engage and support landholders to undertake works but need to ensure 'buy-in' by landholders.</td>
</tr>
</table>

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Good idea, need good governance, lots of potential for conflicts of interest e.g. awarding contract works to local friends, family etc.
- Yes, this is sound. Regional communities however must not forget the emerging science.
- Doesn't work if you don't have the funding to back this up (e.g. NRM levies should not only be used in the region they are collected, as will result in distribution of funding based on population and not the strategic need of natural resources at a state-wide level).
- Back to the future? What went wrong last time? Lessons learned? Why did they centralise/merge?
- Do you mean 'collective' decision making – 'clearer; decision making or do you mean 'distinct' decision making? You need an overarching strategy taken to the local level.
- And people on the Board specifically responsible for making sure funding and projects align.
- Continue to work with and further support successful NGOs/NFPs e.g. LAP groups and regional Landcare in SAMBD

b. A simple and accessible system

- Small boards deliver plan via others e.g. NGOs.
- Yes, it is a good system.
- But not at the expense of scientific-based and strategic decision making.
- Red tape has a purpose!
- Over simplifying the processes can lead to setting a dangerous precedent by allowing decision making by unqualified people.
- Still need to require accountability for outcomes.
- Simple doesn't always mean good or effective – don't dumb down a very complex area.
- Local boards with local plans – accountability.
- More transparent funding process, prioritisation.
- Remember the 'working' season for NRM does not equal the financial year – allow $$ to run through autumn – winter – spring. $s often arrive in November!!

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Need programs to engage those that aren't passionate about environmental issues. Tap into other key drivers e.g. for weed management – biodiversity, fuel load reduction and land productivity. X4
- NGOs/NFPs well placed to deliver as linked closely with landholders.
- Must be scientific based with ecological principles not what is 'popular' with locals.
- Only yes if majority of board is community and diversity of community.
- Yes, only if the landowners and community are working for the greater good of the environment. Our health depends on the health of the natural world. X4
- Make ecology (environment is now meaningless) top line of triple bottom line.
- Assist all landowners – not just those who belong to Landcare groups etc.
- Active community engagement.
- Identify community champions – sometimes recalcitrant land managers.
- Strengthening partnerships with community groups.
- Local has value, but an ecological principle is needed to ensure people working towards a shared vision and there is equitable resourcing aimed at achieving a goal. X2
- Needs to link with biodiversity goals about rehabilitation, restoration of water, soil and plant/animal management.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Look to successful models e.g. Local Action Planning/Regional Landcare in SAMDB region.
- A tenure blind approach.
- Active partnerships.
- Scientific basis/on-ground achievements.
- Need to define 'Landscape". Is it a catchment? Is it a region or something else?
- 4-6 year programs.
- Practical realistic monitoring – not BCM or bushrat for short timeframes.
- Good idea for weed management e.g. Mt Lofty Rangers – common weeds across region amongst different landholders.
- Focus on some large scale projects affecting many, many landowners.
- Need to strengthen communities.
- What happens to threatened species and local problems in a 'landscape' approach?
- Whole of landscape requires multi-year committed funding.

e. Back to basics

- Unless something changes on the ground (water) nothing has really changed.
- Back to basics should do this.
- Education and allowance for Youth Voice
- Control of pests to help biodiversity needs to be targeted e.g. Bush Care as well as pest maintenance for agriculture or water courses. Biodiverse plantings for climate (CO_2 sequestration) can achieve multiple objectives – where does this revegetation fit?

- It seems government are just undoing the NRM Act to what it was prior. NRM = more than pests, water and soil. Needs to include biodiversity as this is not covered by other Acts (Native Vegetation Ace, EPBC Act don't cover biodiversity e.g. biodiversity is not a synonym for plants and animals).
- If it is truly integrated a holistic – if can't be as simple as soil, water and pests.
- There were many issues prior to integrated NRM (e.g. duplicated resources and conflicting messages give to landholders).
- These focus 'themes' are components of biodiversity management, but do not address all of the issues. Biodiversity management represents much more than this.
- Better to focus on aims of Vibrant Biodiversity (focus on what we want not the assets symptoms) – evidence based, landscape/or more appropriate scale depending on asset, how system is functioning and needs to be improved. (May need pest management, or reducing overabundant natives like kangaroos might be more effective) depends on what we most value and evidence.
- Look forward to it – more emphasis on weeds, soil and water is a sound approach. Weed control in remnant vegetation can have the biggest environmental benefit **vs** revegetation.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Numbers workable.	• Need 7 diverse members. • Better a board (broad based) than none.	• Hard to tell.
Table 4		
• No comment made.		

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• What people will be appointed by Minister? • Qualification? Position?	• Balance may not be achieved by election. • Election costly, divisive and likely not deliver results. • Skills, experience and location based. • Need succession planning. • Cost – election funds better spent on ground works. • Needs to be monitored and KPIs established.	• Election process. • Criteria for members. • Local councils should elect one of them to create equity. • What vetting process for community members to be competent/? Landowner. • Aboriginal member? • Let's make one member must be < 25 years old.
Table 4		
• Government representation is equal.		

• Community elected members don't end up being a popularity contest.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Qualified Board members – science; engagement. • Criteria for elected members – demonstrated experience in NRM or property management. • Members must be 'champion' of the issues not the people.	• Need to be skills, location and experience based NOT by election. • Monitoring KPIs, accountability for outcomes (or lack of them). • Seek to tap into existing (current) board members knowledge base. • Review in 3 years.	• KPIs for members how do you evaluate board and member effectiveness. • It's not all about $$. • Diversity in personalities and strengths but passionate about biodiversity and NRM. • Interview process. • How do boards work together?? Seamless.
Table 4		
• Appropriate skill set and experience and diverse locations.		

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1
• Ensure measurable: clear targets; simple targets; easy to collect data; collating data/evaluation. • Whole of landscape targets e.g. level of remnant/threatened species. • Adequate $ for evaluation and monitoring. • Equitable distribution of levies based on natural resources not population. • Comparison of levies between regions in the boards have discretion over these – will be inequitable to low population regions.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1
• Greater transparency on how $ spent and results. • Broader guidance around General Manager Salaries and number of Project Officers. (State-wide guidelines). • Outsourcing transparent work in partnership = possible conflict e.g. are tenders required procurement (red tape is good). • Hope no requirements for Boards to get money from outside sources. • Staff selection requirements – clear rationale for skills and experience; different staff backgrounds; appropriate staff skill sets.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
1. Ensure catchments as well as biodiversity are considered in settling boundaries along with communities of interest e.g. social, economic, ecological and planning. Co-operative existing plans? If not will cost a lot and duplicate effort therefore review and establish plans efficiently. 2. Query the number of boards e.g. Plains & Valleys to Nth/Yk. Fleurieu to SAMDB = 7 total and Green Adelaide **vs** 9 plus Green Adelaide. 3. Representatives – need to ensure appropriate people are appointed. Is the balance right e.g. 3 community/4 government? NB: Elections or selected. 4. Need to ensure flow to local projects regardless of boundaries. Ensure delivery via existing well-established organisations. 5. Sub regions? Can there be a 'super Region' with sub regions underneath to deliver? e.g. SAMDB and Adelaide combined? Then sub regions?

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

Table 1	Table 2
• Weeds – control/prevention. • Appropriate greening with SA native flora species. • Corridors and coastal strip – water/sea; flora and fauna; rail/roadsides.	• Stormwater pollution of Gulf St Vincent. • WSUD

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

Table 1	Table 2
• Focus on urban environment and liveability. • Local relevant focus on urban biodiversity.	• Urban environment raised profile.

• Potential to bring NRM to your backyard/every neighbourhood. • Bring local councils and government together. • Captive audience for education about SA.	

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Levy raised needs to be used elsewhere – higher biodiversity needs elsewhere. • Governance – needs a different model compared to other regions. • Focus on higher socio-economic areas not on culturally diverse and lower socio-economic areas. • Urban park fringe areas.	• Local pettiness e.g. street trees drop leaves etc.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

Table 1
• Not a bad thing to have competition to access money. • Looks OK – but need to look at landscapes of national significance. • Contributions from other states/Federal/SA/external sources. KI, Murray. • While objective is to reduce red tape, this lacks capping levy.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and State wide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

Table 1
• This makes it focused on individual regions rather than SA as a state. • Landscape priorities fund: ongoing – term 4 to 6 years – continually work over same landscape over long period of time. • Disconnect between those who hold the purse and those who make the application.

• $2M is nothing – how will it be distributed? • Annual funding cycle is out of sync with on-ground work – continuity.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year state wide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual state wide fund?

Table 1
• Current state **vs** future state – how does it work currently? How much come in now and how is it spent? And then we can judge whether this is a better way. • % of federal funding and state funding? • Priorities fund = advisory board – needs science, and representation from each board OR independence.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Positive measurable and visual changes in condition of assets being managed, especially biodiversity.	Heritage agreement grants re-instated external from Grassroots funding including fencing fund.	All boards are appointed. All administration support in place. Boards have consulted with their communities and in process of drafting Landscape Plans. Previous NRM plans have been absorbed into Landscape Plans.
Focus on real Landscape Scale Projects.	More funding is directed to NGOs/Community/NFPs for projects spanning greater than one year. More urban levy $ to other regions.	Large scale landscape projects: Big on-ground achievement; Commitment maintaining projects; Long term integration of agencies, landowners etc. Big improvements to water, soil, weed infestations. Local knowledge increase in the basics. Cost of environmental works are competitive (unit coast with quality).
Retain partnerships etc. that are doing well – structure under the boards. Rolling plans. Biodiversity mentioned due to consultation.	Measurable gains – flora, fauna and weed and pest management.	Level of ministerial people measure.

Increase in biodiversity across the board. No loss of current biodiversity.	All community know and understand the priorities in landscape management and changes are evident, promoted and celebrated.	Key accountabilities measurable and increased: Biodiversity. Funding. Project plans. Skills to manage/co-ordinate locally.
Not wasting money on re-creating logos/websites/resources/management plans. Completed with minimal cost and interruptions to staff, landholders, NGOs and community groups. Boards still operating in a holistic and integrated manner with staff communicating across areas of expertise.	Where the previous skill sets are? Lost? Or retained and of use? Prune dead wood, not dedicated ecologists!	Too early to tell. Do you still have your job – if not …… Try attending each board and asking them.
Existing/remaining farmland is protected from built development and contains linked bushland porches. Landscape scale means less not more division of catchments.	Some industries will have to give way to less/lower water use e.g. vines. How many is enough?	

ASSORTED NOTES FROM THE FLOOR – TAKEN BY STEVE

- Define biodiversity – needs better definition – don't focus on symptoms but on the how.
- Define landscape.
- Paper is relatively silent on Aboriginal voices to support biodiversity – needs to be strong in the Act and state wide.
- Need a workable practical, operational definition (have been discussing for decades).
- Status of current plans – will they be rolled over? A lot of work linked to Climate Change – don't lose. Reporting structures.

WATER:

- Don't disassociate land from the water resource.
- Current Act is poorly prepared and is based around the Murray system and not relevant to the landscape.
- Where does this plan leave water prescription?
- Western watershed – is it on hold?
- Easter watershed has been done – has it been abandoned?

NRM Act:

Needs to deal more adequately in threatening processes being brought into play through Climate Change – needs not be silent.

GOVERNMENT LANDHOLDERS

Needs to be brought in and be better managed and Crown Land.

MEMBERSHIP

- Not a popular contest – must be strict criteria.
- All appointed by Minister – skills; location; diversity – demographic.
- Act current knowledge within Board.
- Aboriginal representation.
- Elections could end up with 3 of the same.

- Costly.
- Consider success on planning and governance.
- Review of Act in first 3 years will be needed. Needs to be acknowledge it is complex.
- Complementing with people from outside regional boundary i.e. AW where there is connection to the land.
- Ensure how people with connection can have access.
- Consider an interview process.
- The ratio right between 3 and 4.

BOUNDARIES:

- Could have 7 plus Green Adelaide and consider sub regions.
- Hills Face Zone – considers including in Hills maybe.
- Catchment in SE area may sit in Hills and Fleurieu.
- Catchments, biodiversity and communities of interest should be considered.
- Whatever boundaries need the desire to make interfaces work.
- Align with other boundaries for other Government areas to make consistent.
- Consider government boundaries with natural.
- Consider current catchment boundaries – should align – more engagement on this.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**BERRI**
TIME/DATE:	**2PM ~ 5PM 3RD September 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky**

A group of approximately 35 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was a mix of local government, Friends and Landcare groups, Irrigation Trust, and primary producers. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were as follows –

- **Water** was identified as a major priority, including water security, availability and sustainable water management; participants want to see sustainable water management to sustain healthy ecosystems. One participant also noted that land is a priority, noting that **land management planning** should also be listed as a priority for this region;

- **Biodiversity** was highlighted as important for this region, with facilitation of volunteer involvement in biodiversity conservation mentioned. One group noted that better legislation to achieve better biodiversity was needed, whereas another noted that maybe more legislation wasn't the answer but to instead look to what we've already got and tweak that;

- The group spent some time discussing visioning and planning, with a longer-term view that is driven by local people being sought. Participants in this group proposed **a 10-20-year bipartisan vision** for the region, noting that a 5-year agreement on projects is just not long enough. This needs both commitment and funding attached to it. Some participants felt strongly that an **audit** should be undertaken of planning work already undertaken, rather than coming up with new plans all the time. There was frustration that plans made are often overwritten and that respect should be paid to those already in place;

- Improved **engagement and communication** was a major priority, with listening, engagement and links to local communities being sought. Participants suggested that the boards **stop being so invisible**, noting that they don't really know what they do. The group would like to see the boards stop being seen as a part of government. One participant privately mentioned to the facilitator examples of natural resource projects being run well in the region – but without NRM board or staff involvement – it's easier to get things happening without them involved. Another example was given where community (volunteers) felt frustrated that they would come up with an idea and 'government' would take it over, 'doing it their way' and not engaging. Community would like to be equal partners **at the start of planning processes**, not brought in once decisions are made.

- Alongside engagement, **partnerships** were highlighted as critical – from project design to implementation. One participant highlighted the work being undertaken at Glenthorne National Park as an example of great partnership, linking corridors, trails – generating interest and excitement – and would like to see similar vision being undertaken in this region;

- There was general scepticism in the room regarding the **guiding principles**, with the view being that they were simply high-level motherhood statements and more information around *how* they would become a reality was needed. One participant felt strongly that much of what was being said was already being done;

- **Aboriginal engagement** should be at the top of the decision-making process, followed by the community, who then go together to the Government, noting that early engagement with Aboriginal groups was essential;

- Very active **Landcare Groups** doing exception work, the **collection of the levy** via Councils, **regional boards** being connected to the community and **NRM Education** were all highlighted as things that currently work really well in the region. **Water Allocation Planning** was also noted as working well, however participants would like to see improved community involvement;

- There was concern regarding a **community election process**, including that this could become a popular vote. Participants put forward suggestions for alternative approaches to recruit to the Landscape Boards, including that nominations be put forward to the Minister and a panel of selectors make the decision based on what skills the board requires. The idea of a pool of people with identified skill sets could be available to be appointed to the board. It was recommended that local stakeholder groups such as Regional

Development and local industry be engaged to determine what skills sets are needed on the board. The participants noted that board members **must reside in the region.** It was felt by one participant that NRM is currently **a very closed community** that needs to be more open. There needs to be **diversity** on the boards, including Aboriginal representation and good geographic coverage. The board needs high-end business skills, leaving the operations to the staff. Personal interests need to be kept out of the boards and 'community' needs to be written in to their governance;

- **Funding** was identified by the majority of participants, with increased dollars and resources available for on-ground works, with ongoing funding for long-term management of the landscape, plus flexible funding for infrastructure. Levies raised in the region should be returned to the region – being spent to benefit the region that pays it. There were strong views that the government has made an election promise to **cap levies**, so this needs to happen. Boards should have final approval for monies being spent on **cross-boundary projects** – it shouldn't just be taken from the budget – boards should work together to make decisions on where the money should be spent. Money raised in this region should be spent in this region, but participants felt strongly the **Murray-Darling is a state resource** and this should be funded accordingly. The proposal of boards having control of their **own budgets** was welcomed, noting that they can deliver more efficiently than government. Participants would like to see staff on **longer-term contracts**, and **longer-term community grants** for on ground projects (e.g. 3 years).

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

PARTNERSHIPS	**VISION/PLANNING**
• Real and effective partnership and communication from project design to implementation. • Community representatives depending on issue – should be an equal partner from planning through to implementation. (Ownership Engagement Acceptance). • Boundary reform and regional NRM Strategy/plans that are formed with partnership in thous boundaries.	• Utilise existing Planning Documents – review past planning documents initiatives. What was highlighted in the past? • Planning - simplification; priorities addressed; easy wins. • Longer term view – driven by locals; strategic.
TRANSPARENCY/OUTCOMES	**ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNICATION**

• Lack of transparency in the results that the levy achieves.	• Communication: listening; engagement; link to local community. • Community Engagement: independent; non-political. • Evaluation on key results with repercussions if not met. • Funding moving forward (did we achieve what we wanted for the cost?)
LESS BUREAUCRACY • Simpler less 'bureaucratic' water allocation plan. • Delayer the process – less red tape.	**AUTONOMY/COMMUNITY LED** • Community led investment – community driven. • Decentralisation and autonomy. • Decentralisation Department of Resources in the regions: skills; experiences; career pathway for locals.
NATIONAL PARKS • Effective National Parks Management to preserve our natural assets.	**BIODIVERSITY** • Habitat/biodiversity. • Facilitate volunteer involvement in biodiversity conservation in National Park. • Better legislation to achieve biodiversity conservation.
FUNDING • Region resources i.e. levies returned to the regions. • Increase $ resources to on-ground works. • More impact on feral animals; better outcomes for endangered species; consistency across Boards. • Ongoing funding for long term management of the landscape plus flexible funding for infrastructure. • Funding mechanism that maximise on-ground works (return to Robert Hill model). • Adequate financial resources for long term environmental projects including maintenance and monitoring.	**ABORIGINAL GROUPS** • Early engagement with indigenous groups. • Aboriginal engagement to be at the 'top' of the decision-making process. Followed by the community then go together to the government.
WATER • Sustainable water management: ○ Surface water. ○ Ground water. ○ Storm water. ○ Drainage. ○ Grey water ○ Domestic. ○ Industry ○ Environmental. ○ Cultural. • Water security and availability – system as a connected whole. • RAMSAR sites – Chowilla – Banrok – Coorong – Sea. Connectivity – make sure they are all connected via main river channel. • Sustainable water management to sustain healthy ecosystems. • Levy: real, effective, reduced, results – spent to benefit the region that pays it. • Planning to implementation – efficient administration effective.	**OTHER** • Protecting our native based tourism resource: ○ Forests. ○ Foreshores. ○ Feral animals. ○ Educational resources. ○ Enhance the fishery. • Rationalisation of existing human resources in NRM, Landcare groups, DEW and volunteers to avoid duplication and inefficiencies.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Note Environmental/Landscape success outside of DEW. Consider why DEW not involved. i.e. Ren Par Council and Ren irrigation and CEWH Project to Wetlands. Ren Par Council and E.O. as staff part funded by R.I.T.
- Water planning but needs improved community involvement.
- Water allocation planning process. 3IP, water efficiency.
- Water allocation planning – included community NRM Board and State Government.
- Berri Barmera Council $0.5M over 5 years for Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan.
- Support landowners and communities for monitoring and managing private wetlands and crown land wetlands.
- Infrastructure to enable watering of flood plains.
- LAP/Landcare.
- Local resources: DEW employees; motivated individuals.
- Katfish Reach and Bookmark Creek Action Groups – vision set by Council, LAP, RIT and NRM.
- Collection of the levy.
- Levies are collected. Financial resources are available.
- Land set aside for conservation.
- FOP increase provides excellent volunteer management across over 100 volunteer groups across the state.
- Regional Boards – connection to community.
- Irrigator education.
- NRM education in schools (needs more investment)
- Landcare groups do exceptional work organising volunteers despite limited resources.
- NRM education – improved logistics and resourcing.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Support principle – difficulty is in implementation.
- Somewhat 'motherhood' statements – need the detail on what community consultation will look like?
- Allocation of levy receipts? Proportional? What about the poorer areas?
- Decision making requires defined authority.
- New Principle – good planning should be rewarded.
- LAP/Landcare groups just need the money so they keep doing the great job they're doing at least 20 years.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Online is not the only option to explore.
- Access to community representatives – approachability/listening/acting/assuring.
- Jargon – sounds good on the surface – means nothing.
- How to create simple when driven by government department processes.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Need knowledge about the environment as well as farming. Need support……
- Knowledge and experience in Landcare, is central, EOs must be full time and well-funded so they can do their work in supporting farmers and community groups.
- Sometimes the people who are being consulted aren't all of the community – who else is out in the fringes.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Landscape restoration is supported but in addition there needs to be a longer term approach to support resourcing for maintenance.
- Whole of Landscape is critical – need to identify all parties.
- Also should mean 'whole of State'.
- Love it ☺
- Target landholders who can help and incentivise in a win/win way. General call doesn't necessarily get the best value for effort.

e. Back to basics

- Include Native plants and animals.
- Love it. ☺
- The basics.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• 2 streams for appointments.	• Too political. • Dysfunctional structure. • Independent body used to select Board appointments. • EOI process to the community.	• Approve of boundaries; board composition and size of board.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Small.	• Like democratic elected. • 7 good – 9 tops.	

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Popularity contest.	• Does not allow for aligned skill set. • Not representing the whole community. • Board sets EOI skill set requirements.	• Need a diverse range of representatives from appropriate fields: environment; local government; irrigators; indigenous. • How do we get an independent chair?
Table 4	Table 5	
• Majority of members appointed by Minister. • What does community election look like? Who is eligible? Who can vote?	• Fairness, relevance, democratic. • Will a democratic system guarantee the right skillset and experience or will it come down to number of voters?	

• Knowledge requirement of members. • Conflict between indigenous nations.	• Governance/roles. Responsibilities of board need to be clearly set out and to evaluate both program progress and the board's progress. Board members not actively seeking community views. I would like new ones to make this a key part of their role.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Should be nominations. • Minister appointments should occur post community nominations to ensure all skillsets are covered i.e. good governance. • Recruitment panel to look at all nominated appointments i.e. selection panel makes recommendations to the Minister.	• Terms of appointment. • Skill set reference referee. • Keep self - interest out.	• Board members need to be dedicated. How do you choose such a person? • How do the community representatives get nominated and selected? • Payment?
Table 4	Table 5	
• Consultation process – formal.	• Trust/faith/delivery. • Mandate to speak. • Don't pay board members for additional consultancy work. • Board performance linked to objectives/key results and plans and funding. • Formal independent evaluation/accountability.	

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?	
Table 1	Table 2
• *Pest plant and animal control:* and non-pest native plants and animals. • How will this work when only 7 people represent varied groups in SAMD? • Transparent and measurable.	• Appropriate mix of skillsets. • Longer strategic outlook – greater than 5 years. • Clear and measureable outcomes. • Split board oversight from operations. • Be accountable.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?	
Table 1	Table 2

• If government/Minister appoints the majority of the board, it has the majority for decision making/power.	• How to manage poor performance?

4.3 Boundaries

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

1. Diverse geographic representation across SAMDB on the board. 2. Social and ecological boundaries to determine priorities. 3. Cross boundary planning and investment (to determine investment levels)>

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Being invisible 'we don't know what they do". • Stop being seen as 'part of the Government'.	• Transparency. • Reaching out to local groups/community interest groups. • Talking to people – proactively. • Respect the NRM wisdom in the region (people who know stuff).	• Funding small projects (because that's how people get involved.) • Continue and expand education at school level.
Table 2		
• Placing barriers and red tap to access funding e.g. can't get funding without being incorporated – a group of landowners. • Rush decision making – ad hoc – end of financial year rush!	• Focus on outcomes – measurable deliverables, aims/objectives/vision. • Long term planning and commitment – committed funding. • Early consultation with firs nations (in plain English – no jargon – acronyms) on site – on country	• Long term funding for core Landcare position e.g. Environmental Project Managers.
Table 3		
• Funding aspirational outcomes then budgeting back to justify the spending! • Never ending take not OK. • Pretending to be a community when you are really parroting political agendas.	• Fund election - timeline achievable outcomes and make solid steps towards long term aspirational outcomes. • Fund 3 year contracts for all community groups and grant partners to ensure stability in the community (knowledge and action)	No comment made.

Table 4		
• Government agencies taking control of community initiated projects and delivering them to their own ideas and not engaging the wider community in developing the project e.g. DEW major works.	• Engaging with the wider community and not considering just the views of a small group e.g. government representatives. • Increased interaction with Councils advising key plans, projects etc., with their districts.	No comment made.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?	
Table 1	Table 2
• CPI increases.	• Cap levies at CPI assess by ESCOSA for larger increases. • No dilution of levy funds collected by new program suggestions.
Table 3	Table 4
• All levies to remain in region. • State wide priorities should be funded by State Government. • Board has final approval to fund cross-boundary or state based projects and need to be good projects. • Why CPI – should be the Planning the less NRM.	• Yes. Yes. Yes. • But with contingency – aim for 90% spend with 10% left for budget 'blow outs'. Don't come back to levy payers for more when you don't make budget. • $ for $ leave out poorer community groups.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Yes.	• Murray River corridor be considered as a socio-economic corridor.

	• Long term project funding should be state/federal not levy.
Table 3	Table 4
• Does need to cross boundaries. • Can drive efficiencies. • Share knowledge and plans – cross fertilisation of ideas.	• Yes. • Get good projects. • More Indians and less chiefs.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Don't make it/allocate it based on 'YOURSAY' - not based on popularity. • Make sure it is new $. • Make it $5M. • 3-5 year contracts for co-ordinators/staff.	• Local government should not collect the land levy, use the ESL billing system. • State government contribution rather than using levies.
Table 3	Table 4
• It helps fill the gaps. • Usually has a very good return on investment. • Builds engagement. • Is visible.	• Great idea! • Need to give priority to existing programs/projects so that we can value add to established issues.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

A host of effective regional landscape wide projects have been implemented through partnership between local government, Landcare groups, community NRM groups and government. Region wide connective projects implemented through partnerships. ☺	Increased biodiversity, decreased pollution. Less threatened species, more flora and fauna. More community involvement. Decisions made by Aboriginal people at the very top, with community and government. A change of the 'decision making tree'.	All levels of government and community are happy with the processes and procedures and our natural resources have been maintained and improved to the level that everyone is happy with.
No dust storm on windy summer days. Prosperous farmers participating happily on community groups because they love the land to be healthy.	Landscape Boards controlled by the community reporting openly/publicly on achievements.	No more request for a review of NRM.

The final reports of funding spent shows our parks are in much better state than what they were 5 years ago	We have received funding for on ground projects and our environment and national parks are looking healthy.	Biodiversity increased. Natural landscapes are healthier. Sustainable activities with the landscapes. Community actively engaged and appreciating their environments.
You are still the Minister and major native river fish recovery in place, eco-tourism underpinned by river respect and reduced negative behaviour on river and bilbies reintroduced.	Communities are thriving and working together to achieve/maintain/sustain a healthy environment.	Minister is re-elected to government.
Satisfied comments from Boards. Visual improvement in environment. Satisfied comments from local communities.	I've done myself out of a job.	Each community I visit is actively engaged with sound natural resource management, the soil is good, there is healthy wildlife, the plants are thriving and the community is prosperous.
Imagine its 2020 and there is no need for a session like this one! i.e. the system is running well.	Outcomes that can be seen.	80% of South Australians understand Landscape SA business and support the activities.
High community involvement at all levels. Long term issues being addressed.	You are getting good feedback from the community.	A co-ordinated and consistent outcome for community programs.
You are still the Minister.	People are prepared to increase funding voluntarily.	Strategy Policy – enough $ on ground – up.
Outcomes met and community overwhelmingly votes to continue processes for a further 5 years.	Completed projects – all community involvement. Parks have Pest and Management Plans.	Communities are engaged and supportive because they see the benefits of their levy investment.
People strive to be on the Board. High calibre of new applicants		

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Distribution of funding a big problem with current system.
- Corridors.
- Buffering (enhancing good vegetation areas size).
- Need to monitor – essential part of implementation of plans/actions.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**YUNTA**
TIME/DATE:	**11:30AM ~ 2:30PM 4TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Steve/Jon**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 11 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group were all land owners and pastoralists, plus one land manager from the Department of Environment and Water. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

NRM Groups

- The NRM groups in the SAAL region work well, but could be enhanced. The groups need 'teeth' – they are doing the best they can but their role would be enhanced if they could have greater influence over how money is spent. They do have some difficulty in securing broader community support because of distance and a lack of ability to demonstrate how the levy can benefit the region – with a greater level of transparency this may help encourage others to get on board.

Prioritisation of land management issues

- The most pressing issues should drive regional spending. The region should therefore drive where the money is spent as the local community are best placed to understand the most pressing issues that the region is trying to manage. In this regard good NRM groups can have a strong role to play feeding up the priority issues for the local area to the board for prioritisation in the five year plan.

Back to Basics

- A focus on having more on the ground staff across the region able to work with pastoralists and land managers to help coordinate programs, provide advice and provide gentle encouragement and guidance to help land owners do the right thing.
- The **BITE BACK program** is a model that has worked across the SAAL region. It was driven locally, there was good communication and participation, the program has been extremely effective and **relevant** and NRM should look to this program as an example of how to deliver great programs that work. The new Landscape Boards should base their planning and delivery models on this example.

Integration across Government

- There needs to be better coordination across Government departments and different levels of Government with respect to the administration of the various legislative requirements. For example, a secure dog fence (Federal funding) will effectively support the Bite Back Program which will in turn help the Bounce Back Program and improve ground cover. Unless all of these programs work together and adequate funding provision is made for the dog fence, investment in only one of the three will not realise the desired outcomes. Landscape SA needs to better integrate with other areas of Government to ensure maximum effect.

Landscape Priorities Fund and Green Adelaide

- If a Landscape Priorities Advisory Board to the Minister is to be established then this board **MUST** have representatives from all nine Landscape SA Boards – or at minimum, representation from all regional areas to ensure that key regional issues are reflected in decision making. It should NOT just comprise representatives from peak bodies.
- Green Adelaide should not administer the $2 million grass roots fund as this will risk too much of a focus on groups and NGO's close to or in Adelaide. The fund should be administered by the Landscape Priorities Advisory Body.

Boundaries

- Broadly supported Port Augusta and Flinders Rangers Council coming into the SAAL Board (although noting that this may need further careful consideration) - and consideration should be given to moving the south eastern boundary further south

Funding

- Equitable distribution of funding is a must – with the size of the region being taken into account
- Levy should be capped

Board Accountabilities

- Less office staff and more staff on the ground
- Greater focus on local land management programs
- Strong education programs through advice and support (not just a brochure)
- Localised decision making through good NRM groups

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 3 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top 3 things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, and boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each individual was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

Individuals then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS • Increase education of natural vegetation including tree planting involving schools.	**DECENTRALISE LINKS WITH FUNDING** • Reduce admin – not enough expenditure getting to field activities. • More local input on noxious weed control. • Less Office Staff and more on the ground Officers visiting properties.
COLLABORATION • A collaboration between ALL government departments – currently just a bunch of silos working autonomously.	**BASICS** • Fix dog 'fence'. • Continue/increase pest plant and animal control (Fix the dingo fence). • Dog fence – upgrade.

LEVY FUNDING/ LINKS TO DECENTRALISE	LANDSCAPE
• Rates/Levy increase – 'CPI'. • Whoever makes funding decisions – before rejecting come out and have a look! • Owners of property contributing more to cost of activities (carried out by NRM Boards) on their properties, other than time. Therefore less cost to other owners. • More equitable criteria for levies i.e. not having a jump from100M to 100,000 for one price. • Equal equity of levy across SA. Not a rich metro area but worked out over the SA Landscape.	• A program to encourage a much broader focus on ground cover management as opposed to a livestock focus.
	ENGAGEMENT • Community involvement.
	PERMITS • Justify permit costs – where doe the $$ go?
GOVERNANCE • Reserves in region governed by the region and adequately funded.	**PURPOSE OF NRM – IS IT NEEDED?** • Question NRM existence at all – bio not agree to concept given had other boards performing functions?

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each individual was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down the top three things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

ANIMAL CONTROL	NRM GROUPS
• Bite Back - dog baits. • Bite Back - program. • Bite Back. • Bite Back. • Dog baiting and aerial baiting programs excellent.	• Local NRM Group – but needs bigger voice for support by all local community. • Local NRM groups working with DEW and other agencies: e.g. Dog Fence Board; Livestock SA; Biodiversity; Local Community Groups.
WEED CONTROL	**OTHER**
• Weed control programs. • Weed control. • Weed and Pest control.	• Pastoral Board maintaining an overarching view of the management of land/ground cover/ water etc. • Bounce-back Landscape Scale Restoration Project over Bimbowrie Station, Boolcoomatta Reserve and Mt Victor.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Accountability for information/concerns being raised with other boards/bodies.

- People with dirt under their finger nails will greatly assist with the decision making process. A boots on the ground approach is the only way to drive a tangible outcome: less suits, more flannelette shirts!
- Local people always know what will help their region. Input and funds will give districts ability to perform activities, properly and responsibly.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Must be accountable/transparent in expenditure.
- It is clear that a large % of funds is being eaten up in admin – classic empire building. Very much in support of streamline governance.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Listen – hear us out – if you're in doubt, come out and have a look.
- Visit properties and understand the issues.
- Very happy to have our property scrutinised. My learning has always involved listening to others.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Sensible to integrate all factors – weeds, plants, vermin, fence control (dogs) and water – if all working for a common purpose more effective.
- A strong and good approach – a good concept.
- Actively encourage pastoralists to engage in a concerted effort to manage ground cover (drought permitting). Grazing management/fencing/water harvesting/ponding/spreading and ripping.

e. Back to basics

- Find the cause of the problem and address 'it'.
- NRM has grown into a predictable bureaucracy and lost its purpose to work on land improvement and allowing Pastoralists and other land users to use funds to address issues adequately.
- This wish is repeated again and again by long-term owners and managers.
- Make sure it happens also on Crown Land and Reserves managed by SA Government.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
No comment made.	• A small board would be more accountable (individually).

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• The make-up of the Board. This could end up as a socialist construct. Taxpayers/voters are responsible for appointing the Minister. The board should reflect a good representation of	• Length of elected terms? • Agree – only levy payers to vote. Members to be appointed on skill-set.

community members i.e. > 50%. The method of nomination the Minister can appoint is of concern. Can Ministerial appointments be appointed by the community?	

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
No comment made.	• One or more (Ministers) appointed members to be a resident or have a vested interest in the region. • Expertise in particular areas: e.g. soil, regeneration, water.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- Transparency and openness in reporting to community.
- Individual project assessment and feedback on expenditure.
- Priorities of local boards to reflect the local issues and be relevant to the Board area.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- Levies to be kept within CPI.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
• Land tenure: (Pastoral, perpetual, freehold) – keep it to Pastoral leases only.	• Burra – Morgan – north of Murray River – increase in levy collection BUT big area for Board to manage. (Consider logistics of meetings). • **Pt Augusta and Flinders Ranges inclusion could mean a swing away of priorities of pastoral landholders!**

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Change functionality, NOT the name and save $.	• Listen to concerns, inputs. • Use locals experience and knowledge to assist with outcome delivery. • Political correctness – bordering on absurdity!! i.e. STOP trying to please everyone.	• Make sure one of the board members is from the local area. • Continue with baiting/weed control = good programs.

6. FUNDING

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Generally accept principle but if it dramatically increases – may therefore need an independent body to keep it in check.
- CPI should be the cap – but it could dramatically increase (should be set in legislation).
- Should be better appropriation of funds to support the northern region landscape.
- The level of funding coming to this region is disproportionate to the landscape area. If this is about landscape?

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- Advisory Board should look after $2M fund (not Green Adelaide).
- Advisory Board should have local representation from SAAL.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Is this enough?
- Is it appropriate for Green Adelaide to administer the fund?
- Levy is not equitably drawn from Landowners.
- Categories and Scale.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Sustainable systems/landscape for the future generations. Free flow of information between government organisations and co-operation.	Funding levels reflect size of land areas. Bite Back program still running. Funding application process easier.	Positive feedback. Successful projects achieved. Increased community involvement and knowledge. Levies and budgets well-accepted.
I've been re-elected again. Now I have the mandate to increase levies. That Dog Fence is Dog Proof. Cactus wheel has stopped travelling north – we can afford the moderate levy.	The NRM is actually realising tangible outcomes. Improved attitudes toward land management/biodiversity improvement and ground cover. A body with excellent communication and a culture of community engagement.	That the majority of monies has been spent on ground and has had a positive impact on landscape and the businesses in our areas.
Flourishing landscape, viable livestock enterprises with reduced vermin and noxious weeds.	Stakeholders are happy with Boards and Levy System – because they can see that their input has resulted in an enhanced landscape – that the landscape has responded to a more 'Boots on the Ground' approach and people are proud of their involvement.	

ADDITIONAL NOTES MADE BY FACILITATORS AT SESSION -

- Equitable distribution.
- Capping a good idea.
- Less Office Staff and admin to get local staff in the field.
- Local Decision Making.
- Education programs.
- Some of the Basics are being done well – but enhance to make best use of resources across the state.

- How much money is tied up with staff – how much is getting on the ground?
- Function needs to deliver on ground programs.
- NRM GROUP FIELD DAYS: Question the content of Field Days – lot of information not new.
- Ensure the $$ are not going into black hole.
- NRM Group members doing best they can but not operating as best they could. Could grow – budget needs to support groups.
- Difficult to have people freed up into the group because of distance – think about the model and how to get the small community centres on board with the groups.
- Create autonomy would be helpful for the groups to feed up recommendations somehow – maybe through having representation from the groups onto the Board.
- Having a local group is good – but what can it bring – baiting and weeds – can they get the funding they need to work with?
- What is the most pressing issues: allow this to drive the spend - opportunity to have greater influence about how the $$ is spent to give most benefit to the region.
- The NRM group can have a strong role to play in identifying these on the ground priorities.
- Community needs to come on board and contribute and feed up.
- Back to Basics – would be useful to have a stronger focus and gentle encouragement from specific on the ground staff to help co-ordinate/facilitate Back to Basic programs. Get staff into the region attached to the NRM groups and operating out of the small community centres.
- Bite Back model – was driven locally – good communication (not mandatory). Participation and flow on effect. Is effective! So why are other programs not so effective?
- Integration with other broader programs (Federal Dog Fence): Feeds Departments (Silos); Effective programs rely on other departments, programs i.e. Dog Fence will assist dog baiting, improving ground cover: Pastoral Boar Act; Dog Fence Act; NRM Act.
- Landscape Priorities Fund Advisory Board – needs to comprise a presentative of each Board (Landowners and lease holders) as well as Peak Bodies and Aboriginal Nations.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**LEIGH CREEK**
TIME/DATE:	**9:30AM~ 1PM 5TH September 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 12 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was made up of pastoralists, land managers, tourism operators, conservationists, community members (Beltana and Copley) and OCA/NRM Board representation. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Uniqueness

- The SAAL region is unique – it's a broad area sparsely populated and widely spread. Distance and time are issues. Management of landscape is critical to productivity and sustainability, but with a small population widely spread it makes it difficult to coordinate and manage effective programs if the resources are primarily geared to administration and centred in Port Augusta.
- The structural changes to the NRM must recognise the uniqueness of the SAAL region and ensure that the new model is adjusted if needs be to take account of this.

Decentralise

- Strongly supported
- Need to ensure that the Board adequately represents the breadth of community – ie: Aboriginal Nations, pastoralists, landowners, tourism, NGO's etc.
- Currently the Boards appear to have a strong conservation focus – this needs to move more to a land sustainability focus.
- Board staff must be based in the region – the area cannot be serviced from Port Augusta or Adelaide.
- A lot of work was done in the region in the water space with staff on the ground collecting and analysing data – an excellent example of what can be achieved. The staff were eventually pulled back to Adelaide and the data collected is not seemingly available for communities to utilise in decision making at the community level. It was pointed out that there is data available via the Arid Lands Information System but it seemed as though little was known about the system or what can be accessed.

Holistic Management

- A need to integrate programs into long term sustainable management systems which can enable accreditation on product and what we sell.
- There needs to be a better coordination and empowerment across regional authorities and land owners/managers to manage landscape issues (OCA, NRM, Government Agencies, Land Councils etc):
    - For example, one property produces organic beef and cannot use conventional spray methods to control weeds. This could render a weed management program initiated by others redundant unless there is better on the ground facilitation to bring land owners together to find different ways of doing things to deal with a wholistic landscape issue.
- NRM needs to be embedded in environmental management across the board – private parks, State Parks, properties, Aboriginal Nations.
- Back to basics is fine but it needs to be coordinated, at the regional level; programs to be held accountable and measured and underpinned by communication and coordination. Programs need to be at a landscape level ensuring all property owners in a region are on board – otherwise if one property deals with Mexican Poppy weed and another doesn't then the program is a waste of time. This includes coordination with National Parks, private parks and others.
- The region should prioritise what it is going to '**chase'** – and remain focused and committed to those priority issues and ensure resources and funding are allocated accordingly.
- Boards should incorporate triple bottom line thinking into planning (cultural/ social, environmental, economic).
-

Governance

- There needs to be a balance achieved between good governance and responsible fiscal management and minimising red tape.
- Are there other models interstate or internationally from which we can learn – what works well and what doesn't?
- Need to consider how good land management programs and initiatives can be coordinated with the right level of governance without over-burdening communities as they are already busy.
- In order to reduce red tape we must start at the conceptual level.

Structure

- Need on the ground staff who know the community and who have responsibility for delivering and facilitating programs in partnership with communities but can also link effectively to other regional authorities. There needs to be consideration about how to achieve efficiency, given the tyranny of distance.
- A 'cluster' of staff could be located in certain locations throughout the region that link RDA, OCA and NRM to deliver coordinated programs (raised by OCA representative as a means to resolving coordination issues).

Partnerships

- Getting the right people involved when everyone is busy is a real issue. Consideration needs to be given to staff working across the region, based in the small centres, getting out and linking up with land owners and managers – to be available to give practical advice and coordination of programs – not tied to a desk in Port Augusta. Community does not have the time or the capacity to drive long distances to forums. They need the help, they are interested but they are time poor. There needs to be a focus on personal relationships, local people working in small regional centres like Leigh Creek that know the community and through proactive communication can provide the necessary support. Staff need to get out and go to the land owners and managers and not operate from afar.

Science and Data in Decision Making

- Science and data needs to be retained in decision making. Previous data needs to be accessible with communities having a better understanding of what's available. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, but rather to build on what's there and keep progressing. Having access to the best information and data available is critical to decision making at a landscape level.

Volunteers

- Need to better recognise and acknowledge volunteers and leverage their expertise. They need to be supported as the costs of liability and insurance for property owners can be an issue.

Funding

- The proposal to have Landscape priority fund and a grass roots fund seem counter-productive if we are striving to move away from centralisation. The local region is best placed to make the call as to how funds should be spent. Boards could be required to ensure that within their plan and their budget money is made available for grass roots programs and landscape scale projects.
- A Landscape Advisory Board or Council reporting to the Minister on policy and State-wide issues makes sense, but it should be a coordination/policy/administrative group and not have any control of funding.
- Green Adelaide should not administer the Grassroots fund if there is to be one – this should be managed by the Landscape Advisory Board or stay with the regions.

Boundaries

- Concern that by including Port Augusta they will dominate how the funding is delivered on the ground given the greater population – this is a big risk and has the potential to become what Adelaide is to the regions albeit on a slightly smaller scale.

- It makes sense from a landscape perspective to include Hawker region and the Eastern Districts along the Barrier Highway pushing further south. One suggestion was to extend the entire southern boundary to the Goyder Line (but not include Port Augusta).
- A landscape approach to drawing the boundary was supported.

Board Membership

- The NRM groups in SAAL region work well. They should be retained and could be elected by the community. The groups themselves could then elect a representative to the board.
- If Port Augusta are included there is a risk given the greater population that community elected members will all come from Port Augusta which could result in bias decision making away from the region.
- Four should be elected by the community and three by the minister.
- Every effort needs to be made to ensure the Board represents the mix of land uses/arrangements/groups across the region
- Criteria should be established to ensure nominees are local, skilled, knowledgeable.
- A broad based election won't work across the region – this region does not have Council elections and operates differently. Hence the idea that a more localised approach via the NRM groups would be a better approach.
- The Chair needs to be a regional person .
- The NRM Board could take on more of a **jury model** with a diversity of local people that oversee the groups who could be community elected.

Community Forums

- With staff on the ground located across the region, six monthly community forums could be held that:
    - Celebrate achievements
    - Share information
    - Educate
    - Create awareness

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated discussions, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well, and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation and board accountability
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

INTEGRATION	MANAGEMENT

• Integration of Board with Parks, public conservation areas and private conservation areas. • The General Manager must be across Mining Sector and Environmental Sector – they are interrelated.	• Holistic management – one outback. Landscape is integrated and this needs to be acknowledged when building programs. • More long-term strategy for sustainability. • Effective coordination between sustainable landscape issues and resource management.
DECENTRALISE ACCOUNTABILITY • Recognition of the expertise in communities to inform landscape management and support for good communication across the region. • Local control of weeds/pest management. • Less bureaucracy. • Local coordinated approaches to regional problems. • More communication with departments/land managers. • More on ground support. • Open up more effective debate and ownership of achievable goals for the landscape at the grassroots level. • Less focus on centralised NRM planning and more on local implementation. • More accountability when things don't go as they should. • Local solutions to local problems. • Reposition the seat of NRM ownership.	**INFORMED DECISION MAKING** • Good data mapping and research to support landscape knowledge – and community knowledge needs to be integrated. **FUNDING** • More money/subsidies for Water Management – tanks, solar bores. • More tags to shoot kangaroos. **WATER** • Water – resource sharing. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** • Reform – communication – local knowledge.
BASICS • This area is not a traditional council. Landscape SA needs to help normal community members to deal with goat/animals, land management issues. • Currently programs are not approaching the root cause of goats (realistic removal). • Increased pest animal (native and non-native) and plant management strategies which cover whole regions so they have more impact. • Feral Animal Control – animal de-sexing programs. Local frog level support. • Kangaroo issue.	**BOARD MEMBERSHIP** • Have the regional NRM groups elected and have the groups then nominate a member for the board to ensure the coverage. It will avoid tokenism – NRM groups must have Aboriginal involvement – their voice needs to be considered in the nominations. • Adds another layer but not currently happening in SAAL and is effective.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

NRM GROUPS • More diverse but retain the NRM groups – works well because of vastness and uniqueness of region.	**LANDSCAPE SCALE** • Landscape approach to planning. • Community support. • EMU Program. • On the ground support and common goal (tangible economic outcome).

ENGAGEMENT

- Field days etc.
- Listening to Pastoralists issues: rabbit ripping; cactus eradication.
- Communication and publicity from the region.
- Good communication of the diversity of issues facing remote areas.
- Traveller information for region – very popular and informative to visitors.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Get Departmental people into communities –visiting properties/parks/towns etc., good for towns to have additional people and create a greater understanding communication between department and people on ground.
- Will require clear top-down guiding principles and governance and accountability for both $ and how objectives are being met. ☺
- Agree, but also need facilitation to enable good governance, links to government priorities and knowledge and communication of management processes.
- Broad range of people engaged – not just business people: Accountability and decision-making in whole community: Engagement with Aboriginal groups (? problematic).
- Overarching of Landscape SA principles and guidance.
- Important not to just 'drop' city people in to regions and expect them to succeed. Leverage local knowledge and skills.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Simplified processes for support – local support officers sharing a role in a local community.
- Identify modes of communication suitable for remote areas to enable access to systems.
- Red tape and unintended consequences – needs independent oversight to assist community management.
- Reducing 'red tape' needs to start at the concept level – can't just transfer complexity to the REGULATIONS – strongly support these directions.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Strongly agree – there needs to be better recognition of PUBLIC BENEFIT of management on private land that is sustainable and reinvests in the resource.
- The new Act needs to create more regular opportunities (forums) where sharing of NRM visions/direction in the community can be forged – leads to ownership.
- Need to involve with a focus on integration using technology where possible and personal communication – visiting/on property/local issues.
- Move away from perception that NRM is 'for Pastoralists', but include representation from all demographics in region to make a holistic, comprehensive approach with more support, communication and improved outcomes.
- Community representation on local boards is necessary (i.e. a committee that is representative of businesses etc., demographics).
- Effective co-ordinated communication with other government bodies where there is a cross-over of activities/objectives (2 way communication with community that is inclusive).

- NRM local 'on ground' officer visiting and coordinating with land owners/interested parties and help implement decisions made.
- Project to identify who the community are (community mapping)? We are very diverse with lots of knowledge and expertise.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Regional (landscape) approach to projects etc., requires involvement of ALL stakeholders (towns and pastoralists and Parks etc.) with support and communication to ensure good/efficient outcomes.
- Must include properly resourced accountability for non-compliance where proper support has been provided but not enacted – when programs don't work properly because small sections aren't engaged then everyone's time is wasted.
- Looking at EMU style project again – practical and very helpful.
- Agree, but also needs establishment of values for arid region – define what this means for environment and community.

e. Back to basics

- More liaison between locals/councils/boards on control measures, ability of resources etc.
- Agree – Back to Basics.
- Cross pollination with pest control organisations and coordinated eradication approach.
- Need healing of divisions created with past management: differing perspectives and solutions; differing focus.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership, their accountabilities and boundaries.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- 3 year terms
- **Port Augusta – No**
- Hawker – Yes
- **Quorn – No**
- Eastern Districts – Yes
- Needs to be based on landscapes.

What concerns you?

- How will the Minister choose the Members – advertising?
- What is the criteria for membership?
- Election will not work in the whole outback – no local government.
- Need ability to create reference groups and expertise.
- Diversity of land uses are represented on Board.
- Indigenous representation? Can support/integrated with OCA/RDA etc.
- Distinct model for SAAL may be required?
- Opportunity for a unique model for the outback integrating triple bottom line.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Training.
- Want district groups retained over each discreet sub-region.
- Community business management groups – locally based – embedded in the community.
- Local Landscape Management Forums.

Additional notes made by facilitator –

- Chair – regional person.
- Specialised Jury type model – local people – local decision.
- Triple bottom line: 4 – District groups etc., diversity of membership
  4 – Community business management unit
  Embedding people (staff) into community.
- Board needs to cover diversity of land uses in district.
- Establish a platform for Local Landscape Management Forums (coordinated under new Landscape SA Act – vacuum in this area at the moment).
- A new initiative to create an expectation of opportunities for communities to get together and learn; discuss, articulate NRM issues; common NRM goals; establish ownership; create peer groups of NRM stakeholders – in respect of Landscape Management in their district/community.
- OUTCOMES: Better knowledge/understanding; greater cohesion and direction; better integration between public/private land management etc.

4.2 Boundaries

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- SAAL at present all out of Council areas – problem with Local Government **vs** Out of Districts.
- May incorporate cropping lands – different cultures, lack of biodiversity – need to match landscapes? More highly populated areas may alter board structure and dynamics – greater level of population – greater level of control of board (ie: Port Augusta voice could dominate).
- Economic viability – costs of doing businesses. Regions may have more levy money but needs distribution over a wider area.
- In this landscape are of Pt Augusta (if included) could become the new Adelaide i.e. board could become city centric. This would negate the idea of decentralisation. Open to professional board sitters and not representative of whole region.
- Perhaps look at Goyder's line – or keep as Out of Council Areas – our challenges are unique

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Centralising (Adelaide/Port Augusta). • Running programs from the office. • Stop sending emails – come and talk to us.	• Engage local people. • Face to face communication. • Road trips. • Seek financial support from mining companies direct to Landscape Board for local projects.	• Pest and animal control. • Involve all stakeholders e.g. NP, Pastoral, Conservation Groups and Mining. • Humane feral animal control and investigate further. • Other means of plant/animal control (organically friendly).

• Leading from the top – go back to local/grass roots and tackle from the issue/problem. • Over regulation – especially interdepartmental – money and time used up before it gets to the root of the problem. • Short term projects.	• Working with landscape areas/groups on the ground. • Accountability and performance management (measurable). • Spend levies in the regional areas they are raised.	• Use data already collected/collated and make readily available and able to be interpreted.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Need to have priorities set before levy is set. • Don't have 'tail wagging dog'.	• Would the grass roots fund be available direct for grass roots (as long as it's not 'Fund my Idea' model.)

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and State-wide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?	
Table 1	Table 2
• There is merit in having a peak body and strategic oversight in policy/governance administration (like State NRM Council).	• Percentage needs to be proportional to population. • Need more detail about scope and how the Adelaide Boards administers – what is their Terms of Reference?

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual State-wide fund?

Table 1	Table 2
• Opportunity to review all charges.	• Nothing – give this greater consideration given size of State. • Green Adelaide – is this the right body to manage a grass roots fund? • Could/should be the Landscape Advisory Board – question about how the Board is appointed? • Inappropriate if serious about decentralising.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

<table>
<tr><td>Local solutions for local people are at the core of the model. Success will be measured through community support.</td><td>Success: pest control: unified approach has been successful; reverse desertification in arid lands through holistic regenerative grazing.</td><td rowspan="3">The new Landscape SA Act has delivered:
• A wave of community ownership and involvement in NRM.
• Refreshed and motivated volunteers.
• Better recognition of public benefit of private NRM Land Management.
• Better across boundary initiatives between ‘production’ and ‘protection’.
• NRM is identifiable and not ‘lost’ within government.
• There is a big increase in uptake of environmental management systems i.e. ‘sustainability pays”.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wide ranging project success with real regional outcomes: i.e. successful Regional Pest Management with actual wide-scale outcomes.</td><td>Feedback from General Managers, boards show significant positive changes and collectivism instead of division. Outcomes measurements align with proposals.</td></tr>
<tr><td>No more community forums (but it is good to have these community gatherings).</td><td>Diverse, healthy communities with active involvement in real and effective programs for arid lands. Community forums that enable gathering us all together to plan for and work on sustainable futures.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Great program communicated widely.</td><td colspan="2">Feral animal control actually working.
Local (community) input is a sign something is working.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Working programs applicable to each area – i.e. Reforms are being worked on, not just talk.</td><td colspan="2">I would monitor its success by the involvement of the community in the Landscape model; visible improvements in areas such as erosion, weed control, pest control and general landscape improvements and the comments of landholder/conservation groups and national parks for instance.
Successful local projects and ongoing works models, keeping within the limits of budgets.
Success looks like greater involvement and community ownership.</td></tr>
</table>

8. ADDITIONAL NOTES

Decentralise:

- Communities driving across a suite of land uses.
- A variety of representation: Board Membership; not to fill the Board with same backgrounds.
- Broad representation base.

- Currently has a strong conservation focus – bus needs more of a sustainability focus.
- Must be based in region – can't be serviced in Adelaide.

Holistic Management:
- Integrate into long term sustainable management system and place the accreditation on what we sell – Landscape Holistic Management.
- Co-ordination and empowerment of regional authorities – even with the Act – this should be a requirement – Landscape Approach.
- Organic beef etc., have specific controls which prevent standard control management practices.
- Embedding NRM in Environmental Management.
- Park Management – Aboriginal Nations – Process Management and timeframes – that it doesn't bog down decision making.

Governance:
- Governance – yes. Red Tape – no.
- Good knowledge invested into decision making. Models – can we learn?
- Not another impost on communities given they are busy. How to make this sustainable?
- Have on the ground staff who know the community – that link to other authorities. To reduce tyranny of distance.
- Enlist Project Officers who are local.
- How to get people who might be right when everyone is stretched?
- Staff need to be on the ground.
- Community, busy doing the work, can't come to forums. They need the help and the advice that goes to them – personal relationships – active communication.
- Red tape – start at the conceptual level – conceptual change to simplify and cut red tape.
- Water – lot of data and expertise within NRM – but where has the information gone. Staff were pulled out and centralised. As an example of useful work on the ground – but the data and information needs to be feedback and used in decision making at the community level.
- Arid Lands Information System – geological surveys data is available as an example (Ali system spatial data).

Science:
- Great data, but needs to be followed up to monitor change and adjust.
- Use previous data – don't reinvent the wheel. Understand what is there and what is not.
- Impacted by how you structure the grant can impacted continuity and sequence.

Plant/Pest/Soil Management:
- Needs to be more integrated and regional – i.e. one person deals with Mexican Poppy issue but others don't if want to resolve the issue.
- So Back to Basics is fine but needs:
    - Coordination;
    - Review process;
    - Measures;
    - Regional;
    - Accountable and focused – to get everyone on board.
    - Communication.
    - Regional priorities across National Parks.
    - And organically certified properties need assistance to find other ways.

Volunteers:
- How do we acknowledge them and their expertise? How to support them?
- Insurance costs – liability.
- Support and have measurable outcomes.
- Community is willing but distance and time is an issue.
- Need people from NRM out there not at their desk.

Other:

- Local region is best placed to make the call on all funding – Landscape Advisory Board Landscape Scale Fund.
- Green Adelaide $2M Grass Roots Fund – this sounds like centralised control.
- SAAL – levy collected.
- Building blocks for levy calculation – will these change?
- Fiscal equalisation is needed.
- Leave us with the money because we are best placed to make the call – don't centralise grass roots funding and landscape funding into Adelaide via a Green Adelaide and Landscape Scale fund.
- Consider Environmental off-set coming back into regions – not general revenue.
- Would like to have a conversation about the values that inform the principles. Outback is different. In order to frame response to principles.
- SAAL values mapping exercise could be very helpful to ensure the reform aligns with this.

Boundaries:

- Risk of PA and council areas may lose focus and reduce potential influence on Board.
- PA will end up dominating.
- Hawker – Yes.
- Quorn – No.
- Eastern districts – yes but needs to be based on landscape.

Membership:

- Criteria?
- Election won't work across whole of area.
- Aboriginal representation but not token.
- District groups (6 SAAL) retained because area is so big.
- Could be serviced by locally based service groups – live in and part of the community – i.e. 6 admin groups to facilitate.
- Integrate triple bottom line – cultural/community, social/environmental, economic.
- Regular community forums:
    - 6 monthly – help the Boards to plan/influence. Hosted by Board and Groups; celebrating achievements; sharing information; creating awareness; needs to be regular.
    - Community to help input – help drive.
    - NRM Board to be a more jury model with diverse local people to overseer of groups which represent diversity – 4 community elected and 3 by Minister.

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY – INFORMAL MEETING**
SESSION:	**NEPABUNNA**
TIME/DATE:	**5TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Jon**

Jon met with 3 Executive Members of the Nepabunna board.

Their NRM focus is the IPA at Nantiwarrina, which recently celebrated its 20 year anniversary. The IPA has assisted in returning/reviving endangered species in the local area including the yellow-footed rock wallaby. I understand from the discussions that there is not a strong association between Nepabunna and the SAAL Board, in part due to the Commonwealth funding received for the IPA.

The Nepabunna representatives identified feral goats as a significant ongoing challenge, and an issue that would benefit from a cross-regional or statewide strategy. They queried why the IPA at Yappala (Southen Flinders, Northern and Yorke NRM Board) had a goat culling program with the NRM Board but Nepabunna did not.

The Nepabunna community is very proud of its achievements with the IPA and would welcome the opportunity for a field day for SAAL staff and board to share their knowledge and experience.

Other discussion points included representation on the Landscape SA board - they would like an Aboriginal person who lives in the area to represent their interests. They also questioned why they are unable to develop infrastructure on pastoral stations where Adnyamathanha people have historic associations.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **MARREE**
TIME/DATE: **10AM ~ 1:30PM 6TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve/Jon**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

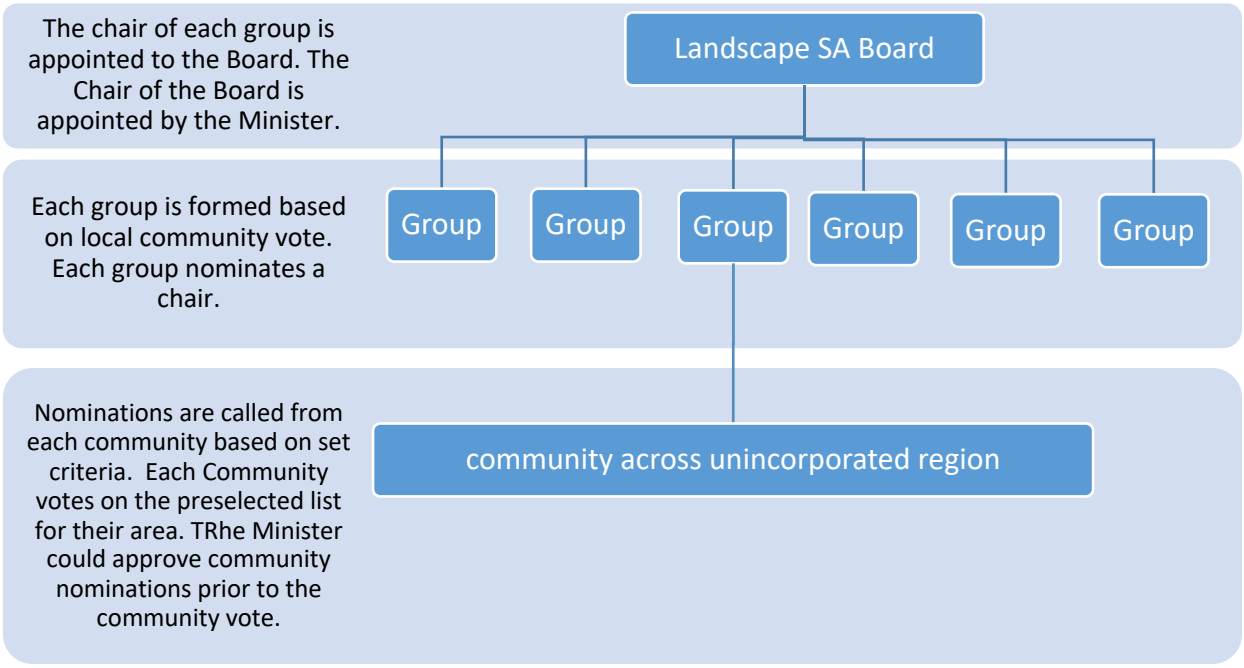
A group of 11 participants were welcomed by the facilitators who set the scene for the session. The group consisted of 10 pastoralists, with one representative from the Outback Communities Authority. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

The Region

- The region is unique – it covers a vast area, is sparsely populated and needs to deal with different land management issues than regions closer to the city.
- People are time poor and are required to travel vast distances across the region to attend meetings which in itself results in a reluctance for some to become involved.
- Pest plants, pest animals (feral pigs are increasing, dogs – an ongoing problem) and native animals that have become pests in some areas (kangaroos, emus) are the main issues affecting pastoralists and more needs to be done to manage these matters on the ground.
- People will get involved if they feel they can make a difference and the structures in place allow for community involvement without creating added difficulties for people – such as requiring them to travel large distances to attend meetings.
- Staff should be attached to the NRM Group structure and be located across the region to support local groups and coordinate programs and projects. By working from the various small centres across the region they can get to know the community, build key relationships and gather the local intelligence about priorities and needs. Their effectiveness is lost when they are based centrally in Port Augusta and tied to administrative processes.

The Board Structure

- Appointees must be local people who understand the uniqueness and challenges of the outback region.
- If the current proposal suggested by the Minister is to be implemented (4 members appointed by the Minister, three by the community), at least four members should be elected by the community, with three including the chair elected by the Minister – but all must come from the region.
- There must be a criteria set to ensure that appointees understand governance, business and land management issues facing the region – it is not a popularity contest.
- Given the size of the region, nine members on the board may need to be retained rather than reducing the number to seven.
- There needs to be a bottom up approach – the community should be able to appoint key members of the community that will direct the funding to the priority areas most needed.
- The NRM groups work well across the region. As the region is so vast, it is difficult for people to travel and therefore local groups allow for local communities to work together in their local area feeding information and advice back up to the Board.
- The group proposed a structure and process for appointment of community members to the Board which delivers on the key principles being put forward by the Minister as follows – and while different from the current proposal being suggested by the Minister, allows for a bottom up approach and representation across the region:



- Staff are then attached to each Landscape SA Group and embedded in the respective regional community.
- Consideration could be given to broadening the role of the groups to include economic development and municipal issues. Each group could then have appointees to the Landscape SA Board, the Regional Development Australia Board (RDA) and the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) – note that this concept was suggested from the OCA. Given the distances and lack of available and skilled people across the region, any attempt to avoid duplication of structures will be an advantage. If this model was to be implemented, staff could be allocated to these groups from all three organisations to work together to coordinate programs, create efficiencies and provide essential local knowledge and information back up into the three organisations (Landscape SA, RDA and OCA) – again this idea was presented by the OCA as an extension to the concepts proposed by the community and to help resolve issues raised by the community about coordination.
- The exact number of Landscape SA groups would need to be determined, but could be up to 6 groups (as is currently the case). This model would ensure the community is well represented across the region and that communities can work at the local level with their local group and allocated staff to deliver against key priorities identified at the group level and approved by the Board. It also enables the communities and staff across the region to work within their local area minimising extended travelling across the entire outback area.

Funding

- The money collected from the levy should remain in the region under the control and management of the Board.
- Funds will need to be appropriated from Green Adelaide to support the region (given the vast area and small population).
- Lease payments could be redirected back into the Landscape SA fund to support programs and land management projects in the region.
- The region should be able to decide what money is put to Landscape projects and grass roots community projects – there is no need to have separate central funds administered by either Green Adelaide or a Landscape Advisory Board – this works against the key principles of the reform (especially decentralisation). The Minister may require the Board to ensure funding is provided to Landscape projects and grass roots projects (ie: ensure these are included in regional priorities), but the Board should be able to direct the funding to these initiatives and decide which groups and which projects are going to be supported.

- If there must be a central fund, then it should be administered by a Landscape Advisory body reporting directly to the Minister and consist of appointees from across the State to ensure broad representation. The grassroots fund and the landscape priorities fund should be administered by the same group. Green Adelaide should not manage any centralised fund.
- In reforming NRM, administrative costs must be reduced. There must be an avoidance of creating unnecessary processes which may add additional layers of decision making. Having central funds which Boards or communities are required to apply for via application will add to overall administration.

Boundaries

- Port Augusta should not be included in the SAAL region. Port Augusta issues are significantly different to the SAAL region and having them included may result in a redirection of funds away from the outback area to support the community with the strongest voice.
- The region should reflect the unincorporated area (inclusive of the two exceptions – Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs).
- The south eastern boundary along the Barrier Highway could move marginally south, but traditionally this area has not seen themselves as being associated with the broader arid lands region. This area should decide to what extent they are included with Arid Lands as opposed to remaining with the MDBA.
- Hawker could be included in the area, but not Quorn. Again, this needs to be carefully considered as it begins to incorporate an area that has different administration arrangements (Flinders Rangers Council). There is merit in aligning the region to the unincorporated area to avoid cross over with different administrative boundaries, levy structures and tenures.

Tenure

- Pastoralists currently lease their land from the Crown which gives them a right to occupy and graze cattle and sheep.
- The region could be declared another tenure such as 'continuous title' to be managed subject to the Conservation Land Management Act.
- As part of the wool enquiry the Ian McLachlan report recommended a change in tenure for pastoralists currently leasing land in the Unincorporated region. By moving to a freehold arrangement, the report suggested a savings in administration and other costs.
- A shift away from leasing would also allow landowners to take a greater responsibility and ownership over land management practice including control over tourism and prevention of inappropriate practices (eg: tree removal).

Aboriginal community engagement

- Whilst in Marree, Jon spoke with several local members of the Aboriginal community about the reforms and the consultations underway. While the community members Jon spoke with do not have a strong relationship with the SAAL Board or NRM programs, they identified water as a critical local issue. Groundwater and the potential for extraction to impact on local mound springs (sites of considerable significance to the Arabunna people) has been raised previously.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, and boundaries
5. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each person was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The individuals then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>BIOSECURITY</u>

• Biosecurity check on camels traversing Darwin to Melbourne.
• Disease and weeds are carried by camels entering the region and nothing is in place to prevent this.</td>
<td><u>LOCAL EMPLOYMENT & LOCAL DECISIONS</u>

• More people employed locally.
• Local decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>ORGANIC CERTIFICATION</u>

• Authorities need to engage more effectively with Organic Pastoralists about finding better ways to eradicate pest weeds and pest animals – conventional spraying doesn't align with organic certification.
• Programs need to be supportive of restrictions placed on Organic Certification i.e. baiting.</td>
<td><u>REDUCE BUREAURACY</u>

• DEWNR.
• NRM: not engaging in decision making; all funding goes to administration i.e. dingo control officers not working with grass roots producers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>COMPLIANCE</u>

• Who is managing mining water extraction from G.A.B.?
• Not managing/educating/supporting land owners or enforcing land management practice.

<u>INTEGRATION</u>

• More agency interaction – across Government depts.
• Better integration with other legislation such as Mining and Exploration.</td>
<td><u>TOURISM IMPACT</u>

• Information and signage 'Bush Code of Conduct for Tourists' – no camping, rubbish etc.
• Only camping in designated camping areas.
• Impact of tourism.
• Tourism impact on landscape management practice (e.g. tree removal).
• Education is needed.
• Tourist numbers are increasing.
• Lack of respect to good land management practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>PARKS</u>

• Private Nature Reserves and National Parks impacting neighbours with non-attention to animal explosion native and pests.</td>
<td><u>BASICS</u>

• Pest plants – Pimelia Simplex – native plant but massive problem. It's not just about introduced weed species.
• Pest animals – some native animals are problems to pastoralists and need to be managed.
• Kangaroo numbers – management is needed.
• Native animals in plague or over abundance – need culling.
• Dingo (wild dog) control.
• PIRSA – feral pigs – disease – biosecurity. Feral pigs are on the increase and need to be managed.</td>
</tr>
</table>

LAND TENURE	OTHER
• Ian McLaughlin report as part of the Wool Enquiry – one of the recommendations was to go to freehold across the area – to save $$ in administration. • Land tenure freehold protection to be in accordance with the Conservation Land Management Act. Already have the photo points in to make this happen. • Premier could declare this area another tenure. Could prescribe the area. Continues Title subject to the Conservation Land management Act. • Not perpetual.	• Problem – Pest Plant and Animals: Kangaroos; dog fence; dingo control and levy; water; GAB. • Current focus – future engagement – dog fence.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS	REPRESENTATION
• EMU Program. • Bring back EMU type (funding cut) programs.	• Like District Group structure. Works well for this region.
LEADERSHIP	**WORKSHOPS/FIELD DAYS**
• Access to funding for remote women to attend training programs and conferences (Stepping into Leadership & Thriving Women's Conference).	• Workshops and Field Days pertaining to the area. • Like workshops, field days and events.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- A community representative of any future body must have resident or engaged in relative industries for previous 7 years.
- Prefer 'local' to 'regional'.
- Any future representative body answerable to **one** Minister.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Must be transparent and accountable with minimal Red Tape.

c. **Community and land owners at the centre**
   - Challenge in finding people to do the work on Boards/on ground (locally).
   - People with skills are here, but too busy to give as much time as it deserves.
   - Like the idea, need to think about how to minimise downtime (e.g. travel time) when getting involved. Time away from running your own business.

d. **A whole of landscape approach**
   - As long as the 'Landscape Approach' isn't too broad.

e. **Back to basics**
   No comment made. In earlier discussion the group supported this principle.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities.

The facilitator managed this section as a group discussion and worked through the various proposals to seek whole of group responses.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Local people electing locals.
- Outback Communities Administration Management Act. Bill had 3 from outback community – changed to 4 being balance of power.

What concerns you?

- Get people on the board that make a difference.
- Programs need Minister's consent.
- Must be degree of skills – finance etc.
- Cost of election.
- Risk of popularity contest, staking votes etc.
- Must be key people who understand the Act/Governance expertise.
- Needs to be a 'good faith' debate for decision making.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- People are stretched. Need to ensure have the right people chosen by the community.
- Must be local people (not from outside region).
- 4 x community elected is preferable.
- A large area – might even need 11? – 9 is preferable. This could allow 6 to be elected from the NRM groups and three to be appointed by the Minister including the chair.
- Needs to be bottom up approach. The community should have the majority of the say as to who is on the board.
- Criteria for selection must be predetermined and possibly include the number of years in the region.

- This current model being proposed does not provide for a geographic representation. The region is sparse and people are spread out in separate communities. The model needs to recognise this and ensure outback people are elected from across the region.
- Nominate board members from district groups.
- Could be more than NRM – could influence the broader government agenda.
- Staff embedded in the community and attached to NRM groups.
- Must have criteria set for appointees.
- Sitting fees even for NRM groups to at least help in travel.

4.2 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- Better sticking to the broader unincorporated region – use the line north of Hawker.
- Different tenures different levy structures, different priorities exist in Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges area.
- Make huge mistake coming too low with the boundary into the Flinders Ranges Council area.
- No to Port Augusta.
- SA Murray-Darling Basin – this area should decide as to where they fit. Traditionally they haven't seen themselves associated in broader arid Lands area. Have different interests and issues.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Don't have a separate body administer the Landscape priorities or grass roots funding.
- This should all be done by the Board and they should be given the right amount of funding to manage their local priorities.
- If there is to be an Advisory body to the Minister, there should be representatives from every region in the State.
- SAAL largest area with unique issues – this would need to be represented at the Advisory group level..
- Shouldn't have to pay into a broader bucket.
- Concern that the bucket doesn't get eaten up in admin.
- Redirect the lease payments back into the NRM fund.
- Just have appropriation of funds from Adelaide and a requirement on the Board to ensure there is budget allocation to grass roots community groups and landscape projects. The region is in the best position to understand what these priorities look like.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

Comments were made in the context of the funding discussion. The group felt that the respective Boards should have budget allocation to manage their own landscape projects. A criteria could be set to ensure Boards allocated a certain amount of funding to landscape projects. Given the region is so large, landscape projects are necessary. But to have this administered by a separate central body with Boards needing to apply defeats the purpose of decentralisation. The Board is in the best position with the local knowledge provided by the NRM groups to make these decisions and it will save on administration and application processes.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

Comments were made in the context of the funding discussion. The same comments were made regarding the grass roots fund as the Landscape Priorities fund. The Board should administer a proportion of funds specifically for community groups and decide how these are distributed.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Population – steady as increased.	'Freehold" ☺	Freehold Pastoral Leases
BHP not using GAB water.	Freehold Lease. More funding for SAAL. Employment and economic increases in remote areas.	Freehold Pastoral Leases ☺
Well presented. I hope the Minister recognised the uniqueness of the Arid Region. .		

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**GRANGE**
TIME/DATE:	**6PM ~ 9PM – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**Becky**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of approximately 35 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was a mix of local government, Landcare groups, state government agencies, non-government organisations and a primary producer peak body. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- **Better communication and engagement** was considered to be a priority, with participants wanting strengthened communications with community and landholders, but also inter-departmental communication between government agencies (both state and federal government), as well as industry. This includes making clear who is responsible for what. It was also felt that there needs to be better communication with regard to experts within the Department for Environment and Water – the community can make decisions, but they need direction and information from those with expert knowledge and scientific technical advice;

- **Outcomes & reporting** are a priority, with participants wanting to see clear key performance indicators linked to core NRM outcomes, with better transparency of the investment of the levy;

- Participants felt that **biodiversity** is a priority, with more protection of native biodiversity required. Natural assets were highlighted as important, with integrated catchment management and improved natural assets across the state, such as water, soil, flora and fauna. **Biodiversity corridors** were discussed, with reference to the need for people to work together to strategically plan corridors as opposed to undertaking small patches of work;

- Participants in Grange would like to see a rebalance of power between developers and the natural environment. Reference was made to **the relationship between the NRM Act and the Planning Act**, and that it is important that the Landscapes Act takes priority over planning and development;

- There was concern that **decentralised decision making** doesn't work without decentralised funding and decentralised expertise. A few tensions were felt between the guiding principles. Some liked the community and landholders at the centre, others were concerned how this works in **Green Adelaide** if the Minister is appointing an expert board, with some noting it seems a bit like spin. **Environment and natural resources should be at the centre of decision making**, not community. Relating to back to basics, participants asked why this is only applicable to regional communities. The guiding principles were felt to be high level motherhood statements and more of the 'how' is needed.

- In relation to **board representation**, there was concern that the proposed approach would be 'stacked' by the Minister, and some participants felt this would be no change to how it is now. The proposed structure doesn't demonstrate community decision making. Participants would like to see 4 elected by the community and 3 appointed by the Minister. Many participants asked **why the Green Adelaide board is different** from the regions, with desire to see community representation on there;

- The **$2 million Grassroots Program is too low** and participants also noted that there needs to be access to longer-term funding rather than just short term annual funding. There was strong support **for cross-boundary funding.**

- It was felt by some in the group that **capping of levies** limits the future possibilities in relation to the overall amount of money available. There was strong commentary that questioned why there is a levy for environment when other areas of government don't have a levy but rely on the overall state funding 'pot'. One local government representative noted that whilst the Council was happy for a portion of **levy income** to go to other regions, he would like to see a portion of the levy being **transparently spent** on things important to his area (in this particular instance the River Torrens). He proposed that 60% of income collected in the area remain in the area, with 40% being paid in to the 'pot' to spread across other regions or landscape projects;

- It was noted that many people and groups are trying to do things in this space. One participant noted that **streamlining the work** of departments, groups and agencies to combine efforts would be more effective in delivering outcomes;

- There was concern that any planning process is impacted when a government change. Having 5-year plans sounded ok but it was suggested by one participant that **having a 4-year plan** that ties in with the political cycle might be more sensible;

- There was discussion around the concept of a separate board to focus on the **River Torrens**, particularly relating to all Council areas that have the Torrens (and associated creeks) running through should work together. The same suggestion was made with regard to Councils in **coastal** areas;

- One participant noted that one of Colonial Light's original visions was for Adelaide to be **a "Garden City"** and perhaps this should be revisited within the remit of Green Adelaide;

- **Climate Change** needs to be taken seriously;

- Education of community (particularly relating to the coast) is important. **NRM education** is currently working very well and must continue;

- **Balance** between social, environmental and sustainable economic development is needed.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	EDUCATION
• Rebalancing power with developers and the natural environment – legislate.	• Plant knowledge – male/female plants. • Natural plant systems – especially coastal. • Education. • Existing knowledge. • Education about natural process, • Devolution but not funding. • Engagement with schools.

	• Education of community and landscapes – especially coastal. • Revegetation. • Knowledge including Aboriginal. • Do not go too far. • Educational aspect needs to remain. • People and behaviour change.
COMMUNICATION • More direct science involvement. • More open information and sharing with community i.e. more transparent. • Inter Departmental communication: including Industry/State/Federal Government and including responsibility/power. • Make it clear who is responsible. • Strengthen support for and communications with community and landholders.	**OUTCOMES/REPORTING** • KPIs linked to core NRM outcomes – better transparency of investment NRM levy. • Consider and balance social environmental and sustainable economic development.
CLIMATE CHANGE • Take Climate Change seriously.	**LOCAL** • Understanding local issues e.g. Hills fires; suburban flooding and dune destruction.
BIODIVERSITY • Improved biodiversity through state wide. • Pest species management. • More protection of native biodiversity. • To reinforce natural environment and increase natural habitat.	**RESOURCES/STAFF** • More resources – long term staff into marine and land Parks/Reserves.
NATURAL ASSETS • Give Coast Protection Act more power. • Put monetary value on large trees etc. • Integrated catchment management: ○ Looking at whole system. ○ Link to planning and development. ○ Cool, green cities. ○ Example of River Torrens being a mess. ○ Improved natural assets in our state (e.g. water, soil, flora and fauna).	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Coastal Ambassador System to be improved and continued. EMS to continue.
- Support for NRM for volunteers/volunteer run organisations.
- Continue and enlarge the current knowledge base of training.
- Support the various community groups with their current work and projects.
- Continue to support the current Management Plans to coordinate the activities between land owners, local councils, and environment groups like Trees for Life.
- Knowledge, technical committed staff.

- Support of NRM and other agencies such as Trees for Life and community groups.
- Long term planning with policy and technical expertise.
- Engagement with schools – for education for sustainability i.e. Star of Sea School.
- Fantastic information – does everyone know it's there?
- Funding for partnerships e.g. collaboration with Local Government – zoos etc.
- Education – adults and NRM education – school education.
- NRM education and NRM Engagement programs are excellent.
- NRM education in schools and community extension (e.g. workshops).
- Community connections – off-shoots from NRM, then sharing knowledge, skills, programs etc., with other community groups.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Decentralised decision making doesn't work without decentralised funding and expertise. Yes – this is a big concern.
- Some issues need a wider long term perspective – like Climate Change. X1
- Decentralising can result in problems if every little area does its own thing without regard to the overall good of a region i.e. planning on coast – needs overall responsibility – sea level rise etc.
- Decision making on many issues is already decentralised. Government entities don't communicate with LGA – other departments. How much more splitting could there be? That's part of the problem of management of creeks, coast etc.
- Too complex at state level therefore how does decentralising make things simpler?
- Consider state wide strategic NRM – where are priorities at the state level?
- No Nuclear Dump in SA no matter how much $ it will create, at the expense of natural environment (including humans).
- At odds with the principle of whole of landscape approach.
- Yes, but requires central control/oversight for funding and for accountability, overall directives.
- Decentralisation – will you keep the science, education information? Will there be the money, the people?
- Risky if not a genuine commitment to establish the rights, checks and balances.

b. A simple and accessible system

- This is contradictory. It is not possible to have simple and effective systems for managing complex entities. Reform should aim to develop management that is responsive to, responsible for complex natural and social systems.
- Participation is important but direction and decision needs to be informed – and communities empowered. Science and education are key.
- Simplicity needs to come from better integration with other legislation – particularly Native Vegetation, Coast Protection etc. (not feeling 'red tape' is an issue within NRM legislation.
- Must not be too complicated – people will not engage.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- *Those who work on, live on and care for the land are well placed to sustain our environment:* but history has shown this is very often not the case.
- This makes good sense to me.

- Land owners need a lot of help. I feel through experience the basic help hasn't been there. Land owners are often nervous about asking for help especially 3rd and 4th generation land owners.
- Land owners are not necessarily the best people and will need access to education and help.
- It looks like only those living on the land will be given the responsibility to care for it. Where will the majority of people living in this state and affecting have an input to caring for it? Cities impact.
- How can this work in the city if the Minister is appointing 'an expert Board'. This does seem like spin.
- More government spin and jobs for 'cronies'.
- Beware the vested interest!
- There are land owners at the centre of our gulfs. Marine issues must be treated separately.
- Environment and Natural Resources should be at the centre.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- *When the efforts of many individuals and organisations are combined across a wide area, the results are more substantial, visible and long-lasting:* This happens well now.
- Give creeks and rivers priority not owners.
- Acknowledge that the whole of Australia was 'land managed' by Aboriginals for thousands of years – see 'Dark Emu' and 'The Biggest Estate on Earth'. Gain knowledge of what went before.
- A whole of landscape approach is critical to success. X1
- Whole of environment – marine included.
- Revisit Adelaide as earliest 'Garden City'.
- All projects need KPIs that continue to be monitored after the project is completed.
- How does decentralisation work with this effectively?
- Education is a big part of resilience – communities will need to learn how to lie in a different way, how to live in the 'future' world.
- At odds with the 1st principle of decentralised decision making.
- The whole landscape include our metropolitan area which is expanding and impacting river, biodiversity, beaches, dolphins, oceans etc. – not just landholders.
- Requiring levy funds to be spent in the region they come from means regions with huge areas and few people get little funding. Funds should be allocated on environmental needs – not wealth and population.

e. Back to Basics

- *The system for managing natural resources need to renew focus on the issues that matter most to regional communities:* Why only regional? Have communities been asked what matters most to them?
- What about the marine environment = seems to have very little focus (mainly land and coast)? Who and how will we manage an improve Marine Reserve and Sanctuary?
- Marine needs more management of and fees for recreational fishers.
- Old school thinking – it is more complex than this.
- If we look after soil, water, pest plans and animals the rest will be so much easier NB: need to prioritise.
- Sympathy to all parties – must be sensible and sustainable.
- Great statements need money. Managing the coast benefits the sea: i.e. gross pollutant traps need updating. Stormwater and soil run off need management. Management of weeds and rabbits and foxes very important. Remove them and natives come back anyway. Soil does not have enough attention at present.
- Need to set priorities on what is important for the environmental systems as a whole – not just on what people (or regional communities) see. This does not take a 'landscape scale' approach.
- But need to have a whole landscape focus/approach.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
• It's good to have 3 members elected. Why not 4 though – (better to have 4). • How will election and ministerial selection from applicants – be managed to ensure a balance of interests across relevant communities i.e.to avoid nepotism, cronyism etc.?	• Community representation.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Will they be paid and if so how much? Still community outnumbered by Minister. • Committee being steered by Department/Agenda – high governance transaction costs. • Nomination process. • Why is Green Adelaide Board treated differently?	• Board choose/appoint General Manager from where? Expertise? Experience. • Too politically weighted. • Will existing staff remain? And have tenure? • Inter Board communication could be lost. • Too many departments already, just another bureaucratic layer – especially in Marine and Coastal management. • Ratio – the number of community membership should outnumber the Minister appointed people. • Who nominates the contenders for the position?

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Accountability for decisions. • Processes for Boards and their members to receive and be required to demonstrate that they have properly considered – sound advice – science based; community development based etc. • Measurable outcomes. • Transparency of decision making. • Process to ensure no 'stacking' in decision making.	• Needs continuity. • Coordination/collaboration is essential where they adjoin with common issues. • Get rid of some of the older departments already working on these topics to free up funding for significant projects and not just small ones.

4.2 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3

• Based on catchments/environmental considerations (though concerns of existing local Government boundaries).	• Cross boundary issues need to be managed collaboratively between neighbouring regions. What is a priority in one, may not be in another. • State wide coordination – e.g. weed issues. • Allow for the future expansion of the urban fringe in the Green Adelaide boundary. • Alignment of NRM boundaries and other government (state and local) operational boundaries.	• How do Board boundaries intersect with nationally recognised biological communities? • How will Boards be enabled to manage natural structures/phenomena that are cross boundary? • How will Boards be enabled/required to attend to nation and state wide biodiversity and agricultural priorities?

4.3 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Coordinating assets and projects – strategic plans. • Planting for biodiversity and sustainability.	• Invest in natural environment. • Audit what is existing. • Adapting to Climate Change. • Do whole length of Torrens – Breakout Creek Wetlands. • Manage all river courses as ecological entities.	• Not be a financial wasteful exercise of decentralisation/centralisation. • Maintain green space and ensure that new development respects local flora and fauna and has a holistic plan for restoration and conservation of rivers and creeks. • Respecting the diverse natural environment of the greater Adelaide area from North to South, from the ocean to the hills, promoting enhancing and projecting into the future.
Table 4	Table 5	
• The upkeep and ongoing maintenance of urban rivers. • Green streets and flourishing parklands. • Integration of greater priorities into economic development priorities.	• Presentation and enhancement of green spaces/open spaces. • Connections with adjacent NRM regions (cross-boundary) and marine/land/water interface.	

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Inclusion of new coastal elements for the community (land based). • Whole of catchment opportunity exists.	• That we might not lose more green space as we have been doing. • On the other hand, weeds might get as much attention as plants – hooray! • Bees might get more food and survive.	• Possibility of restoring the original flora and fauna of the plains, sand hills and rivers.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Actual priorities are great i.e. coastal management. • Potential opportunity to be national/world leading.	• Green streets = more trees and urban biodiversity.	

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• 10 appointed members = too political. • Not enough understanding about issues. More science needed. • How do you ensure correct planting trees – too many 'introduced' that drop leaves and block gutters – into ocean? • No obvious experience in marine issues when experts already exist in this state. Duplication of system in marine. • Should also drive pollution reduction initiatives.	• How relates to Local council? • Why 10 members 'appointed'? • Retain open space % age/in new development/built form. • Why do Adelaide Green people have no say in their priorities especially since regional people can choose their own?	• A committee of property developers. • Politically driven – selection determined by elected party. • Levies could be reduced or capped and funding to programs are reduced. • Concern that the structure of this board is different to other regions. • Unclear on planning authority and how it intersects with zoning, housing etc.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Appointment process to Green Adelaide boards i.e. cronyism? • Clarity of outcomes and KPIs. • Adequacy of the grass roots programs. • Distribution of levy. • Linkages to other government systems/legislation. • Link to ACC. • Green Adelaide shouldn't have to fund sand pumping/beach replenishment.	• $2M grants fund won't stretch far. • Education needs to be broader than just nature education – what about water, soils etc. • Distribution of levy funds will drive what can be done. • Natural resources within the city getting more focus that natural resources in the country – where are our most valuable natural resources.	

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked

what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Re: funding – CPI or independent body? Could be vastly different!	• Tell us/inform us – what is needed, what are the problems? • Have a monthly/bi-monthly Open Night: • Update the community. • Share ideas. • Tell us the problems/wins. • Awareness of local issues. • Vote on projects/programs. • Newsletter for each Landscape Board/Region. • Engagement with traditional owners of the land.	• Continue to engage with environment groups and community forums. • Education programs. • Something like the 'Fund my Neighbourhood' program but for environmental projects.
Table 2		
• Re: delivery – stop dredging.	• Resource on ground staff adequately/generously. • More rangers.	• On ground people are fantastic they are really responsive and like your friends. They need more permanent jobs – full-time. Employ, keep supporting education especially Aboriginal education. • Corridors for biodiversity i.e. butterflies and bees. Keep building bee hotels. • Looking after small environmental groups. • Coast Ambassadors.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Capping limits possibilities. • What portion is in the region **vs** in the landscape scale/cross-boundary?	• Out of the 8 local councils who manages the Torrens.

• Should there be a levy for the environment? Environment should be fully funded. • We like the approach of funding priority landscape scale and cross-boundary projects/services – some existing regions have limited capability to raise levy $ from their population e.g. SAAL, AW, KI – but these regions have important natural resources.	• One suggestion is 60/40 split. 60% spent on the Torrens itself. 40% to be used wherever across the State. • (West Torrens and a few others). • There should be allowance for exemptions to the cap for special circumstances. .
Table 3	Table 4
• If councils collect the levy then the Landscape Board boundaries need to coincide with Council boundaries as far as possible. • Greening Adelaide levies must also go out to the Regional Landscape Boards. • Having a unique entity to manage rivers (Torrens for example) and coast is critical.	No comment made.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Yes – absolutely e.g. Buffel grass program is a good state wide initiative with regions working together. • How will priorities be set at state wide level?	• Questions about the very premise of using a levy to fund NRM – it should be a core government function. • Definitely a need for cross regional and state wide projects. • Need a landscape scale project in each region. • Both mechanisms are needed – partnerships and Landscape priorities fund.
Table 3	Table 4
• Yes. • High priority to resolve quickly/not become long term issues – stalling other plans.	• Restricting levy funds to their source regions means large low population regions with major NRM needs get the least funds - makes as much sense as giving Burnside residents better Public Services than those from the Port!

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?	
Table 1	Table 2
• Is $2M fund taken from levy fund? • Long term desirable. • $ is too low – with 9 boards would be $220K average per board which would have minimal impact on the ground. • What about administration costs? Do they come out of this $2M? • We support grants for these groups. • Where is this $ being taken from?	• Doesn't sound like much and it seems like double-dipping. • Don't want this to replace core NRM responsibility. • Strong accountability/transparency on what is funded. • Priority for grass roots grants that have good environmental outcomes as well as high engagement.
Table 3	Table 4
• Yes. • Good. • This action is already happening and is always in demand for more.	• Equitable distinction between availability of funding to support cross boundary priorities and within community as well as local ones. • What's difference between grass roots and priorities fund? • Who/when manages each as individual entities and see that they're complementary? • How will an annually managed funding take account of the fact that most on ground projects need at least 10 years assured support?

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Beck Hirst is Prime Minister. There is a practical, operational set of strategies to promote biodiversity enhancement across SA with measurable improvements and publicised – used as a basis to make more improvements.	Wide scale behaviour change that sees society caring for the environment. And engaging with it on a daily basis. Not sure it's an aim of the reform though!!!	You will no longer receive petitions from the conservation and environment groups representing the people of this state because the destruction and degradation of the environment has stopped. All would be well.
There is a clear and single line of responsibility for solving issues to do with the flow of water down the creeks and rivers to the sea, not half a dozen departments making different competing decisions with no ability to look after issues that affect everybody and every environment downstream.	More enforcement of legislation against those not doing the right thing. Green Roofs, solar panels and water tanks and green areas per household.	Either councils on Landscape Boards are gone.
A healthy environment with minimal pollution. People working together to improve and learn to keep our country beautiful.	People throughout SA are excited about caring for the environment. There is research and money available for us to know/do environmental projects.	No species lost. Higher numbers of people engaged and involved.

Community fees empowered and engaged in NRM and natural resource conditions have improved/met targets.	There is more money being invested into creating vibrant and sustainable natural environments across South Australia.	Sea grass returning – or at very least not receding any more. Less pollution in storm water run-off. Councils planting more native trees/shrubs and not the trees that drop leaves annually, thereby creating a mess in the storm water run-off.
The 'Education for Sustainability' success has continued and been expanded as a priority and pest value for money activity.	Budget 2020 Environmental funding has been priorities and in the State budget just handed down. 2% of funding was allocated to the environment.	For each of the 9 Landscape Boards and for Greening Adelaide: by 2020 the process will be just started. You will not know if it is good or not at that time. By 2024 = full 5 years. The KPIs should show how successful Landscape Act has been. Therefore choosing the KPIs is essential.
My children told me that the environment, the nature and the native animals are in a better state than in 2018.	Community is engaged. Lots of unsolicited activity, enthusiasm, community taking part. Efficient and sensible use of resources, funding, ongoing and completion of projects.	More large shade trees – green spaces – biodiversity - less weeds, feral animals. Healthy soils and oceans. Happy customers.
A wide, healthy, well-vegetated stretch of sand dunes and dry beaches (i.e. dry at high tide), along our metropolitan coastline.	The best sustainable urban ecosystem in Australia, Southern Hemisphere or the World – maybe!	Eradication of pest animals and plants – the rest will look after itself almost! Not possible in 2 years but some measurable outcomes monitoring success.
Genuine engagement between government (intra state), industry and community to support development and improvement of natural resources in partnership with growth.	Positive feedback.	6 gigalitres of clean River Torrens water going to use along the Torrens and clean water out to sea.

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- NRM education – where will they fit in? Essential in teaching our teachers to teach our kids!

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **SCOTDESCO**
TIME/DATE: **10AM-1PM, 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Jon**

At Scotdesco we held a workshop with people representing organisations or groups with an interest in the Alinytjara Wilurara and Eyre Peninsula NRM regions, including the Chair, Deputy Chair and CEO of Yalata.

For EP, discussion focused on the success of **co-management** in the Ceduna region and there are concerns that this should not be lost in any reform. There is a good working relationship and partnerships between EP NRM and AW communities (Yalata and Oak Valley) which is not through any formal mechanisms but cooperation and collaboration in the Ceduna office (where EP and AW staff are co-located). Workshop attendees were keen to see this level of **collaboration** continue. The **Healthy Country Plan** under development was referenced several times as a valuable piece of planning work that should be utilised by NRM/Landscape SA in future. Workshop attendees were concerned that the good work put into the plan is not lost.

For AW, having considered the proposed reforms and the likely impacts on the AW Board, discussion focused on the proposed changes to **elections**. While the principle of elected representatives had some appeal, there were some problems or constraints identified, including:

- the potential for larger families to have greater influence in the voting process
- the need for Board members to have the requisite skills, knowledge and experience to contribute
- the need for the key communities and their representative organisations to have an equitable representation on the Board
- when people are elected as individuals, they don't have an obligation or requirement to bring information back to the communities they represent, leading to a lack of understanding and transparency

The Yalata representatives felt it would be preferable for each AW community organisation's board to nominate their AW Board, for the Minister's approval, instead of a community vote for an individual/s.

Other important points discussed included:

- **Reduction in Board member numbers** (9 to 7) - this might be feasible but would need to have organisations like Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation (whose involvement is less relevant now that FWC has determined native title) cease to have membership

- **AW Presiding Member** - the group advised that the appointment of Parry Agius had been successful and the fact he was not from the area was not an issue, as he knew how to work with Anangu and had other important/relevant skills, knowledge and experience. In future, the appointment of a Presiding Member for AW would need to ensure that the person is the right fit - perhaps seeking endorsement of the AW community organisations before the Minister proceeds with the appointment

- **Trainees and rangers** - there had been some success with trainees going on to other industries but a concern that any training must be linked to genuine employment prospects. If not, the value of training was questioned.

- For EP, the distinction between advisory roles for **Aboriginal people** and decision-making. The Minister's interest in greater leadership for Aboriginal people was welcomed, but the point was made this should not be in an advisory capacity (ie where advice may be ignored by the Board) but as **decision makers with the Board**. Having at least two Aboriginal representatives on the EP Board was suggested, considering the large number of Aboriginal nations in the region.

- Regional Authorities and their role (if any) in NRM is to be clarified.

Additional engagement

Jon met with Robert Larking who is a community leader at Scotdesco. As landholders in the Eyre Peninsula NRM region Scotdesco is in a unique position, pursuing conservation projects (including wombats) while seeking assistance to maintain productive and healthy grazing land.

Robert identified several challenges the community experience in working in NRM, that resonate with the proposed reforms:

- difficulty in accessing funding for projects
- excessive bureaucracy in applications, funding and reporting

Robert would like to see more funding available locally, with less red tape.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **MOUNT GAMBIER**
TIME/DATE: **2PM ~ 5PM 18TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 25 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group was a mix of NGOs, primary producers, landowners, volunteers, industry (forestry) and local government. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Boards

- There needs to be a better representation of industry sectors and landholders on the new Landscape SA Boards.
- The new Boards need to consider how they attract young people to either join the Board or participate in key decision-making processes.
- There is currently a confusion of roles – what the Board is responsible for and what the DEW is responsible for. This needs to be more clearly defined and the roles separated in order that Landowners and the broader public know who is responsible for what.
- Currently there exists excessive bureaucracy and red tape which hampers the ability to get things done.
- Increase the numbers of permanent staff working for the Boards and seek to reduce turnover in order to maintain continuity of effort.
- The new Landscape Boards need to lead from the front and while Councils can support program delivery through the provision of resources they should not be accountable for leading initiatives that are the responsibility of the Board.
- None of the Board currently answer to the electorate – having members voted by the community will help to hold the Boards accountable to the public – they are there to serve the community.

Education and Engagement

- There needs to be a continued emphasis on education programs regarding the importance of biodiversity and wetland management.
- Better and improved consultation and engagement with the agricultural sector and associated landowners.
- Improved information sharing and effective collaboration at the grass roots community level.
- Communities need to be more engaged with the Boards, understand the role of the Boards and see the relevance of the Boards. Communities need to feel empowered, involved in decision making around the priorities and see how their feedback can make a difference.

Local Government

- There needs to be a recognition of the local government role as a landowner and the first point of contact for levy payers with no cost shifting or attempts to pass responsibility for landscape issues back to Councils.

Levies

- The funding for the Back to Basics programs (pest plant and animal control, soil and water management) for public lands should not come from the levy – these programs need to be well coordinated with NRM programs but should be paid for by either the relevant Department or funded by the State.
- Levy monies raised in the region should remain in the region.
- The Department should provide funding support to ensure programs can be adequately delivered – it shouldn't all be reliant on the levy money.
- Capping of the levy is generally supported, but consider how to retain some flexibility should a region desire to support a particular initiate and be willing to pay.

- There should be a focus on the landscape and adequate management programs – they cost what they cost and the State should provide additional funding when needed to support the right management programs for any given region.

Back to Basics

- Biodiversity needs to be included in the Back to Basics concept
- Boards need to have a stronger focus to pest native animal species and how these can be managed to support productivity of the landscape
- Pest plant and animal control at the local level needs to be improved and a regional coordinate approach is needed.
- Native Vegetation needs further consideration about how it is managed when it impacts on private productive land – some flexibility is needed.

Water

- Water needs to be better managed in the region – water currently flows out to sea via the SE drainage system and greater effort needs to be made to look to ways to harvest the water or retain it in the natural environment. Consideration should be given to legislating this to ensure resources are applied to minimise discharge to the ocean. This is likely to require economic modelling to understand the regional benefit to be gained against what cost of harvesting or returning the water to the environment.
- A simpler water allocation process is sought supported with more on the ground monitoring (and not left to hypothetical modelling). A quicker approach to issuing water licences that is efficient and transparent. Funds need to be allocated to hydrological studies.
- In managing the water resources, precautionary principles should apply based around science and evidence.
- The Drainage Board has an important role to play but needs stronger connections and coordination with the Board. There is merit in separating the management of surface water via the drainage system from aquifer water but stronger collaboration and coordination of resources, research and programs needs to occur.
- Roles and responsibilities of managing irrigation practice and licencing needs to be clearer.

Integration

- There needs to be strong integration and coordination with other Departments and legislation – together with greater clarity as to who does what.

The Engagement Process

- Concern that the opportunity for input was not promoted effectively with many people not knowing the session was being held – people who have had a strong involvement with the NRM in the past weren't written to or individually advised that the sessions were taking place.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

NATIVE VEGETATION • Flexibility in terms of managing native vegetation on private productive land – e.g. stringy bark germinating in a pine forest. • Create and enhance native corridors to protect health of birds and bees.	**DRAINAGE BOARD** • Include the Drainage Board into the SA Landscapes? See notes – connection – yes.
WATER • Water is used is a sustainable manner – sustainability feeds into Climate Change. • Improve quality of aquifers. • Managing all of coasts – together as one – not fragmented management. • 5 top threats to aquifers. Make every effort to protect aquifers. • Opportunity to retain water in the natural environment rather than discharged out to sea through drains. • Water can be used for agriculture, natural environment. • Water needs to flow out to sea to prevent salt build up in aquifers (and other things i.e. nutrients). • More transparency a research around water and irrigations. • Simpler water allocation planning process: more on ground monitoring; not solely on modelling; hydro studies; more efficient water licensing – quicker.	**BACK TO BASICS** • Biodiversity to be included in Back to Basics. • Pest and weed management needs to be improved. • Regional approach to pest plant and animal control to support local landowners. • Board to have more interest in over abundant native species especially grey kangaroos.
COASTAL • Vehicles off beaches. • Better management of coastal/inter-tidal and marine zones (integrated with land and marine).	**LEVIES** • Levies raised in region, stay in region. • No cost shifting of administration fees from Adelaide. • Clarity on how costs will be shared between government and community. • Levies don't increase but funds used wisely. • Hobby Farm Levy Reform. • Cap on NRM levies. • Funding needs to be adequate for programs.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT • Recognise local government role as landowner and first point of contact for levy payers. • No cost shifting. • No responsibility dumping.	**IMPLEMENTATION/DELIVERY/KNOWLEDGE** • More action by NRM on ground. • Increase NRM research. • Continuity of environmental knowledge in the region, which is being impacted by outsourcing.

	• Implementation of Act is key: not just the Act; negative changes happened through Government Policy.
EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT • Better/more effective collaboration and information sharing – especially sharing of research results. • More support for community involvement in NRM: ○ Empowered. ○ Reimbursed. ○ Decision making. ○ Act on feedback. ○ Clear responsibility authority. • Better consultation with farmers. • Public education on importance of biodiversity and wetlands.	**STAFF** • More permanent staff work for Board. • Reduce staff turn-over and ensure continuity of effort. • Shared information.
CLARITY OF ROLES • Define the roles of the Board and the Department. • Less layers of bureaucracy to get through to get things done – especially for local councils and local government.	**LANDSCAPE BOARDS** • Greater proportional representation of industry/land holders on NRM Boards. • More involvement of young people in the decision making processes – better and more convenient meeting times. • Re-implementation of the pest/plant board to centrally manage the control of pests, plants and animals.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

ENGAGEMENT • Public Relations are good – helping the public as far as they can. • Continue good collaboration across industries in the South East. • Restore "Bucks for Bush" program. • Environmental education in schools.	**MONITORING** • Weather monitoring and advice on adapting to declining rainfall. • RAMSAR sites. • Weed inspectors. • Monitoring services need to be retained.
WATER • Underground water allocation plan. • Keep number of water management areas – legal; tenure – inclusion of forestry. • Continuation/re-implementation of the hydrologist position. • Ability to trade water.	**NRM INTEGRATION** • Have achieved some degree of integration of Natural Resource Management (previously separate boards).
LEVY COLLECTION PROCESS	**PLANNING**

• Land levy collection through Local Government efficient and effective.	• Lot of good planning done last 15 years that needs to be retained.

OTHER

- Technical and assistance in protecting and managing wetlands.
- NRM noxious weed identification and eradication program.
- Boards would need to apply to government for any expenditure above allowance.
- Landscape priorities fund for state wide projects and programs.
- Grassroots program with $$ available for volunteer community and Not for Profits – at the moment propose that Green Adelaide administers this.
- Support to be given to regions from Green Adelaide.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- How can the legitimate interest of minorities and the less 'powerful' be protected?
- Need to avoid government direction which conflicts with local needs.
- This is a double-edged sword. The enhanced regional boards need to be truly representative of and answerable to their communities.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Local Government is directly answerable to communities' i.e. Council face on votes; take red tape and compliance costs out of Local Government producing actions for its communities.
- Clarity around funding from regional levies to state wide Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots grants.
- Transparency around who is responsible for what – as a young person in the agriculture industry, the role of NRM Boards, Drainage Board, NRMSE, DEWNR etc., is unclear and confusing and creates duplication as well as gaps.
- Councils/NRM should have clarified weed responsibility years ago. I believe NRM have but needs community education constantly.
- Do not let removal of 'red tape' allow for uncontrolled development.
- Ensure that the new legislation to reduce red tape is supported by departmental systems and policies that deliver this aim, early on, NRM Boards were autonomous but were slowly pulled closed to Government and subject to Ministerial direction.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Community will be involved if their opinions are respected.
- Volunteers involved with threatened species, pest animal and plant control, public land need to be included.
- Better engagement with farmers – and more effective and targeted extension that facilitates change rather than just awareness.
- Education of farmers and town gardeners.

- Recognise Local Government as a key land holder, stakeholder and partner (with limited resources). Ability to engage land holders through existing works and networks.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Drainage Board has a long successful history of managing drains and wetlands and should be left to continue management and adequately funded to maintain, monitor and manage surface water.
- Natural environment – fauna, flora, wetlands etc., need to be considered/managed.
- Some water needs to flow out to sea to prevent salt build up and nutrient build up. A complicated matter – fresh water flow to sea can cause loss of seagrass beds – as in Rivel Bay.
- Pelagic fish for shorebirds need to move between sea and wetlands.
- Landscape SA needs to incorporate current Government departments to avoid 'silos' all having different objectives.
- Greater contribution to coastal management in regional areas. In Metro Adelaide levy funds sand management but in regions this falls to Council.

e. Back to basics

- Soil should be left to the farmers with help from agronomists.
- Biodiversity should be a basic.
- Bees are a basic – healthy ones – as long as they stay out of native hollows. They are a serious threat to the environment when they go feral.
- Microflora performs billions of undervalued 'industrial' processes. So protect from smog.
- Adequate funding to promote continuous employment to undertake programs and scientific research.
- Consider the public **vs** private benefits and how public money should be spent e.g. soil improvement programs on private land – should levy be spent on this?

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. Each table was provided with one of the topics and given time to make comment.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
• Smaller Boards are good. • All Board Members will be local. • Make sure there is representation from across the region.	• The concept of decentralised decision making is good but there are issues with its implementation as noted below.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Appointees need to be local people. • Board to elect chair. • 4 elected by community, 3 appointed by Minister. • Community engagement to elect/vote for candidates?	• For responsibility to be truly decentralised the community needs to appoint all seven Board Members. • Need to equitably appoint Board Members to reflect population densities, industry contribution and the natural environment.

• Eligibility of candidates for Board?	

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Staggered terms for Board Members. • How long will terms be – shouldn't be too long but equally shouldn't be too short i.e. 4 year term, re-elected every second year. • Good company structure to operate under the Board. • Encourage gender equality – give women the opportunity to represent the community. • Younger people need to be involved in the decision making process.	• Need to be able to get broadly skilled people from each of the three areas: population densities, industry contribution and the natural environment.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• *Priorities to focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as: soil quality; water management; pest plant and animal control:* add biodiversity, wetlands and threatened species. • Regular meeting: of the board and employees (public observes); with the community (6 monthly at least). • Education programs in various parts of the community ~ indigenous and bee-keepers. • Report card setting out key financial data and where $ received, spent and target met (or not). • Set target/objectives in advance and report against (accountability).	• Publicly report on monitoring the resources. • Report on expenditure admin/resourcing. • Monitoring natural resources. • Report on Board activities.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1	Table 2
• Level of volunteer involvement (weed and bird spotters).	• Ministerial appointments may need to balance any 'majority rule' ('branch stacking').

• Certainty of employment for key personnel: protect valuable knowledge; target and report on continuity of employment; staff development; success of attracting external funding.	• Debt collection of land based levy. • Communication with community (landowners).

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
• Coorong area needs to be within Murray Darling Basin region. • Adjoining boards need to collaborate, especially along boundaries. • Uncertainty around where the South East upper boundary actually is?

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and project? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Consulting for the sake of consulting – just do it. • Changing things for no real reason. • Political interference in whatever Board's legislation.	• Be more open to environment information via citizen scientists and be more easily collated. • Recognising what landholders know about their land. • Re-read the original NRM Act and the intent. • Needs to be greater emphasis and support for community engagement on the Boards.	• Community consultation – meetings around the region. • From the Ground Up magazine: • Into employees. • Reporting on programs. • Information about environment. • Information re changes in regulations. • Information re changes in water allocations

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Irrigation levy – 2 components; 1) Allocation 2) Volume used. • CPI.	• Agree with cap plus CPI.	• Often wages increase above CPI, so each year cuts would need to be made to operating budgets just to continue existing projects. • Services that underpin – already the case. Government responsibility to maintain. • Parliament Committee to approve exception, not Minister.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Drought/hardship variability in wealth to be considered (capacity to pay). • Reverse is that >CPI in good time (government banker).	• Good idea to cap levies at CPI – Boards operating within their allocated budget. • Ability not to have to increase levies every year e.g. in years of drought or fires. • Don't like the ideas of an independent board setting rates.	

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• There is a need for cross regional projects. Prefer partnerships across multiple Boards. • Funding should not come from levies, should come from government.	• Yes – each region raises funds but a proportion is divided out to the regions.	• Commitment to spend, not just accumulating funds – not like solid waste levy/Native Vegetation fund. • At least 1:2 matching $ from government. • Opportunity for levy $ to be maximised by working with bigger projects. • Model these before implementing.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Yes – we need cross regional and state wide projects (e.g. weeds and corridors/connections/wetlands). Coastal erosion management. • Need protection for smaller revenue areas.	• Partnerships across multiple landscape boards is a good idea – a central fund is not because it decreases focus on collaboration and cooperation and increases competition.	

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 1</td><td>Table 2</td><td>Table 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Grant Funding returned to region money raised.</td><td>• It goes against the decentralised model i.e. funds centralised and Adelaide decides where it goes.</td><td>• Should be a government funded fund not levy.
• Prefer Grass Roots $ to stay in region. This would be more efficient than paying to a central fund then applying and returning $ to the region.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 4</td><td colspan="2">Table 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Why can't State Government just fund this like Victoria and New South Wales?</td><td colspan="2">• The Grassroots program should come out of Green Adelaide fund – and not be administered by Green Adelaide. Should be administered by local boards or a central non-biased board.</td></tr>
</table>

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Productive and profitable agricultural industry that collaborates with other industries and has minimised the impact of climate change on the local economy by looking after our natural resources.	Judge success by acceptance by the local community – if they really think it is working OK and aren't complaining about paying levy, then you'll know it is working well.	Success is if local land holders have easier access to this new Government Department. It will succeed if the Minister takes on board the suggestions that are made by the groups.
It has been successful if you get re-elected to Government. Water table is OK. Drainage to the sea is attempted to be put back into aquifers for recharge. Local government and NRM is working together toward good community projects without NRM interference. Look at Local Government and assess their effectiveness to bring good outcomes to their communities.	I would judge success if the Minister actually takes notice and implements a lot of the suggestions that the groups have all agreed on.	The Liberal Government has passed a legislated ban on 'fracking'. If that is still in place then the reforms of Landscape Management will have been successful because it is all about environmental awareness.
What does success look like?	Success is the big % of people it affects are happy with the outcomes.	Increased biodiversity. Fewer threatened species/ecosystems.

Funding targeted to highest NRM priorities across the state as well as the regions. Decrease in $ spent on administration and increase in $ spent on on-ground works/projects.		More effective on-ground work occurring.
First guiding principle is 'Decentralised Decision Making' – don't centralise process by drawing state wide and grassroots back to Adelaide.	Community goals achieved. Community not upset or against maintaining the reforms. Members of the Landscape Boards satisfied that their time and efforts have been successful and have been welcomed by the community.	Measure of success: Resources show decrease in decline or stability. Public feedback is positive. Community is supporting projects.
Regulation of Soil, Water and Pest Plant Management being successfully implemented and proceeded. Stakeholder/Community participation supported and compensable for and most importantly committed. SE Water Allocation Plan supported in its entirety.	Improved natural resources (need to measure). Increased implementation of best practice land management. Land holders meeting their responsibilities – increased compliance. Community support for NRM Board and programs: positive PR; increased participation; willingness to pay levies; decreased complaints; increased community/government/industry partnerships; less competition for funding – more collaboration on projects.	That the process of changing Acts/Regulations does not cost a fortune just for the sake of it. That a change in Government changes the structure again. That the NRM Board acknowledges industry and works closely with them. A cost benefit analysis is done on the changes – will the structure reduce costs and improved outcomes.
Very difficult – most of the population are not aware of Natural Resources Management. Benchmarks needed with adequate funding for ongoing measurement – monitor to pick up changes – positive or negative.	No species have become endangered/critical. Improved Murray environmental flows. Greater NRM funding and positive outcomes through projects receiving Grassroots Fund funding.	Difficult issues – driving on beaches etc., would be dealt with. Wetlands would be vibrant. Aquifers would be healthy. Pest animals and plants would be under control or at least being managed. People would have an understanding of the environment. Farming practices would be sustainable.
There would be a well-educated population in city and country who understand that climate change is happening very fast. Water is life would be on car stickers everywhere. All plastic cleaned from beaches etc. Fossil fuels will be a thing of the past. Indigenous land management (traditional) more understood and adopted.	We are confident we can deal with climate change. The community is generally positive about NRM Landscapes. Minorities are adequately involved and represented.	

8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Accommodating a greater population i.e. who is the community? Who owns land/houses? X2
- Who do the Boards report to? Department of Environment and Water? Someone must be responsible. Can't just be the Minister – he will be advised by his Department.

ADDITIONAL NOTES MADE BY FACILITATOR ON BUTCHERS PAPER:

FUNDING:
- Capping (flexibility).
- Focus on landscape and resources.

AWARENESS OF OPPORTUNITY:
- Lack of awareness and advertising of the opportunity.
- People who have been involved in the past in engagement sessions were not written to or advised.
- Previous data bases should have been used to ensure broad awareness.

DISCUSSION – KEY ISSUES:
- Better monitoring of water resources management.
- $$ raised should remain in the region.
- Department should also provide top up. Taxes are paid.
- Roles and responsibilities NRM needs to take lead but Council can provide adequate funding for Back to Basics on public land – not out of the levy.

WATER:
- Precautionary principles should apply – knowledge and science.
- Water licensing – they are transferable and $$ needed.
- Water resource management – look to putting water back into the aquifers.
- Legislation – to manage/prevent water discharging to oceans.
- Drainage Board – needs stronger connection with NRM – surface water/aquifer water.
- Look for better ways to manage water/preserve to support.
- Irrigation – who – roles and responsibilities.
- Economic modelling to prevent water tout to sea – cost – but benefit to economic development of the region.
- Winter water – storage??

HOLISTIC VIEW:
- Other pieces of legislation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:
- None of the Boards answer to an electorate – Council does.
- They should be there to serve the community.
- Projects and plans through red tape.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **BORDERTOWN**
TIME/DATE: **2PM ~ 5PM - 19TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 28 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group consisted of NGOs, primary producers, landowners, volunteers, and local government. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Levy

- The documentation appears to suggest that regions will need to become more reliant upon the levy that is collected in their region and less reliant on external grant funding – this will limit the regions ability to effectively deliver programs and most particularly if they are still required to send money to Adelaide by way of administrative fees.
- There needs to be more specific details provided as to how the appropriate amount of funding will be given to enable the regions to be effective in their program delivery. Will there be an equitable distribution? Will all levy monies from around the State be pooled and then distributed? How much will be consumed by Adelaide? At present the information around the levy is too abstract. Specific numbers and percentages are required.
- Councils should continue to collect the levy – it is a cost efficient and effective method. However, the issue for Council's is the impost on them to make up the shortfall in funds and the ultimate debt collection process for those who don't pay.
- Will there be increases to the levy to pay for the desired outcomes? What future impost will this likely be to rate payers?
- Can there be a consideration of others who could pay in the community other than landowners? Good land management and long term sustainability of our landscapes is the responsibility of everyone.
- Equity of acreage – the principles of equity need to be accounted for in the way the levy is set.
- Agriculture drives the levy – 70% of the levy money comes from the agriculture community – those working the landscape for economic development and prosperity of the regions carry the levy and therefore they should benefit from the programs and projects undertaken by the Board
- Aspects of the way the levy is currently set is not equitable – the system needs to be more equitable (ie: landowners in towns and regional cities who own two adjoining allotments on separate titles pay twice, whereas rural landowners with contiguous landholdings don't).
- Will the Board continue to have responsibility for setting the levy? Will they be constrained to particular options? Will they be in a position to set what they consider to be the most equitable approach for their region?

Decentralise

- Boards need more autonomy, clarity of role (what sits with DEW and what is the responsibility of the Boards), greater separation from DEW, ability to engage specialists and make localised decisions to respond to local needs and issues.

Operational Emphasis

- There needs to be a greater focus on the operation of the Boards at the grass roots, with more on the ground staff, less administrative processes that soak up valuable resources and less procrastination in decision making.

Compliance

- The process pathway to compliance needs to be addressed. There are examples in the region of significant non-compliance (feral animals, weeds) and nothing is done. The process needs to be tightened and action taken to ensure property owners held to account.

Youth

- Embed succession planning into the education process through schools. Support school students attending Board meetings as observers to help them to understand what goes on and the importance of natural resource management. There needs to be an increase in the level of active engagement by involving youth and preparing the next generation.

Vegetation Clearance

- Is the Native Vegetation Act on the list for review? If so any review needs community engagement as changes could see the further reduction of native vegetation in our landscapes.

Biodiversity

- Biodiversity is at risk – a regional biodiversity strategy is needed with funding to match. By maintaining the health of the landscape other problems reduce.

Boundary

- The upper south east has distinct issues and characteristics from the rest of the south east region and this needs to be considered when allocating funding to programs and projects – often the area is treated as the poor cousin to the lower south east.
- Consideration could be given to the north western boundary of the region and where it is best located. This is not a straight forward issue as the lower Coorong is connected to the lower lakes and Murray Darling Basin. Any changes need to consider levy implications and what's best for the landscape. Where possible alignment with other regional boundaries (RDA, local government) helps in developing partnerships and management plans and this in itself could be a reason for considering a shift.
- The current arrangements in place have been largely driven by landscape and this should be taken into account in any review process.
- Alexandrina Council should be consulted if there was to be any changes to this boundary.

Board Structure and accountability

- The community needs to have a greater level of ownership of the Board – with the Board needing to be more accountable to the community
- The selection process needs to ensure representation across the region (avoid skewed results – ie: greater population in Mount Gambier may influence an open community voting process).
- There should be a skills criteria for those nominating to the Board.
- The community voting process should support more positions (either 4 of the 7 or 5 of the 7).

- The community vote process needs to look to avoid vote stacking (ie: large corporates supporting a particular candidate)
- Consider who is eligible to vote – should be those who are paying the levy – and one vote per property owner.
- Boards need autonomy to make public statements via the chair or General Manager and not be vetoed by the Department or the Minister.

Water

- There is room to reform water management through a greater understanding of the interactions between surface water and groundwater in a transparent manner.

Partnerships

- Continue with strong partnerships and look to enhance these and build others with a greater emphasis on on-ground effort at the community level.

What to Keep

- Good engagement opportunities into current planning process
- Staff at the local level are excellent
- Good community programs /partnerships are in place and happening
- Good school program
- Water allocation planning, monitoring and evaluation and utilisation of science
- Board members are currently selected based on skills – this shouldn't be lost in any new process
- Existing grant programs such as 'bucks for bush' are effective – don't lose the opportunity to access grant funding
- The principles of the NRM Act should be retained
- Maintain whole of landscape approach

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
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6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The facilitator sorted them in to themes.

YOUTH • Make the Green Gang a state wide model – jobs for youth. • Successful planning. • Opportunities for youth to attend Board Meetings.	**BOUNDARIES** • Regional boundaries to align with Council boundaries.
WATER • Effective management of water through a greater understanding of interactions between surface and ground water (in a transparent manner). • Reform Water Management e.g. Tatiara – re drainage in Tatiara – need good local knowledge to make decisions.	**BIODIVERSITY** • Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: locations; not species specific; funding priorities. • Biodiversity is at risk – real actions to address risks. • Make it easier for private landholders to conserve native bushland. • Recognition and improvement of biodiversity: if you have healthy landscape, other problems reduce; key contributor to resilient communities; strategy on priorities for locations for restoration. • Efficient protection and conservation of biodiversity. Find the best mechanism.
LEVY • Implement CPI based restriction on levy increase immediately – irrespective of new Act.	**COMPLIANCE** • Compliance: consequences; timely; use the powers in the Act; follow through and enforce; ensure new Act enables easy and effective compliance.
PARTNERSHIPS/ENGAGEMENT • Real Aboriginal involvement a must. • Greater community engagement – partnerships between board and community groups. • Greater emphasis on on-ground effort at community level. • Increased understanding of landholder responsibilities.	**OPERATIONALLY FOCUSED** • Become more operational. • Good M & E – Meaningful; drive future management; representative of landscape. • More on-ground staff with decision making ability. • Local issue: Bridal creeper spraying needs to continue – spore water. Need integrated and expansive bridal creeper programs. • Get rid of B… S… - procrastination from DEWNR people. Too many Chiefs and not enough Indians. • Reform should achieve on ground actions e.g. tree planting (of the right type) and weed management. • Introduce Spray Carts.

	• A small handful of DEWNR people are really good people and give 110% - the rest are just talkers. • Need to get rid of procrastination – decision making should be able to be made by local staff.
LOCAL ISSUSES • Local issue ~ fire protection for the township of Mundulla – reduce fuel load adjacent to the town i.e. graze it out. • Should be more activities as the 'bat night' involves a lot of people.	**DECENTRALISATION** • Clarity on what's board issue and what's a department issue. • Autonomy for Board to: engage specialists; direct operations. • More autonomy: not having to comply with other regions: reflect regional differences in resources. • Decentralised decision making – currently everything/decisions seem to happen in Adelaide – need local people making local decisions. • Local decisions to be respected – measure and monitor any undue influence due to Minister's private/business views. • Separation of Board from Department (Back to the Future).
OTHER • Getting the engine room of agriculture going. • 70% levies come from landholders. • Agriculture generates the wealth to do NRM. • Balance economic and environmental outcomes. • Want to Achieve: ○ Simplicity, accountability, restoration of regional control. ○ Restoration of confidence: in NRM and Government; in NRM Regional Boards. ○ Clearly define and understand: what is Natural Resource Management? Who is the community? ○ Compliance: non-compliance to solutions; simpler, shorter and more effective. ○ Equity: Common ground rules especially levies. Application of law.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down the top three things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

EXISTING GRANT PROGRAMS • Capacity to attract Grant Funding. • Devolved Grant Programs such as Bucks for Bush.	**INTEGRATION WITH OTHER LEGISLATION** • Principles where multiple Acts were integrated together – Whole of Landscape Approach.
PRINCIPLES	**BOARD**

• Retain principles of NRM Act.	• Skills based selection of Board members – ensuring people have the skills and knowledge to contribute to management.
WATER • Don't lose knowledge and principles of Water Allocation Plans. • Continue to monitor and evaluate the condition of ground water; driver of agriculture and environment; best science for allocation and management decision. • Water Allocation Planning.	**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS** • Maintain schools programs. • Linkages to the Green Army have been effective. • Re-establish Green Army with better support – better qualified leaders AND 2 leaders per group.
STAFF • People at local NRM – awesome. • Board presence across region: offices/staff; board members; represent all Landscapes. • Friendly, respectful can do attitude from NRM Staff.	**PLANNING** • 5 year plan already set up based on community decision making.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Good idea – but needs definition – local NRM (Boards) and offices need the resources to do the job. X1.
- Back to the Future ~ need autonomy.
- Must re-establish confidence in NRM Boards.
- As long as 'the Board' is in 'sync' with the community ~ "Ngarlkart – Blue Lakes".
- Alignment of boundaries should correlate with the regions land use/ecological units etc.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Compliance must include Solicitor – General and legal availability.
- New Board Staffing. ~ General Manager plus one or two admin assistants only. All project work contracted out to DEW, PIRSA, Consultants, Community Groups, Local Councils and others. The Board staff skills to be in contracting and monitoring.
- As long as you cannot pay your way out of "non-compliance" as long as the culture supports legislation and it is effective.

- A strong presence should be looked for amongst the youth of local communities i.e. a representative with an exceptional cultural awareness – especially amongst Aboriginal youth.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Landowners to recover cost related to government inaction.
- To be guided/moderated by Science special to the field of endeavour.
- Community need to have influence in management and decision making but we don't just need a new "additional "group".
- Tap into existing/established Landcare/environmental/agricultural groups in the region.
- Landowners that invest their own money in effective and recognised desirable outcomes land and natural resource management should not carry a financial burden to support other stakeholders.
- Community groups (schools etc.) will have to support to continue with projects.
- Agree - these are the people at the coal face who understand the priority issues and have vast experience from working on the land/waters.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Specific regional issues may be overlooked. Agree – everything is connected; must have a holistic approach, as the condition of one aspect of the environment affects/is related to another aspect.
- Great 'motherhood' statement – but what does it really mean? – We need some certainty around detail – plus Regional inputs!
- Re-assess region boundaries to keep existing 'communities' intact rather than an arbitrary line along Council/Board exiting lines.
- We use and live with air, soil and water. All of us. Levies should be called something else and support vibrant biodiversity indigenous to regions. The community should not pay to fix man made environment disasters i.e. (drains).
- We have a fundamentally altered landscape – clearing, drains, and loss of biodiversity (worst mammal loss per unit area in world) we need true landscape collaborative approach to maintain what we have left. How much value is our environment in this country and the world? Environment has been plundering for too long – and its value undermined – until we place $ value on our Bush am the benefits it provides for our farms, country and world. We will always it to test.

e. Back to basics

- Tatiara flooding ~back to original drainage ~ 40 years of Tatiara Drainage Trust unable to resolve the problem.
- Relies NRM. Lack of representatives to resolve longstanding issues.
- But not dumbed down. NRM/Landscapes are complex and deserve in depth consideration and decision making.
- Define basics – allocate actual responsibility for administration of programs – fund the programs.
- Compliance – action – reaction: if you abuse our environment you should pay and fix it. If you continue to abuse it you should not be allowed to continue ownership.
- Compliance – enable on-the-spot fines.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Smaller number = faster decisions. • 8 on a Board can still work if Chair has casting vote only (not deliberate vote)	• Size – workable and agile. • Autonomy. • To direct spend and effort.	• Efficient decision making (potentially). • Local/regional representation to identify current and future issues.
Table 4		Table 5
• Will Board Members be able to come to decisions and discuss matters with community without ministerial approval? • All Board Members will (probably) receive an 'allowance' from the department – this means they will not be allowed to make public comment without ministerial approval!		• Three members elected, four members including the Chair appointed by Minister.

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Need high number of nominees. • Geographic spread of members. • Former politicians being appointed by Minister. • Actually if the Minister has control of the appointment of all 7 then skills, geography, gender etc., can be taken into account. • Ensuring gender of cultural equality.	• *Chair appointed by Minister:* community to submit nominations? • Appointment process – Board Member diversity: age; sex; skills/knowledge; geographical locations (Ward?). • Will Board Members be remunerated?	• How will age, gender and expertise and regional range in make of Board? • Term of service? • Individual or Board accountability? • How will the election run? Online; mail; compulsory; via Local Government. • Remuneration for Board Members. • Divide zone into geographic regions i.e. 3. • Ability to nominate persons to appoint Ministers vacancies. • The Board is making decisions using public funds so needs to be accountable.
Table 4		Table 5
• Board representation not even, should have equal members from community.		• Ministerial selection of members need to involve a

• The Minister is probably a 'good guy' (haven't met him) and having 4 appointed members on the Board and therefore control may not be a problem BUT what happens when the Minister changes – what redress/action available to communities if it all goes to hell in a handbasket? • If Minister can sack a Board Member then he has effective total control. • Is Board Chairman going to have a casting vote? Will be Minister's what he takes? • What is the criteria for election and appointment of Board Members?	consultation and a good awareness of member skills.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Reasonable pay levels for Board Members. • Upper/mid/lower/coastal areas. • Allow departmental and technical experts to be included.	• Recognise existing groups and collaborations in place and working well. • Unlinking Board and DEW to ensure effective service (DEW still to be used if appropriate for service).	• Maybe Board Charter that is inclusive and connected to total region, enterprises, land types, biodiversity and native vegetation. • Central Focus – can local community manage compliance?
Table 4		Table 5
• Strong communication and trust formed through mutual respect, leading into heave discussed legislation. Also cultural and potentially religious awareness. • A diverse age range.		• Elections – eligible voters should include all people that are entitled to vote.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• A strong ground team that is mobile in accordance with legislation.	• Budgets: need greater transparency about what $ are spent on and this needs	• Good governance – if back to Grassroots why 4 to be appointed by Minister?

• Reporting on outcomes **vs** key objectives at the end of board term prior to new election of board.	to be reported to the community (well publicised). • Need to know how many staff the Board employs. • Reporting on what is delivered and the work of the Board – annual reporting needs to occur in detail. • Who the independent reviewer of the levy arrangements are? • Community consultation on the levy arrangements is necessary. • Community engagement on the Plan is important – needs of the Plan (i.e. the region) need to dictate the levy. • Need ability to form partnerships and report on delivery on those partnerships. • Water management is critical for the SE region and the state.	Maybe 3 (2) and 4(5) locally elected. • Clear plans, measurable targets, partnerships. • Board location needs to be accessible for community. • Access to science/research to guide decisions.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Seven members creates a small majority of only 4 votes, which calls forth how the members are elected via candidate eligibility.	No comment made.	No comment made.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

Table 1
• The Coorong is problematic: the Coorong relies on the Murray and vice versa. • Boundaries should align with Council boundaries. • The U.S.E. Drainage Scheme links to the Coorong, but should stay in Limestone Coast Landscape SA. • Must be called Limestone Coast

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?</th></tr>
<tr><td>Table 1</td><td>Table 2</td><td>Table 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Cap levy at CPI – because an independent body will just be another group from the city 'telling us what to do' and as country people we are over that i.e. it will cause ill feeling that works against what we are trying to achieve.
• Liberal Party Policy is no big new taxes – this is a big new tax!</td><td>• Capping of levy: CPI cap a positive approach.
• Not confident that ESCOSA is the best organisation (city based don't understand regional needs) to administer/approve levy increases – also criteria for sharing levy not clear.
• Collection: alternative option – retain $ in region – make available funds (a smaller proportion) to be available for state wide allocation to deal with important emergency situations (e.g. lower Murray issues) and ensure that $ can be used for shared projects between regions.</td><td>• CPI – OK. X1
• Not ESCOSA!</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 4</td><td>Table 5</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>• CPI – Develop plans and programs that are affordable.
• Keep ESCOSA out of it.</td><td>• Define the levy – where does drainage fit?
• If region responsible for determining levy $ amount, what is it to be spent on?
• State issues.
• Give community confidence and clear parameters to operate.
• Restore confidence in Government at Community Stakeholder level that the environment/resources/biodiversity be managed in best possible manner.</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Yes – more detail to see how it will work. • Perhaps a separate Financial Advisor to liaise between the two initiatives.	No comment made.	• Yes – and make it an emergency response fund. • What happens with a regional biosecurity issue that can spread to other regions? Answer – this system is required.
Table 4	Table 5	
• SA Government – State to buy into projects. • Projects and cross board boundary partnerships should be driven by boards.	• *Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.* Agree X2 • *A landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes:* as long as local representation on the process. YES. There will be efficiencies in this process. • Duplication of administration (double, triple handling of same funds). • $ SE – Central – make up of State Board Charter.	

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Keep the money local and distribute locally – keep	No comment made.	• $2M is a small amount.

Adelaide out of it – unless they are sending us money (and that's about time) (i.e. ex Green Adelaide).		• The city should support the regions natural assets e.g. avoiding extinction. • OK for the city to administer as long as distribution of funds is equitable and has a broad/even geographical spread.
Table 4		Table 5
• Good – notes show Green Adelaide to co-administer? This is centralisation.		• $2M won't go very far. • Utilised for local on-ground practical work.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Seeing projects successfully completed. Value for money seen to be delivered.	Have been unsatisfied with previous lack of positive action in Tatiara. Thank you for communication. Hope to see some results.	Success will be obvious if Boards elected don't act like Federal Parliament has been doing. Elected people need to be special people or the change may not work.
Measuring success: • Number of people effectively engaged in NRM. • Number of local groups/communities receiving funding to undertake on-ground works. • Landscape Boards developing Action Plans for their Region – addressing priority NRM issues. • Increased pest plant and animal control.	I regard the current system as pretty good – so success means minimal changes. NSW and QLD have seen massive backlash after changes to Native Vegetation clearance law – after these rules at your peril!	Local communities are confident they are getting a say. Not being told what Adelaide wants. Land clearing legislation still in place, a support given to landholders who retain Native Vegetation. Water rights fair. No more land clearing by 'big names' just for their own benefit.
Success is valued by progress, sometimes regardless of sentiments, for the environment.	Deer are controlled. No extinctions. Get re-elected. Levies are not under pressure – to be lifted above CPI.	Smoothly functioning system with relatively fewer complaints. Future directions driven by informative on-ground from targeted monitoring.

	Landscape weeds are controlled.	Compliance with pest plant and animal requirements.
Fewer dead or dying trees along local roadsides. Less rabbits in the headlights within the Keith township. Baseline 2 in last 10 days.	David Spiers ~ 2020 It is successful if confidence of the community has been restored in Natural Resource Management staff. Success is – issues raised are dealt with promptly; money is spent primarily on ground not in administration.	Success: Local communities are much less cynical about top down decisions – ex Adelaide and in relation to the environment much more likely to be positive and more likely to get involved.
Restored confidence by the community and landholders in effective land and natural resource management. Efficient use of collected levy funds.	Much would be done in Community and Government. Whole communities would be happier as a whole – have faith and confidence in the whole landscape. Management Project. Difficult issues would be overcome solved. Better bush and environment management. Employment opportunities.	Effective compliance. Successful reform 'Imagine 2020". Job satisfaction for government employees. Resolutions to ongoing enduring problems. A culture in the community to take responsibility for their part in managing our environment. No species loss – rehabilitated land, healthy native and agricultural practice. NO FERAL DEER on my place!!
Success Year 3 – Compliance: 1) The respect that Regional Landscape Board has within its region. 2) More quality of candidates willing - to stand for election. 3) The range of funding success beyond the region (e.g. Federal Government) and quality and scale of landscape projects undertaken.	Poll phone call to stakeholders and you receive a true response. Engagement of more people in the Natural Resource Management. Demonstrate good governance of public funds.	Equitable and transparent. No increase in levies – CPI max. All pay a share based on land owned. Happy community.
Getting back to the basics but making sure we have an integrated system that captures both Planning and Natural Resource Management and making the best use of fund raised.		

7. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to

them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- The NRM Council if kept should assist the Boards. Not develop a state wide plan which steals autonomy.
- If NRM Board and community autonomy do not need a Board controlled by the Minister. (Majority of members are Minster appointment).
- Will this or any other forum be acted upon? Is it just a public relations exercise so the Ministers can say he 'consulted' the general public?
- Please consider "Green Gang Bush Contracting" as a model to engage youth in the regions – subject to suitable leaders being available.
- A greater value ($) needs to be placed on the benefits of conserving/managing our natural environment, and how this has a positive flow-on to other industries re: tourism, fishing and agriculture.
- Feral Deer! Not wild deer – removed from landscape.
- The coast needs a higher emphasis.

ADDITIONAL NOTES MADE BY FACILITATOR:

LEVY:
- Concern about loss of funding by a total reliance on the levy.
- Need clarity around how much of the levy has been consumed by Adelaide – fees/administration. Not distract – need exact number.
- Equity: will $$ go out of the region.
- Will the levy be collected and pooled?
- Can levies be leveraged from others – other than landowners? All members of the community have a responsibility.
- Will the levy be increased to fund the outcomes?
- Council – should they collect the levy? Currently efficient. Funding the balance of the required levy.
- Equity of acreage – the principles of equity need to be accounted for in the way the levy is collected.
- Agriculture drives the levy. 70% comes from the agricultural community – operational farmers.
- Equitable system for setting the levy state wide.
- Board have options to set the levy most equitable to their community.
- Rural – recognises contiguous land owners but town rate payers pay multiple blocks (separate titles).
- Board can set the levy on what they consider is most equitable from various options.

COMPLIANCE:
- Process and pathway to compliance needs to be addressed e.g. non-compliance of fencing; feral deer – government non-action – equitable approach.

OBSERVATIONS:
- Be mindful of greater population sharing results.
- Community to have ownership – 5/2.
- Regional/geographically represented. Skills and criteria.
- Regional areas (3) Election process – everyone who pays Council Rates to have a vote.
- 8 members – can work (Chair only has a casting vote).
- Avoid an ability to stack the vote (large corporates).

- Board needs autonomy to make public statements through the Chair or CEO without veto.
- Boundaries – Coorong is problematic – boundary/NRM/ Limestone Coast.
- RDA - Same boundaries makes partnerships easier.
- Ask Coorong Council – Landscape has driven current outcome.

YOUTH:

- Embed succession planning into education process – to attend boards (3hours a month).

- Vegetation Clearance Act – Is this on the agenda? Concerned about changes or that could occur and impact changes.

- Boundary – Coorong – upper SE has distinct issues to the rest of SE (poor cousin).

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **MENINGIE**
TIME/DATE: **2PM ~ 5PM - 20TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS: **Steve**

A group of 21 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group consisted of NGO's, volunteers, primary producers, landowners, Local Government. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

Decentralisation and Role Clarity

- The original intent of the Boards was sound – but they seem to have lost their way in coordinating and supporting projects at the local level. What projects the Boards have delivered in recent times have been done well, with committed and friendly staff. The original plan for NRM has failed at the Department / bureaucratic level.
- There needs to be a separation of the NRM from DEW. While program coordination is necessary between the two entities, their roles and responsibilities need to be clear. Staff working for the NRM (or Landscape SA) need to be accountable to their Boards and not be compromised by needing to deliver DEW programs and strategic direction.
- DEW's role should be to do with National Parks and wildlife and broader State conservation matters. NRM should focus on pests and weeds, soils and water at the local level to support landowners who are paying the levy.
- NRM should be empowered to make more autonomous decisions and leverage resources from the community and Council to deliver programs
- Form follows function – what is the intention of the Minister with respect to the role of the Board. While the general intent has merit, some of the principles may be at risk of conflict in an operational sense. If a landscape approach is intended, together with the reduction in administration, resources and governance are still necessary. The function of the board needs to be clear in order for the form to be established.
- Coordination of landscape programs with public departments will be critical if they are to be effective – you cannot have good programs being implemented by the NRM in weed management for example and the issue is not being dealt with on public land (ie: National Park).
- Resources for program delivery are key – and with funding constrained, the ability to have the right resources matched to the right programs will be a challenge. There may be merit in having the Department with funding from the State retain ownership of issues of a State-wide nature that are likely to be beyond the ability of Boards to tackle even if they partner with each other.
- Strong support for decentralising decision making from the Department to the Boards.
- Boards are in the best place to make local decisions and to respond to local needs. Strong support therefore for decentralising and giving the Boards more decision making authority.

Role of the State Department

- Resources and funding is a big challenge – there is still a role for the Department at the State level to tackle issues that might be beyond the ability of the Boards and the Back to Basics principle – ie: dryland salinity project.
- The Department needs to action issues that impact multiple regions at a State-wide level – this cannot be ignored in going forward with reform.
- State funded programs are essential to support on the ground actions undertaken by the Boards. This ongoing support and balance between State and local action is a necessity.
- Decisions at the State level need to be made in consultation and collaboration with the Boards – ie: in making decisions to de-list weed species engagement with local landowners who may be hurting as a consequence of that weed, need to be taken into account – a bottom up approach is needed in order for such decision making to be informed.

Boards

- Boards still need the skills and knowledge to effect good programs.
- Boards need to consider how they retain the right resources to match the long term management of landscape issues.

- Board membership must include expertise, skill mix and knowledge. The number of 7 appointees is about right.
- Boards need to be clear about their vision and their role and that of their staff.
- The Chair could be appointed by the community as an independent and approved and endorsed by the Minister.
- Representation across geography, gender, industry, community needs to be ensured. There is a risk in a region like the South East that the population of Mount Gambier could skew the community vote result if there is a lack of criteria or requirement for there to be diversity.
- Board members need to be appointed for a reasonable terms and turnover of board members staggered to enable continuity.
- A connection to Government and Department experts is still needed for coordination purposes – but in a collaborative/consultative way where the Board still maintains its autonomy.
- There was a preference expressed for four members to be voted by the community and three appointed by the Minister.
- Could look to ensure that there is at least one representative from each Council area.
- There is strong support for the community election idea, but the approach needs to guard against the risk of vote stacking possibly by introducing a pre-selection process.

Staff/Resourcing

- There needs to be a continuation of resources to match landscape issues.

Back to Basics

- While it is accepted that there needs to be a stronger focus on the back to basics, the Boards can't just be a weeds and rabbits board. Native vegetation and fauna is currently missing and this is seen as a gap.
- There needs to be a stronger focus on biodiversity and assisting local landowners adapt to climate change and conserve threatened species.
- Better on the ground support for weed control.
- Supporting and encouraging land owners to not only focus on back to basics but to link to broader landscape scale approach to projects and initiatives.

Levy

- There is a risk that even with the reform the levy will ultimately get swallowed up in administration and governance. New administrative process therefore need to be efficient and ensure that we are not reinventing the administrative wheel albeit in a different form.
- Avoid cost shifting – the levy raised in the region needs to stay in the region.
- Government departments and Government agencies that own land should be accountable for paying the levy.
- How will staff be employed – are they going to continue to be public servants from the Department – or will they be accountable to the Board?
- Avoid absorbing the levy on wages and administrative process
- The way the levy is currently collected in the region is inequitable because the boundary straddles different Council areas. There is therefore merit in considering better alignment of boundary with Council boundaries.
- There is also merit for having a consistent approach to levy raising across the entire State.
- Concern about having a central body control funding for grass roots projects and whole of landscape priority projects. If this structure is to be implemented one body should manage the central pool of funds and consist of representatives from across the entire region.
- There is no argument about cross regional issues – but can Boards be charged with responsibility to ensure they work with other Boards to deliver whole of landscape priority projects and therefore control the funding accordingly -–rather than deferring to a central body. In creating a central Board, consideration needs to be given to the additional funding and resourcing that is likely to be required and which could have the potential to soak up additional levy money.
- Boards should be performance based and be required to report against set measures.

Strategic Approach

- Boards require a landscape vision to inform programs based on science and knowledge.
- This strategic approach needs to be underpinned by good on the ground engagement and coordination that can leverage the support of local landowners to participate in landscape scale projects.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, and boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion as a whole group with facilitator (not using worksheets) regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>LEVIES</u>

• Levy rises.
• Across all Boards we need all fees set the same way (at the moment we have ½ a council area which pays quite differently).</td>
<td rowspan="2"><u>ROLE CONFUSION, CO-ORDINATE & MANAGEMENT</u>

• Boundaries: redefine boundaries: taking into account: environmental areas; Council boundaries.
• A process for clear dialogue between the 'Board' and 'on-ground' community groups and individuals.
• Pest, Plant and Vertebrate Control – a coordinated, unified and controlled approach at Landscape scale – Back to Basics.
• Logical management of Natural Vegetation to allow revegetation in alternative areas. (Farm logistics).
• Clear articulation of regional Landscape Vision to guide local action but this must be reconciled against.
• Decentralised decision making.
• Less administration etc.,
• Coordination between Government Agencies (DEW, MDBA, Drainage Board etc.) and the local Board.
• Honest and complete transparent communication between Government sector and community.
• Accountability confusion – who does what?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>BIODIVERSITY</u>

• More ecological focused approach to over abundant species management e.g. seals.
• Potential for Act to: increased fisheries productivity in estuaries through better flows.
• Help private landholders conserve threatened species and landholders adapt to Climate Change.
• Noxious plant eradication not control.
• Support LAP programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>INTENT OF THE ACT HAS BEEN LOST</u>

• No follow through on the original plan.</td>
<td><u>BACK TO BASICS</u></td>
</tr>
</table>

• Centralised power. • Money removed from region. • People at bureaucratic level have failed the plan. 'Don't muddle in the puddle'.	• Looking for something to help private landholders be engaged and supported in landscape scale initiatives. • Landscape approaches to link action on public and private land. • No weed control.
OTHER • Boundaries. • National Parks: Permit System sh*t. Staff; Visitor enjoyment; Access; Responsibilities – stall, public. • Pest Management: Enforcement; No boundaries; delivery. • Water Reform. • Outcomes of Projects – ongoing not just quick fix solutions – short term. • Staff Management/Accountability – stop moving staff about. • Expertise held in Department/conflict/agenda. • 4 community (at least one council) 3 appointees – Ministerial from the region – no outsider - maybe except the Chair? Appointees should not include 'experts; with pet projects or agenda in area of Board. If existing expertise exists locally that should be utilised. Community members should come with experience in Pest/Soil/Water Board Training! • Levy rises; original plan; people failure; 'not to muddle in the puddle'; weed is terrible; accountability confusion. • Council should not contribute to shortfall of levy admin fee for levy collection. • Private land • Economic gain. • Landscape scale – connecting remnants. • Resilience – catchment – remnant.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

PROGRAMS • Tree planting. • NRM projects very well led. • NRM Goals good: Tree planting; Friendly Staff; NRM projects very well led. • Not too much.	**STAFF** • Friendly staff. • Working well: Bums have been kept on seats!
ORIGINAL INTENT • NRM original goals were very good. • History of coordinated support for local NRM projects. • Great precursor to a 'Landscape Vision' approach.	**COMMUNICATION** • Acquisition and dissemination of NRM information.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?

- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. **Decentralised decision making**
   - Must be informed by sound science. X2
   - Water Management – what is meant?

b. **A simple and accessible system**
   - Local Landholders must be consulted – they have their practical abilities.

c. **Community and land owners at the centre**
   - Landowners need good information sources and assistance to make informed decisions. Too much conflicting information currently from a variety of sources.

d. **A whole of landscape approach**
   - Whole of landscape approaches require integrated management of land, water and biodiversity. Difficult to achieve when efforts are fragmented across different issues or land tenures. X2.
   - Plus we must also consider Coast and Marine – streams take land hard pollutants etc., and deposit them in coastal waters.

e. **Back to basics**
   - Soil, water and pest plants and animals need urgent action. At whole of Landscape level.
   - Less red tape, buck passing and acting like public servants. Get a job, stay in it, not moving throughout the department.
   - Does not resonate – no native vegetation/fauna – how can we manage landscape?

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">What's good about this structure?</th></tr>
<tr><td>Table 1</td><td>Table 2</td><td>Table 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>• What is the true difference given final Ministerial approval?
• Good size.</td><td>• Local representation. X 3</td><td>• Potential to include experts on Board.
• Good size.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table 4</td><td colspan="2">Table 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Looking good close to original 2004</td><td colspan="2">• Split between 4 Appointed and 3 Elected will be OK if ALL drawn from region.
• Compact – 7 is ideal number.
• Not 1 from each Council area – too many.
• Expertise based!</td></tr>
</table>

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Distribution of membership evenly across the geographical region. For both – ministerially and community appointed members. • Diversity of expertise from across the region. • Reasonable length of term – can only change - over % of membership at one time.	• Reverse numbers – 3 by Minister and 4 by community. • Cross-region representative balance. • May be too small to get adequate cross-representation. (Potential for 1 person from each Council area).	• How will connection to government departments be achieved? • In a fully decentralised model shouldn't the Chair be nominated by community then approved by Minister? • How will the model ensure balance across geographic distribution, industry, gender, race etc.? • Need to ensure adequate skills mix in Board to undertake this role.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Adequate legislation to ensure long term protection of plans.	• If any appointed members come from outside. • More elected community tan appointed. Not include "1 issue" appointees i.e. pet project they want to promote.	

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Roles, goals, responsibilities, milestones (reportable) accountability for deliverables and outcomes. • Long term visions.	• Better communication in ALL areas e.g. What is going on? What is likely to happen?; When change might take place?	• Terms of Reference. • Access to adequate expertise. • Independent Chair. • Chairman needs appropriate skills.
Table 4	Table 5	
• Right people.	• A good cross section of community: graziers; grain; fisheries etc.; science; indigenous; interested community members. • Good Chair.	

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Table 1	Table 2
• Local input. • Measureable. • Local parameters measured.	• Clear set of guidelines – common to all Boards. • Training: ensure all appointees/elected get Board training/even if already done.

	• Support: go and get expert advice. Not be held to utilise DEW (Department) Staff – autonomy to choose. • Financial ~ Expertise: i.e. to be able to read balance sheet etc. • Strategic Planning – SWOT – Benchmarking. • Works to be audited/delivered what was in the project – acquittals – reports.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Table 1	Table 2
No comment made.	• Transparent – community able to access information and programs etc.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
• Managing diversity. • Understanding diversity. • Cross border inequity – unequal levies. • Confusing boundary between NRSE and NRSAMDB. • The Coorong NP is in two Board areas currently. • Landscape Board criteria must be determined at local level. • Over-arching issues e.g. Drainage Projects.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Irrelevant projects.	• Weed control.	• Managing Murray Darling Funds for projects on farms.
Table 2		
• NRM Plan reviews if there has been no change (wasting money). • If a program is not complete don't review until after completion. • Talk 'fests' with no on-ground' ACTION.	• Start dialogue between Board, and communities/individuals. • Restart water management (surface and groundwater). • Analyse existing water-focussed projects and distribute results to stakeholders. • Control wetlands.	• Pest, weeds, soils (needs improvement).

Table 3		
No comment made.	• Engage regional communities in a conservation about developing the Landscape vision then implementing it and monitoring program,	5 year planning cycle.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Ground works done. Projects in step with local requirements. Local appreciations.	Accessible Parks that are managed for Wildlife and People. Decrease in complaints through Councils and Boards on feral animals and weeds.	More people in each community would be involved in the activities etc., of NRM.
2020 - Through Salt Creek's eyes.	Contented community. Improved rural productivity. Socio economic ~ environment. Healthy balance environment and biodiversity.	Farmers have improved profitability and sustainability.
Dead Box thorns everywhere.	Farmers are happy to engage with NRM - sorry Landcare SA.	A well-functioning Board. A large number of on-ground project underway/completed. Budgets in balance. Good feedback from community.
Healthy thriving environment.	The Minister EW will have 9 Landscape plans and will be receiving progress reports on how each region is achieving its vision.	Community employed. Funding remains in community. Landscape scale plans implemented. Local programs implemented.
Bipartisan support ongoing despite political status.	A demonstrated, productive/environmental gain measured by (in part) the heart felt radiated by communities and the volunteers that have been engaged to build success. Cash flow – can that be used as a measure of success?	Success is not reliant on the amount of money spent, rather it is on what is achieved. If roadsides had less weeds, if there were less feral animals. If we had to less farm toxic chemicals. And there were more smiling faces at functions like this – we have succeeded.
Still in the 'job'. Boards working proactively – locally, state wide. Auditing of all tasks has been satisfactory. Feedback from community is positive	Depression reduce. Feral animals reduced. Tourism increase Small rural businesses survive. Red tape and BS reduced.	

7. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- To manage Pest (animal) give them a value – allow harvest, consumption, sale. Whilst no value to anyone they are a pest, once someone (landholders, shooters, processors, sales) make money the offtake – reduction of animals will be constant.

ADDITIONAL NOTES MADE BY FACILITATOR:

- Clear separation – roles.
- Better coordination but clarity of roles.
- NRM – pest and weeds.
- DEW – National Parks.
- Lack of boundaries – NRM power on property owners – BUT what about National Park – DEWs opinion should be considered.
- NRM should be empowered to authorise on certain things on National Parks (i.e. weeds).
- Plant management back to Councils? – leverage resources.
- Form follows function. What is he asking the Board to do? Boards are working with different local actions. Is he asking for landscape work? Contradiction – reducing admin but takes resources to co-ordinate.
- How can Board achieve landscape change if management is segregated?
- Need skills/knowledge to the Board in order to achieve needs – e.g. Dryland salinity – resources at State level aren't there now.
- Big resource challenges – there is still a role at State level to tackle strong knowledge. That might be beyond the Board to tackle.
- Contribution of resources to match landscape issues. Action and maintenance.
- Due consideration about what species hurt farmers and decisions about delisting.
- DEW needs to action issues that impact regions.
- **RISK:** Levy gets swallowed by staff in admin/governance.
- **BALANCE:** Need some support. Informed and efficient support – consider some issues are state wide and not NRM resourced.
- Need a landscape vision to inform programs based on science. Any number of catchment issues a landowner could be involved in. How to locate the informed and motivated landholders to participate in Landscape Scale projects? Linkage? This can be achieved through bottom up management. Delivery. Engagement/co-ordination – quality and level of support.
- **BOARD:** Clear vision/deliverables and role. Include experts. Size is right. Connect to Government. Chair appointed by community and approved by Minister. Independence. Skills (facilitate and group management). Geographic distribution/gender/sector ~ skills mix – diversity; not an over representation. Terms of Reference – balance and expertise and experience. Reasonable term/tenures.
  4 by community; 3 by Minister – 1 representative from each council area is one way.
  Support for voting principle. Should be diversity. Vote stacking. Pre-select process.
- **FUNDING:** Wage control – are they public servants or are they private? Are the Boards going to absorb the money in wages? Money out – put decision making into the hands of others. No cost shifting. Money needs to stay in region. Government departments should pay the levy.
  Two separate ways of raising the levy because they are in different council areas. Currently it's inequitable – so either align Council areas. Division currently needs to be resolved. Across the state it should be consistent.
  Is it another layer of bureaucracy?
  Making decisions in Adelaide.
  Need to be careful about the people who make the decisions if there is a central pool of money. One representative from each board.
- No argument about cross regional issues.
- But presumably Boards could come together to agree to do a program.
- Don't necessarily need another Board.
- Build the requirement of landscape into Board responsibility.
- Boards – performance based.
- Back to Basics – Native Vegetation and Fauna is missing. Can't be just a weeds and rabbits board.
- Boards – leverage volunteers.
- Funding – Board needs to retain decision making – best placed to make call. Decentralisation. Boards should be capable of making their call.

PHASE: **STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION: **MARION**
TIME/DATE: **6PM to 9PM- 4TH October 2018**
FACILITATORS: **STEVE**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 42 participants were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. The group consisted of NGOs, primary producers, landowners, volunteers, and local government. Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were –

- Education programs currently on offer through the NRM are excellent and need to be retained;
- Outcome based principles are needed to embed what the Boards do – this will help Boards in guiding their investment planning. The existing five key principles that are being canvassed with communities are being used to guide the engagement and feedback. Hence defining outcomes based principles for the Boards to focus on and from which to develop their plans will be valuable;
- The levy has been gradually redirected over time away from direct on the ground programs – this needs to be addressed through the reform process;
- NRM staff are excellent, but they have been constrained in their ability to deliver;
- Biodiversity – there appears to be an absence of this in the current documentation describing the reform agenda. There needs to be a wholistic view of landscape including the protection of native fauna and flora. For example, when developing programs that target pest plants and animals, methodologies need to be carefully selected to ensure native flora and fauna is not impacted. One specific example was given of a location where there are many woody weeds present which need to be removed but the area is home to many birds. In addressing the woody weeds, the native fauna and habitat needs consideration. Biodiversity needs a greater focus in the new legislation than what is apparent;
- A State-wide advisory body over the Landscape SA Boards has merit and should be considered in order to coordinate matters of State-wide significance;
- Selection criteria for appointing new Board members needs to be considered – Boards need to be skill based and knowledgeable of the issues in their respective regions;
- Board boundaries should be aligned with communities of interest;
- Green Adelaide as a concept has merit. Consider connecting developers to Green Adelaide to ensure street design, landscaping, water management and impact to landscape are better addressed. Consider a biodiversity survey of Adelaide to establish and underpin the work of Green Adelaide;
- Five year plans aren't long enough – a 20 year vision is required within which fit the five year plans;
- Streamline grant applications – currently they are a burden to volunteer groups. A lot of volunteer groups are based in Adelaide and give their time to the regions. Don't restrict opportunities for funding for volunteer groups just because they are based in Adelaide. Don't create additional administrative processes which may burden the volunteer groups;
- The eastern boundary of Green Adelaide needs careful consideration. How is the peri-urban areas going to be dealt with? Maybe consider aligning to Council regions but ensure that those Councils who straddle both urban and rural environments are given the right support. Green Adelaide therefore may not just be able to focus on matters of an urban nature.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Hon. David Speirs, MP, Minister for the Environment and Water was welcomed by the facilitator who then asked a series of questions about his vision for the reform, including what he anticipated the structure and approach to natural resource management might look like in the future, and what he hopes to achieve from this engagement process.

The facilitator went on to welcome a small number of questions for the Minister from participants.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The facilitator sorted the priorities in to themes and shared them with the whole group.

FUNDING

- Funding equity.
- State government to collect the levy rather than councils.
- Adequate funding – DEW and NRM are substantially under-funded for the critically important work they do, or need to be able to do.
- Increase levy.
- Transparency – reported fully annually.
- Include Board member fees and outcomes – across the state.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Address issues.
- Community consciousness.
- Water courses; water flows; sea level rise; temperature rises – wildfires – most urgent.
- On-ground actions thinking about Climate Change.
- No though about Climate Change.
- Regional and local level approach to Climate Change adaptation and mitigation.

BIODIVERSITY

- Strategic approach to revegetation corridors to support biodiversity.
- Preserving diversity of plants and animals.
- Maintain and enhance wildlife corridors.
- Holistic approach to biodiversity – weed and native inter-relationships, both positive and negative.
- Biodiversity protection should be a major priority.
- Biodiversity – definition for the Minister: "healthy species richness and abundance".
- Maintain and strengthen tree protection legislation for significant trees and supporting biodiversity.
- Specify environmental pests, not just pest (and not just exotics).
- Balanced ecosystems – dealing with overabundant natives.
- Streamline approach for nominating and revising threatened species including invertebrates and fungi.
- Overall policy of nurturing natural resources overrules local interests.
- Appreciation of the nexus between water/food/energy.

PLANNING AND REPORTING • Improve transparency and accountability set and achieve milestones, and check. • A valuation methodology for ecosystem benefits separate from the 'primary production; capacity of the land, that creates the social license to fund protection and repair of these ecosystems with public monies. • Grants need to align with overall strategic direction and be supported. • Education of simple process and documentation. • Simplicity of documentation, size meaning processes. • Master plans – continuing ongoing land management plans for land owners, specifically wider regions. Like a SEMP for schools. These could sit with local resource management centres	• Active action on Climate Change as that is currently the biggest threat to our natural environment and biodiversity. • Reform achieve: adequate resources for on-ground works to enhance biodiversity. Levy monies should be kept for NRM on-ground works not diverted to fund DEW. • Recognition that the greatest threat to biodiversity is land clearance – less of habitat – fragmentation of habitat. • That the focus on weeds and pests is informed by potential damage to other indigenous species like birds and bees, reptiles etc. • The lady's comment was not to 'tolerate woody weeds' – rather I interpreted her to say 'be mindful of not creating another biological disaster'. Check what is there – remove the weeds but provide alternative habitat. • Introduce greater focus on biodiversity.
BOARDS • 4 elected by community forum and 3 government. • Less board appointments. • Outcome based principles for Boards: ○ Preparing communities and landscapes for Climate Change. ○ Commitment to long term improvement and goals including to maintain achievements. ○ Commitment to landscape standards and responsibilities. ○ BIODIVERSITY MATTERS. ○ Landscape scale restoration. ○ Clean water for the environment.	**CO-ORDINATION WITH NATIONAL PARKS** • National Parks access and information and maps. Everything currently online – not user friendly when in remote regions. • Focus on more than just private land – other natural sites too (e.g. crown land, coastal, gullies).
KNOWLEDGE • Shared best practice: why reinvent the wheel; benchmarking; consistency of approach. • Involve scientists in the planning and decision making. • Indigenous (locally where possible) knowledge and practices included in education and decision making.	**INTERACTION WITH LEGISLATION** • Integration with Planning & Development Act. • Clarify where National Parks and Wildlife Act fit within this framework (landscape boards)?
COMPLIANCE • Penalties: effective deterrents; substantial deterrents; actually applied. • Vegetation clearance; flora and fauna loss e.g. Wedge Tailed eagles in Vic – Grey Box Woodland clearance.	**PARTNERSHIPS** • Partnership with Local Government. • Expand technical support and general support for volunteer/community groups. • Funding for community activities – more paid people and more funding. • Support community environmental groups better resources have been slashed in AMLR and diverted to Glenthorne etc.

	• Improve consultation of NGOs, conservation and community groups and scientists. • Cooperation – maintain
CENTRALISE • Decentralise. • State wide overarching goals are needed (decentralise implementation; but realise that the environment doesn't stop at borders), • Cohesive approach for the State.	**BACK TO BASICS** • Reduction of red tape must not make inappropriate development easier. • Manage numbers of native animals in excess. • Legislative procedures for land access focussing on environmental actions/considerations in regards to disease control/spread. • More pest plant animal control. • Woody Weed Control: on private land; penalties applied; strategy over time and ongoing. • Lack of control of over-abundant native birds e.g. corellas.
HERITAGE Heritage structures to be considered for funding and protection.	**OTHER** • 1 tree per metro block – minimum.
COASTAL • Coasts must be included in the new Act. The catchment to coast continuum is critical to healthy lands and seas (all of SA coast – more than metro coast). Ensure all coasts are included.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS • Volunteers working in vegetation management. • On-ground facilitators are excellent conduit between government and community: provide technical direction; value add; support volunteers. • Keep the skilled staff and get some back! • On-ground works by community and NRM staff is valued and needs to continue.	**PEST CONTROL** • Arid Land funding for animal pest control. • Permits to control over-abundant native animal species. • Safe guards against introduction of potential biological pests and diseases.
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT • Maintain financial support for NRM and other landscapes – based activities in rural areas. • We value and don't want to lose good people with corporate knowledge and experience i.e. Climate Change teams and ecologists – local experts etc.	**EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS** • Continue to develop harmonies working partnerships with Indigenous people. • Co-ordinating State/Local Government/Not for Profits. NRM Boards have achieved this. • Regional Natural Resource Management Centres – community hubs. • Working relationship with residents; volunteers; Local Government; State Government. • Federal Government Grants.

	• Landcare in Mt Lofty and the hills done by owners/volunteers with NRM. Please don't lose what we've done. • Could funding be linked to building on prior work?
ENGAGEMENT • Community engagement and support from NRM is much valued, and must continue. Current department focus on this is a great first step. • Support community action groups to continue their good work (with appropriate education). • Keep consulting NGOs conservation groups, community groups. • Collaborative approaches – levels of government (different government departments) industry, community. • Engagement with Indigenous Communities.	**BIODIVERSITY** • Creation and preservation of National Parks. • Field trips on successful ways to preserve and enhance biodiversity. • National Parks and Conservation Parks including Marine Parks need continued and renewed protection.
EDUCATION • Education component reaching into schools and communities and rural landholders. • Keep education program. • Education - individual land consultations. • NRM education; Living Smart; AUSSI – school SEMPS; Climate Ready (community links); Urban Sustainable Team – links to many; Adelaide Sustainable Centre.	**SCIENCE BASED DECISIONS** • Paving things back to basics should not put at risk the science based projects. Further DEW staff cuts may risk losing this expertise (that informs NRM) Landscape Boards.
OTHER • Sustainability adapting to Climate Change for resilience of species results in wild life corridors and changes in biodiversity. • Catchment Basins: as a basis for subdividing regions has worked well. How will this work if split between Landscape Boards? • Access to Grants – distribution has worked well via NRMs. • Funds focused on staged replacement of weedy environment with native plants for protecting native birds and fauna.	

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- How will community representative be elected? There is a possibility of special interests pushing particular people. I would also change the balance so there are more community than Ministerial representatives.
- A need for a mechanism of conflict resolution between region and central.
- Will community members be paid for their input?
- A need for the science and research to be used as a resource.
- Merit and knowledge base elections.
- Less levels of internal management, more on ground works.
- Must have agreed high level outcome based principles to provide guidance for the boards.
- Ensure each group is represented by the appropriate mix of experts.
- Can/may create influence by powerful local interest groups – need to have strict criteria to avoid this.
- Overall – good concept – include experts in community consultation processes.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Simple documentation and meaning.
- Simple website and links.
- Over emphasis on short-term measurement of outcomes that are easily measurable leads to dumbing down decision making.
- A blue print for individual properties so new owners know and understand the goals direction and what has been done.
- Enable better compliance by officers.
- Boards with local members with wide community links.
- Simple, whilst ensuring good environmental management into the future.
- Best achieved through setting high level outcome based principles and goals.
- Raises a flag. Could this make development (building, mines and waste sites) easier for private landholders to push through if less red tape?

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- SA has 70% of people in suburban Adelaide. Many volunteer organisations are based in Adelaide but work in the regions e.g. SSAA, Friends of Parks. Their input is important, even if they are not 'local'
- There is an urgent need to include scientists in planning and decision making.
- Is all scientific research and expertise being used in this?
- They are already there! Need support, guidance, skills and education updates and in some cases a nudge.
- Include Indigenous knowledge re: local landscapes, flora, fauna and interactions.
- Those who don't live or work on the land may also have valuable input.
- Will they make the best decisions for the natural environment and future generations?
- Need to value natural biodiversity and conservation.
- Need science based decision making.
- How will 'elected' members be chosen?
- Yes, people who work on, live on the land are well placed to care for the environment, but governance cannot hand hold to ensure landowners/manager manage the environment as well as their businesses. Education and stewardship is important. Boards need to work collaboratively.
- But what continuity between successive owners – a written blue print is needed per property. Record of work done.
- Recognise that they are already there and provide support and guidance.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Consideration of requirements of peri urban areas.
- Support volunteer/community groups to ensure working to strategic direction.
- Whole of landscape approach needs significant central scientific and logistical support.

- Stop getting rid of government employed scientists – soil, water, flora & fauna, climatologists. X3
- Need connection areas of remnant or restored vegetation. Many species need minimum areas e.g. breed
- Consider inter-relationships holistically (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual).
- That should include parks, quarries and SA Water land to manage weeds as well.
- Must include connecting parks and native vegetation through corridors.
- A whole of landscape approach is important, but the boards need to focus on environmental issues, not crop pests.
- A whole of landscape approach recognises the cumulative efforts of many small scale gains.
- Reconnecting islanded habitat, native vegetation and parks.
- Must also include micro landscapes, especially specific species including backyards and housing planning regulations

e. Back to basics

- Regional communities are really important but the focus on managing natural resources goes way beyond impact at the local level.
- What about bigger issues like – Climate Change? – Biodiversity?
- What about the role of broader sustainability education? This is so important.
- The basics of everything is knowledge – how plants, animals, soils, climate interact? We need scientific information.
- An overall body is needed to supervise.
- That means continuous land management. Scrap the phrase quickly as it will become outdated.
- It should mean tackling weeds across a whole property, park, quarry site, not just spraying along tracks.
- It should cover continuous action, not just a clearing project with no follow up.
- What is 'sustainable agriculture'? (Minister referred to it often). Definition required.
- Basics important, but don't ignore complex learnings about ecosystems. (Especially do not remove 'pests' until sure that system can support things you want). (Humans are surely the biggest environmental pest, suspect we're not suggesting their complete removal?).
- Page 23 of the Discussion Paper suggest that the Landscape Boards can focus on agricultural pest plants and animals. These are very different species from the environmental pest plants and animals. Make sure the legislation is specifically about the environmental pests.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Nothing. • More information about Greening Adelaide.	• Community involvement. • Insertion of experts.	• Does have same elements of election. • Allows community a chance to own it.

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Need 4 elected by community. X 2 • Members to elect Chair. • Boundary of Greening Adelaide is unclear. Would be good to not include Hills face and Hills areas in Green Adelaide. • If the Boards require gender diversity, Indigenous inclusion etc., then this perhaps should come from the Government appointments rather than excluding good community representatives.	• Board in 'Green Adelaide' selected by Minister. • Not consistent with good governance models. • Risks of majority overpowering community voice. • Costs of Board management. • Repetition and inefficiencies.	• What is the criteria of these being appointed? Skill sets – scientists – range of relevant scientific and also financial. • Who can vote? Residents; Ratepayers; People with interest; as a group we are dived between residents and people with interest.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Rules. • Measures of achievement that can be linked to goals and are quantifiable. • Trust. • 4 community and 3 government. • Green Adelaide – Trust and transparent process.	• Robust electoral process (transparent) with no conflicts of interest. • Good education and engagement. • Clear and timely communication. • Appropriate and broad expert representation.	• Length of tenure – not yet defined – this is a must. • Rules for consultation – must consult.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Accountability to what? • Key outcomes principles • Adaptive response. • 5 year plans – in the context of the long term strategic goals. • Project milestones are just a small part of the big picture.	• Scientifically informed governing principles OR do or don't. • KPIs aligned to the agreed strategy for the region. • Broader stakeholder groups that the Board needs to communicate with and keep informed about projects and	• Consultation with scientific and local community. • Consult on KPIs to measure against and to ensure achieving useful outcomes. • Independently reviewed. • Transparent reporting to community especially financial results/spending.

• What guides the long term strategic decadal and goals when plans are 5 years?	outcomes – finances – annual and biannual meetings. • Mechanisms to align the strategies and activities across the regions – each region's Board performance assessed by its neighbouring regions.	• Sustainability functioning ecosystems to be measured and reviewed by experts (independent). • Not necessarily number of trees in ground. • Number of species. • Adaptive management practices. • Successfully regenerating natural systems important. • Criteria for appointing Board Members needs to be consistent and at a high level. • Information sharing between Boards. • Coastal/marine representation on Boards.
Table 4		
• Data collection and analysis based on science and entered into the SA Biological Database. • To measure comparative effects may take longer (always does) than 5 years in Landscapes • Need scientists guiding the Boards e.g. DEW provides, and universities. These relationships are crucial.		

Any other comments about board accountabilities?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Minimise conflict of interest. • Managing conflicts – flip side – creating partnerships. • Overarching principles – who supports the Minister? • Cross regional cooperation requirement to cooperate.	• Independent boards is a good concept, but there has to be an active oversight of the board's actions and focus on a regular basis. Department on behalf of Government could serve this purpose. • How will the strategic plans be aligned across the state?	• Limit spending on administrative process.
Table 4		
• Simplifying 5 priorities in the 5 year Landscape plan is very prescriptive and may be limiting • Consider independent oversight of Boards.		

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1	Table 2
• Northern Side? No further than Playford Council? • Southern Side – to Hills Face at Sellicks Hills. • Eastern boundary – catchment boundary of creeks on Adelaide Plains.	• Where does the GML NRM get actually split? Along the Hills Face Zone/the catchment area/Gawler to Willunga/ or…? Do these areas have similar geographical interests? Where does Blackwood (for example) sit? Green Adelaide SAMDB? • Lack of transparency around funding. How will the Minister demonstrate equitable distribution of funds to

	all Landscape Boards (regardless of size of population)? • Don't rigidly tie boundaries to Councils or catchments. Group ecological areas. • There is a risk that Green Adelaide focusses funding only in a metropolitan area. Region/State focus will be lost.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Connecting to Developers/Builders to Green Adelaide. • Biodiversity oriented. • Communicate the benefits of trees, shrubs and greening to prepare for continued Climate Change.	• More canopy cover – e.g. Melbourne 4 degree drop in maximum temperature. • Retain wild life corridors and trails connected to reserves - rehabilitate bush land settings and habitat. • Development that increases ambience of green open space. Consistent to the needs of the Indigenous future.	• Nature education. • Coastal management and seagrass.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Pest, plants – olives. • Urban storm water. • Coastal management and sea level rise.	• Coordinating with al councils to ensure Green corridors and native vegetation as well as coordinated coastal protection and water catchments. • Working with Adelaide's ecologists and environmentalists to determine plant species lists (indigenous) for street scapes and native strips that will support native wildlife, but also deal with the increasing climate extremes.	• Nature education inclusive of Climate Change. • Water sensitive design e.g. Climate Change. • Coastal Management (holistic; dunes, cliffs and marine) e.g. Climate Change.

	• Support groups like Trees for Life that bring together volunteers in urban areas to support revegetation and bush protection in urban fringe and regional areas.	
Table 7	Table 8	Table 9
• That a 'Green Adelaide' is actually supported by legislation and that can be achieved (rather than being controlled by development/developers). • Stop destroying habitat in the metropolitan area e.g. significant trees removed. • Climate-change-proof the Green Adelaide region. We need a long term vision for the state (not tied to election cycles). • This question is too broad to answer in this timeframe.	• Climate Change across all 7 priorities: mitigation; adaption; behaviour change. • Expect support to provide crucial information and practical techniques to volunteers and city land owners. • Coordinating the utilisation of all available open spaces (including very small front and back yards) so that maximum environmental outcomes for biodiversity result. • Providing large enough spaces for meaningful habitat for species.	• Education programs and forums organised at 'central' level still are available to regions and rural areas. A lot will be lost if 'education' is assigned to regional boards to manage. • Water Sensitive Urban Design. • Ability to influence Development Plans that may have adverse environmental impacts.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• The vision is great – Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary; Barker inlet systems.	• Hard to be excited without clarity.	• The promise that there will be more funds.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Potential for overall improvement in Adelaide.	• Possibility of adequate funds being made available to revegetate and regenerate native vegetation along the banks of the Torrens River particularly through the Western suburbs. • Potential for a genuine move towards a zero wast approach to be a truly Green City.	• Tailored approach to an urban environment. • Positive/direct impact on climate actions. • More relevance = more engagement.
Table 7	Table 8	Table 9
• Great opportunity to partner with Portland, Oregon, US. • There are many cities talking this approach to Green cities e.g. Singapore. • Opportunity to partner with Local Government to effect this necessary change.	No comment made.	• The ability to tailor programs specifically for urban environments. • Smaller, decentralised boards should be more agile and flexible.

What concerns you?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Unless the planning vision, SPPs or design code supports better retention and creation of urban green cove and habitat – Green Adelaide will fail to be achieved. • What does biodiversity need? – Must be a key question. • Biodiversity assessment of Adelaide is essential. Need to preserve corridors. Need to identify the functional corridors. • Engagement and encouragement of stewardship of youth in the Green Adelaide,	• Urban infill. Blocks reduced. Little room for landscaping. • Peri Urban areas e.g. City of Onkaparinga Council 519km – including Willunga and Port Noarlunga Basin. • What will be the role of Councils? • Not enough clarity in what is planned.	• Collaboration and integration with Councils.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• Interactions between Council and Landscape boards. • Who makes final decisions e.g. management of Brownhill Creek through different councils? • Control of dogs, cats, foxes, flying foxes, rabbits and hares. • Established councils may have had little contact with NRM, may resist interaction with Landscape boards. • Long term funding for projects.	• Whether funds will be made available to actually support projects that make a difference environmentally. • Capping levies assumes that the future state environmental protection will require the same amount of investment as is currently needed. A very strong assumption. any mechanism that is legislated should have a review mechanism built in.	*Green streets and flourishing parklands* – wellbeing different Acts. • Disconnection with other regions. • Levies to be collected by State rather than Council; because it adds confusion to residents; rate is set by State; not determined by Council's rating policy. • Transparency about why levy has remained the same. • Disadvantages to some regions versus others.
Table 7	Table 8	Table 9
• Worried that it will become a boutique/slush fund. • Where does Green Adelaide stop/start? • Where is significant green planning in all development applications? • How will we protect our existing valuable environments (e.g. Parklands) which cannot be replaced? • Over-rides or competes with Local Government initiatives.	*Green streets and flourishing parklands:* No black roofs; appropriate greening with biodiversity *Nature education:* Too narrow – sustainability? • The Minister doesn't understand biodiversity. • Lost focus on climate change and Carbon Neutral Adelaide goal. • Narrow focus of 'nature' education – for a sustainable future we need broad changes made at every level and therefore sustainability education needed. • There is a need/place to support urban agriculture.	No comment made.

	• We need connected and empowered communities.	

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Stop passing the buck (accountability). • Limiting funds for projects/actions.	• Actively engage community via multiple mediums and with different approaches (inclusiveness, recruitment). • Direct involvement in State parks in supporting friends of groups and practical on-ground actions. • Support by increasing available resources. • Increase 'grass root program' funding. • Education with tourist community. • Ongoing review and reporting (transparent). • Long term vision needed.	• Working with Local Governments and Indigenous groups and local communities. • Continue to have close involvement with private land owners. • Engaging the scientific community.
Table 2		
• Projects to a timeline. Which means long term results are not achieved beyond a funding round.	• Maintaining the gains and programs that have already been achieved. • Move away from project-based approaches and move to long-term visionary strategies for the greater good. • Advertising better. • Fixing the websites (they are appallingly bad). • Making sure the community has a better understanding of where they can go for information and why… • Give the community greater opportunity to decide on the projects/planning – then they might engage with this very important responsibility.	• Public classes, for example the ones at Norton Summit. Do these also in the other regions thus engaging local people and bringing awareness of managing our landscapes to the general public.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• CPI. • Brisbane has a $5 levy for buying land.	• What happens when things change? Enviro shift? • Would the independent body have the right skill set? • Levy should reflect needs. • Option: CPI as starting point plus special need/merits based increase.	• Keep it simple! • Cap using an agreed % (e.g. CPI or plus).
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• As long as $ are well spend and outcomes can be shown no problem with capping. • Means tested? For low income families. • Environmental projects only to be funded.	• Capping levies may be inflexible in the event of unpredictable events caused by climate change. Independent body would have to be very wise to predict future funding needs.	• Various views. • Independent body: flexibility (the future is unpredictable); and allows pro-activity. But this costs! • CPI – you know what you have – live within your means.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Yes? • Split decision. • Partnership across multiple landscape boards and other groups.	• Strategic funding for long term programs (not 12 months at a time). • Need to manage the conflicts re areas most in need (cleared land); with enhancing land in largely intact condition.	• Yes. For cross-boundary projects. • Should fund be set up before or after a project is identified?
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6

• Opportunities to share from experiences (both good and bad) essential – e.g. annual community forums state-wide.	• Cross regional state wide projects are essential for good outcomes. • Both initiatives are valid and either may be implemented according to circumstances. • National Parks are also part of the landscape and strategies to control pests and manage threatened species have to be addressed adequately.	• Yes. • Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups and is informed by science. • These projects need to consider long term follow-up. Weed control needs to be kept up.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?		
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
• Rules.	• Is this enough for the whole state. • Longer than single year funding!	• Funding application for Grass Roots Program – form must be simple. • Allow for applications from groups based outside the Board area where they work.
Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
• $2M is not very much. • How is this administered equitably? All regions need to benefit. • Grant applications must match strategic criteria – and focus on linking groups or regions. • On-ground facilitators are vital to support volunteers apply for and manage these grants. • Follow up outcomes of short term funding need to be carefully traded and monitored over the long term.	• $2M is not enough. • Applying for grant is time consuming. Having to read reams of paperwork to satisfy the Grant Requirements is counter-productive for 'time poor' volunteers. • Streamline the Grant Applications.	• This is good, but needs to be CPI indexed and the long term follow-up needs to be planned and funded.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Plans in place for 30% native vegetation cover throughout the state, and already half way there!	Success would be an informed community that is enthusiastic and engaged with managing landscapes/natural resources. A measure would be that the community wants the levy increased or other sources of funds available. There would be community involvement in monitoring to see whether natural systems are improving or otherwise.	Community involved – no disgruntlement. Trust increasing. ☺
Happy residents. Happy environment. Decrease in pollution. Increase in environmental well-being. Increased food security. Increased water harvesting.	The new plan/boards are still in place. Volunteer numbers increased. On-round facilitators have long term contracts.	Glenthorne Farm/Park has begun. Good feedback from public and letter to Editor in Advertiser indicate that voters are more happy than cranky.
More people employed to work directly on-ground or directly with the community to create real, tangible, positive environmental change.	Community better educated. Species being removed from threatened species lists etc., Increased number of species (both plants and animals) recorded across SA	The successful progress in sustainability and biodiversity continued on and what wasn't being done has moved forward.
Bird populations in the Hills and on the Plains are shown to be increasing.	Boards are recognised by their communities as making a real contribution to a better environment.	The government has a long term (25 & 50 year) vision for the management, resourcing and restoration of the South Australian environment. That there is a clearly articulated plan for preparing for the inevitable consequences of Climate Change. That the Landscape Boards each have plans that reflect the long term vision and State plan for the future.
More wetlands. Wetlands restored. Adelaide Parklands more native species and less human 'recreation' and development. Second line green belt more connected: Belair NP/Cleland/Brown Hill/Sturt Gorge Creek/O'Halloran Hill/Mariner/Field River – similar north of Adelaide.	Well educated community members supporting/sustaining an environment that support Climate Change and help conserve biodiversity.	Long term plans are in place. Local programs/projects are making a visible difference to the environment. Volunteer/NGOs are happy with the level of funding/support received.
A happy, inviting, peaceful place. Harmony within the community. Shared effort to achieve these goals. ☺	Community, industry and organisations are working in partnership to a long term vision/plan. Healthy, strong and resilient environment for future generations not sacrificed for short term development of business or profit.	Reform will be successful if: The new boards are embraced by the community who engage with the environment, especially Landcare and related groups. The community is strongly supported in terms of facilitating their activities. Funding for

		activities and funding for on-ground works. Measureable improvement in biodiversity outcomes. The Minister understand properly the role of otherwise undesirable species (weeds) in providing essential habitat for native creatures in the absence of adequate native habitat, and the need for science based strategic approach to weed retention/clearance. That landholders similarly are educated about this!
Measurable reduction in pest species, with plan/system to keep them reduced.	All the new Boards working harmoniously with their communities and starting sensible projects.	The opposition passed his proposal into LAW (i.e. through the Upper House).
Projects are afoot to double the area of land that will be revegetated by 2030 compared to 2019 and threatened species are stabilised.	Improved biodiversity.	Cohesive and effective boards whose decisions are underpinned by science.
Data about the state of Landscapes in SA is being gathered. Approaches to regenerating landscapes are in place. Community is informed Plans to re-increase landscapes to hopefully see improvements are in place.	9 working groups – working with the community to improve the environment. Sustainable and adaptation to Climate Change.	List of threatened species shows less are threatened or vulnerable.
Living beaches – Outer Harbor to Kingston – clarification of zones.	Greening Adelaide – 50% increase in trees. Legislate 1 tree per lot minimum.	SA would be better prepared for Climate Change, with grater vegetation cover, sustainable energy sources, and corridors for wild life to move along. Boards with the confidence of their community to keep the land productive (for people and wild life).
Communities empowered with funding and education allowing them to work towards a sustainable environment. Threatened and endangered fauna and flora species rated to common conservation status. Legislation in place to protect remnant trees and vegetation communities. Recycling of storm water in place. Solutions found for coastal management issues. More funding. More indigenous people knowledge and opinions as part of decision and action process.	Community engagement is alive, vibrant and extensive, in all areas of environmental sustainability.	Continued positive environmental education and action with diverse engagement that ensures a thriving community into the future.

Improvement overall on what we have today – encompassing all aspects of natural environs.	Success would be increased allocation of funding for the environment by a government convinced by the effectiveness and community support for Landscapes SA.	The whole community including DPTI, Developers and T& F are on board. Clear principles for Boards. Clear goals and strategic objectives. Clear 5 year plans to get going.

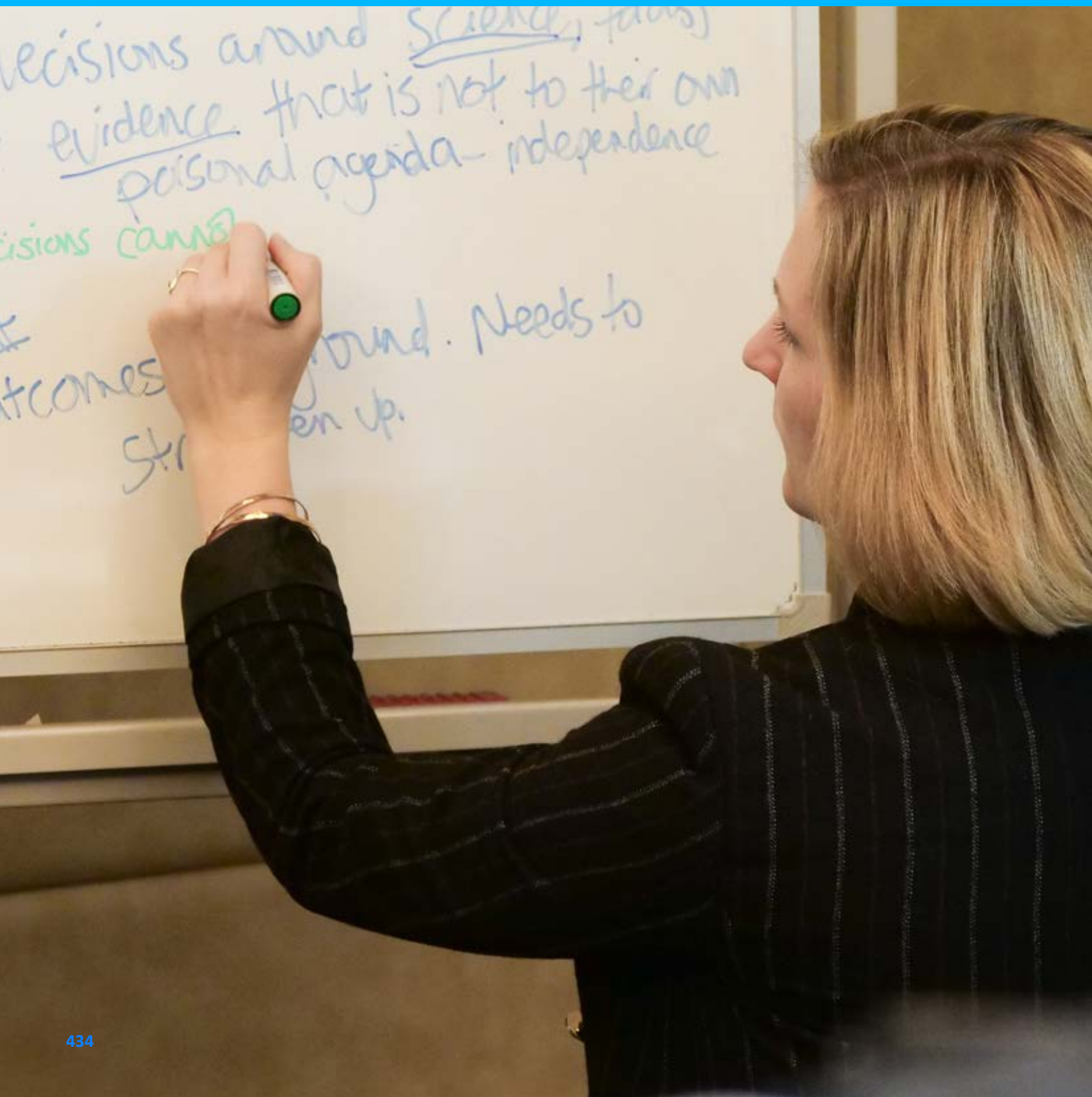
8. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and participants were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Links to planning/development Acts. Stop black roofs and insulation fire buildings and bad buildings that reduce capacity for survival of any flora and fauna.
- Draw up legislation that allows nomination of invertebrates as endangered species. Locally > 70% of bees have gone extinct in SA, but we cannot legally do anything to protect the remainder.
- Create opportunities for graduates in Environmental Science, Ecology etc. Minimal job opportunities exist right now and Environmental Management (degree was removed from Flinders University last year!) – Due to lack of jobs??? Many graduates are moving interstate to 'catch their break' within an industry they're very passionate about.

8.3 | Reports From Meetings With NRM Boards



Reports from meetings with NRM Boards

8.3.1 Kangaroo Island NRM Board - 21 August
8.3.2 Eyre Peninusla NRM Board - 27 August
8.3.3 Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board - 6 September
8.3.4 South Australia Arid Lands NRM Board - 10 September
8.3.5 Northern and Yorke NRM Board - 11 September
8.3.6 SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board - 17 September
8.3.7 South East NRM Board - 17 September
8.3.8 Alinytljara Wilurara - 2 October

PHASE:	**NRM BOARD DISCUSSIONS**
SESSION:	**KANGAROO ISLAND**
TIME/DATE:	**11AM-1PM 21ST August 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Becky**

Becky Hirst met with 5 members of the Kangaroo Island NRM Board and facilitated a conversation based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums.

Whilst a full account of input noted can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the meeting were –

- There is a need for **greater local decision making** with **more autonomy** for the board, having governance in place to enable decisions to be made within the region;
- A desire for **'what's best for of the environment'** to be at the centre of decision making, not any specific stakeholders or other agendas;
- A great sense of **pride in the way the existing board works** – both in its representation and the way members work well together;
- There was **concern around the election** of community members on to the Landscape board. It was felt that **7 members is too few** to get good representation. It was highlighted that the **existing words in the NRM Act are good** in suggesting the type of representation required on the boards. There was strong sentiment that **the existing board does have community and landholders at the centre**, aligning with this guiding principle;
- With regard to discussion around boundaries, the board felt strongly that **the existing boundary of the island should remain**, with a firm need for Kangaroo Island to retain its own board;
- Some discussion around funding and a **desire for the board to be able to make the decision on how the levy rates are calculated**. It was also highlighted that this region is totally dependent on the appropriation fund. Concern was raised around the Grassroots funding and how this was going to be **taken out of existing levies**. The group felt the Landscape Priorities Fund was good in principle – Kangaroo Island needs this additional top up of income;
- Kangaroo Island is a **leading example of sustainable lifestyle**;
- Mention of **over-abundant species**, used primarily as examples of where more local decision making would be effective.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

The group went on to undertake a series of discussions, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each person was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. Everyone then shared their priorities with the group and sorted them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

The priorities for the KI NRM Board were –

- Autonomy/Governance/Local decision making as an enabler
- Over-abundant species
- Planning for the future

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>OVER ABUNDANT SPECIES</u>

• More, faster response and flexibility in responding to environmental difficulties e.g. the problems of over abundant species.
• Better over abundant species management i.e. koalas.</td>
<td rowspan="2"><u>AUTONOMY/GOVERNANCE/LOCAL DECISION MAKING – (ENABLER)</u>

• Regional autonomy in natural resource management decision making. Act recognises the reality of natural resource management is specific to each of the regions.
• KI is different to rest of SA and needs to be able to proceed as KI.
• Visibility to community.
• Have an effective governance role – currently the linkage with the department has generated a strange hybrid system lacking in preferred degree of autonomy/local autonomy.
• More localised decision making – native vegetation.
• Community bringing whole of region together.
• Localised.
• Ability to make regional decision relevant to whole community.
• Local decision makers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>PLAN FOR THE FUTURE</u>

• Whole of landscape capability with a greater emphasis on identifying and managing for the future. it must recognise the reality of present economics but future planning and management to get there is important.
• Commercial reality will look after the present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2"><u>OTHER</u>

• Environment as a top priority – not always as the bottom, bottom line.
• Legislation response in the best interest of the environment. Allowing the community including DEW staff, NRM board to respond to their own particular environmental issues without being ham strung by legislation. Trust in DEW and NRM boards to deliver on these issues.
• Access to necessary funding: funding for our region; specific; utilising all department links between these.
• Ensure that the board remains capable of delivering programs funded through a range of NR mechanisms: e.g. NLP, private donations i.e. not be limited by state-driven priorities; missing native vegetation/species protection.
• Water, pests and soil not enough.
• Strong regional and community linkages partnering with local groups – ensure this remains.
• Funding that allows programs that have been initiated to continue without interruption.</td>
</tr>
</table>

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- The number of members on the KI NRM board: provides a more diverse skill and experience base; is about the right number to provide efficient working.
- Board membership – number is import skills based.
- Board local and representative of range if skills, experience and interests.
- The forum of presiding members providing feedback between different regions and information to boards – don't have to reinvent the wheel if another board has good ideas.
- The current board membership.
- Our on-ground delivery and the recognition that it has given to our ability to access federal funds.
- Breadth of delivery through DEW and community.

- The relationship between DEW staff and the NRM board.
- Practical achievable programs with qualified staff.
- Biosecurity consciousness.
- Acknowledgement of management of pests: pigs; cat; koala.
- Committed structure as a result – biosecurity outcomes.
- Environmental management: biodiversity; soil and water.
- Focus on ecologically sustainable development of KI as per NRM Plan.
- Sustainability as a community/region – individuals; KI branding uniqueness.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- Relates to local decision making – priority – autonomy etc.
- Fits well with KI priorities.
- Concern – still need support of government behind us – legally, financially and evidence base.

b. A simple and accessible system

- If we want this, we should have our Commissioner for KI back and working for us (ends September) – but if we are autonomous this person should work closely with us.
- Community Engagement Officer – big role to play in this.
- Flip side – got to have effective compliance systems in place – legislation, compliance officer – don't have dedicated person.
- Enforcing biosecurity.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- This is exactly what we're trying to do.
- Someone has to do the visioning/future direction – who identifies what future of environmental management on KI looks like?
- Roe of community forums – liaison/Community Engagement Officer role to get out there to bring ideas to board.
- Make up of board must be from region.
- Problem with funding system – we operate with federal funds – given to us with government priorities (to fit political agenda) we have to twist and manipulate to make relevant to our community.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Good words already in NRM Act.
- Focus on soils, water and pests doesn't deliver this.
- But it is a good thing.
- Important to Kangaroo Island – estuaries.
- Biosecurity – whole landscape – how to protect?
- Clean and green demands this approach.

e. Back to basics

- We disagree. Doesn't cover the complete biodiversity, ecosystems, whole of landscape approach.
- Don't know what it means – fishing, farming and copulating! That is what I mean by basics.

- Concern this eliminates things we see as important. Thinking has to evolve – not go back to basics.
- Everything inter-relates – could be a good place to start.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Nothing.

What concerns you?

- More difficult to get quorum/extra opinion across community with just 7 members.
- What if 3 elected were all farmers? Or all conservationists?
- What if lobby groups gets position? We don't want bias.
- Continuity.
- Size – restricted. Current system has worked well.
- Cost of extra members is peanuts compared to outcomes delivered. 9 or 10 good number.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- We like what's currently in Act i.e. diversity of board.
- Three sectors might not be way to do this (as earlier discussed).
- Is tourism something we need – eco-tourism?
- Cross section needed – offer Primary Producers – Tourism – Conservationists – they put forward – Minister decides or election happens.
- Gender balance processes across state – 60/40 balance either way.
- Tenure.
- We need skill set not just good speakers.
- Balance of skills, backgrounds, representative from places like farming community.
- Hard to see how it can be delivered.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- Business as usual – normal processes already in place.
- Board to appoint general manager.
- Disagree – as needed, consultation process.
- Establish a 10 year Landscape Plan, need strategic vision long term aims – takes time to achieve outcomes in NRM and need integrated approach. Shorter term priorities in business planning cycle and operational planning.
- Partnerships and outsourcing – all have responsibility for NRM outcomes.
- Need objectives, big picture thinking based on sound independent science to deliver benefits for society, fair consideration of take-offs.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- Certain core functions must still be provided by DEW/state government e.g. good independent science; good policy; sound framework to operate within.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions. What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- KI needs to stay as its own region. Not absorbed by Fleurieu. Very important for our people – we are different. We just need capacity to strengthen our uniqueness.

4.4 Green Adelaide

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

- Citizen science.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards. What concerns you about this?

- Less community based.

5. ENGAGEMENT

How could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
No comment made.	• Room for improvement – Board with community. Board with department. • Board to have more autonomy not through MO/DEW. • Strengthen evaluation of delivery.	• Using local knowledge. • Community involvement in activities e.g. census glossies.

6. FUNDING

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes. What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Important boards have capacity to determine levy – household **vs** capital value.
- Need to have capacity to raise funds outside of household or capital value e.g. Visitor Environmental Tax (so not tied to government funding) - not all agreed. KI belongs to all South Australians.
- Have to find ways to achieve without more money – be more efficient.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- Sounds good.
- Percentage of all levies goes into landscape fund. But who decides? And how will areas be chosen?
- Concern KI will be left out.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access. What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- We can't exist without State appropriation fund - $1.1M – we still need this. $2M budget.
- Concern reducing levy in current deliverables.
- People need to be supported to work on properties – but things moving on from landcare group mode here on Kangaroo Island.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Region achieves self-governance, unique to our environment/brand.	A community caring for and enjoying their environment.	SA leads the world in environmental management.
No complaints from public. Minister re-elected.	SA delivering a larger percentage of funds to ecologically sustainable development.	

PHASE: **BOARD SESSION**
SESSION: **EYRE PENINSULA NRM BOARD**
TIME/DATE: **2-5PM, 27th AUGUST 2018**
FACILITATORS: **STEVE DANGERFIELD**

Steve Dangerfield met with 6 members of the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board, including the Presiding Member, (plus one member of staff present as an observer) and facilitated a conversation based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums. Whilst a full account of input noted can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the meeting were –

Board roles and responsibilities

- The EP Board has worked hard to deliver on key principles that align with the direction the Minister wishes to head:
    - Currently use local resources and try to initiate employment opportunities in the region
    - Board members are local and have a diverse spread
    - The support of the Department (senior advice) is critical and this link needs to continue (support for continued agency representatives on the Board)
    - Current Board selection process is effective, enables diversity and local representation
- Back to basics simplifies too much what is a complex issue – a rigorous approach based on science is required for natural resource management
- Boards must have a strategic focus
- Board is constrained with respect to accessing some administrative services – they are required to access the services of Government and pay an administration fee accordingly. The Board currently doesn't have the ability to seek competitive prices for some services and access local companies and the ability to do so would be a good change
- Acknowledged that Boards have lost their connection to portions of the community – this does vary from region to region but is an issue in general terms that needs to be addressed
- The Board should be a facilitator of programs and projects – and provide advice to landowners about land management issues (including weed management – as was accessible via the previous plant boards)
- EP has had a strong focus on citizen science strategies – where does this fit going forward?
- Boards need a consistent standard of Governance which needs to be applied across all Boards – robust processes but not inefficient or heavy on administration and associated costs.

Board Selection

- Board selection process needs to be considered carefully – members need to have key skills and knowledge of contract management, strategy, human resource management, business and an understanding of conservation and land management issues
- Community interest in voting would be minimal – in EP it is considered that it would be difficult to obtain enough of an interest so as to be assured that the community elected representatives are supported adequately by the community
- If the community voting model is to be introduced it needs to consider criteria and how the right people with the right skills will be nominated
- Retaining skills in the region is critical and this will be helped by greater certainty of funding and greater control of the levy
- Board terms would be to be off-set to support continuity

Funding and Levies

- Support the concept of trying to retain more money in the region for delivery of on the ground services, minimising the dollars that go back into Government for administrative purposes and having the autonomy to seek services from the region that are price competitive
- One option to manage levy increases is to consider a willingness to pay model – if the community see a need and want it addressed are they willing to pay, and if so then this flexibility to increase the levy based on willingness to pay could be built into any capping model.
- Retained earnings – will the Landscape SA Boards have access to retained earnings?
- Concern was raised about paying into a centralised fund for Grass-roots volunteer programs and a Landscape Priorities fund – if decentralisation and greater autonomy over spend is envisaged then this approach appears to be contradicted by this model
- Appropriation of funds from Adelaide is necessary

Planning

- The idea that the State needs an NRM Plan that individual Boards roll up into – minimise the amount of planning and look to include elements where possible to NRM Plans – ie: need to avoid regions having multiple disconnected plans such as a Native Veg Plan, NRM Plan, Coast protection plan etc)
- There needs to be a stronger focus on regional needs and the staff need to be taken back to having a greater knowledge of agriculture, impacts etc
- The current EP NRM plan took five years to develop and in the opinion of the Board would be well aligned with the Minister's key principles. It included extensive community consultation and significant investment by staff. Reducing to a five year plan would potentially see a loss of continuity – need a longer term vision. The transition process to a new model needs to consider plans that have been recently developed and actioned.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

The group undertook a series of discussions, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each board member was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. Everyone then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes together, choosing headings for each of the clusters of priorities, as follows –

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>PLANNING AND VISIBILITY</u>

• Reduce planning requirements (cut red tape).
• Build visibility of NRM projects.
• Stability in services and regional capacity to deliver services.
• Increase on ground works.
• Build financial capacity and attract funds.</td>
<td><u>STAFF</u>

• Staff tenure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>AUTONOMY</u>

• More autonomy for the board.</td>
<td rowspan="2"><u>COMMUNICATION</u>

• A clear 'promotion' of what NRM does and what resources are available to land managers.
• Greater level of engagement with community including townships (citizens science etc.,)
• Improved soil productivity.
• Continued improvement in knowledge for land managers re pollinators, soil PH, vegetation management and biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>FARMING SYSTEM REPORT</u>

• Continued support of farming systems groups etc.
• Board member diversity and balance.</td>
</tr>
</table>

	• Buy-in by community. • Re-engage the community e.g. in local areas, things like agriculture, Landcare, local government are full of community leaders. They would the first stop. • More autonomy and better contract for project delivery staff – staff are demoralised by continually re-applying for their job! Plus the up chain reporting – wastes time.
CONTRACTING SERVICES • Capacity to choose who delivers the services.	
OTHER • Local people on boards. • Back to basics – more complex than the statement suggests. • Local resources – are our staff FIFO? • Levies – all should pay an equal levy amount. Not a split levy. • Move Whyalla from EPNRM to Arid Lands. Although there would be a loss of revenue, it has more in common with Arid Lands. • Smaller boards – board of 8 members – 2 + 4 year terms, overlapping. 4 appointed by Minister and 4 by public vote. • Less onerous reporting. • Broad scale approach. • Opportunities: ○ Broad scale approach to NRM matters (Landscape). ○ Bigger 'buy-in' by community. ○ Capacity to choose who provides services based on VFM. ○ Less onerous reporting and compliance arrangements.	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Project staff, we have some very goon on-ground staff with a lot of experience.
- Baiting program (foxes and cats) good involvement by public, good PR.
- Wild Eyre project has good acceptance by public and works.
- Board hasn't left back to basics.
- Water planning and permitting happens locally – this needs to be retained in the region.
- Maintain, support of farming systems groups – the board member selections process.
- Funds raised in the region are expended in the region.
- Good skills and relationship of staff in region.
- Aboriginal engagement/employment.
- Good regional board members – mix background and mix skills.
- Very good blend and vision.
- Engagement/working partnerships: PIRSA and others – rarely deliver without their strong partnerships.
- EPLGA – without these ability to deliver compromised.
- Agency representation on boards – their advice is invaluable.
- Existing partnerships with local groups including farming etc.
- Capacity to adjust levy to accommodate larger scale projects e.g. integration with commonwealth funds.
- Management of water.
- Can we adjust the levy based on what we need to do?

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the staff visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. **Decentralised decision making**
   - Never stop doing it!

b. **A simple and accessible system**
   - Yes – but don't lose good governance and financial accountability. Need to ensure that the system is robust, transparent, avoids duplication, gives more autonomy to boards to engage administrative service but measures KPIs, and accountability and standards needs to be set and kept.

c. **Community and land owners at the centre**
   - Board members are all currently local.
   - Representation across sectors is currently good and well balanced.
   - Ministerial appointment process currently works well.
   - Partnerships are strong in the region but could be enhances, particularly in using local companies to provide lay services to NRM.
   - Local landowners need better line of sight to programs and benefits of NRM – transparency and promotion.

d. **A whole of landscape approach**
   - Do it already.
   - Wild Eyre – has been very successful.
   - EP doesn't have many cross boundary opportunities given its geographic area.
   - Board members to be appointed need to have strategic capability to ensure broader programs are delivered.
   - Funding for programs like Wild Eyre under the future model and access is unclear. (Will the Landscape Priority Fund be all there is?

e. **Back to basics**
   - Never left it!
   - Consider that this is done relatively well on EP.
   - Some debate about what level of advice NRM should be able to provide landowners about weed management – is it the NRM role to have the knowledge to impart to landowners or should landowners be responsible for accessing their own advice privately at their own additions costs?

4. Governance & Planning, Engagement & Funding

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Current structure: diversity in backgrounds, skills and regional spread – views. Robust discussion.
- New structure: not much – democracy is a good thing…(sarcastic).

What concerns you?

- Voting may result in 'one issue' elections.
- Potential reduction in skills and diversity.

- Ability to fill positions.
- How the election process will be undertaken?
- Costs of running election process.
- Over politicises NRM Boards and their management (formal election could be 'over the top' process).

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Needs to have broad skills based approach.
- Needs to have back-up process in the event insufficient candidates (or candidates nominated are not suitable).

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- 5 Pillars as basis KPIs across all boards.
- Consistent MERI process and standardised measures.
- Data and measures available to community.
- Inclusion of financial measures to reinforce how levies spent.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- Audit process – ALG or independent?
- Measures to include our corporate government performance.
- Governance process that is financially efficient.
- Consider 10 year plan with 5 year review.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- Keep Whyalla in the region: has worked hard with Whyalla region. Without their levy it may make the EP region. Without their levy it may make the EP region non-viable. Its levy base is critical to EP.
- Accept there is a landscape synergy with Arid Lands however they are also seen as gateway to EP.
- Aboriginal Nations connection – Brigatta.
- Whyalla community travel to EP and use area.

4.4 Engagement

The staff were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects. They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Send the story and the photo (stop writing media releases). Marketing strategy – if you need skill on the Board or at staff level. • Regional control over communications – local decisions. No requirement to get approved by Adelaide. Control own communications.	• Board is seen as another layer of bureaucracy by some in the community. • Needs to be clarity and promotion about what the Board does - be careful about not spending heaps of money on brochures. Be targeted to groups and councils. • Currently it is confusing and lacks consistency. • Do we look at activating NRM Groups on a Landcare basis?? • Needs to be transparent and a direct relationship between the board and community – not a 6 step process.	• Good community engagement around planning has been valued and given some momentum to Board • Local government strategy. • Branding strategy. • Current good connection with Agricultural bureaus.

4.5 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Yes, capping would be accepted but…if the community supported a request for an increase (once-off, purpose specific), need the avenue to apply to the Minister for permission.

4.6 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- No – should be working with boards/groups directly as needs.
- Should be able to retain surplus funds/extra levy $ in region for uses as outlined above.

4.7 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

• No.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

The staff were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

My hopes would be as follow: • An involved, committed community encouraged by the new, more open system, and grass roots driven. • Reduce managerial/office positions through streamlining and re-allocation and reduction of state compliance needs. • More importance place on deliver of projects rather than planning/compliance.	The Landscapes SA Board is a well-known, well-respected active member of EP's community. Seen as hands-on, on the ground, delivering what they say they will.	Boards well accepted by community at large. Environmental amenity seen as more valuable. Less squeaky wheels. Legislation admired by other states.
Whole community is aware of what Landscape SA boards achieve, what they are working on in the community. Many community members work/engage in citizens Science projects alongside Landscape SA.	All parties are happy – farming and environment both been looked after.	NRM funded programs are widely recognised in the region. Shift of community willing to invest in natural resource management.

EXTRA NOTES MADE:

- Back to basics – not simple – need scientific/rigorous approach.
- Local resources – currently use local resources.
- How to get a board of skills **vs** engagement – boards have to drive strategy not undertake individual engagement.
- Board members are currently local and community members.
- Constrained currently to a type of bureaucracy and cannot price match.
- Need to have skills to manage: contracts; HR; strategy; certain amount of connection back to the Minister.
- Can't be popularity contest.
- Will need to still do the same administration – someone will have to do it.
- Could save $ because not paying Government rates/$ not being sent back into treasury.
- Too focussed on compliance.
- The original intent of the Act was the Board was a facilitator.
- DEWNR took over and the admin went out of control – redirect $$.
- Distance Boards from DEW – to force Boards to think.
- Boards have lost connection with large portions of the community.
- Land managers still need to take some responsibility.
- However, landowners should be able to get advice from the NRM about weed management.
- Landowners shouldn't have to pay the levy and then pay for a private consultation to get the advice.

- Does the Board need better skills on the ground?
- Where the $$ goes – levy should be spent on public lands.
- Where does community involvement and education site – strong citizen science strategies – where does this fit?
- Put it back to a Management level of use to the community.
- Board becomes a facility, facilitator of advice.
- Don't over complicate planning – a simple plan for whole of government.
- Need a state NRM plan that Boards role up into?
- Risks that will have native vegetation plan, water security plan etc., etc.
- 2 levels of planning only.
- Staff – shift in culture over the years to Adelaide centre.
- Minister to drive the staff back outwards to be familiar with agriculture etc.
- Need to move back to understanding regional needs. Funding aspect also makes a big difference i.e. what gets delivered.
- Population numbers to support the election process – preselect.
- Community interest in voting would be minimal.
- Currently funding:
    - $20,000 per FTE.
    - Pay advice from Department.
    - Shared Service Fee.
- Staff tenure – security of role.
- Greater stability; minimise loss of time and focus.
- Security through greater certainty with external funding and use of levy – keeping skills.
- Agency representation on the Board is critical and helpful (non-voting). Needs to continue. Really important conduit back into Government.
- Has worked well – link to State and National perspective.
- Think of cost – currently would be very well aligned – took 3 years to develop with landscape approach. (Reduce admin process, still a process would be needed).
- Reducing to a five year plan would mean rolling over (system review) shouldn't rebuild every 5 years.
- Board to employ a General Manager – selection process currently has served the region well.
- Funding: set the levy based on willingness to pay and delivery of programs.
- Retained earnings – the Landscape SA Boards have access to these funds.
- Board: Current capping is 2 terms (4 year terms). Election – Electoral Commission – term should be included in the schedule. No need to cap it. Would need to off-set terms to get continuity.
- How to deal with potentially difficult candidates?
- How to get the right people? Pre-selection process.
- An open election on EP will result in Whyalla and Port Lincoln – not equitable.

Accountabilities:
- Use principles as the measures and to establish consistency.
- Transparency of measures.
- Audit process – can we engage our own?
- Corporate governance measures and governance to be efficient.
- 5 year reviews (taking account of landscape scale).

Funding:
- Capping, yes but community would probably support.
- However there needs to be the option based on community willingness to pay to exceed the cap.
- Who is the authority on the Cap?
- Line up with Local Government policy?
- No cross boundaries on EP.
- No to paying into centralised funds – though we were getting away from this.
- Should be able to retain surplus fund and extra levy $$ that are raised – utilise these.
- Green Adelaide – appropriation of funds – back out.

- Curtail the power of native vegetation and coastal development which is limiting development in the region.
- Native Vegetation Council are autonomous with staff in the department.
- Proactive Fire Management to manage and protect native scrub.
- Concern about standard of governance. Needs to be support and robust. Just sight – balance – not too convoluted – but robust.

PHASE:	**BOARD SESSION**
SESSION:	**AMLR NRM BOARD**
TIME/DATE:	**1-4pm 6TH AUGUST 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**BECKY**

Becky Hirst met with 7 members of the ALMR NRM Board (including the Presiding Member) and facilitated a conversation based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums.

Whilst a full account of input noted can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the meeting were –

- A number of priorities for the reform emerged from the discussion. The board noted their support of the **Whole of Landscape Approach** and there were comments made around how the reform needs to be based on systems of catchment and landscape scale, with decision-making using science-based evidence. It was recommended that MERI principles drive strategic plans. The board need more of a definition around what the Minister means by whole of landscape, and some concern was given around the terminology and that it may cause confusion – confusing landscapes with vistas;

- There was **concern around going back to basics** (though acknowledged that this is an area they could do more of) and that just because the former boards such as a Soil Board don't exist anymore, doesn't mean it isn't happening. Things have moved on from Back to Basics. Previously NRM would go out to spray weeds or do soil management, but there was no logic or strategic thinking around this and this needs to be there. Global science is saying that the strategy is more important than ever, and not a back to basics approach. It's not effective to achieve enduring outcomes, it's just throwing money down the drain. A more strategic approach in general was requested (as opposed to going back to basics), noting that it is important to start 'from the top' with a vision, and plan from there;

- The board noted that **NRM isn't a simple and accessible system** – but that they got used to this and take it in to account in their planning. However, they understand from the outside looking in that it looks complicated. They are managing and are accountable for a budget of over $33million so there needs to be some sort of system in place;

- It was suggested that **"Independent Decision Making"** was a more appropriate term than Decentralised Decision Making. There was a strong sense of wanting autonomy and being able to make decisions in relation to staff. Some discussion occurred around whether the boards will employ staff, with sentiment that it would be good to know more about the staff that are available to specifically support the board at the moment. Whilst the board is aware of what staff do, there was some acknowledgement of staff being shared with other functions with the Department. It was also noted that there is a current conflict for the Regional Manager who has to report to both the Board and the Department;

- Reflecting on the **guiding principles** as a whole, the board consider that they are already doing them – they are simply good management practice. Members of the group asked where the evidence was that this change is needed and is this just a rebadging exercise;

- There was also acknowledgement that **the environment needs to be at the centre of decision making**, rather than community and land owners. It was felt that community and land owners are instead mechanisms for achieving the best for the environment;

- A number of things were identified to be working well, written up in the below report. There was a large amount of **engagement activities** that the board felt were working well and should continue, including NRM Education, volunteer grass-roots activity, sustainable agriculture working directly with farmers, board visits to the regions to visit projects, genuine leading engagement with the Kaurna community, and the regional plan consultation which was excellent with a high volume of input from communities across the region;

- In relation to **boundaries**, it was strongly felt that the catchment split in to the three regions is the major flaw of the proposed approach. Boundaries must be based on a catchment approach. Decisions must be made on an environmental basis. Do not split up catchments. A strength of ALMR has been setting up a whole of catchment approach. Setting up two extra boards just isn't sustainable and may even cause competition between them;

- A suggestion was made that there could **be one board for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region**, with three advisory boards. A representative from each of these advisory boards could then attend the main board meeting;

- **Board membership** must absolutely have a good skill mix, with all applications addressing skills gaps or mix. People should be only put up for the public vote if they have the appropriate and required skills. They will need to know their duty as board members. It must be clear that their responsibilities are to the objects of the act. There was a concern that the proposed mix of minister appointees and community elected members could create a hybrid board who aren't sure whether they are there to represent the community or something else. There was concern that an election process may lead to bias on boards, and there may be too much self-interest with a popularity approach. The board noted that they are community members. The board acknowledged the value of having agency staff at the table to provide expert advice and guidance, but these ex-officio positions need to be senior staff;

- It was felt that **5-year plans** for the boards aren't long enough. If there are going to be 5-year plans then they need to be nested within longer term plans, such as **20-year plans**;

- In relation to **Green Adelaide**, there was concern regarding this region collecting 80% of the revenue via levies. It was acknowledged that there must be a distribution model to share this income with the other regions. Green Adelaide must also be connected to the bigger landscapes focus. There was also concern that unless communications between boards in the three regions are really good, then there'll be a big disconnect from the long-term goals. More information is needed on Green Adelaide to be able to discuss it in any great depth. There is potential for the role to include nature play, sustainable education, grassroots programs (equally acknowledging that supporting Councils in doing these things would be good);

- The facilitator noted that many of the community and staff forums had highlighted **compliance** as a key priority for the reform and sought the boards thoughts on the topics of compliance and enforcement. They noted that they have taken an approach that is about enabling people to make the right choices themselves, and they deliberately encourage people to be successful, before the next steps that follow. The board does take compliance very seriously. One board member commented that compliance shouldn't really be their role, but instead DEW. There should be a separation of duties – how can the board be both the carrot and the stick?

- The board felt that there needed to be a clearer communications strategy with clearer branding.

- Priorities should also include **getting the reform process right**, with minimal disruption to existing successful programs and projects and that the reform needs to build on and acknowledge past achievements;

- On leaving the meeting, one board member specifically requested that **the current board be given direct feedback** on what they have been doing wrong – if this is the feedback being received.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

The notes below were made by both board members and the facilitator during the session.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group and sorted them in to themes.

COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEERS	ORGANISATION/REFORM PROCESS
• Maintain the connection with volunteers as an outcome from the reform.	• Minimal disruption to existing successful programs and projects.

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- A focus on real, resource condition improvements which build upon past efforts of landholders, staff and volunteers
- Greater involvement with urban community – 80% of NRM levy source.

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- 3 reforms acknowledge and build on past achievements: NRM Education; Community involvement; Engaging Aboriginal Nations; Volunteer Networks; Rigorous Planning.
- Effective and co-ordinated management of money, time and effort.

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TARGETS/ACCOUNTABILITIES

- AMLR – long term targets are robust – maintain these to guide the new Boards.

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GOVERNANCE/AUTONOMY

- The governance system is viable in the long term.
- Greater autonomy for the Boards from DEW
- Full independence of the Boards from the department (including Green Adelaide) – budgets; staff etc.

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ENVIRONMENT AT THE CENTRE

- Environment is kept at the centre of decision making – the governance arrangement come after.
- Climate Change needs greater emphasis – long term thinking is critical.
- Effective systems/processes/delivery maintenance and restoration of healthy ecological, agricultural and urban systems.
- New focus on soil, water and plants – acknowledge interdependencies systems.

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LANDSCAPE/CATCHMENT SCALE

- Resilience thinking/ecosystem natural farm and urban, whole of catchment approach to Landscape SA outcomes (not based on: an 'artefact' boundary mode: focus on one sector over others; failure to recognise that soil, water, pests, diseases are integral part of the functioning ecosystem – not separate 'units'.
- MERI discipline needs to be retained to ensure accountability.
- Focus on a whole of landscape/catchment approach to NRM using MERI principles to drive strategic plans.
- Natural systems based approach – boundaries are based on catchment based approach.
- Reforms to be thinking based on systems, catchment landscape scale and evidence based.
- Valuing science-based decision making to determine investment priorities.

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2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Landscape/catchment to local approach.
- Community involvement, particularly volunteers, (see Board letter). Volunteers include passionate people interested in the environment as well as committed farmers.
- Policies/strategies have true intergenerational time lines/commitments – stewardship.
- Engagement with ATSI groups in NRM planning and delivery.
- Kaurna relationship is working well – continue to support.
- Aboriginal engagement and partnership.
- Framework for making the 'hard decisions'.
- Enthusiastic landholder and volunteer participation (e.g. $11M of in-kind volunteer hours).
- Community engagement – variety of stakeholder's essence of community: schools; landholders; farmers; volunteers; NGOs – partnerships.
- Our volunteers.
- Well recognised framework for NRM investment across the region.
- Proud of NRM education.
- Proud of engagement of: community; Aboriginal Nations and volunteers.
- Proud of rigger in planning and MERI.

- WAPs almost completed across AMLR Region – therefore well managed water resources with secure title and allocation.
- Balance between incentives and community knowledge and capacity (capacity and understanding out lasts incentives!)
- Education – programs with schools.
- NRC's communities empowered to do NRM work.
- Passion and commitment of AMLR NRM Board members.
- World class education (NRM) program – driven by evidence: adapted over time embedded change within schools; students become advocates of the environment – take career pathways.
- Financial management ability to work across a multi-dimensional environment with competing needs to see species come back home on the brink.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- 'Independent' decision making more applicable e.g. Sand pumping decision – took a year.

b. A simple and accessible system

- The systems are not simple – we've taken this in to account in our planning. But from outside looking in – we acknowledge that it does look complicated.
- People typically want someone to talk to.
- We have $33M worth of accountability – we've got to have some sort of system.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Should be 'Environment' at the centre.
- Community and landholders are ways of achieving.
- Get rid of words – land owners – why are they separated? E.g. volunteers.
- About community taking responsibility – being responsible.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- We agree! (See written submission).
- Community is part of this.
- Need to know what Minister means. We can offer a definition. Need to test language with the community.
- 'Managing our Landscapes' – terminology just flagging – don't confuse. Whole of landscape approach with vistas – landscape architects!
- Cross boundaries – we could improve at this.

e. Back to basics

- *Back to Basic:* not what science is saying – and effectiveness in achieving enduring outcomes?
- Something we could do more of – but needs to be in an integrated way.
- Just because we don't have boards (i.e. soil) doesn't mean it isn't happening.
- Has changed though – previously had no logic e.g. not just spraying weeds, soils.
- Missing strategy.
- Water Allocation Plans – challenge.
- Pest plants and weeds – individual Landholders responsibility – need to consider weeds i.e. positive.
- Listed weeds/pests – need that in broader context. Global science says strategy is more important than ever – throwing $ down drain.

4. Governance & Planning, Engagement & Funding

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Support the agencies being at table as ex-officio – need to be Senior Staff e.g. Executive Director.
- Alternative model – one board with 3 advisory boards – then senior Executive only need to go to one meeting.
- Representatives from 3 advisory boards could attend the main board meeting.

What concerns you?

- Green Adelaide board – why all Minister appointed? If it's about community at centre – need representation.
- What is the cost of election process? Would cost a lot.
- People may go on boards to get money for what they want! Needs to focus on bigger community issues.
- Hybrid board – not sure whether it's there to represent community or something else. Confusion possible.
- Responsibility is to the objects of the Act.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Set of criteria – skills mix – all applications must address skills gap/mix.
- People who nominate only put up for vote if they have appropriate skills.
- Board members need the right skills.
- As long as elected members meet principles and standards. Need to know duty.
- May get bias on boards – concern i.e. popularity approach – self-interest.
- Minister needs veto/final say.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

- 5-year plan nested within 20-year plan.
- Discussion re whether boards will employ staff: need to consider how young people will come in to do this work. Need good career paths. Need long term, secure contracts for staff.
- Need for autonomy – comments made – important we have scope to employ and partner outside for DEW.
- Need a tighter 'service level agreement' – Board has to manage it better.
- When SLA signed – need accountability – seconded to Board.
- Negotiate changes in personnel (through GM) – so we actually manage all staff. We currently wouldn't have a clue what people are doing – e.g. Communications services – a lot being done for National Parks but more could be done for the Board.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- What will term of Board members be?
- Staggered roll through needed. Two terms – with term being…
- Will all come down to what are the objectives of the Act?

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

1. Catchment based approach – not government boundaries – has to have an environmental basis. Don't split up catchments.
2. Strength of AMLR – been able to employ a whole of landscape/catchment approach. Setting up two additional boards that aren't sustainable. Introducing competition.
3. Major flaw – catchments 'split' – huge administrative cost. Need a model that minimises cost.
4. Could there be an overarching Board with sub-units?
5. Is this just rebadging?
6. Stormwater Management and coast protection – Green Adelaide!

4.4 Green Adelaide

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

- Needs purpose and function – work with Councils – support work they are doing.
- Integrated solutions – system is Urban Adelaide. Prolong the life of people.
- Nature Play – could pick up those kinds of initiatives. Sustainable education.
- Grassroots programs – but supporting Councils. Doesn't need to invent new things.
- Biodiversity hotspots.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

- Would Green Adelaide be collecting levies and redistributing to other regions?

What concerns you?

- It will capture 80% of revenue.
- Where does the water levy go in relation to those separate regions?
- Other regions will need to cut back – not ideal, must be shared. They will 'scream like hell' if it doesn't happen – distribution model.
- Needs to be connected to the bigger Landscape picture.
- Concern re money going in to regional areas – much needed. Can't keep money within Green Adelaide.
- Unless communications is really good, wary there'll be a big disconnect from long term goals.

4.5 Engagement

The board were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING

• Need clear identification/knowledge before we decide what to stop.	• Branding - there is current confusion. We need a clear identity. – But note it's not important that people 'down the street' know what NRM is • Perhaps need to review engagement with land holders. • Coming up with new ways to deliver –with community. • Don't start anything that will stop doing what's already happening!	• The engagement is working. • NRM education. • Regional Plan consultation; range of places, sizes; serious endeavour to listen – 1,100 spreadsheets. • Volunteer grass roots. • Sustainable agriculture working directly with farmers. • Participating budgeting. • Going in to regions as a board - visiting projects. • Genuine engagement with Kaurna engagement – leading.

4.6 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- There has to be some way of the urban money gets distributed across all boards.
- In favour of regional distribution.
- Have in Act – ability to disperse funds across regions. Need very clear guidelines.
- Time consuming for other boards to pitch for what they need to balance books.
- \perhaps need (like we used have – in the first 5 years) – baseline figure of what boards need to operate.
- A lot of experience in the room – 3 minutes to spend is not enough.

4.7 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- Yes, in favour of allocating out some funding.
- High standards of governance needs to be maintained.

4.8 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access. **What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?**

- In favour of this.
- $2M not going to go far across the state – need balance between bribing and doing for themselves.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

The board were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

As Minister for Environment in SA in 2020 I would measure success: Measurable improvements in environmental outcomes. Acknowledged, supported and to a large extent divorced by community (including volunteers, Landowners, NRM groups).	NRM strategy seen as being equitable across all regions, with long term/enduring effective benefits $ SA – environment, regional and urban communication.	Our natural resources have improved in condition, our community is supported is supportive and continues to help and we are on track to respond to future challenges to support our stare and the world to thrive.
The NRM processes are flourishing and people are happy with the reforms.	The population loves the sustainable habitat around Adelaide and want to pay more and be involved in environmental management.	Improvement in the condition of the environment 'and ongoing' improvement.

6. PARKING SPACE

- Current structure flawed.
- Catchment- 'split' – the major flaw of the current government approach.
- 5 Guiding Principles – to what extent are we not doing these already? – They are just good management practice.
- Whole of Landscape/Back to Basics – conflicting.
- Why the change? Where's the evidence this change is needed?
- This is a rebadging exercise
- We're community members
- Survey – by Minister whilst in opposition – some discontent.
- Compliance? - We take it very seriously.
- Approach - helping people to get themselves - deliberately encourage people to be successful –then the next steps. Deliberately encourage people to be successful.
- Shouldn't be our role. Role of DEW - should be separation of duties
- Need more effective outcomes strategy – start with what we want to achieve.
- How can you be the carrot and the stick? Ask right at the beginning?
- This engagement process provides limited capacity for us to learn from hearing others – we're often in isolation.

SAAL Board
Monday 10 September 2018
4 Board members – 2 present and 2 via phone

Summary of Key issues and Priorities

Given the small number present and two members of the Board participating over the phone, the group activities that were previously planned were replaced with a facilitated discussion during which the key topics presented in the community sessions were canvassed and discussed. The group also reflected on some of the conversations had with the Arid Lands communities and explored key issues and opportunities that would be important to consider in the reform process.

Key Priorities for the Reform

The group discussed what key priorities should be considered in shaping the reform.

Partnerships

- There needs to be an inclusion of industry in developing partnerships, in particular mining and tourism. The Boards need to work closely with these industries to encourage sustainable use of the natural resources. Rather than the focus being about protection of the resources, there needs to be consideration about how the natural resources are accessed and used in the best way possible minimising landscape impacts and looking for better outcomes that enhance biodiversity.

Landscape Approach

- There is a need to ensure an understanding of the broader landscape issues and that they inform the back to basics approach. Science, knowledge and values mapping at the whole of landscape level needs to drive program delivery.

Programs

- Tangible outcomes must be delivered from on ground activities and programs that are visible to the community in order to build faith and confidence in the Board. The EMU program was a successful example of this and the principles of this can be transferred and applied to other programs.

District Groups

- The district groups have worked well for the Arid Lands given geographical distance. A Board member sits on each district group for coordination and consistency of approach.
- The success of the groups has been based on the extent of support from the staff.
- The groups reflect the former soil board model – which worked on the principle of community integration.
- The district groups for this region should be maintained and continued for the Arid Lands Region.

Compliance

- The legislation needs to be more enabling rather than compliance focused. It needs to encourage people to move forward and provide necessary support for them to do the right thing rather than seek to use a 'big stick'. Biosecurity use NRM legislation for example as leverage for compliance. The use of the legislation needs to be carefully considered and consideration given to the objectives – ie: what is the desired outcome.

Strategy and Policy Setting

- Boards need to remain as community boards, but currently they are somewhat bound to the strategies and policies of the State. Boards need to be more involved in setting the State policies as they represent the community and can provide valuable insight into the key issues.

Legislation

- In reforming the current NRM legislation, consideration needs to be given to the interaction with other related legislation.
- The SAAL Board interacts with industries that are widespread across the region and needs to have a line of sight to legislative implications in managing landscape issues. For example, mining legislation, biosecurity legislation and pastoral land management and conservation legislation all intersect and while DEW appears to manage implications at a policy level the Board doesn't see this. There could be opportunities to have better coordination and create greater efficiencies on the ground with respect to compliance, land management and program delivery.
- While DEW does make policy responses to other areas of Government responsible for the respective pieces of legislation that intersect, there appears to be no social assessment or social overlay considered. The Board is well positioned to provide this input and therefore a stronger engagement with the Board on such matters would deliver better outcomes.
- The legislation should support consultation with the Board on applications from industry for various activities that may impact landscape as well as Departmental policy changes in response to issues and opportunities within the frame of the legislation. The Board must have a stronger influence in such matters at a strategic level and seen as an important stakeholder to assist Government in decision making as it relates to broader Government legislation and landscape management.

The discussion then focused on the specific proposals that have been put forward as suggested elements of the legislative reform and which are intended to deliver on the five key principles on which the reform is based.

Board Membership

The proposal is to have nine landscape Boards to replace the existing NRM Boards. Each Board is to have seven members with three members elected by the community and four members including the chair appointed by the Minister. This concept was discussed by the group and the following observations made:

- Board appointments to date have been skills based and this has served the Board well.
- The definition of community at the centre was discussed – does this mean that Board members must work and live in the region?
- Concerns were raised about the community election process – most particularly with respect to the possible cost and administration of the process and whether this would be funded by the levy.
- The election process would need to be created and could have unintended consequences. Peak groups could stack the voting and skew the results, resulting in a non-representative board.
- The community election process is unlikely to work across the Arid Lands. The Arid Lands is an unincorporated region and does not have a culture of community-based elections. It is unlikely that communities will get involved in an election process and even less likely if they need to travel. The election process could also deter women from nominating.
- The community sessions held at Marree, Leigh Creek and Yunta had all discussed the merits of the District Group model. The group discussed this and endorsed this model as appropriate for the Arid Lands given geographical distances. It provides for a bottom up approach with the Board taking an added strategic view across the region. The group liked the idea of the community representatives being nominated from the District Groups to the Board and suggested a rotational approach to these appointments could be useful. The structure has worked well to date and to the Board's knowledge there hasn't been any disquiet about the current structure.
- The District Group model for the Arid Lands needs to be retained and could be used as the means to ensure regional representation and diversity across sectors.
- Currently the Board is not closed to the community – nominations to the Board can be received from members of the community and therefore the objective of having community participants can and is achieved through the current model.
- By retaining the District Group model another option could involve nominations from each group to represent the districts on a selection panel to make recommendation to the Minister as to who should be on the Board.

Boundaries

A proposal to shift the City of Port Augusta from the Northern and Yorke region to the Arid Lands Region was canvassed. Discussion was also had regarding the Flinders Ranges Council area and the eastern pastoral lands region south of Yunta along the Barrier Highway.

- Port Augusta issues are very different from the Arid Lands region. While the surrounding area around Port Augusta aligns, the issues for the City are very different. Port Augusta is dealing with matters related to an urban environment within a local government area that has a strong voice and in this sense is quite different when compared with the unique issues of the Arid Lands region.
- If a community election process is introduced there is a risk that the City of Port Augusta will participate more strongly than the Arid Lands region resulting in a

skewed outcome. This could then see decisions made at a Board level that favour the City of Port Augusta.

- If Port Augusta was to come into the Arid Lands Region, a large percentage of the levy payers would come from Port Augusta and therefore be a strong voice in requesting a greater spend in the City and surrounds than the broader region.
- There needs to be greater though given to the possible implications of this boundary change – it would be a risk to make the change purely from a financial perspective or perceived levy distribution benefit which may not in reality deliver the right outcome. Any extra revenue received will be absorbed by the City and there will likely be a community expectation that the levy money raised from Port Augusta is reinvested in Port Augusta.
- There is some merit in including Hawker into the Arid Lands area given the similar landscape issues, however this will introduce a portion of a local government area into the region.
- There may also be some merit in including a greater portion of the Eastern Pastoral Districts south of Yunta into the area currently held by the Murray Darling Basin (MDBA) Board. However, community views should be canvassed and existing MDBA legislation considered.

Board Accountabilities

Discussion was had around Board accountabilities and how the Board should be positioned relative to Government. The following points were noted:

- A greater separation from DEW was supported with systems and processes put in place to enable greater autonomy.
- Supported the Boards selecting and appointing their own General Manager who can deliver on the Board's objectives and business operations.
- Boards should be empowered to operate in a more business like way and be accountable for its operations and delivery.
- Currently the Board doesn't have control over how the money is spent – yes, plans are established and priorities set but so much of the Boards operational business is decided by the Department.
- DEW currently have strong influence over how funds are spent and where, as well as influence over the plan. While DEW are a critical stakeholder and coordination and linkage is important, Boards should have a greater capability of responding to their communities and directing funding to regional priorities.
- Staff need to be separated from DEW and be the responsibility of the Board and its General Manager in order to change direction. The philosophy at times from DEW is different to the view of the Board and therefore for there to be a change in direction there will need to be a shift in the way staff are employed. The public sector model would seem to be the most preferred approach to resolve this issue and will effectively create a separation and distance from DEW while maintaining certain terms and conditions for staff synonymous with Government.
- The Board reflected on community feedback during the engagement sessions regarding placing of staff in small regional centres across the region to build relationships, to be accessible to community and responsive to on the ground

landscape issues. While this has some merit and has worked well in the past, it does have costs attached. If this was to occur technology and the introduction of associated systems is critical to success and cost minimisation.

Funding Structures

A number of changes to the levy system are being proposed as part of the legislative reform process. These include the capping of levies, the establishment of a landscape priorities fund and the establishment of a grassroots grants program to support local projects at the community group level. These proposals were canvassed with the Board and the following observations made:

- The idea of capping levies was supported in principle.
- Landscape Advisory board/group: while its initial reason for being seems to be to administer the proposed Landscape Priorities Fund, there remains the question as to what this advisory group might become over time. These groups can have the tendency to develop into something different away from their initial intent.
- The Landscape Boards need to be better leveraged and utilised effectively – and if this occurs the purpose, function and reason of a Landscape Advisory Board/Group could be questioned.
- In theory there was no issue with the concept of two central funds – one for landscape priority projects and one for grass roots community projects, however concern was raised about the ability of the Arid Lands region to contribute relative to return. The Arid Lands region is expansive with a small and sparse population. The region needs the funding for landscape priority projects for a whole of landscape approach to be effective, but by comparison to other regions does not have the population and therefore the levy raising capacity to strongly contribute to any central fund. Therefore, if this model was to proceed, there would need to be consideration as to how money from these funds was distributed equitably across the State to areas of need and how priorities are structured – otherwise there is a risk that regions with the loudest voice could benefit the most.
- In going forward the Board is hoping for a more secure funding model with greater certainty. The current grants program makes for uncertainty and therefore creates difficulty when trying to plan and deliver programs and projects. Equity sharing with certainty of funding as a baseline needs to be the focus.

Overall observations

Overall the five key principles underpinning the reform are relevant and supported. Decentralisation and greater Board autonomy is supported with the system to be simplified and more accessible for community. A back to basics approach needs to be balanced with a whole of landscape approach and equitable distribution of funding provided to enable Boards with smaller populations to be effective. Any new process introduced needs to be efficient and mindful of not unnecessarily adding further administrative processes that may absorb funds. The Board currently has community at the centre with Board appointees being selected from the community – although this does somewhat depend on how community is being defined.

What is clear and has been endorsed through the community engagement process is that one size does not necessarily fit each region. While the principles should be consistent across the State, how they are implemented needs to account for the differences in how communities are structured and operate. The best example of this is the current NRM district group model which works well for the Arid Lands but are not effective in other regions. The District Group model aligns somewhat with the current approach to administering the region with Progress Associations working across various regional towns reporting back up to a central overarching body, the Outback Communities Authority. The Board strongly advises that any structural change needs to account for the uniqueness of the Arid Lands Region guarding against a blanket implementation of standard operational models across the entire State.

Natural Resource Management cuts across different legislation and the work of multiple Government agencies. Mining, energy, pastoral lands, primary industries, tourism, conservation, native vegetation, wild dog fence, are just a few of the key areas across which the Board intersects. It would be beneficial for this reform to consider how programs across these areas can be better coordinated and administered to ensure consistency of purpose and land management across the region. The ability for on the ground staff to feed back up into these areas of Government and influence how various issues are managed to support sustainable landscape practice would be valuable in any reform process.

PHASE:	**NRM BOARD SESSION**
SESSION:	**NORTHERN & YORKE NRM BOARD (CLARE)**
TIME/DATE:	**1-3PM – 11th SEPTEMBER 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**BECKY**

Becky Hirst met with 6 members of the Northern & Yorke NRM Board (including the Presiding Member) and facilitated a conversation based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums.

Whilst a full account of input noted can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the meeting were –

- **Boundaries** were the biggest priority for the board to discuss during the meeting, with the Presiding Member keen for feedback to be passed on to the Minister.

  With regard to the possibility of **Port Augusta** moving in to the SAAL region, the group said that if there was no gulf, it might make sense. But as at the head of the gulf, Port Augusta should stay in Northern & Yorke, given the amount of coastline already in this region. However, the board suggested that the **Northern & Yorke board could manage the coastline on behalf of SAAL**, much like they already work with the SAMDB Board on cross-boundary projects. The board acknowledged the sense of community in Port Augusta and that it makes sense for Port Augusta to be in SAAL region. The group highlighted that in making the final decision, the needs of Aboriginal nations in the area should be considered.

  With regard to the southern border, it was strongly felt that **Clare** belongs in the Northern & Yorke region – firmly! Clare fits with the identity of Northern & Yorke. Clare is the centre. Clare is not Adelaide Plains. It was also noted that Councils to the north of Clare align south to Clare, not north to Port Augusta. One suggestion also included that Northern & Yorke could 'take in' the Adelaide Plains – though Council areas should be asked where they would like to sit.

- This board has recently spent 18 months developing a **10-year Business Plan**, engaging the community through a Community Action Planning process in doing so. The board, staff and community are very proud of this plan. They felt that 5-year plans would be too short but could simply split their 10-year plan in to two 5-year plans if necessary! It was felt that 5-year plans are too short.

- The board felt that the proposed structure of **community elections** runs a risk of board members having a vested interest, and only those with great lobbying power (and the loudest voices) would win.

  The board were not averse to 3 community members being **nominated by groups** such as Councils, PPSA or other relevant organisations, but it must be clearly explained what is being achieved by taking this approach.

  The board noted that they are already all members of the community and questioned why being elected would make a difference. There was also concern regarding **the cost of an election process**.

- If a **Grassroots Program** is to go ahead, activities delivered within it must address strategies in the overall plan for the region. It was also felt that $2 million is insufficient for a statewide program like this. The board felt a better use of $2 million could be to set up a **Youth Environmental Leadership program** across the state, replacing one that has recently been discontinued in the region due to lack of funding. The board noted that it takes significant time, energy and money to chase other funds to support their work.

- There were overall concerns about **funding and distribution of the levy**, with members noting that they are worried that the sums don't add up as to how boards will survive with levy income being distributed to other pots such as the Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots Program. There needs to be further work/information in explaining the anticipated distribution of funds.

- **Engagement with the community** is something that the board felt is working really well at the moment. They also noted that interaction between board and staff work well, as well as the way the board work well together, is excellent.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The board undertook a series of facilitated discussions, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well, and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, boundaries
5. **Funding –** Levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
6. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each board member was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The facilitator then sorted them in to themes and shared what had emerged.

BACK TO BASICS • Kill some weeds. • A lot more emphasis on our basics – pests, plants, weed control etc.	**REFORM PROCESS** • Build on the positive work of the current NRM plan i.e. don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. • Be aware of and have an input to any changes to the status of the Natural Resources in our region – both planned and unplanned.
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE • Sustainable agriculture.	**COMMUNICATION** • Improved communication with our stakeholders – both up and down the chain.
ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT • Greater Aboriginal engagement.	**COASTAL PROTECTION** • Consider the whole system – marine, coastal and terrestrial. • Our gulfs are the ultimate endpoint of all of our works. • Coastal protection. • Coastal input.
COMMUNITY • Continuing/improved community engagement. • Absolute community support four our plan and its outcomes. • Be inclusive of the whole community – not just the loudest voices. • Continue with the good work we are currently undertaking.	**OTHER** • Protect and manage the Natural Resources in our region. • Look after the environment – retain the landscape • Have more time to deal with less information. • Environmental outcomes which are measurable.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each board member was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down the top three things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

ENGAGEMENT	**PERSONNEL**
• Engaging in our young people. • Education through schools • Y.E.L. and education. • Our community support is increasing. • Regaining community trust – until now. • Our community 'face' – people are more aware of who we are and what we do. • We engage and offer engagement. • Partner and community engagement i.e. Cap process.	• Interaction between Board and Staff underlined by our strategic plan. • Broad spread of interests and regions and skills on the Board. • Chair Person – Delegate – Eric. • Our Board itself. • Staff and Board work to a common purpose.
OTHER	
• Agricultural – sustainable soils. • Our specific projects. • Linkages to key groups in the region.	

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. The board considered the following three questions relating to each principle –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made by the facilitator under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- In engagement process, we've been excluded as a board. We are the community. We've been doing this.
- We are all community members – we're connected – attending meetings – reporting back. We're all interested in the environment. Variety of skills – would hate to see it lost.
- Where do we sit? Our place to make decisions? We are voice of community as well. We want to make recommendations as well as decision makers. Community come to us – it's how they see us. Our scope – where do we start/stop?
- Planning Reform – integrated and holistic planning processes.
- In new Act – explicit – what our responsibilities are?

b. A simple and accessible system

- Election process adds another layer of complexity.
- Would be good – but not sure it will be achieved.
- Board/Staff currently quite integrated – if we split – not sure how it will work. Where will we get scientific expertise from? E.g. in DEW building now – what happens when we split?
- Nobody likes forms – but that's life. Dwindling resources. There are checks and balances there for regions.
- Centre in Clare has been a real success – tenants, businesses want to work here with us. That's the community – very supportive.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Shouldn't be separated – land owners are the community. Makes land owners different. We don't have different thought processes.
- Land owners (bigger) can have vested interest – on making profit. Most are very responsible. We don't want to set up a process where wealthy can 'buy it out'.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Community Action Planning (CAP) – has led to us having this approach from a long way back. Over the years – successive boards – allows the public to comment.
- We take a bottom up approach already – the people are behind it. Community have ownership.
- Identifies where we should spend $.
- We know who we are as a region. We're cohesive. CAP helps define even further.
- Coastal/Seascape very important to be included.
- Environmental NGOs are so supportive of this approach (Landcare Groups).
- Ecosystems, biological diversity, unique native flora and fauna mustn't be pushed aside.
- Pressures on region from tourism – metro visitors.

e. Back to basics

- We've all had to do this anyway. Community Action Planning (CAP) process – we run already. Pest plant and animal is what they want.
- Back to Basics – it's not that simple!

4. Governance & Planning, Engagement & Funding

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Can see how an open process makes it fair but…

What concerns you?

- The power and influence of people may elect people on to board – those with lobbying potential win. Those who we want to engage more, may not come to the table.
- Runs risk of just getting vested interest.
- Cost of election process.
- If we go to an election, mustn't just have 'reps' but people with a passion.
- We're already all community! Why being elected will make a difference? What are we if we aren't community?

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Not averse to 3 community members being put forward by a group: council, PPSA, other organisations; rather than an election process.
- Must clearly outline what is being attempted here? Perhaps previous board or community organisations to put forward suggestions.
- Currently Minister asks what skill set we want/areas covered – works well – though PM doesn't make recommendations – just encourages applications. These people would never to an election but might be convinced to apply.
- Current members wouldn't have gone through election – no way.
- Must be from region.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

- We have already done our plan – Community Based Action Plan – waiting for sign off. 10 year plan.
- We've already done it – 18 months developing. Could split in two. Read it!
- If we reduce our levy raising capacity, how will we afford a General Manager – and to do all this? (Including expert advice etc.).

4.3 Boundaries

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- PORT AUGUSTA – if there was no gulf, it might make sense. But as at the head of the gulf, it should stay in N&Y. However, we could manage the coastline, much lie we work with SAMDB as an option. Sense of community – makes sense for PA to be in SAAL main region – cost, levy collection. Need to consider Aboriginal Nation Adnya cross regional – coastal support to SAAL.
- Clare belongs to N & Y – firmly! Our identity. Tourism. Identity as landowners. CAP process has all been based around Clare. Getting that community owning it.
- Clare is our centre. We are not Adelaide Plains. Local Government alignments e.g. Peterborough – we come south to Clare. Is this just a financial decision?
- We could take Adelaide Plains in to N & Y. Council areas should be asked where they would like to be.
- Catchments.

4.4 Green Adelaide

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

One board member noted that Green Adelaide should have a role in –

- Hills Face Zone – protection of
- Keep Adelaide Green – protect parklands!
- Beaches – protection.

4.6 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- We haven't got levy raising capacity – for a long time we've been saying these areas hard hit by tourism need supporting. Needs to be equitable – at least more equitable.

4.7 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- It's not going to achieve a thing.
- And we can only get by lodging an application.
- Marine/coastal – around Gulf – makes sense to work together.
- Same with Adelaide coastline.

4.8 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Have got rid of Fund my Neighbourhood.
- State wide – seriously? $2M is chicken feed. And we are paying for it ourselves.
- We'd like to see the Minister give us (N & Y) $2M.
- How about set up a YEL program with this $2M.
- If there is to be this fund, activities must address strategies in our plan.
- Significant time and energy and $ need to go in to chasing other funds.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

The board members were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

By 2020 the community is pleased to see landscapes vehicles and proud of the staff who are comfortable in walking into the pub wearing the uniform.	Well done – you managed to TALK LESS and LISTEN MORE.	Increased community engagement from all sectors.
Not one NRM complaint from staff, Board or community came across my desk this week!!	The environment is sustained and maintained across all fascists of the Natural Resources.	

6. PARKING SPACE

The current additional notes were made –

Engagement/reform process feedback -

- Thought processes in putting together this reform seem to have been steered by loudest voices.
- By not consulting early, Minister has risked disengaging those of us currently involved.
- Where's the evidence that the system is broken?
- Would have been nice to have boundary options to discuss.

Other notes -

- We already tick all the boxes! i.e. guidelines.
- Current board structure – cross section of region, skills, connections – really good mix.
- Scary that marine, coastal and education is an after-thought.
- Education is how we future proof.

PHASE: **NRM BOARD SESSION**
SESSION: **SAMBD**
TIME/DATE: **12-3PM – 17th SEPTEMBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **BECKY**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Becky Hirst met with 5 members of the SAMDB NRM Board (including PIRSA representative) in person in Mount Barker and via video conference. There were two staff who participated in the meeting. Becky facilitated a conversation based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums. Whilst a full account of input noted can be found below, some of the key points to arise from the meeting were –

Community Engagement

- Members of the board commented that the legislation at the moment is very specific. It doesn't enable innovative solutions to be found. It should be written in a way that makes it clear what we are trying to achieve. There are some very specific requirements which can be very complex.
- A specific example was given relating to required **consultation processes** needing X number of days before X kind of meeting is held. This board believes in and operates with **a more contemporary approach to community engagement** and would like to see the new legislation reflect this. They want more genuine engagement and less consultation.
- They would like to see the community more involved in developing a draft plan **early in the process**, rather than simply be presented with a final draft for comment. This part of the existing Act hasn't moved with the times, for example for **Water Allocation Planning**. For this, the board works with the community to understand what's up for discussion. They prepare a plan together. They consult at the end just to test that what has been discussed is reflected in the Plan. The legislation in this regard should be less prescriptive regarding consultation.
- They would like to see **engagement principles** upfront in the legislation that talk about community being engaged in the process.
- The board would like to see an empowered community making behaviour change. They'd like to see community taking ownership and contributing to a decision. The board is very proud of the work it currently does in engaging the community and is **progressive in its approaches**. Approaches like the River Murray Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committee worked really well, as well as other approaches such that have been about early engagement with impacted and well-connected stakeholders.

Communication & Media

- The community don't often understand who is responsible for what. The board felt that they aren't able to manage their own **messaging and media** around this. This can be very frustrating. There is a significant process that they have to go through once a decision has been made in order for it to be communicated to the community. This can be a very long process via HQ, seeking **approval for communications**, with messages getting diluted throughout the process. There are so many lost opportunities.
- We already make our own decisions, but then it's an incredibly **clunky process** in either implementing or communicating them.

Roles & Responsibilities

- In relation to communications and media above, there is also a **lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities** in the region. For example, Corellas are raised all the time as an issue. These aren't the responsibility of the NRM Board – we have no role in managing them. But we aren't able to say that it isn't our role. However, nobody else says it is their role. It's very frustrating that everything has to go through Adelaide. The board would like to see clearer roles and responsibilities.
- This is a good opportunity for the Minister to talk about roles and responsibilities – the board, the department, local government, partners, and so on.

Partnerships

- The board see partnerships as a smart way to bring people along – with local people providing input. They like to use **existing systems** to facilitate this, such as small community grants that they already offer. The board acknowledged that they could do better at acknowledging the number of partnerships that are in place. The way the board works on partnerships is quite **flexible** at present and they would like this to continue.

Levies & Funding

- The levies are fundamental in helping the board achieve what it needs to do. They would like to see the Act strengthened in **communicating** why a levy is in place, and that this is a good opportunity to clarify how levies are collected and distributed across the state. The difference between a land and water levy at the moment is clunky at the moment and this makes it difficult to communicate why the levies are in place. The group noted that there is an **inconsistency of philosophies** across the regions, for example this board land based and water-based levies are pooled, and spent on highest priority things, whereas in other regions this is done differently.
- There was some discussion around **Green Adelaide** and to be careful that it doesn't become 'the magic pudding'. It was noted that the potential for the levy collection in the region will be large and whilst the intention seems to be to distribute some of this to other regions, there is a high risk that much of the funds could end up being spent on large scale projects that are required in metropolitan Adelaide, such as sand pumping.
- The board noted that there is no mention of state appropriation.
- The **Landscape Priorities Fund** doesn't sound like an efficient model. How would the distribution be calculated? It was noted that there isn't much money in the **Grassroots Grants Program** once it gets divided across the state.

Integrated Landscape Approach

- This board believes in social and ecological systems based on **catchments**. There needs to be a strong focus on **biodiversity**. The **Back to Basics** approach is simply treating the systems. The **Whole of Landscape Approach** treats the cause. This board aligns mostly with the latter.
- The Back to Basics approach is what we did twenty years ago and is frustrating because it undermines the work that has been happened. What we need to do isn't basic – it's complex – it needs to be smarter than going back to the basics, however the board did note that this depends on the definition of basics.

Skills-based board

- The skills-based board is a strength of the current structure. The board regularly makes **decisions based on consensus**, limiting the need to take votes. From a staff perspective, this makes it easier and more effective to support a board that can reach a consensus easily. Decision making must be backed up by **science**. There needs to be a strong evidence based.
- There was great concern that the proposed model of **community elections** will be expensive to implement, there will be strong political influence, it will attract board members with single issues, and possibly a lack of appropriate skills. It was also questioned who would vote? This approach also bring concern that it may result in a lack of diversity on the board – with a high probability of lower representation of women and young people.
- The Presiding Member shared a suggestion that she had heard in another session around a skills-based board where **peak bodies have a role** in forming a selection panel and making recommendations to the Minister or making nominations for some or all of the board members. It was agreed that this was a **good compromise** and would help ensure diversity. It would also empower the peak bodies.

Decentralised decision making

- The board currently makes decisions and they therefore feel that this principle aligns with their existing approach. However, they noted that some elements of the proposed reform go against the concept of decentralised decision making, such as the Statewide Priorities Fund and Grassroots Grants Program, being administered outside of the Board. The new Landscape Boards will have a legacy of things that don't line up with this new philosophy of decentralised decision making.

Compliance

- The Act doesn't currently have a voluntary compliance option. In relation to a **simple and accessible system**, the Act could include framing for more voluntary compliance. However, the board did note that they get criticised when they can't enforce. It takes too long to go through the enforcement process and can be very expensive. They would like to **find a balance** between enforced and voluntary processes.

Boundaries

- There was some discussion about boundaries of the region, specifically in relation to the Council areas of Alexandrina, Mount Barker and Goyder. The board feels strongly that boundaries should not be the tool ensuring the financial viability of the boards. This board believes in a landscape approach of catchments, bio-landscapes and social considerations.
- We can't split **Alexandrina** and **Mount Barker**. This would be splitting the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges in half. It makes no sense. From a Murray Darling Basin perspective, they fit in to the Basin and this was a decision based on science.
- Where good relationships exist, don't change the boundaries. The local people in **Burra** would be disappointed to be removed from our region.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

The board undertook a series of facilitated conversations, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well, and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, boundaries, engagement, and funding
5. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The facilitators notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

REDUCE THE COMPLEXITY	REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
• The legislation is very specific – so doesn't enable innovative solutions. Should be written in a way that makes it clear what we're trying to achieve. Specific requirements – very complex e.g. x days before x. We want good outcomes with community. Could go in regulations or other policy. Community don't often understand who is responsible for that – we don't manage our own messaging and media – significant processes for managing risk. Something happening – 4 week processes – messages get diluted. Through HQ e.g. corellas – raised all the time. But we have no role in managing. We aren't able to say it's not our role. Nobody claims it's their role. All has to go through Adelaide. Frustrating. Lack of timeliness. So many lost opportunities. Roles and	• As previous item. Legislation to include engagement rather than consultation. More involved in developing draft plan. This part of Act hasn't moved with the times e.g. Water Allocation Planning – we work with community to understand what's up for discussion. Consultation process to just test. Legislation should be less prescriptive re consultation. Principles up front that talk about engaging with community.

responsibilities. We do make decisions (often) but then a clunky process e.g. media release.	
INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE APPROACH • Social and ecological systems based on catchments. Biodiversity.	**LEVIES** • Raised in region – fundamental in achieving what we do. • Strengthen Act in explaining 'why' a levy – clunky difference between land and water levy. Not helpful. Opportunity to clarify. Inconsistency of philosophies. Here – land-based and water-based levies are pooled and spent on highest priority things.
PARTNERSHIPS • Smart way to bring people along – local people input. Use existing systems e.g. small community grants. • We could do better on communicating the number of partnerships we have. Quite flexible now. Works well – dollars in-kind.	**EMPOWERING COMMUNITY** • Behaviour change. Community taking ownership and contributing to decision.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

- Co-design of legislation wit key stakeholders e.g. WAP.
- Partnerships – being flexible. Sustainable agriculture, e.g. Landcare – wetlands/staff.
- Skills based Board – and consensus decision making. Minimal votes. Outstanding.
- Staff perspective – makes easier and effective to support.
- Enabling department to work through communities to make better decisions e.g. Board Members well known in community – facilitate flow of information – much easier than bureaucrats could.
- Engagement processes with community and philosophy of the Board.
- Creating portals for federal to meet/work with community.
- Key management personnel – regional – know the region well. Live in the region. Part of community.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. The board considered the 5 principles and provided the following feedback -

a. Decentralised decision making

- Doing.
- Decision making backed up by science. We could go off on a tangent if not supported by evidence-base.
- In terms of whole system, water planning and management costs were part of centralised decision making. Some of proposals are centralised e.g. Grassroots funding.
- Boards will have legacy of things that don't line up with this philosophy. E.g. Water Planning. Water Planning and Management $2.2M in our region.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Some things can't be simple e.g. Water Allocation. Don't accidently simply.
- Legislative simplicity.
- Media release example. Takes a long time for us to get something through system. Perception.
- Some systems legislative, some departmental.
- Is this code for transparency? If it's not simple it can be complex but not complicated.

- Some things could be easier if we had simple communications – trust and relationships are critical.
- Need to be really clear on roles and responsibilities. Minister has opportunity: - Boards; Departments; Local Government; Land holders.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Doing.
- Fits with priorities and philosophy.
- RMAC – feeds in to board (e.g. River Murray WAP) – main consultative arm. 20 – odd regular members.
- Board membership – outs has been people as people not necessarily promoting their cause. Diversity of interest is maintained.
- Community is diverse in itself. Need all parts discussing and debating and finding compromise – a broader community. Don't be afraid of different perspectives.
- Need private land holders – must be involved, own large parcels of land – Regional Partnership.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Doing.
- Almost polar opposite with Back to Basics.
- Fits more with our systems thinking – and this isn't foreign to farmers.
- National Irrigators Council – saying this – it's not just back to basics – it's complex.
- Back to Basics – treating symptoms. Whole of Landscape – treating the cause.
- Balance needed between physical aspects/landscapes and social catchments – need to consider both landscapes.

e. Back to basics

- Concept is something we did 20 years ago. Its complex – it's not basic.
- Trying to sell a view that this will fix it.
- Needs to be smarter than this.
- Depends on definition of 'basics'.
- Trying to have foot in both camps – this with whole of landscapes.
- Pest plant and animal space – pressure is unrealistic to remove weed/pest species. Frustrating because it's undermining work that's been happening. Waste of money. Managing impact not eradication.

4. Governance & Planning, Engagement & Funding

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- Gives the Minister a level of comfort.
- Gives a perception of community decision making.

What concerns you?

- Looks expensive – cost and time of election.
- Political influence.
- Squeaky wheels.
- Single based issues from elected members – lack of skills.
- Who would actually vote?

- RAA – 720,000 members – costly for 12-15k members voting. Huge risk if voting is voluntary – small number of voters – could create a divisive board – problematic for Minister. Divisive if you are elected versus nominated.
- Diversity of board – highly unlikely to be women or young.
- Agency reps is a strength (as non-voting members).
- Skills based board. Peak bodies could nominate someone to sit on selection panel might choose – they then recommend to the Minister the 7 or 3 to be on the board. Diversity geographic spread, saves costs. Would expand peak bodies.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Would process be funded by levy?
- Peak body approach – a good compromise.
- SE Drainage Board – some appointed, some elected. Doesn't function well.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

- Re 5-year plan - If it's only this, it isn't enough. Would need layers. What is the board's role?
- Review Cycle – 5 years? E.g. 10 year plan, reviewed every 5 years.
- Should have 20 year targets – things take five.
- Plan with long term vision – reviewed every 5 years.
- Difference between plan for region and plan for boards – what they'll do.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- Landscape Plan – currently plan for region owned by region, not just board. NRM is everyone's responsibility.
- What scale for 5 priorities? Big or small?
- Simple language. Streamlining – what's worked in past?
- Maybe consistency in planning – how planning is done e.g. CAP versus resilience planning.
- Strategic Plan – 10 year Plan with 20 year targets.
- Regional Action Plan – 5 years – sets priorities at a local level (equivalent to CAP).
- Boards Business Plan – 3 year rolling.
- One year Implementation Plan.
- EMPLOYING A GENERAL MANAGER:
  Good idea. We feel for regional staff. Under pressure juggling priorities – reporting to board and DEW.
  But wouldn't want that role. GM is only as good as the people who report to him. Staff employed by Department – don't see how GM role would be viable.
  Various models. Boards could work together to manage different aspects.
  Who's the employing agency? Could it be worded in SLA? Seconded to Board. Needs to be clear.

4.3 Boundaries

- Possible shifts Sharon is aware being considered: Alexandrina; Goyder; Mount Barker.
- Viability (financial) of being able to deliver is limited if boundaries are tinkered with.
- Boundaries should not be the tool for improving the financial viability of boards.
- Landscape approach catchments – bio landscapes – social.
- Can't split Alexandrina and Mount Barker.
- Split Eastern Mount Lofty in half – makes no sense also from a MDB – they fit in Murray Darling Basin. Decision based on science. Sending them in to Adelaide won't achieve landscape outcomes.
- Community ability to relate to a region/landscape/catchment. Want to be involved.
- Local community in Burra would be concerned to be removed from our region. Where would you take boundary? Re: Landscape Scale:
    a. Catchments.
    b. Where goo relationships exist – don't change e.g. Burra.
- What's the objective of a change?
- NRM Groups can help with local connections – if looking to ways for better local decisions.

4.4 Green Adelaide

- Need to be careful about treating GA as the magic pudding – if boundaries are metro – the potential levy is large – GA would form significant part of $30M.
- When you consider range of things/big scale funding (e.g. sand removal) – worrying. GA doesn't speak landscapes.
- What role could GA have around providing funding or supporting other parts of the state? E.g. KI – tourism from metro.
- Reality of distribution might not be that much. Potential levy funding could be absorbed within GA – operations and management of existing program.

4.5 Engagement

The board were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects. They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Public meetings – we try not to – Act tells us we have to for new things. We don't do this – old fashioned. Doesn't work	• Field visits – we could do more (time, costs, logistics) – gives us a face in community where we do things. • NOTE: Don't under estimate how much it costs to maintain relationships. It's very hard. We do it well. Really valuable. People recognise it's a partnership. True partnership – both coming to table.	• River Murray WAP – Advisory Committee has worked really well. • Trialled processes – identifying who key players are – directly impacted with good networks – getting them involved early – called it a 'lock in' – trusting environment, different approach. Getting information out early – keeping them involved in journey. • Public forums, shed meeting, industry commodity leads. • Board members used to have a 'community at the centre' committee re expectation.

4.6 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- We use levy funds to leverage federal funds. There'll be less available to leverage.
- No mention of state appropriation – shouldn't just be reliant on levies. Environment underpins the economy and community well being.

4.7 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- With additional extra funding, both these funds are great. But we won't, so they aren't!
- If boards are having to have plans and priorities – how do these fit?
- Doesn't sound like an efficient model?
- How would it be worked out? No figure for landscape fund.
- We already do save landscape projects cross-boundaries – may not need a formal think like this.

4.8 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Not a lot of money when divided up.
- Goes against decentralised decision making.
- Boards already invest in own grassroots funding – at least $300K plus small volunteer grants programs – from existing funding. This is in addition – even less money in pot.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

The staff were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

A visible sign the SAMDB is a healthier place.	When I go to regional communities they congratulate me on being flexible and really listening to communities and understanding environmental issues.	No ministerials on landscape reform.
Communities are empowered: They are part of the process; They know what they need to do; Work together with Government. As Minister, I have been able to secure more $ from Treasury.	Congratulations ~ signed Ian Hunter.	

6. PARKING SPACE

It was acknowledge that the agenda was full today and staff were providing input very specifically around the Landscapes SA reform. If topics came up that hadn't got time allocated to them, or that weren't immediately relevant to this first stage of the reform process, they could be noted in the Parking Space.

The current notes were made –

- Compliance – Act as it is doesn't have a voluntary compliance option. Simple and accessible system – in Act could include framing for more of a voluntary compliance. But at same time, we get criticised when we can't enforce. Takes too long to go through enforcement process and expensive. Finding a balance between enforced and voluntary process straightforward.

PHASE: **BOARD SESSION**
SESSION: **SOUTH EAST NRM BOARD - NARACOORTE**
TIME/DATE: **2:00pm – MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018**
FACILITATOR: **STEVE**

Seven Board Members were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session, as well as outlining their role and the likely range of diverse opinions in the room. A short update on the reform process to date was provided, including the engagement process occurring around the state. Two staff were present as observers.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The staff undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Key priorities** – what are the key things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the key things that are currently working well, and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles help your priorities to be addressed?

In small groups participants provided comment and feedback on the following topics -

4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

The session ended with the facilitator asking all participants to consider -

7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The facilitator scribed notes during the whole of group discussion. These notes provide an overview summary of the discussions and key points made by board members as follows:

Engagement Process

- Concern was expressed by one member that Boards were not to be present at the community sessions. It was felt that this was a good opportunity for Board members to hear the views and perspectives of their communities with respect to the reform and that by not attending it could be an opportunity lost.

Board relationship with other Departments (DEW and PIRSA in particular)

- The Board needs greater empowerment and clarity of role.
- The community are confused as to who makes decisions over what and who works for who.
- There is confusion also at the Department level with a lack of understanding at times as to the role of the Boards.
- Removing the NRM groups lost the community to some extent and added to the disconnect with the Board and its work.

The Levy and Landscape

- The history of the levy comes from private rate-payers.
- The landscape however does not stop at boundaries – all land owners and operators need to be in a position to support landscape management initiatives.

- Government Departments, the Crown and private sector lease holders (ie: mining industry) need to be well coordinated and contribute through either paying the levy to the Board or working with the Board to initiate landscape projects.

The Levy

- Need to be careful about any percentage of the levy collected from the region leaving the region.
- Boards need a greater degree of control over the levy money raised from the region.
- There needs to be a continuation of the appropriation of funds from Adelaide back out to the regions. The regions have a critical need for landscape management with many relying upon the sustainability of the landscape for productivity but have less of an ability to raise adequate funding because of the smaller populations. Equitable distribution across the State needs to be a key principle of the legislation.
- WPM Costs – the Board does not have control over these – a quarter of the budget currently is outside of the Board's ability to manage and this greatly constrains the Board in directing funding to on the ground initiatives.

Back to Basics

- Soil – the current Legislation is weak with compliance messy and difficult. The reform provides an opportunity for this issue to be addressed.
- Pest Management – again compliance is messy and complex. The current intent is for the Board to work with landowners but people take advantage. This is an opportunity for the process to be made simpler and easier.
- A compliance toolkit for staff that is clear in process could be helpful.

The Board

- There needs to be care taken not to overstate what the Board can do verses what it has to do.
- Boards currently have members from their communities who are passionate and know and understand the issues and who are working hard with their communities to deliver partnerships and programs. This aligns with the proposed principles.
- Be careful not to overturn the good work that is being done by effective Boards that are operating well within the constraints.
- The Board would like to achieve more – but there are existing constraints and legal responsibilities prescribed in the Act which absorb significant resources making it difficult to deliver other landscape initiatives.
- Should a community election process be introduced, there is the potential for greater support of Board decisions to be obtained from the community.
- With respect to a proposed community election process however, there are a number of issues and concerns including:
    - The risk of vote stacking
    - Results being skewed to areas of greater population (ie: Mount Gambier)
    - Cost of a community election process and how it is funded – will it be taken from the levy?
    - Motivating people to vote to have sufficient numbers to support the community election process
- There may be better ways to achieve the aim of greater community involvement and support of the Board that cost less than a community election process.
- In reforming the Natural Resource Management it is also important to ensure that we are not responding to just a small minority voice in the community who may have a specific agenda or are unaware of the current process and how it works.
- There is also a risk with a community election process someone with a particular issue could find their way to become a Board member – this would not help to achieve a high functioning Board.
- An alternative to the community election process could be to establish a community-based selection panel drawn from across sector groups and the region to make either recommendation to the Minister and/or appoint the community nominated members themselves based on criteria.

- Having said this the current selection process works well – maybe, the issue is more to do with a lack of transparency and understanding across the community as to how the process works currently and the effort that is applied to select the right people to a Board.
- Having Board members that are skill based with experience is critical to ensure a functioning and effective Board. Maybe a community election process can work on the basis that there is a pre-selection arrangement requiring candidates to meet a set criteria and skill base. This would need to be well coordinated with the Ministerial appointments as there is a need to ensure both the community elected members and the Ministerial appointed members compliment each other.
- Ministerial appointments need to be from the region and not appointed from elsewhere or appointed for political reasons.
- The process for election to the Board should not be overcomplicated.
- Consider also the need for continuity when setting terms and the cost of knowledge gaps and change over.
- Ensure Department representatives (non voting) continue to attend meetings of the Board – their knowledge and experience and link to Government is invaluable.
- Board accountability and transparency is necessary – and the ability to be able to demonstrate to the community where the levy money goes. Currently money is absorbed by administrative arrangements – community confidence will improve with a greater ability of the Board to be able to control and manage where the money goes.

Staff

- The Board should be able to choose what is outsourced or what skills or capabilities they need in-house and hire accordingly.
- Current integration with DEW causes confusion in the community and blurs the lines. Greater clarity for staff, the Board and the community is needed and welcomed.
- Is moving staff to a public sector model an option – this would help to establish a distance between the Department staff and Board staff.

Partnerships

- Support the emphasis on partnerships. Partnerships are critical to the success of the Board and are currently utilised in the region.

Planning and Reporting

- The sub-regional planning process has worked effectively in the South East Region with good engagement – a process such as this needs to be retained.
- Reporting is often cumbersome and for the sake of it. In going forward this reporting can be streamlined and focused on the right things that are important for community transparency and accountability.

Boundaries

- While there are no proposed boundary changes for the South East region, should consideration be given to the north west boundary north of Salt Creek (which is the boundary that receives most debate in the region), then communities of interest need to be taken into account together with landscape issues. This includes considering how the community structure operate and their links to key town centres.

Green Adelaide

- It was noted that Green Adelaide has seven key focus areas based on the urban environment and context. These are applicable to larger regional cities like Mount Gambier. The South East Board should have these as a focus for Mount Gambier and within their remit to support key environmental management initiatives within an urban context.

- There needs to be a focus on biodiversity at a State level – there is a risk that dollars could be soaked up in Adelaide to deliver the Green Adelaide objectives; biodiversity is an issue across the State together with similar environmental issues in urban regional centres to Green Adelaide so this needs to be given similar attention.

Funding

- Appropriation of levy funds from Adelaide will need to occur to support regional boards
- Further comments were made on this topic and are presented below under the relevant headings.

PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

The group were provided with large sticky notes and asked to write down their priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. They were encouraged to write no more than a couple of sentences.

The groups then shared their priorities with the whole group. The facilitator grouped the priorities into themes.

The table that follows contains all points made by members on the sticky notes and sorted by the facilitator into themes. The notes are written up verbatim.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>EMPOWERMENT</u>

• Divorce from DEW.
• Separation of Board (Landscape SA) and DEW.</td>
<td><u>BACK TO BASICS</u>

• Simplify NRM Act with relation to Pest Management Compliance.
• Greater emphasis on soils – legacy of soil boards not having a levy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>LEVY</u>

• All landholders are to pay a levy (Crown, Mining Lease and Private).
• Keep more levy money in our region.
• Board to decide on all levy investment (e.g. DEW decided Water Plan Management costs etc., not to occur).</td>
<td><u>PARTNERSHIPS</u>

• More partnerships e.g. Local Government – currently good but enhance. Enhance others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>NATIONAL PARKS</u>

• DEW and Board – more ability to have a say on how National Parks are run.
• Program co-ordination across boundaries funding.</td>
<td><u>DEVELOPMENT</u>

• Understanding high value asset.
• Protects any development to have a light footprint across the landscape.
• Developers don’t appreciate.
• Board to have a say and integration into the Planning Approval system – co-ordinate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>EDUCATION, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, ENGAGEMENT</u>

• Greater community support for the ‘system’ through which natural resources are managed.
• Increase community engagement with NRM – planning and delivery.
• Community acceptance – not them and us – like it is with Local Government.
• Community education.</td>
<td><u>PLANNING AND REPORTING</u>

• Greater transparency.
• Transparency.
• Planning processes that are more flexible and that the community can better understand.
• Remove the red tape.
• Simplify to allow for quicker decision making/more achieved on ground.
• Simplification on water reporting for water uses.
• Improved water management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2"><u>OTHER</u></td>
</tr>
</table>

- Coastal management.
- Urban (Mt Gambier).
- My concern is that what the Minister interprets as current impediments or flaws in NRM has been based on the interactions with a very small but vocal minority in the community, not the general public at large.

WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given sticky notes and asked to write down the things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management. The facilitator then sorted the points into themes. These points and themes are represented verbatim below.

LEVY • Levy spend (mostly) directed by Board. • Corporate fees go to Department. • WAP • Board decides levy spending (mostly – should be all). • Half levy is directed to Department.	**STRATEGIC PLANNING** • Business Plan as it is. • How do we merge in to new Act, without losing what's working? • Strategic regional NRM planning by Board.
PARTNERSHIPS • LAPs. • McKillop LMG. • NGT. • Industry. • Local Government relationships good in patches.	**STAFF** • You're regional Director! ☺ • Regional staff delivering/developing WAPs with community. • Good staff.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR WATER ALLOCATION PLANS (WAP) • Community consultation with stakeholders – WAP. • Public consultation for Water Allocation Plans.	**SMALL PROJECT FUNDING** • Examples of small projects working within communities on a Landscape Scale. • Small projects e.g. Bucks for Bush; Cockys for Cockys; Soils. • Small Grant Funding e.g. 'George the Farmer'. • Integrated APC work e.g. foxes being controlled across landscape tenure to protect Mallee Fowl; deer program.
DRAINAGE AND WETLANDS • Drainage and Wetland Committee – interaction working well.	**BOARD** • Board membership made up of community members.
OTHER "Don't chuck baby out with bathwater." ☺	

THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. These principles were discussed randomly by the group in general conversation. The group reflected on these

principles in the context of their broader conversations about what's working well, priorities for the reform and specific initiatives being proposed by the Minister. Various comments and reflections are captured in the discussion summary.

KEY TOPICS – Governance & Planning, Engagement & Funding

The facilitator explained that the next section of the session was opportunity for board members to discuss topics of interest (from a total of 8) and to focus on providing input into that topic. Board members worked in pairs to discuss the topics and then had discussion from the floor as a whole group.

Key aspects of these discussions are presented in the workshop summary. However, for those topics where worksheets were completed the comments made on those worksheets has been provided below.

Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Sheet 1
• Community based members (as current boards are). • Decisions made by the Board will be regional based. • Potential greater support for Board if community have chance to have say of who is on the Board.

What concerns you?

Sheet 1
• That what the Minister interprets as a current impediment in NRM has been based on interactions with a very small but vocal minority in the community and not the general public at large. • Cost of election. • Level of uptake of election i.e. small numbers voting and ability to 'stack' votes. • Logistics of bi-election.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Sheet 1
• An implementation plan for the timing of appointments. • A recognition that there are good things about the current approach to Board membership and that there are really passionate, skilled, knowledgeable individuals on the current Boards. • Recruitment for succession planning.

Board Accountabilities

The worksheet gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

Sheet 2
• *Responsible for: own budgets, shared publically:* 100% of levy – DEW transparent too. • *Employ a general manager who manages staff:* Staff transition needs to be smooth. • *Establish a 5 year Landscape plan for their region, identifying 5 priorities:* how specific. • *Partnerships and outsourcing:* if cost effective and meets objective. • *Soil quality; water management; pest plant and animal control:* tools to do these. • Good corporate governance. • Compliance with Act & Regulations. • Reduced staff time on Admin/Reporting. • Clear roles and expectations.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

Sheet 2
• Transparency.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Sheet 3
• Departmental boundaries **vs** board boundaries – should marry up. Formalise existing practices. • Change boundaries to encompass all of Coorong in South East or go to Murray Darling? • Ngarkat NP should be in Murray Darling. • Make sure to liaise with community.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Staff were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

Sheet 4
• Connection to regional areas: Urban ecology in the context of an urban environment is very important for Green Adelaide however can look very different to regional South Australia's landscape needs. Making connections and links of how the activities of people in urban areas affect the total ecological spectrum - urban to outlying through their high consumption needs for resources is important. • Education – biodiversity. • Coastal management.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

Sheet 4
• Water sensitive design – water needs to be used not flushed into storm water drains. • Green Streets – corridors for birds. Isolated pockets of Green. • Nature education. • Farm education. • Where food comes from. • Care for the land.

What concerns you?

Sheet 4
• $ spent in Green Adelaide. • These priorities are great they should also be priorities for regional centres. Either all regions – Back to Basics including Green Adelaide or need 4th priority about biodiversity, nature, education, wetlands, coastal management.

Engagement

This topic was not directly discussed however, aspects did emerge in general conversation. Relevant comments are provided in the context of the workshop summary.

Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

This item was discussed as a group and the following comments were noted:

- Capping levies to CPI might prove difficult with rising costs including wages and costs to deliver programs. CPI increases may not account for such rising costs that might exceed inflation.
- An independent body regulating levy increases may deliver an increase in community confidence through greater transparency and accountability while still providing boards with the ability to increase levies when necessary at a rate that enables continuation of key programs, initiatives and staffing ratios.
- Water management and planning would benefit from application to an independent body which could help resolve current debates around cost increases.

Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

Both the concept for a landscape priorities fund and a grass roots fund was discussed by the Board as a group and the following comments noted:

- Landscape Priorities fund – how would an advisory body make decisions over where the money was spent across the State – presumably, there would be criteria set against which applications would need to be made. Even so, how would applications that meet the criteria be prioritised? The membership of the advisory board presiding over the landscape fund is also of interest – how are the members appointed and where are they from? Are there regional representatives from each region that have adequate knowledge of the regions to adequately present issues and advocate for landscape funding?
- There is concern with both the landscape priorities fund and the $2 million a year grass roots fund that regions will again over time lose control of their budget and not be in a position to make key decisions relative to funding. The board should retain control over its budget with the funds raised in the region remaining in the region.
- An alternative could be to have one state wide advisory board administer the landscape priorities fund and the grass roots fund with a percentage of the Green Adelaide levy paid into the fund. This would have the effect of reducing what is appropriated from Green Adelaide back into the regions but avoid the need for the regions to be paying levy money into two central funds centrally controlled. It could also be simpler and more streamlined and save in administration.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Board members were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

An environment that is stable/improving – well managed.	Simplified systems – greater community engagement and on ground action working individually on projects which link across landscapes. Greater community confidence and transparency.	2020 Regional – increased primary production, increased soil cover, increased soil carbon, lower water use impacts, fewer animal and plant management issues and fewer species losses due to NRM mismanagement issues. Communities who feel they can influence decisions. Staff who feel they can do their jobs.
I think it would be too early to tell. It will be determined by community acceptance of the whole process.	Broad community participation and support for NRM model.	Increased attendance by farmers at NRM workshops due to increase visibility/transparency.
Clean, green, sustainable environment and living. No waste!		.

PHASE: **NRM BOARD SESSION**
SESSION: **AW NRM BOARD WORKSHOP**
TIME/DATE: **9am – 10.30am – 2ND OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **JON**

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

Workshop attendees reviewed the consultation materials utilised in the community consultation sessions, exploring the following topics –

1. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
2. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability
3. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
4. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

The discussion identified the following key points:

1. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

The following focus areas were identified from the Ministers comments in the introductory video

- Back to basics
- Partnerships
- Decentralise/power and influence back to community

The AW Board is achieving each of these priorities now, on a regional level. The strong message from the AW Board to the Minister was the importance of not impacting what has been built:

- **don't destroy what has been developed and achieved - particularly impacts of changes in other areas of Aboriginal policy**

The AW Board provides a model for engaging (co-planning, project developments, program design community engagement, traditional protocols and cultural leadership, with Aboriginal land holding authorities, their leadership, Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal communities and 'cultural' key movers and shakers, that other Boards can learn from. Specifically, the AW Board provides a relatively high % of funding to communities for projects, relative to other NRM regions.

ACTION: Parry Agius has requested a discussion paper/submission be prepared by AW NRM in relation to how funding is directed to communities/high % relative to other boards

When considering other legislation for future reform (per the community consultation PowerPoint presentation), other legislation identified as important to consider was:

- ALT
- Mining Act
- Outback Trust
- Biodiversity* to be considered in this phase of reform

Other priority legislation for reform included:

- Coastal Protection
- Fisheries.
- NPWA
- Native vegetation.
- Pastoral.
- Water Industry.

- Planning Act relative to land use.

In relation to ALT, the following points were noted on the workshop whiteboard:

- Issue: engagement with FWC native title and communities
- Issue: ALT (tenure issue) and land management: tension between ALT and communities to be sorted out/also commercial considerations/statutory authority making decisions on behalf of communities/ability for people to use land vs commercial decisions by ALT eg Head of Bight
- AW NRM Board seeking ALT partnership but not forthcoming
- Historical and current relationships and communication issues

In relation to resourcing and economic sustainability, the following points were noted:

- Economic sustainability: need to address barriers to Aboriginal direct involvement/contribution
- Issue: security of funding beyond 12 months
- Red tape
- Over the period 2004 – 2018, the amount of State funding has reduced, as has the program areas to which funds can be allocated. The State Government provides funding to support the Board, but there is limited funding to support programs. Commonwealth funding priorities have become limited due policy and it's framework resulting in reduction of joint government and community action on the ground . The overall impact is less funding available for less programs
- AW NRM is actively and strategically seeking partnerships with other organisations and programs (eg AMLR, Cleland Wildlife Park) to increase opportunities for profiling AW with South Australians, programs/projects in the AW Region.

In the discussion on Boundaries, the following points were considered:

- Issue: too many meetings, not enough outcomes/need to resolve in context of FWC
- Communication between EP and AW in boundary/overlap area – potential for informal or formal partnerships in this area
- Issue: cost of changes specifically AMLR, duplication in small area

2. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

No comment made.

b. A simple and accessible system

- What is State's policy of putting resources back in regions – what are priorities?
- No $ for projects – they need to be funded.
- AW accountability – communication with community; reliant on resources.
- Model of transparency, action, partnerships, decentralisation.
- Can provide example for others.
- Inequitable distribution of resources.
- Allocating funding better to priorities e.g. AW/AMLR partnership.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Landholding authorities nominate people to be on boards; recognise authority, legislation and the people who run them (decision-making).
- Decision making, representative level and other legislation.
- Aboriginal communities, AW staff working closely – coming out and doing work on country. Unique.

d. A whole of landscape approach

A more appropriate term is “whole landscape”

e. Back to basics

- Natural environment – definition of agriculture – very western; sustaining environment – what ‘farming’ actually means from Aboriginal perspective.
- Plants and systems provide food and other resources.
- As a neighbour to the pastoral region become a significant buffer (control of flora and fauna “pests”

8.4 | Notes from Focused Conversations



Notes from Focussed Conversations

8.4.1 Local Government Planning and Environment Forum – 13 September
8.4.2 APY Lands Management – 27 September
8.4.3 Youth and Community in Conservation Action – 29 September
8.4.4 Kaurna workshop – 2 October
8.4.5 Conservation organisations – 3 October
8.4.6 Primary Producers organisations – 3 October
8.4.7 Combined NRM Partners, Primary Producers and Conservation organisations – 3 October
8.4.8 NRM Partners – 4 October
8.4.9 Four Nations workshop – 10 October
8.4.10 Native Titles Services meeting - 11 October

PHASE: **FOCUSED CONVERSATIONS**
SESSION: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FORUM**
DATE: **THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2018**
LOCATION: **ADELAIDE**

Matthew Ward and Becky Hirst presented to 35 local government staff and 26 via live streaming, providing an update on the engagement process undertaken so far, including some of the key themes to be emerging from conversations with community, staff, boards and other key stakeholders.

Becky Hirst posed the following questions to the group, which had been provided by the LGA as conversation starters -

1. How could/should the new bodies and local government work together?
2. What are some of the current tension/issue areas, can they be resolved with the new structure?
3. Where have things worked well, can they be embedded into the new system?
4. With green Adelaide, what should the boundaries be, what issues should it deal with?
5. How should local government be involved and engaged with both the new regional boards and green Adelaide, should there be local government representation and if so what could this look like and should the local government representation be the main conduit back to the Board/community?
6. Rather than the Board employing staff should they be contracting local government to deliver services in their areas?

The group were then invited to ask questions, make comments or provide ideas. Discussion took place as a whole group, including taking questions via the online livestreaming. The following commentary was noted and has been subsequently sorted in to some key themes -

Strategy vision/planning

Total change of the process is needed - key principles – it's hard to understand what the outcomes of the proposed principles would be - if we are going to hand over more control, we need to know the outcome principles - at a spatial level, what is the vision and strategy for regional areas, and then the Boards can focus on this. Hard to do so much more with so much less. There needs to be some high-level guidance for Boards. What's the role of State Strategy in informing this? Would you prepare a state strategy first and then regional plans?

Fix the operational framework

Why the reform? What's broken? Is it the governance framework, or the operational framework? I believe it's the second. The NRM Act was the governance reform – we never got to fixing the operational component. Link between land use planning and land management, especially in regional areas. Rural planning - (metro centric planning system) - rural system needs to be focused on resources management. Link between planning and resources management is flawed - need referral system that links better - dependent on referrals from DEW and lack of technical knowledge in local government – for example, water resources.

Levies & funding

Disappointed that the council levy collection isn't canvassed in the discussion paper as this dominates discussion in our council chamber and provides a distraction from delivering results. Levy impact on boundaries - e.g. Murray Darling Basic region raises less than Adelaide metro area. Need to consider this in boundary discussions.

How much will governance changes really affect availability of funding for on ground action? Need to talk about funding, not just governance issues.

Relationship with Planning Reform

Draft Bill - how does it reflect the ongoing planning reforms - previous versions tried to integrate - which bits are broken, which are working well etc. Green Adelaide could be doomed before it starts - can't influence the planning system. We now have an opportunity to really push it - Ministers to work together on this. Role of Joint Planning Boards?

Gary: involved in a pilot for Barossa etc region councils - why are we setting up a joint planning board? Pilot program: different bands for collaboration - 1: land use plan under PDI Act 2: other planning functions - NRM, infrastructure 3: fully integrated type model. Focus on Partnering with NRM - saw benefits from this and other partners. But too hard, so still focusing on Band 1. Work together across portfolios - a JPB undertaking NRM functions would help to obviate need for Landscape boards. Need 1 board for everything - would achieve acceptance of councils collecting the levy. But government probably wants to make sure JPBs are working properly before adding.

Ensure interface between urban planning and Green Adelaide with regulatory and compliance framework - running out of space for NRM in Adelaide.

Open space requirements - with new developments requiring 12.5% open space requirements. How engaged is the development industry in Green Adelaide? Green Adelaide must not be bullied by developers. Have tried to negotiate bigger open space requirements and told you can't. Developers want the open space requirement reduced (should be provided from public land?). Clearly define open space - not just grass and a few trees - other forms of green infrastructure, WSUD etc - what should it look like in a new urban form

Compliance in State Governed Parks

State government parks and land isn't in good nick – it's hard to do compliance when public land isn't being well managed - have to walk the talk. Landscape scale change - state governed parks should be the jewel in the crown for biodiversity - but weeds coming in from parks (e.g. Onkaparinga Prickly Pear) means they aren't. Talk about Renewal SA land - put caveats on this to demonstrate good practice (great opportunities in Onkaparinga).

Nature links - old style spatial planning. Local government could contribute our land towards these objectives e.g. Wild Eyre on the Fleurieu.

Education, behaviour change should be kept, but can only go so far.

Communications, 5-Year Plans & Longer Term Bipartisan Vision

Get a story/narrative that can get the community on board - 5-year planning horizon - Needs to be set in context of longer term vision that all stakeholders can work towards. Ensure that the 5-year plans are set within a stronger long term focus. Need 20 year targets that survive beyond change of governments - e.g. stop changing targets to suit funding regimes (eg NLP). Resilient to change - requires less dependence on state strategic planning/policies that change with governments. Community based vision.

Back to basics vs resilience thinking - don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater. But need to focus more on the accessibility and communication of the plans.

Coastal development

Will there be any change to Coastal Development? A: Not at this stage. What about integration between CPB, NVC and NRM Boards?

AMLR splitting into 3 regions

We host a number of NRM programs - concerned that with split, the level of revenue in valleys and plains will be less - risk that councils in outer areas will then lose out on the spending from AMLR. Alexandrina Council is split across AMLR and SAMDB - AMLR service is much higher, due to more funding availability - so concerned about implications of splitting AMLR into 3 regions.

Green Adelaide

When will we see the Green Adelaide discussion paper? A: When its finished - next couple of weeks, but no guarantees.

Green Adelaide - how can we make sure the opportunity is realised? It will be interesting to see what the boundaries are, but main focus should be on how the board works with local government. The real challenge when we (AMLR) try and work with 26 councils. How much can we leverage from board and councils?

Other landscape boards should also have a green focus for townships - regional towns - eg Tanunda Green Adelaide - should follow urban boundary (Onkaparinga will be split).

Boundaries - is it a purely urban board, or have some rural (eg Playford Council has some rural land). Also need to look beyond biophysical boundaries - more focus on communities.

Chris Daniels - Adelaide Nature to City - ring of parklands - strategic purchasing of land.

Funding - depending on roles - will Green Adelaide still be burdened with functions like sand pumping etc

Working together

Councils work together a lot already - e.g. Environment Officers Network. Already know a lot of the common issues we share - eg urban ecology. Great to have that framework across councils - eg tress on private land - team up with state government - keep trees or plant smaller trees on smaller blocks

Notes taken by LGA attached.

Landscape SA Legislation – Notes taken by LGA

Presenter: Matt Ward

Regional Plans will be 5 year plans. Full implementation of the Act is anticipated by 2021. Nothing has been drafted as yet.

How does the 5 year operational plan sit within a more strategic, long term framework?	
What are the high level principles and outcomes? These need to be identified at a spatial and regional level. High level guidance is needed. What is the relationship between the state and regions? Is there a state level NRM Plan?	
Why the reform? What is broken? Operational reform is required. A rural planning system is required based on resource management. A 'resource consent' is required.	Primarily governance reform.
Is local government still to collect the levy? Funding framework needs to be reformed.	This is not included within the reform agenda.
How is the Landscape SA and Planning reform correlated/integrated?	
Joint Planning Boards – will there be NRM functions?	The options are to be determined: 1. Land use only 2. Other functions like NRM 3. Fully integrated model Most regions are focusing on Option 1. The Joint Planning Board does provide an opportunity to build in NRM functions.
Any changes proposed for development in coastal areas?	No, risk mitigation remains with the Coast Protection Board.
If AMLR is split into 3 regions/boards, the level of revenue for Valleys and Plains is likely to drop.	There will be further consideration of this.
'Landscape system' versus 'back to basics'.	Need to balance
Open space requirements. How engaged is the development industry with Green Adelaide? Other Boards should also have a greening programme.	
Who is funding sand replenishment? This is currently a Board responsibility.	

APY Consultation
Date: 26 September 2018
Location: APY Office, Umuwa
Facilitator: Jon Bok

Attendees: Rex Tjami, Owen Burton, Richard King, Walter Tjami, Russel Kitchett, Jon Bok, Bruce McPherson

NOTE: Although the APY Executive Meeting was cancelled, Jon Bok completed the planned visit to Umuwa and met with APY staff, an APY Executive Member (also AW NRM Board Member) and members of the APY Land Management team

Key discussion points:

- Jon Bok explained the reform process and consultation underway across SA. Jon also explained it was recognised that things were working quite well in the AW NRM region and the reforms were not likely to make big changes to how AW was working on the APY Lands

- Played the Minister's pre-recorded video to the meeting attendees

- We then discussed the key elements of the Landscape SA reforms and the way they will apply to the AW NRM Region and new AW Landscape Board

- The key reform elements that were identified as most important in the AW region were the board election process and funding, as follows:

    - "Popular" elections for the new AW Landscape Board was identified as problematic, the APY CEO (Richard King) highlighting sections of the APY Act (s.6 and s.7) that require decisions of the APY Executive involving community consultation and appropriately passed resolutions of an APY Executive Meeting. There may also be an issue with the cultural authority of those elected by "popular" ballot, particularly in relation to land management.

    - There was some feedback on small grants – they are limited in their effectiveness on the APY Lands given the additional cost associated with remoteness, and the administrative burden of accounting and reporting that doesn't recognise the difference between smaller and larger amounts. The Grassroots Grants were unlikely to be of assistance in this context, and any funding needs to recognise the additional costs of remote locations.

    - Another point of discussion on boundaries and cross-regional issues was the need to coordination across the states of SA and WA and the NT. There are closer cultural ties across these immediate regions, and in many cases the NRM priorities/challenges are also shared across these jurisdictions (eg camels, donkeys, horses, buffel grass).

- Jon Bok provided copies of the English and Pitjantjatjara communications material prepared by the Department, including 2-page summaries and a Pitjantjatjara video

PHASE:	**FOCUSSED CONVERSATIONS**
SESSION:	**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT - WILLUNGA**
TIME/DATE:	**9.30-11.30am - 29TH September 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**BECKY**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Becky Hirst met with 15 members of the Youth and Community in Conservation Action group, ranging from 11 years old and up. She was joined by the Minister for Environment and Water who opened the meeting by outlining his story and vision for natural resource management reform.

The Minister had a robust conversation with the young people, including answering a range of questions that the young people had prepared from their reading of the discussion paper prior to the meeting.

Becky went on to facilitate conversations based on the key proposals being put forward, using the same tools being used in the broader community forums. The notes made can be found below.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER

The Minister set the scene of the conversation by sharing his story, explaining natural resource management and outlining his vision for the future. A robust conversation with the young people followed, including the Minister answering the following questions that the young people had prepared from their reading of the discussion paper prior to the meeting. Some questions also emerged as the conversation went on. These questions highlight the areas of most importance for the young people met with and have been sorted in to themes following the event for the purpose of reporting.

Board representation and accountability

- If the Landscapes Boards are kept 'at arm's length from the government', how will the Board be kept accountable?
- How will this new Act ensure that the same issues with the NRM won't happen again?
- How will the Board ensure that there is equal representation of people from both environmental and agricultural backgrounds?
- How will the election of Board Members work? What will be the voting process and the criteria for nominees?
- How do the Boards elect their own General Manager?

Conservation/Protection

- 'Back to Basics' - in the shortened Act, will this be building upon exiting programs to save money and increase effectiveness? Also not much mention of preserving habitat and that is very important for conservation.
- Save significant trees
- Heritage sites ~ will they remain?
- How does threatened species management and conservation come into this Act?

Funding

- If you want young people to help with the environment, we need funding to do that. What funding is going to be available?
- Will there be incentives for farmers and agricultural landscapes to integrate conservation and revegetation?
- How will you know where grants money goes and will the people involved have high enough qualifications/experience/knowledge/support to effectively benefit the environment? (Accountability and level of effective administration) government and grant recipients.
- If there is a change in boundaries between Fleurieu and Green Adelaide will there be a cut in Environment Centres?

Education

- How will this Act educate young people about the environment?
- How high a priority is environmental education to you personally, would you push for it to be compulsory?
- Really big push for environmental education needed

Climate Change
- How will this Act take measures to control Global Warming?
- So adaptation for global warming is great, but does that mean we are accepting it and stopping active work?
- When talking about 'adapt' does that mean that you are accepting climate change instead of looking at ways to decrease the development?

Science based decision making
- How can we improve science communication and the passing of information from scientists to the general community?
- Will the 'simple and accessible framework' still be based on strong science?

Employment
- What job opportunities will come from the new Landscapes SA Board? How should we prepare for these jobs and what should we study?

Engagement
- How is the Landscapes SA Board going to involve youth in their activities?

Other
- How will this government minimise the use of plastic? And are there currently any procedures to better manage South Australia's waste problem?
- Because NRM is so iconic, why is it necessary to change the NRM, and what is going be done about current NRM resources?
- One of our priorities – renewable energy – is there anything being done about that?

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group also explored the following topics –

1. **Visioning for the future** – what are the top three things you that will help the environment to thrive in the future?
2. **Governance & Planning** – Board representation and ALMR boundaries
3. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?

1. VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

The facilitator set the scene for a visioning exercise to enable the young people to identify and share their priorities for natural resource management in the future.

"I'd like you to imagine it's 10 years' time and you are still actively involved in looking after the environment here in Willunga. Imagine that things are going really *really* well. The coast and rivers are well looked after. The plants and animals are thriving. Pest animals and plants are well managed and under control. There's great bird life. What makes all this work so well? How have you achieved such great success? In pairs or threes (mix younger and older participants), write down the top three things that have helped make the environment flourish!"

Each participant was given three large sticky notes and asked to write down their top three things. The facilitator then sorted them in to themes and then presented the themes that had emerged.

AWARENESS	JOBS
• Respect for the environment: fauna; flora; water; land use. • Knowledge: community; environments; awareness. • Spread awareness throughout South Australia.	• Jobs to do with the environment and funding. • Jobs for people with degrees and Certificate Qualifications.

• People understanding what it is like and they can change it. • Far more awareness of the environment and its issues.	
FUNDING • Drastically reduced day to day waste by involving **funded** community groups. • Funding for community projects is abundant. • Funding – without support for groups like ours, our options and choices are diminished. • 100% of what we've achieved, and then imagine what we could do with some more support. • Increase funding for environmental agencies.	**COMMUNITY** • More opportunities for **interested** young people! • Normalising environmental issues – widespread participation in rectifying them. • Holding events for the public so they can interact with plants, animals etc., like planting trees, learning how to treat certain plans and animals around their living area. • Community groups. • More community groups involved in environmental science.
EDUCATION • Education funding – make learning about the environment a core subject/compulsory lesson. • Will have educated the world. • Education of young people in the environment. • Educating more people – specifically younger people. • Kids getting their proper education on the environment. • Environmental education involved in the SA curriculum. • Strong environmental education for young people in Primary and High Schools. • Education of schools and the country. • Education – compulsory (basic) education about environmental habitats, natural resources, based on local area without knowledge, people have no power to do anything.	**SINGLE USE PLASTIC** • No non-biodegradable plastic. • Environmental scientists in positions to develop new ways for the integration of modern life, agriculture and environment. • Cut down the amount of one-use plastics we all use. • One-use plastic ban – mainly for items such as plastic shopping bags, straw etc. • Widen the use of bio-degradable plastic and stop the use of single use plastic.
OTHER • Opening more environment centres around South Australia and having more environmental groups that are like YACCA. • People doing the work, not just sitting around. • Young people influencing traditionally older generation, organisations and politics. • Social acceptance of carbon reduction and renewable alternatives. • Better pollution control. • More renewable energy sources in use, less nasty stuff going into the earth! • Thorough communication between: science; politics and people. • Tighter laws on pests and stable employment opportunities. • Making a difference now, acting on things that need to be changed for the better now, so we can have this future.	

2. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

2.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

Comments made about board representation
• Qualified people. Not just random. Some kind of qualifications. Have some criteria. Must have lived in region for a while. • Elements of expertise – not just people with degrees.

- Not all but farmers do need to be on Board. Team up farmers and best qualified people.
- People represented without being a member – emails.
- Members could have financial interest.
- Will farmers and hard-core environmentalists be voting? Need to work together but could end up with Board skewed.
- Don't need quotas – but someone with mindset of diversity.
- Don't need a quota for a young person but funnel from young person (or person who can speak on behalf) – genuine – not young Politics.
- Some indigenous.
- Sceptical about elections – anyone could be elected. Popularity vote. E.g. my grandmother doesn't know about environmental field but could get elected!
- Giving Board power to employ General Manager could be risky.
- Board membership should be –
  - Someone who knows what they're doing.
  - Someone with a degree.
  - Someone involved in community actively working on something.
  - Someone with a passion – demonstrated.
  - Someone who's a landowner – relies on a stable environment for livelihood.
  - Someone unbiased/mediator.
  - Someone from existing NRM Board with experience.

2.2 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

Comments made about boundaries

- What landscapes are there? We suit Hills & Fleurieu.
- McLaren Vale is Hills & Fleurieu. Don't think it should start before there (from South).
- Sellicks – too far away to be part of Green Adelaide. Beach – Aldinga scrub. Aldinga – natural scrub.
- Seaford in to Green Adelaide – more dense urban, larger shopping centres etc.

3. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

Comments made about engagement

- Listening to us.
- Don't think someone who isn't engaged isn't interested.
- Existing programs not necessarily convenient – or of interest. Doesn't mean we aren't engage or interested.

The group also noted a video titled *2017 State Community Landcare Conference - Panelist - Saskia Gerhardy "Engagement"* provides a fantastic resource (including a video made by the young people themselves) on how to engage with young people. The video can be viewed at - https://youtu.be/de2lzn3YPKo

PHASE:	**STATE-WIDE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
SESSION:	**KAURNA WORKSHOP**
TIME/DATE:	**1pm – 4pm – 2ND OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**JON**

Attendees:
Kaurna:

- Merle Simpson
- Jeffrey Newchurch
- Lynette Crocker
- Garth Agius
- Justin Peisley
- Tim Williams
- Tiana Silvy
- Buster Turner

DEW:

- Andrew Raymond

Adelaide City Council:

- Marty Reeve

The workshop was facilitated by Jon Bok.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

This workshop was organised to build on input from Kaurna representatives at the State-wide community forums. The purpose was to allow Kaurna people to take a "deeper dive" into the potential issues and opportunities associated with the reforms, and to ensure these were properly understood and documented. The group spent time discussing matters specific to Kaurna people, including a review of the consultation material for the following topics –

1. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, AMLR boundaries
2. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
3. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

The notes below are written up from the consultation materials. A summary of key discussion points is included following:

1. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- There is a strong structure in place for Government to engage with Kaurna, although resourcing is a challenge
- The Kaurna Charter under development provides a model for governance and engagement
- Succession planning is a critical part of the Kaurna's plans for the future
- There is a very positive working relationship that has been built with the AMLR NRM Board. It is critically important to Kaurna people that this relationship is not impacted in the reform process
- The Kaurna are likely to be the only Traditional Owner group that must work with four Landscape SA Boards
- To address this challenge, it is proposed that the Kaurna Advisory Group that has been established with the AMLR Board is extended to include the three new Landscape SA Boards within the Kaurna's boundaries
- The Kaurna Advisory Group provides a conduit between the Landscape SA Boards and Kaurna community, and can assist in providing guidance and connecting projects to the right people in the community

- It would also provide a formal mechanism to incorporate Kaurna cultural knowledge in the planning process
- In doing so, there will be an opportunity to clarify how this input will be managed and resourced
- It is important that the Kaurna people's involvement in the new Landscape SA Boards is very clearly documented, likewise for any resourcing arrangements – possibly in legislation

2. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges region.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1
No comment made.

What concerns you?

Table 1
• Partnerships – need to have input to the legislation. • Don't want something contradictory or doesn't match. • Consider: Advisory Group model in the legislation (not left to Boards to decide).

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1
• Green Adelaide must ensure at least one Kaurna representative on Board. • Also opportunity for youth/young Kaurna person to gain experience/exposure (succession plan). • Arrangements with Kaurna need to be clearly documented and agreed. • Need Kaurna decision-making not just consultation/advisory – start to finish.

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
• Kaurna people will need to deal with 3 LSA Boards instead of 1. • Keep Advisory Groups to expand membership to include 3 X LSA Boards. • Involve other Nations for boundary areas.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

ISSUE
Employment and education in both systems: embrace good things in both cultures; telling the history.

Green Adelaide

What excites you about this?

Table 1
• Kaurna can be appropriately resourced (at a program level, not just individual projects) can link to succession plan, integrate with non-Aboriginal elements – does offer value

What concerns you?

Table 1
• Will funds go only to Councils and how will funds flow through to Kaurna?

3. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted:

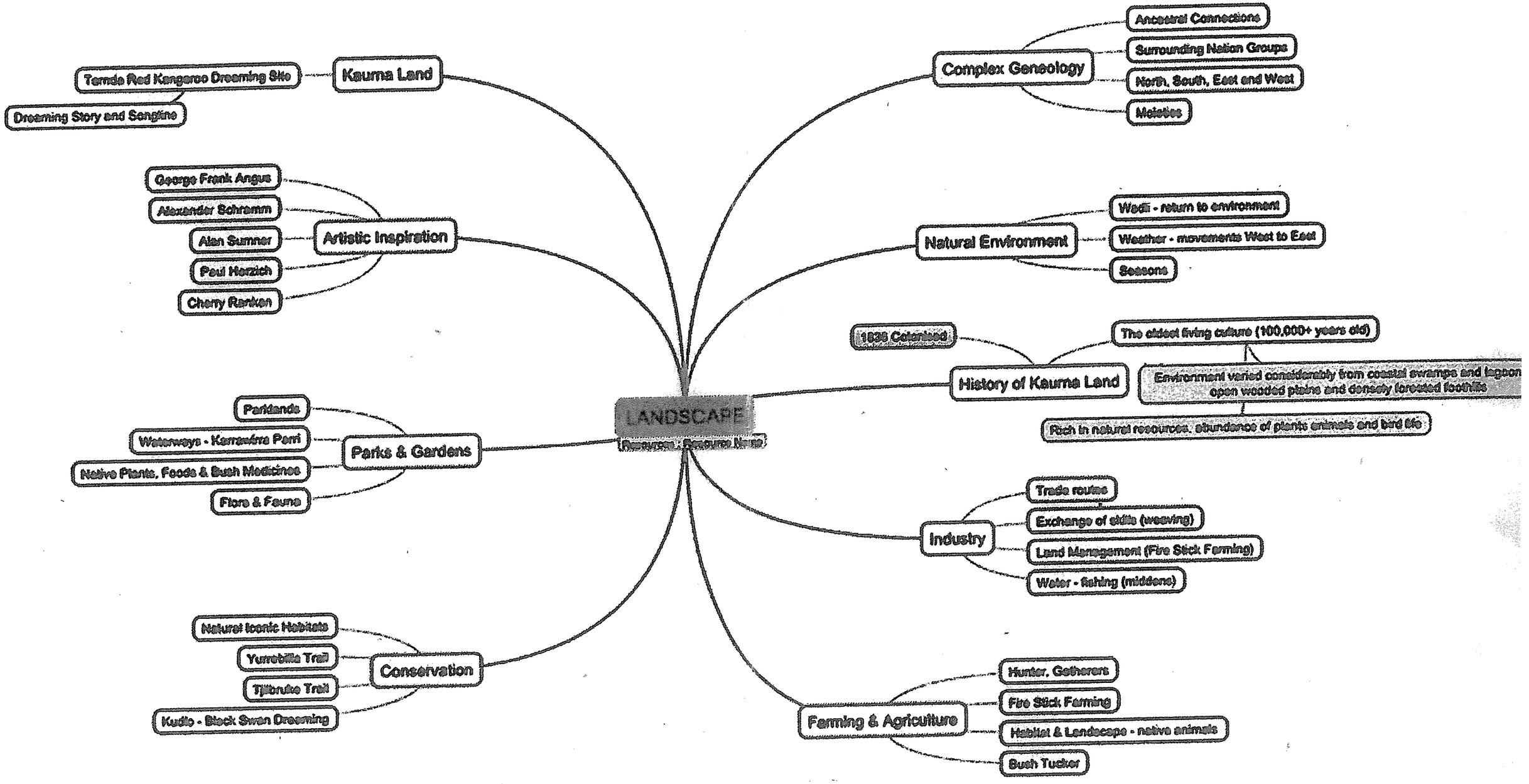
Kaurna Engagement Planning: incorporate Kaurna understanding of 'landscape' (holistic) in planning (see attached document provided by Lynette Crocker).

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• One way traffic, no reciprocity (e.g. cultural knowledge)	• Co-management Glenthorne Farm – position for Kaurna on Advisory Group (partnership group). • Access/participation/equity. • Build cultural elements into projects (support resourcing) not just motherhood statements.	• Advisory Group. • Support Kaurna succession planning • Fund Aboriginal Engagement positions e.g. Merle Simpson's role and Michael Field's role). • Kaurna no longer a 'risk' (NT). What has been achieved and where to next.

		• Kaurna are in this forever not just 4 years at a time. • Succession planning is an opportunity for all long term interests.

ISSUES TO EXPLORE

- How Kaurna work with other Nations in Plains & Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu?
- Concept of 'landscape' in planning – Kaurna holistic perspective. The definition of 'landscape' for Kaurna means something different to what is implied for Landscape SA
- How can a Kaurna Advisory group work across 3 regions?
- How can it be resourced?
- Tourism
- Engagements
- Alliances – shared positioning


LANDSCAPE
Kaurna Land
Tarndo Red Kangaroo Dreaming Site
Dreaming Story and Songline
Artistic Inspiration
George Frank Angus
Alexander Schramm
Alan Sumner
Paul Herzich
Cherry Rankin
Parks & Gardens
Pandanda
Waterways - Karrawirra Parri
Native Plants, Foods & Bush Medicines
Flora & Fauna
Conservation
Natural Iconic Habitats
Yurrebilla Trail
Tjilbruke Trail
Kudlo - Black Swan Dreaming
Complex Geneology
Ancestral Connections
Surrounding Nation Groups
North, South, East and West
Moieties
Natural Environment
Wadli - return to environment
Weather - movements West to East
Seasons
History of Kaurna Land
1836 Colonised
The oldest living culture (100,000+ years old)
Environment varied considerably from coastal swamps and lagoon open wooded plains and densely forested foothills
Rich in natural resources, abundance of plants animals and bird life
Industry
Trade routes
Exchange of skills (weaving)
Land Management (Fire Stick Farming)
Water - fishing (middens)
Farming & Agriculture
Hunter, Gatherers
Fire Stick Farming
Habitat & Landscape - native animals
Bush Tucker

Landscape

Kaurna Land

Artistic Impression

Parks & Gardens

Conservation

Complex Geneology

Natural Environment

History of Kaurna Land

Industry

Farming & Agriculture

PHASE: **FOCUSSED CONVERSATION**
SESSION: **CONSERVATION SECTOR**
TIME/DATE: **9AM – 12PM – 3RD OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **BECKY**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Approximately 35 participants representing the conservation sector were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. It was explained that this session would be running concurrently with a primary production sector session, and that the two groups would join together in the afternoon for a combined debrief and opportunity to 'deep dive' on key topics together.

Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points from this session were -

- **Biodiversity** is a priority for the group. The group feels that biodiversity protection and enhancement should be a strong part of the act, as a key objective. The biggest concern relating to the guiding principles was the perceived inconsistency between **Back to Basics** and the **Whole of Landscape Approach**. Participants felt that there is a large gap in the back to basics approach of biodiversity, feeling that the principle overall is completely redundant and an integrated approach to landscapes is needed. Members of the group felt that this principle is backwards facing, and it needs to be future focussed.

- Opportunities for community groups and organisations to be **engaged** in the delivery of projects must be maximised. The group would like to see landscape boards facilitate collaborative planning with delivery by, and with, others, noting that this could be done via the Landscape Priorities Fund and Grassroots program. The Landscape boards should facilitate engagement in the development of the regional plan and facilitate others to deliver via a model of devolved delivery.

- In relation to **resourcing**, allocation of available levy funds collected in metropolitan Adelaide should be made available across the state for use by groups and organisations to access for specific projects. Some of the group felt that at least 5% of the state budget should be directed to soil, water and biodiversity management. They would also like to see a greater amount of resources to ensure efficient delivery, especially via community and well established non-government organisations, rather than this resourcing being concentrated in bureaucracy.

- There was some reflection on **roles and responsibilities**, not only in relation to governance of the boards but clearly communicating who does what, with guidelines provided to inhibit bureaucratic processes creeping in. There needs to be clarification around government being less involved in delivery and actively seek to deliver via community organisations. Decision making needs to be shifted as close as possible to communities. It was noted that governance should include employing authority returned to boards.

- **Partnerships** were a high priority, with Landscape Boards being genuinely separate from government, whilst working in partnership with state government and each other. Existing partnerships and successful initiatives should be built on, such as Wild Eyre. The group would like to see the removal of any obstructions to cross regional project delivery and cooperation, for example promoting collaboration when it makes sense to do so. This commentary particularly related to the whole of landscape approach, which participants felt needs a whole of sector approach, ensuring the NGOs and community groups have equitable access to a range of funding opportunities both large and small.

- The group would like to see **compliance** strengthened, enforcing the act, particularly in relation to interaction with other key legislation. It was noted by one small group that this was a high priority.

- Some concerns were raised with **decentralised decision-making** being 'at odds' with an integrated landscape approach. The concept needs to be defined because it makes some sense at some scales but not at others. Participants felt that at times it does not make sense to make decisions out of context from the bigger picture, for example landscape priorities, the state's vision for itself and how NRM plays a role in delivering local, national and global priorities. This could lead to an ad-hoc and potentially inefficient approach. The approach would need to still be highly accountable and transparent, ensuring high value for money.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group went on to undertake a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
5. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
6. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program
7. **Measuring Success** – If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The facilitator then grouped the priorities in to themes and shared them with the whole group.

BIODIVERSITY/PROTECTION • Ensure that biodiversity conservation is included in the legislation (Landscape SA Act) and that it remains as a foundations. Ensure that the Act/Reforms secure biodiversity protection and interface with other relevant legislation. • Biodiversity key object and provisions of the Act. • Strengthening the significance of biodiversity • Biodiversity protection and enhancement.	**ENGAGEMENT** • Landscape Boards facilitate community engagement in the development of the regional plan and facilitate others to deliver it, i.e. devolved delivery. • Landscape Boards facilitate collaborative planning = with delivery by and with others, including Landscape Fund and grassroots fund. • We want to see $ available to others to deliver and that can result in innovation. • Maximise opportunities for community groups and organisations to be involved in delivery of projects. Ensure multiple ways to be involved from large to small projects. Minimise bureaucracy especially where not 'front line' staff.
RESOURCING • An allocation of available levy funds (including from city/metro) to be made available across the state for use by groups and organisations to access for specific projects. Ideally link additional funds from general revenue. • At least 5% of the State budget (net of levies) is directed to soil, water and biodiversity management. • Greater amount of resources to efficient delivery especially via community/well-established non-government organisations rather than resourcing being concentrated in bureaucracy.	**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES** • Roles and responsibilities of Boards: not only governance but who does what. Provide guidelines to inhibit bureaucratic creep. • Clarification of roles and responsibilities – especially important that government agencies are less involved in delivery and actively seek to deliver via community organisations. • Also shift decision-making as close as possible to communities.
PARTNERSHIPS • Landscape Boards are genuinely separate from government, and work in partnership with State Government and each other.	**CLIMATE CHANGE** • The recognition, understanding and response to Climate Change underpins NRM.

• Building on existing partnerships/successful initiatives = strategic landscape scale projects e.g. Wild-Eyre.	**GOVERNANCE** • Employing Authority returned to Boards: independence; direction.
LANDSCAPE SCALE • Support landscape scale conservation: ○ Multi partners. ○ Multi benefits. ○ Cross boundary. ○ Integrated. ○ Long term investment. • Support corridor strategy being brought back.	**COMPLIANCE** • Strengthening compliance and duty of care = enforcing Act; interaction with other key legislation. • This is the high priority – Landscape Act influences decision making under other key Acts e.g. planning; NRM Regional Planning and Plan Regional Planning.

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Public awareness of NRM.
- Landscape scale projects e.g. Wild Eyre etc., founded on terrific partnerships.
- Don't want to lose the integration aspect – keep water, soil, pest/weeds, biodiversity. Landscapes best managed with all elements.
- Community co-designed plans regional through to local scale – very effective.
- There are enough plans across the state for us to know what needs to be done. (No more planning in short term – focus on implementation.)
- Strong recognition of social, economic and environmental interdependence in plans and work programs.
- NRM education has fundamentally engaged teach, principals and students and their families – next generation of leaders emerging.
- NRM levy collection.
- Board-led water allocation and management plans amongst the best in the nation – sustainable diversion/extraction.
- There is a tremendous group of people: highly skilled; partner focused; innovators in the sector – don't want to lose.
- Keep regional planning with community and multiple agency investment.
- Partner MOUS and resource MOUS e.g. coastal – facilitates collaboration.
- Keep a funding model in place e.g. Levy- state investment capacity to apply for federal. It's a leveraging model – keep.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. Decentralised decision making

- There must be capacity (funding and information) to be able to make 'good' decision making.
- Concerned a decentralised approach is at odds potentially with an integrated landscape approach.
- Needs to be defined, because it makes sense at some scales but not others.
- It does not make sense to make decisions out of context from bigger picture e.g. landscape priorities, the state's vision for itself and how NRM plays a role, national and global priorities.

- Can lead to an ad hoc, not strategic and inefficient effort. There needs to be an overarching framework, so some greater than parts.
- Decentralised still needs to be highly accountable, transparent and value for money.
- Decisions and action needs to be at the scale of impact.

b. A simple and accessible system

- Increase participation and transparency around settling budgets and influencing project investment. Distancing this from government agreement model will help build trust.
- Look at an Act that sets the overarching objects, purpose, and protection measures etc., sits in the Act. Some implementation could be put in regulations or guidelines where more flexibility maybe required or preferable.
- Retain consultation requirements in the Act. Make it easier to engage across regions, it's very onerous to do it on a one-by-one basis and facilitate sharing of information more across regions and more accessible.
- Have to find a way to make the investment and outcomes more accessible and more visible so people understand what they contribute to and feel part of it.
- Need to keep the right balance between simple and accessible and having appropriate protections and accountability in place.
- QUESTION: What is complex? Accessible to who? Red Tape? Protections are important.

c. Community and land owners at the centre

- Need to be equal partners with government, be empowered and supported to deliver on the ground.
- Requires building supporting and strengthening capacity.
- Back a bottom-up model of deliberative decision making (especially for tough decisions/trade-offs.
- But not at the expense of science, monitoring and having a sound evidence base for on-ground action. (And this should be covered by State Government investment).
- This principle should not be at the expense of ongoing state-based ownership and responsibilities for the environment i.e. needs to be a genuine partnership.

d. A whole of landscape approach

- Remove any obstructions to cross-regional project delivery and cooperation (i.e. promote collaboration when it makes sense to do so).
- Demands a 'whole of sector' approach (i.e. ensuring NGOs and community groups have equitable access to a range of funding opportunities = large and small).
- Requires a more realistic timeframe for programs to deliver outcomes (i.e. minimum of 3-5 year projects).
- Needs to be backed by long-term biodiversity reform (hence demands) and legislative backing.
- To have longevity (and be de-politicised), needs community backing and to be driven be grass-roots (from bottom up).

e. Back to basics

- Massive inconsistency between 'back to basics' and 'whole of landscapes approach'.
- Massive gap – biodiversity!!
- This principle of 'back to basics' is actually completely redundant – we need an integrated approach to landscapes – we don't need this principle at all.
- The operating environment has completely changed. The level of support from the State to NRM/Primary Production has been radically reduced. 'Returning' to this previous approach without returning to the same operating and funding environment is doomed to failure.
- 'Back to Basics' is backwards facing, we need to be future focused.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their

accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

- The intention to have a democratic approach to appointments.
- Areas of skills, knowledge and experience:
    - Biodiversity.
    - Water resources.
    - Soil management.
    - Biosecurity.
    - Coast and marine.
    - Sustainable agriculture.
    - Community engagement.
    - Financial management.
    - Sustainable development.
    - Governance.
    - Communications.
    - Government relationships
    - Community Groups experience.
    - Community education.

What concerns you?

- Approach to Green Adelaide is inconsistent – expert board appointed by Minister – why?
- Could create tension between appointed/elected.
- Needs to be based on skills and experience/expertise/knowledge of region.
- Will Agency people remain as non-voting/observers?
- What is the vetting process for all nominees?
- Voting process could result in costs that may divert resources and many not ensure high quality of representation.
- Ensure membership is divers/covers key skills/experience and doesn't have over-representation of one interest group.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

- Making Agency representatives ex-officio, or perhaps simply welcome guests.
- Selection/appointment process must ensure that board comprises the required diversity of knowledge/skills/interests.
- Need to vet nominees.
- Process to ensure board isn't loaded by a particular interest group.
- Process overseen by an independent 'authority'.
- Need clear Terms of Reference that specifies composition of board (knowledge, experience, expertise) and character – very important.
- Suggest either all appointed or all voted on to Board. Probably best all appointed.

4.2 Board Accountabilities

The worksheet provided to tables gave an overview of board responsibilities and responsibilities, including –

- Managing own budgets, shared publicly
- Employ a general manager who manages staff
- Power to set and manage own levies (with increases reviewed by an independent regulator according to CPI)
- Establish a 5-year Landscape Plan for their regions, identifying 5 priorities
- Partnerships and outsourcing.

The priorities would focus on basics of enabling natural resource management such as soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control, complemented with landscape scale restoration projects.

What processes are important to have in place to best evaluate and report on outcomes from managing natural resource management?

- A co-designed (community, industry, Aboriginal people and governments) regional plan against which NRM results are measured (science based).
- Annual report to the funders e.g. levy payer, SA Government.
- Systems to monitor and evaluate trends in soil, water, biodiversity condition, community attitudes and action and investment in their management (soil, water, biodiversity).
- Periodic governance assessment (independent, non-government). Leadership, Corporate Strategy and planning, Client and Community focus, information and knowledge, people focus, process management, business results.

Any other comments about board accountabilities?

- The Regional Plans need, in combination to provide a coherent state approach. Strongly recommended is a State level governance body to support the Minister, review regional plans, monitor Board performance and achievement. Membership needs to be skills and knowledge based, 4 independent of government and the boards.
- Water planning must remain with the Boards to review and amend/develop strongly supported by science and agencies.
- The state level governance body can advise the Minister on board appointments (independent advice).
- Bring all levels of planning: in the landscape; district; regional; state; national and global.

Other notes made on the worksheet –

- *Own bank account in which all monies received in Board name are banked. Exp only on decision of the Board.*
- *Employ a general manager: also employed by the Board.*
- *Power to set and manage own levies – in conjunction with community – an all other funds received.*
- *Establish a 5 year Landscape land – and a 10-50 year vision.*
- *Partnership and devolved delivery.*
- *Priorities: include biodiversity management and include pest plant and animal management.*

4.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

- Don't change boundaries unless there is a compelling reason for it to happen – it is a huge disruption and investment for questioning outcomes.
- To achieve integrated landscape management and less boundaries are better than more – again reiterates boundaries need to be strongly reasoned.
- Keep an eye to national NRM boundaries trend.

- Retain enough of a levy base in regions to mean they are sustainable in terms of population and levy base capacity.
- Would like to see mechanisms for ensuring boundary permeability, as important as defining boundaries is how they work across them.
- To ensure AMLR is operational and doesn't cause a greater admin or logistical impact – have 3 Boards at the front but keep the levy and support functions together – back of house.
- The one area ecologically that does not warrant boundary re-think – the eastern MLR (Hills, grasslands) MDB has a strong Mallee and river corridor focus ecologically AMLR makes more sense.

4.4 Green Adelaide

Participants were provided with the following information: Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities –

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plans and animals
- Nature education

What do you believe should be the top three functions or priorities of Green Adelaide?

- Create and steward a grand vision for Adelaide for a healthy people and environment that drives innovation in urban ecology and design. We could be world leaders in this.
- Bring environment back into planning with an eye to a changing climate to ensure it stays one of the world's most liveable cities. Conserving our urban ecology is at the heart of this.
- Foster urban community's engagement, participation, education and relationship to nature and place.

Green Adelaide would manage a separate region and raise levies in a similar way to Landscape Boards.

What excites you about this?

- Want to see mechanism for oversight the Minister's appointment of members. Needs real accountability – might be a state wide body, see governance sheet.
- Want to see a conservation skills base represented.
- Support the focus on urban i.e. urban population and urban ecology, has lots of opportunity beyond natures resources.
- Opportunity for innovation, there is an emerging area her of best practice e.g. WSUD.
- Bring environment back into planning, great opportunity to focus on people's nature connection.
- Specific urban focus could make it easier to interact with complementary Acts like Planning.
- GA best underpinned by nature of SA principles.

What concerns you?

- What role to support and coordinate local government effort which is significant.
- Want to see climate strategy e.g. avoiding heat islands.
- Need to see a specific focus on encouraging nature connection and its well-being impacts (make a priority).
- Don't want carbon neutral to disappear.
- It could isolate activities and engagement in the regional towns e.g. Mt Gambier, Pt Augusta.
- Need an overarching vision which brings effort to life not just a scattered approach – easy to happen.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Too much planning. • Expecting community/NGOs to be available without resourcing them. • Keeping resources within board – staffing/structures/bureaucracy. • Expecting engagement without being respectful/without providing resources to enable it. • Having community engagement teams/staff members that are focussed on actual engagement on the ground via on-ground projects.	• Implement plans to a greater extent – more with community. • Adaptive management. • More incentives to groups/landholders to adopt innovation/best practice. • More extension of R & D to landholders. • Move more resourcing to groups to engage and deliver – and support them properly with funding and resources to enable them to engage. Support groups to be able to link with landholders. • Involve community in designing engagement approach e.g. Community Action Planning model and support those groups that are actually engaging on the ground.	• Keep monitoring and evaluating. • Building partnerships and working with community based groups but more so including resourcing/funding – by doing more of this.

6. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

6.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

- Not in favour. Allow the boards to determine in conjunction with their communities to deliver the Regional (co-designed) Plan.

6.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

- Most import point is SA Government restores funding to environment to exceed 5% in addition to NRM levies.
- Cap at 10% of NRM levies raised, only established if match $ for $ by SA Government.
- State-wide landscape board (not agency) responsible for deploying funds.
- Must fund priorities in biodiversity, water and soil, community action at state scale
- Multi-region, across state boundaries (as a guide).
- Give emphasis to strategic and long-term projects.
- Really need to know a great deal more about the concept before commenting more thoroughly.

6.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual statewide fund?

- Great idea if funded from Treasury.
- Strongly recommend this is a program administered by the independent State Wide Landscapes Body.
- Must be able to fund smaller NGOs for admin (DGR status) i.e. keep the doors open.

7. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was 2 years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

All landscape Boards are working in 'harmony' and the number of threatened species are on the decline.	The community is actively engaged in developing 5 year plans, as an equal partner, and the plans address biodiversity, soil, water and pest plants and climate in an integrated landscape manner.	Communities, NGOs and state agencies are working together effectively to deliver projects that protect and improve our natural resources – biodiversity, water, soil. Bonus – nature is a government priority.
Majority of people from all sectors are more happy than unhappy with the change.	A genuine felling that the new system has better prepared South Australians to steward their landscapes and care for and connect with the nature that surrounds and supports us.	
Vibrant, engaged whole of state community committed to the key principles of nature conservation with the resources to continue to deliver future focussed actions.	NGOs in the NRM sector are well resourced and leading the delivery of NRM in their localities. This includes the design and delivery of engagement and on-ground projects.	Demonstrable increase in community engagement and participation in native conservation.

A vibrant environmental NGO sector is better resourced and delivering on-ground outcomes in partnership with government.	Sustainable Community Groups that are equal partners in all stages of NRM (problem and issue identification, planning and implementation).	A functioning Landscape SA system with a community led focus with a freely accessible toolkit and for all stakeholders.
Dynamic regional plans for the future underpinned by strong state resourcing.	Maximum funding hits the ground for priority projects in priority areas delivered through collaborative strategic landscape programs (NGOs, Government and Community).	The number of cross-boundary, joint NRM projects have increased towards improved biodiversity objectives.
Increased State Government investment including other agencies because they get the value to the state and believe the model will deliver.	Appropriate, sustained investment in biodiversity and Climate Change preparation and landscape scale projects. Collaborative planning of priorities. Devolved delivery by community partners.	Higher level of community engagement in NRM. Well-functioning trusted Boards. Innovative programs occurring within and across regions. Overall improvements in health of environment and community.
Boards and their own staff are functioning well. There is a transparent independence but great partnership with agencies. State Government funding is at least 5% of state budget, net of NRM levies, promoting regional jobs and vibrant community. Delivery is devolved to NGOs, community groups and industry, and when decided by Boards agencies. Boards have their own bank accounts which receive all levies and other income. A co-designed regional landscape plan underpins deliver, and forms basis for performance assessment of Boards. The majority of funds from State and community (NRM levies) are making a difference on ground.		

PHASE:	**FOCUSED CONVERSATION EVENT**
SESSION:	**PRIMARY PRODUCERS SECTOR**
TIME/DATE:	**9AM ~ 12PM – 3RD OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Steve**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Eight participants representing primary production organisations were welcomed by the facilitator who set the scene for the session. It was explained that this session would be running concurrently with a conservation sector session, and that the two groups would join together in the afternoon for a combined debrief and opportunity to 'deep dive' on key topics together.

Whilst a full account of input received can be found below, some of the key points to arise from this session were:

- The conversation focused on how to best balance landscape scale coordination of projects and programs without compromising decentralisation, local decision making and retaining levy money in the region;
- Cost shifting needs to cease and levy money retained in the region for Boards to decide how the money is applied to programs;
- Landscape Boards need to be encouraged and directed to ensure they maintain a landscape focus as well as supporting landowners – if there is a Landscape priorities group that oversees coordination then they need to be connected to the regional boards. Without this local connection there is a risk of disconnect;
- Local Boards should be capable with the right support to manage landscape priorities – they should be able to work with adjacent boards and have the capability to identify the right priorities for their region without the need for a central body or central bucket of money;
- There is a risk that the principle to decentralise could be undermined if there is a central body with centralised funds;
- NRM needs to be made more relevant to the agricultural sector – they are naturally managers of the landscape and NRM needs to be able to provide the right support in a transparent way;
- The new Act needs to be clear in what it is striving to achieve;
- There needs to be a greater focus on getting more dollars directed to on the ground programs and projects;
- The reform has good intentions, but regions need the capacity to deliver – both in terms of dollars and skilled people.

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

The group undertook a series of facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

1. **Top 5 priorities** – what are the top five things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your region?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the top five things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
3. **The 5 Guiding Principles** – How might these principles might help your priorities to be addressed?
4. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation and ALMR boundaries
5. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The facilitator sorted the priorities in to themes and shared with the whole group.

<table>
<tr>
<td><u>LANDSCAPE</u>

• Landscape scale – how to address issues that transcend boundaries?
• How are things of common interest across Boards/regions, what is the structural approach to managing funding?
• Landscape Advisory Body with funds might see a disconnection with Local Boards.
• Landscape Boards have a requirement to focus on landscape issues. Leadership be locally connected.
• Boards to be responsive to changing landscape issues.</td>
<td><u>PARTNERSHIPS</u>

• Mature partnerships.
• Use existing groups and relationships.
• The right group for the right work.
• Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>DECENTRALISE</u>

• More autonomy of decision making at Board level.
• Local decision making.
• Boards have autonomy to make decisions and funding.</td>
<td><u>LEVY</u>

• No more costing shifting. $$ to stay in the region at control of Boards.
• Levies – leave in region. Additional needs be provided for by the State.
• Understand opportunity cost for programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>CAPACITY BUILDING</u>

• Building Regional Capacity:
  ○ Funds.
  ○ People – right skills.
  ○ Engagement.</td>
<td><u>TRANSPARENCY</u>

• Priority to on-ground works and greater percentage of $ to on-ground.
• Accountability however reasonable conditions.
• Community understands where money spent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><u>BOARDS/EMPOWERMENT/RESOURCING</u>

• Boards should be responsible for appointment of CEO to deliver outcomes.
• How to enable Boards to control and manage program as autonomous bodies.
• Could have contract Management Model.
• Regional bodies must have capacity to manage regulations.
• Compliance requirements.
• Boards able to access specialist skills and expertise at particular times/projects.
• Buy expertise rather than fixed staffing:
  ○ Science.
  ○ Professional.
  ○ Whatever you need to fix the problem.
• Board member capacity could be an issue.</td>
<td><u>RELEVANCE</u>

• Recognising that farmers are managers of natural resources (through their business and natural environment).
• Making NRM Landscapes relevant to farmers and building on that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2"><u>CLEAR OBJECTIVES</u>

• Putting a value on good land management and natural resources management, and rewarding stewardship of natural resources and natural environment e.g. vegetation.
• Principles of Act are clear – What are we trying to achieve?</td>
</tr>
</table>

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each table was given five large sticky notes and asked to write down the top five things that they feel are currently working well with natural resource management.

- Good Staff: outcome oriented; project management; sharing skills.
- Keep the local groups connected to delivery e.g. LAPS; Landcare; Friends of ….; Farm system group.
- The right support for the situation.
- Keep some existing Board Members to enable transition.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The facilitator introduced the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform. In small groups, the participants visited each of the 5 principles and considered the following three questions –

- What does this principle mean to you?
- Does it resonate?
- How might it address your priorities?

The following notes were made under each principle –

a. **Decentralised decision making**
   - Boards having autonomy and empowerment to drive decisions in their region e.g. Levy.
   - Connection across borders and across State i.e. through state wide objectives, guidelines/strategies.
   - Clarity on what decisions and scope of decisions that can be made at the regional, local and state levels.
   - Where there are efficiencies in a collaborative approach e.g. research on pests – take a partnership/state approach but deliver local programs at board level.

b. **A simple and accessible system**
   - Resonates but difficult to give simple answer.
   - Link between funding providers and outcomes delivered.
   - Clear guidelines for Boards to deliver the compliance aspects of Act e.g. Pests, Soils and Water.

c. **Community and land owners at the centre**
   - Partnerships – critical – real and genuine; not a parent-child relationship.
   - Mature relationship and trust.
   - Involving existing groups – industry, Landcare, LAP and Friends Groups.
   - Ability to bring 'communities' together to collaborate input into decisions – separating 'noise' from real outcomes – majority owned not responding to a single voice.
   - Recognising and respecting that Farmers (both the system and the farmers recognising this) are already managers of natural resources and Landscape management I relevant to them and utilises their knowledge and skills to deliver – and builds trust.
   - Community ownership of the strategy and vision of what we are trying to achieve.
   - Community is the people that live in the areas.
   - All land mangers involved.

d. **A whole of landscape approach**
   - Easier to define the principles then application than to manage the landscape scale when there is an intention to decentralise.
   - Landscapes can be applied at different levels – narrow or broad. Definition problem – how big is a landscape? How specifically is it defined?
   - How to manage biosecurity issues across boundaries?

- Some of the language is vague.
- Strategic prioritisation of landscapes – by whom?
- Must consider interactions – but what to do about it?
- What of longer term commitment to Landscape Management – levy might provide a base, but needs to be overlaid with state or federal commitment.
- Localised decision making is good, but can be an immediate focus – a reaction to immediate problems **vs** longer term view based on research.
- How to manage pre-emptive actions that will mitigate longer term threats that aren't an immediate challenge. Long term planning isn't great.
- A weakness and strength of the local decision making. How to accommodate investment for the longer term.
- NRM is driven locally – local buy-in is critical and immediate benefits. Funder provider model.
- What's driven the current dis-engagement? The communities themselves do have a degree of longer term investment. Should seek external advice in planning.
- Time frames are different in different industries and therefore communities may have different cultural view.
- Mixed farming timeframe is not a long as horticulture (vines, trees).
- Adaptation to climate change – takes time.
- Boards must have long term view as well as responding to local issues. Need to weigh up the dynamics of industry.
- Is there a need for Boards to have autonomy over length of plans to respond to longer term issues?

e. Back to basics

- What we do has to be flexible – operating in a changing environment – need to be adaptive, flexible and innovative.
- Devil is in the detail.
- Having autonomy to make decisions with structure in place to give the Boards the ability to make decisions then this makes sense.
- Accept that native vegetation might be swung in – could happen.
- Biodiversity is there.
- No reference to capacity. Good intentions, but need to have capacity to deliver – the people (trained) on the ground and the funding to be effective. This is fundamental to success.
- Most farmers want to manage the basics, but don't have the capacity to deliver.
- Better economic analysis may be needed to understand regional capacity – can the Board have 'capacity building' as part of their remit? Otherwise whose responsibility is it? Risk might have a good program (i.e. insulate houses) but without skilled people can't deliver.

4. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

Each table was provided with one of the four topics and given time to make comment. Participants were invited to visit a topic at a different table to build on commentary already made.

4.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

What's good about this structure?

Table 1	Table 2
No comment made.	• All members from region and community. • 7 better than 9. • Do not support election process. • If no election – 4 year term is OK. • Total tenure not an issue.

What concerns you?

Table 1	Table 2
• Risk of unworkable Board. • Cost of community election. • Voter turnout low. • How to get a board with balance of skills and continuity – change over. • Reasonable length terms – staggered change-over – corporate memory. • Board must work. • Need to have a succession process. • If went with community election – do this first in order to appoint others by Minister in complimentary skills.	• Elections – concern low turnout, low interest, open to stacking of a particular interest group, potential unbalanced in skills. • Industry are concerned that a negative outcome could come from election process. • Costs of election process.

What will we need to have in place to make sure this structure works?

Table 1	Table 2
• Suggest panel out of peak body as a selection panel. • 3 elected positions could be appointed by peak bodies. • 4 by Minister. • Representative board? Of what?	• Need clear criteria and skill for Board Members. • If 3 elected the Minister's appointments must come after this to produce better balance. • Could have a selection panel that represents the community to select the 3 'community elected'. • Community selection panel represent peak community groups e.g. PPSA, CCSA, LGA and other regionally relevant groups.

4.2 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
• Importance of WAP regions should be aligned with catchment boundaries. This is consistent with landscape concept. • Don't want to disadvantage the current system revenue wise. • Northern & York potentially could lose significant revenue. • Boundary changes might create more problems than it solves.

5. FUNDING

Each table was provided with a large worksheet containing three statements relating to funding.

5.1 Capping Levies

Election commitment: Cap annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the CPI. Levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes.

What's your initial reaction? Is there a better way of capping, collecting or distributing income from levies?

Table 1	Table 2
• CPI cap makes sense - with an option to submit to an independent body if it's outside. • Regulatory bodies – process can be torturous. • Potentially a disparity based on way levy is set and starting point. • Analysis on the numbers, variation of numbers. • Is the NRM an efficient cost currently? • What has been the reason for current cost increases? Is it for cost shifting?	• CPI – simple way. However if extraordinary circumstances arise with the Minister's approval or the community agrees to increase for a particular issue.

5.2 Cross-regional and state-wide coordination

Landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and Statewide coordination, like controlling pests and managing threatened species. Two approaches include:

- Partnerships across multiple landscape boards and other groups.
- A Landscape Priorities fund contributed to by Landscape Boards to invest in large scale projects across landscapes

Do you think there is a need for cross regional and Statewide projects and programs? What do you think about these two initiatives? Are there other ways?

Table 1	Table 2
• Don't want levy money from regions going back in to central funds. • If there are two central funds, don't want $$ coming from the regional levy. • Could come from Green Adelaide – but need State-wide Advisory Board to administer it. • If you take money from the city then it's against the principle of money stay in region.	• Green Adelaide levy to fund this as they enjoy the benefits of natural resources across the State – food visiting, water etc., • Regional landscape levy should not fund this – their levy must stay in regions. • Where efficiency in collaborative approach across regions e.g. Nature Education, Research. Work across regions or at the State level. Don't want unnecessary duplication. • Important for Green Adelaide to connect with Hills around Flood and Catchment management as the plains feel the impact on management upstream.

5.3 Grassroots Program

Election commitment: Establish the Grassroots program, a $2million a year Statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

What's your initial reaction? What's the most important thing to get right with this annual Statewide fund?

Table 1	Table 2
• Alternatively: • State funding. • Federal funding. • Regional voluntary funding from the levy (or Green Adelaide). Best position to determine competing priorities for priority projects and grass-roots. • Consider a matching dollar for dollar for region and State – but if it's in the interest of the state then the state should support. Why should the levy payer pick up all of the spend? • But what is the political reality about taxing people in the peri-urban environment.	• Green Adelaide levy could fund this or State funding. • Regional Landscape Boards shouldn't fund this.

Measuring Success

The exercise measuring success was not undertaken with this group.

PHASE:	**FOCUSSED CONVERSATION**
SESSION:	**NRM PARTNERS, PRIMARY PRODUCTION & CONSERVATION SECTORS COMBINED SESSION**
TIME/DATE:	**1PM – 4.30PM – 3RD OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS:	**BECKY/STEVE**

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

Approximately 60 participants representing consisting of the NRM Partners, Primary Production sector and Conservation sectors were welcomed by the facilitators who set the scene for the session.

Organisations represented included –

- Conservation Council SA
- Primary Producers SA
- SA Dairy Farmers
- PIRSA
- National Trust SA
- Friends of Black Hill and Morialta
- Friends of Parks
- Zoos SA
- Presiding Members of existing NRM Boards
- Central Irrigation Trust
- Landcare Association SA
- Loxton Landcare
- Nature Foundation SA
- Nature Conservation Society of SA
- Nature Glenelg Trust
- SA Wine Industry Association
- Ag Excellence Alliance
- Environmental Defenders Alliance
- Wilderness Society
- Renmark Irrigation Trust
- Goolwa to Wellington LAP
- Local Government Association
- Greening Australia
- Trees for Life

Becky and Steve provided an overview of priorities that had emerged from the concurrent morning sessions with the Primary Production and Conservation sectors.

The Minister provided some commentary on what he had heard to date and took some questions and comments from the participants.

Becky and Steve went on to present an update of the engagement process to date, and shared the top 20 priorities to emerge so far through the state-wide engagement, as well as a list of the top 8 things to consistently be mentioned as working well already.

After the Minister left, participants spent some time as a whole group discussing the reform. Notes from this discussion can be found below.

They also spent some time taking a ‘deep dive’ in to some key priorities from the engagement process, working in small groups made up of both conservation and primary production sector representatives. The groups worked on developing their top 3 recommendations to the Minister on that topic, to be provided as input via the engagement process.

WHOLE GROUP PARTICIPANT COMMENTARY

A Collegiate Session

- Participants were keen for this report to highlight how **collegiate** this session was – it's important to highlight how well everyone from both the primary production and conservation sectors worked together;

- Participants noted that this is an opportunity to **reshape natural resources management**, and there is a large amount of positivity in the room. "It's in our hands to shape it for the next generation" – the next 25 years. Participants want to support the Minister in succeeding with this and come out with some really good results;

- "One thing that unites this whole room is that **the climate is changing really fast**. Whether you're coming from an environmental perspective or a farming perspective, or both, we need to build a resilient landscape which is ultimately going to have to be biodiverse. We can't afford these divides to be maintained anymore. We've got to come together and work out how we're going to move forward together. The most resilient communities work together";

- Participants noted that the discussion this afternoon, whether at the tables or as a whole group, showed that **the group agreed on much more than they disagreed**. This puts everyone in good stead for the new legislation. "A fear is that the new legislation tears us apart." Participants felt that if they can build and strengthen the relationships in the room, as a state this would be a really good outcome for the Minister;

- "The Minister has spoken a lot about partnerships - and this afternoon is a great example of how well we can all work together."

Biodiversity

- Maybe we need to explain the value of **environmental restoration** and the fact that activities associated with this, whether they be threatened species recovery, revegetation, wetland restoration, environmental flows – capturing some of these positive, proactive things that we could and should be doing through the landscapes act – that aren't just about those three basics (soil, pests and water) which are fine, and they can stay, but we need to somehow make it clear that there's an extra positive element or pillar there that we could be talking about, that will deliver on the overall objectives. The danger is if we don't have this specifically stated, that when you go to staff a board or a region with people to implement projects, you'd have soil specialists, you'd have water planners and policy people, you'd have people killing pests, but where are those skill sets that capture the big picture and allow you to do the positive environmental work? In my experience working in regional areas, which are relatively conservative, farmers really like working on these projects too;

- A really important message to go back to the Minister is that **one of the key ways that we connect with communities is through biodiversity works**. If you go back to the Landcare days, most of that work was around biodiversity – protection and conservation of native vegetation, primarily undertaken by primary producers;

- Creating **a climate resilient landscape** requires active management of soil, water, pests and investment in revegetation for habitat and connectivity, productive benefits and social resilience. This is what we need to be trying to achieve;

- What is happening to the **Department of Environment and Water**? What's their role in relation to biodiversity and all of the things we've been discussing?

- Given the fundamental importance of soil, water and biodiversity for the future of society and the economy of the state, it makes sense that the South Australian government invests at a suitable level. It would be helpful if we could find a way to help the Minister get the budget back to where it needs to be. The NRM levy needs to be used by the regional boards for what they need to do, so there needs to be adequate **investment from state treasury**;

- There are very **significant funds** that come to South Australia for biodiversity type work from a whole range of commonwealth government sources. It would be sensible and smart to have portals to allow the boards to be able to bid for and successfully receive those funds in the new Act;

- The three pillars in the *Back to Basics* principle are currently a mix of **assets and threats**. When we're talking about an approach to an issue would it be better to have it all about assets? For example, land, water, biodiversity and people are our assets. Pest plants and animals and climate change are our threats. The mix as it currently reads is perhaps part of the reason why we struggle with it. We accept the reality that this is driving the Minister's focus but because there's a mix, it confuses our priorities. It is clear from a systemic point of view – the idea of the assets and the threats – it's a very clear organising principle;

- On a landscape scale, there will be lots of **landholders that are trying to revegetate their properties**. If this isn't in the Act, where does the assistance for them sit? They will be doing it anyway for the productive benefits or because they value increasing the native vegetation on their properties, but it needs to be captured somewhere so that this work doesn't sit in isolation. Steve added that he had heard this in community forums too – farmers do retire the land, they are actively involved in certain revegetation programs, because it is identified as being beneficial to the landscape;

- One participant commented that she would like to see Natural Resource Management referred to as **Natural Asset Management** because the former implies that we are 'using it up'. Asset Management is about building, maintaining and managing the wealth that we've got as a community. Another participant commented that the language of Back to Basics has possibly got people thinking utilitarian – making us think of consumptive use, rather than **sustainable management**;

- What would **biodiversity legislation** achieve above and beyond what is already in place? It would bring together other pieces of legislation that would sit in it such as the Wildlife Act, the Native Vegetation Act, and so on – but is it needed other than to do this? Would it have any funding attached to it? This is the dilemma. The NRM Act, or the new Landscape Act, has an inbuilt mechanism to raise money but there is doubt that a new Biodiversity Act would have the same mechanism built in to it. This is why we need biodiversity integrated in the Landscape Act;

- The conservation sector believes that a **Biodiversity Act** is a good option to be explored. But it's not an 'either/or' – we need both in order to be successful. We see that biodiversity is very much key in the Landscapes Act, but the smaller focuses on specific assets, species or processes would be in the Biodiversity Act. One doesn't place the other. A Biodiversity Act wouldn't replace what was lost if it wasn't included in the Landscapes Act;

- One of the gaps is engaging with the **tourism sector** who have such a strong alliance in this state on biodiversity assets for nature-based tourism. Their's isn't a consumptive use. If we don't include biodiversity in natural resource management, then how do we look at that sustainable use or values of biodiversity in that context? We are very much focussed on primary production but there are other sectors;

- One of the problems the Minister has had is that biodiversity is not mentioned anywhere in the Landscapes documentation – and all of a sudden people are asking where it is. While we have this opportunity, we should be really serious about looking at this and pushing it further;

- We all agree that **it's really important that soil, water and pest plants and animals be included**. We just want to add something around biodiversity. Steve noted that the more remote communities during the engagement process had focussed more just on the three activities listed under the Back to Basics principle and didn't really articulate biodiversity as an additional element to be included. But by far the majority of the sessions have noted that biodiversity is missing. Reinforcing the Back to Basics message has been absolutely on the agenda but adding clarity around other activities that enhance biodiversity has been a high priority for many;

Board structure, accountability and membership

- Giving **power back to the boards at a regional level** is something that the primary producers have wanted for some time, aiming for local input, drive and empowerment to control their budgets and to engage staff, particularly at the general manager level. One thing that has been firing people up across both sectors is the

cost-shifting, bearing in mind that the department has budget cuts to meet, there are some strong feelings that protecting the levy-based budgets to be spent in the regions, is critical. There needs to be a reversal of some of the cost recovery for management costs, but also making sure that the statewide funds aren't depleting the regions;

- The first question should be **what makes the most effective board** – and then what's the model that leads you to the most effective board - a board that creates engagement and ownership and makes good governance decisions. A model including a community election process will struggle to achieve this. It is critical that you have a good balance of skills. The problem with an election process is that you can quite easily have all elected members move on from one term to the next, and it's important to retain some corporate memory and fundamentally have the best possible skill set and the best possible governance;

- Women are known not to put their hands up for things – they need to be tapped on the shoulder and encouraged. The same goes with Aboriginal representation. How will an election process ensure **diversity in board membership**, together with the skills and good governance?

- Rather than have three people elected from the community, it is better to have community members to apply. It was noted that this is how it currently is. Sharon Starick suggested an alternative model to the election process that still allows for community to have a say, through **establishing a selection panel** which is potentially made up of peak bodies, or people from the region, and they could actually choose 3 and recommend to the Minister the other 4, or the selection panel could recommend to the Minister the whole 7 members. There are ways of getting community input without necessarily going to a community election. Others in the group agreed to this suggestion. Each region could have a particular focus depending on its need – for example, those regions with more of a farming focus would have more farming focus on their selection panel. The peak bodies on the selection panel could be embedded in the new legislation;

- Another participant suggested an **independent professional organisation** – like a recruitment agency – with a set of selection criteria for each board, everyone can apply and then they run the selection process for the Minister and provide a shortlist. They could either make the recommendation or make the decision. This would be completely independent;

- Another element to add to board representation, as well as all the other skills needed, is the enthusiasm. The best NRM board members are **those who are interested and committed with good connections back in to the community**. What about young people coming in, who haven't got a lot of experience yet, but can bring that passion and enthusiasm? We don't want the process to put them off. There could be good potential board members who we can upskill – we don't want to cut them out;

- Is anyone going to be putting their hand up to join the boards, particularly the more remote ones? Add to this a very low voter turnout and we could end up with anyone on the boards! This is quite dangerous. The election does also lend itself to a **risk of self-interest groups**;

- We would like to see the **boards re-empowered**, particularly around important policy setting and decision making, for example with water allocation planning, and prioritisation of pest plant and animal priorities. It was noted that there is a balancing act between the governance requirements of boards versus the policy requirement – which need a good technical and local knowledge. This could be balanced in a number of ways including through advisory committees, but there does need to be some of this skillset within the board structure;

- There was some discussion around sector representation on the boards and one participant noted he was opposed to the idea as it was difficult for someone to serve the board and those who they represent. Another participant said that the difference **between representation and nominations** by peak bodies would be important to clarify – people who have a merit-based selection within a certain sector, then appointed to the board – but after this they are their own person and not required to represent the sector. Skills was noted to be more important than representation;

- There was a question regarding why there is a proposed **reduction in board member numbers**. Another participant suggested that 7 or 9 is proven good number for boards. Steve noted that in the remote communities' participants had said that 7 is a good number – given travel and time, getting 7 people for a board is more probable than 9. For nearer Adelaide, or some of the larger agriculture regions, is cutting down to 7 might be restrictive? Perhaps some flexibility is needed from region to region?

- It was agreed that recognising and supporting **current board members** and the work that they have already done was important. We can't just draw a line in the sand to say that was then and this is now. We want to encourage some of the existing board members to continue because if we don't, we'll be left with a very diminished pool or potential new board members. A message for the Minister is to be really conscious of those current board members – they've been working really hard to try to achieve good outcomes. They will be a really important resource to new board members too;

- One participant highlighted **devolved delivery** as a really important model, in boards having their own staff as employees of the board and being contract managers – delivering programs through established non-government organisations, community groups, industry, contractors, and also engaging agencies on a fee-for-service basis. In doing this, it would bring many more resources to the boards.

State-wide coordination

- It is important for South Australia to perform well in a national context – state-wide coordination is critical to this. One participant suggested a **state-wide board** that is independent and provides frank and fearless advice to the Minister. The board might also preside over some of the processes such as accrediting regional plans or selecting board members. The role of this board could also be overseeing the Grassroots Grants or Statewide Priority Fund. This would keep the coordination at arm's length from government. If there was such a group, we'd need to again think about the membership of this group to include leaders to really help South Australia stand out;

- Great **partnerships** with agencies are needed. This small state can't work without this.

Funding

- Funding is one of the most fundamental and critical items in the whole discussion. It seems that there is an acceptance that this is a cost shifting exercise, and that it's a finite bucket of money that has no potential for more resources. We all agree it demands and requires more resources;

- One participant shared that what he feels has worked well at a national level, in 3 different national organisations substantially funded by the federal government, is the federal government providing money in a **matching arrangement**. Matching seems to attract the interest of the various interested parties, including the private sector and it's a great way of leveraging more funds to invest in this critical area. The political and economic environment mean it is hard to get additional funding. There should be an opportunity to at least look at the possibility of increasing the bucket of money. We need to think innovatively about how we can grow this bucket. Our ability to meet the demands of managing the states natural resources is going to diminish;

- Society has a role to play in funding the sustainable management of soil, water and biodiversity in the regions. There needs to be a **dedicated state budget** that is committed to this. We need to all be arguing this case and supporting our Minister to obtain this. We just can't fund what needs to be done and as a state we have incredible assets that need to be returned to good health – and we have climate change coming so we need to be preparing for that too.

DEEP DIVE TOPICS & TOP 3 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SMALL GROUP WORK

GROUP 1: BIODIVERSITY/CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPE

1. Vibrant biodiversity should be written in a clear outcome for the Landscape SA Bill (along with sustainable economy and resilient communities) – decisions and investments should consider all 3 outcomes.
2. Biodiversity discussion: Creating a climate resilient landscape requires active management of soil, water and pests and investment in revegetation for habitat and connectivity, productive benefits, and social resilience.

3. These will be missed out if management of pests, water and soils does not consider multiple outcomes in an integrated way:
    - Wetland watering.
    - Cockies for cockies – both production and biodiversity benefits.
    - Federal funded biodiversity/environmental programs (e.g. Additional Landcare Program) e.g. Mallee Fowl (lack of mandate for Boards to do this).
    - Mallee emu wren.
    - Ecosystem services (pollination, clean water etc.)
    - No bio, no grassroots or landscape funding to bio projects.

GROUP 2: PLANNING – LOOKING AFTER THE FUTURE

Conversation starters: How can regional planning be streamlined? How should the community be involved in planning? How similar should regional planning be? Is there a need for cross regional or statewide planning?

1. Regional Plans based on consistent framework e.g. Biodiversity, water, soil, APC and climate, integration, threats, assets:
    - Strategic plan.
    - Business plan.
    - State level accountability and common issues I.D.
    - Clear and concise planning documents.

2. Direct line of sight between plans and investment and monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

3. Community engagement – simplify engagement process and 'formal consultation' required – provide opportunities for community to be involved in reporting back and adaptive management.
Transitional arrangements:
    - How are existing plans to be used during transition?
    - Use existing content and build on rather than start from scratch.
    - Use new framework for next round of planning.

GROUP 3: BOARDS

Conversation starters: How can we enable the most effective community elections? What should be the role/function of regional boards?

1. Representational selection committee with broad skills – farming/environment. Community selection process NOT community election.

2. Select board members through regional selection panel:
    - Builds diversity (e.g. Aboriginal representation, business, gender, age) subject to serving 'Board'.
    - Succession building.
    - Selection guidelines/processes.

3. Vision in line with state strategy and community/levy payer's expectations and regional contribution.
Coordination regulatory framework.
Business planning – resources allocation and KPIs.
Management to deliver plan. Some issues best addressed at state level e.g. Landscape Scale Management.

GROUP 4: PARTNERSHIPS

Conversation starters: What should partnerships look like in the future? Are there already models that work well? What should engagement look like?

1. The following characteristics:
    - MOU to multiple groups, being prepared to share information, 'mature partnerships' that win-win, joint submissions for $.
    - Partnerships based on capabilities.
    - Leveraging levy $ % access funding.

- Local Government opportunity to partner.

2. N & Y NRM Board.
   RIT and Environment water holder.
   Red Tailed Black Cockatoo project in South East.
3. Community Management Group. Respectful partners and ensure achieve outcomes. Everyone works towards KPIs.
   Transparency.

GROUP 5: BIODIVERSITY

How should the landscape reforms contribute to achieving vibrant biodiversity? What kinds of landscape management actions are needed to support vibrant biodiversity?

1. Four pillars for Landscape Act are: Land, Water, Biodiversity and community
2. Ensure biodiversity is an objective of Act and charter of Board to ensure they can be eligible to receive future conservation commonwealth $.
3. Each Board and it's co-designed community based plan must address threatening processes (for example may involve pest plants and pest animals, climate change, wind and water erosion and salinization/water logging, community indifference, habitat loss etc.).
4. Ensure knowledge, skills and experience on the Board including land, water, biodiversity and community, primary production.
5. Process: each sector can propose a person(s) of great character to provide a particular skill.
6. Broad expertise on board. Land, Water, Biodiversity and people. Threatening processes: pest and disease; CI, water table. Leave it to local Boards to set practices with their country.

GROUP 6: FUNDING

Conversation starters: What sorts of things should the landscape priorities find invest in? What sorts of things should grassroots grants invest in? Who should decide the priorities for investment? How can administration be streamlined?

1. Funding – needs state government matching investment – not just levy $.
   State level/cross regional, pick up gaps, emerging issues, avoid piecemeal multiple outcomes, high risk.
   Multi-year programs: needs to be 5% of state budget (state funding to sustain regional leverage with landscapes, production and communities).
   Other contributions by partners.
2. Who decides? State body independent of government –may include e.g. PMs peaks, NRM partners.
   Decisions informed my technical evidence. Decisions on projects funded by Landscape Fund.
3. Grass root grants – how to minimise red tape? And meet probity requirements < $10K rolling call <$50K.
   Small projects could be multi-level <$5K
   Local level.
   Community delivery.
   NGOs, individuals up to years of funding.

PHASE: FOCUSSED CONVERSATIONS
SESSION: NRM PARTNERS MEETING, ADELAIDE
DATE: THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER 2018
FACILITATOR: BECKY HIRST

ATTENDEES

Sharon Starick, Presiding Member - Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (Chair)
Eric Sommerville, Presiding Member - Natural Resources Northern and Yorke
Felicity-Ann Lewis, Presiding Member - Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Mark Whitfield, Presiding Member - Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula
Fiona Rasheed, Presiding Member - Natural Resources South East
Parry Agius, Presiding Member - Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara
Richard Trethewey, Presiding Member - Natural Resources Kangaroo Island
Glenn Gale, Executive Officer - Landcare Association of South Australia
Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive - Conservation SA
Rob Kerin, Executive Chairman - Primary Producers South Australia
Amy Williams, NRM Policy Officer - Primary Producers South Australia
Stephen Smith, Director Policy - Local Government Association of South Australia
Gerry Davies, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
Matthew Ward, Department for Environment and Water
Apology: Janet Brook, Presiding Member - Natural Resources South Australian Arid Lands
Apology: Sheree Bowman, Chair - Landcare Association of South Australia

Observers (Not participating): Sarah Morgan (DEW), Leonie Paulson (DEW), Saravan Peacock (DEW)

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

Reflections on focussed workshops between conservation and primary producer sector organisations on 3 October 2018

- Partners reaffirmed that sectors are on the same page in wanting to work together and with the Minister to support the Landscape SA Reforms and ensure the reforms are effective
    - Noted the reforms largely address the requests from several partner organisations before the election
    - Agreed that the focussed workshops of conservation sector organisations and primary producer organisations on 3 October 2018 showed there is a lot in common between the sectors
    - No large conflicts between the organisations, and a lot of common ground, though the specific priorities of the sectors differed in some areas
    - Partners were surprised the Minister had perceived a significant difference in view between sectors
    - Just as likely people within sectors might have different ideas as between sectors
    - Generally a lot of support for the principles, with a desire to help supplement and clarify the Minister's vision in some key areas
    - Especially on how best to articulate the priorities, around back to basics and stewardship

- Partners noted that this level of collaboration between the conservation and primary production sectors and with other peak bodies and government – in other states and nationally this tends not to happen, and the sectors often are not willing to work together
- Partners noted they should consider how best to communicate their shared approach
- Important to work with government and members of parliament to ensure everyone is clear about the shared approach of the NRM partner organisations
- Partners noted some concerns over the timing of the process, noting there are potential risks with drafting the Bill quickly and having to amend the Bill once it reaches Parliament
- Partners sought further clarification of points that are open for further consideration, and points where there is no room for negotiation. Would be useful to know now, and focus on things that are more open

- E.g. is there any room to clarify the back to basics priorities and the role of broader stewardship actions and biodiversity in that; what are the parameters around funding issues such as water planning and management charges (will they stay or not)

- Partners noted concerns around election of board members
    - should do elections before appointments, otherwise could end with too many people from one town
    - there is a risk of people undermining the effectiveness of the board
    - more difficult to remove elected people who are making trouble
    - how you get people to nominate and vote?

Presiding members noted there is sometimes confusion about the NRM Boards' role in delivering on state/region based priorities funded through NRM levies, and national priorities funded by the Australian Government

- Some Australian Government investments through Landcare programs are very focused on threatened species and ecological communities, so Boards need to be able to keep working on this with local partners or SA will miss out
- Need to communicate this nuance clearly

Presiding members also noted:

- legislation is too prescriptive – better to use broad overarching principles and put detail in regs and guiding principles, to enable change over time to learn from what is working

- the role of Aboriginal communities in the Landscape model needs to be clarified, especially with the focus on private land management – don't want Aboriginal communities to be shut out of the process by assuming they can't be involved in broader management of landscapes

Partners considered the Minister's question about whether a specific new Biodiversity Conservation Act is sought by the conservation and primary production sectors

- Who would take carriage of this?
- What would it do?
- Would there be a funding stream?
- Biodiversity Act could be a piece of fine grained work, complementing a broader Landscape Act looking at broader environmental sustainability – both could address biodiversity issues in different ways
- Need to reflect on whether biodiversity is one of the basics
- Real range of views in the conservation sector

    - Like the idea in principle and agree with findings of parliamentary inquiry
    - But caution about whether now is the right time to do this
    - And leg is more valuable if linked to a funding stream

Suggestion that the Landscape Act could be a piece of legislation that would help regional landowners/managers

- Biodiversity Act would more likely deal with regulatory framework - eg native veg
- Landscape Act is more around transparency of funding and spending
- Investments have to be accessible and understandable to levy payers
- Focus needs to be on the activities

    - Eg AW NRM Board - manage pests and weeds, not surveying species
    - Need to focus on the action words - restoration, leading to on farm productivity and biodiversity
    - But further down the track could look at regulatory system
    - But significant risks around this

Goal is to enhance triple bottom line - need to make sure biodiversity is there as an outcome

- Be explicit that enhancing biodiversity is an outcome we want to achieve

- Key areas of funding are the three basics but there's also a broader range of stewardship activities needed
- Language of back to basics and description of basics – noted that this is where NRM came from, but are these the things we need going forward, or do we need to complement them?
    - 4 assets 2 threats is a really good way of capturing things
        - Assets: Land, water, biodiversity, people
        - Threats: Climate, pests

What we've heard to date

Becky Hirst shared feedback from community forums – Partners reflected on this, noting a range of similarities and differences across the state. Some key topics discussed included:

- Back to basics and how does biodiversity fit in
- Board Elections
- Funding
- Aboriginal engagement
- Connection with planning legislation

Priorities for NRM Partners

1. Hear from each partner what the non-negotiables are?
2. Statewide coordination
3. Funding
4. Elections and board structures
5. How partners could help with the targeted engagement process on key parts of the draft Bill

Partners discussed some key sticking points for their sectors

- LGA supports many elements of the reform, but they don't want local government to continue collecting the levy on behalf of state government
    - Willing to have a discussion with the Minister about this
    - Current regulations place a ceiling on how much recompense a board provides to councils for collecting the levy – this doesn't cover the costs of councils in collecting the levy, and should be closer to the state government's costs of collecting the Emergency Service Levy
    - Levy-related debt is also an issue for councils – they carry debt if a levy payer doesn't pay their levies – no compensation from boards for this
    - Also a fundamental issue of local govt collecting a tax on behalf of state government
- PPSA:
    - Election of board members
        - Ability to recruit new board members is key
    - Use of Levy funds
        - If water planning and management cost recovery is still in place, it will be a problem
        - Also boards need to have assurance they have control of their budgets
- CCSA:
    - Biodiversity and landscape resilience, restoration - clear placement of that in core frame
    - Hard to embrace reform if that's not in the mix
    - Operational separation of Boards from DEW
    - Focus on genuine shared planning and devolved delivery
- PPSA: don't disagree with any of those points from CCSA

Statewide coordination - what would that look like

- Some coordination across regions would be valuable, but doesn't necessarily need a big stick – enable regions to get together and agree common approaches
    - Need to support local decision-making, but some common approaches would be valuable
    - A state landscape plan could identify key statewide issues while allowing local flexibility around how to handle these
    - Eg abundant species- little corellas relevant in some regions but not others

- PPSA would look for coordination and transparency rather than harmonisation of levies
- Is 5 years the right timeframe for regional plans? Planning can be resource heavy and might not need to be updated regularly, but in some cases might need to change more regularly
- Is the regional plan a plan for community and the region, or just for the board?
    - Need some clarity around this
    - SAMDB want to have a plan for the region, but the board needs to be really clear about what it will invest in and how it will work with others
- **Partners all agreed** that a statewide advisory board would be valuable:
    - formalised, including all PMs, plus partners (PPSA, CCSA, LASA, LGA, SANTS)
    - really good for boards and two way communication with the Minister
    - might be a final filter for funding applications, and set criteria for the funding
    - independent chair?

Funding

Grassroots Grants: $$ too low? Would boards scrap own funds or run in parallel?

- $2m should come out of Green Adelaide and disperse out to regions

Landscape Fund: could this all come from Green Adelaide too? Depends how much? Easier than taking a slice of funds from each region

- Simpler process, more acceptable, more consistent with principles of decentralisation
- Or could come from state govt appropriation
- Would statewide fund have to be spent every year? Could save it up for investment over time?
- Don't want to accumulate funds over time to prop up State Government's budget bottom line – should be fully spent on landscape management issues
- Could leverage some fed funding?

Water planning and management charges

- Currently hidden - is it intention of landscapes act - not transparent currently
- Compromises Boards' ability to have control over budgets and staff
- If we could say water planning charge will not continue that would be a massive win for communities

What is going to be common across the board?

- Need clarity on this - eg some boards invest in stuff that DEW also does
- Landscapes scope will also affect DEW
- What does decentralisation mean, and then what falls through the cracks? Eg weed and pest control in national parks
- State govt levy for national parks?
- But tricky for boards who get state A funding (i.e. KI, AW, SAAL) - conflicting drivers for how that state A funding should be spent – not the same as levies
    - And Commonwealth funding has different priorities and drivers

Targeted engagement on draft Bill - with NRM Partners would be a key group

Collaboration: if Minister wants to discuss reasoning, we could be involved in that
Minister really keen on simplicity - Partners need to be mindful of this
Regulations?

- Cf mining legislation: doing contentious issues first and getting drafts out for discussion - could help shorten timeframes

<u>Next steps:</u>

- Notes to be written up and form part of engagement process (Becky's report)
- Sectors might want to consult member groups further
- Partners group very willing to be involved in testing ideas or providing advice on options if Minister wants it

PHASE: **FOCUSED CONVERSATION EVENT**
SESSION: **FOUR NATIONS**
TIME/DATE: **9.30AM - 12PM – 11 OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **JON**

The Four Nations workshop was held to consider specifically the way Aboriginal Nations (Kaurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri) are affected by proposed reforms to the Adelaide Mounty Lofty Ranges Region (AMLR).

While not all Aboriginal Nations were represented (some representatives were unable to attend due to competing commitments), a broad range of views and interests were present for the workshop.

Attendees:

- Merle Simpson, Jeffrey Newchurch, Justin Piesley, Buster Turner (Kaurna)
- Quentin Agius (Ngadjuri)
- Parry Agius (Presiding Member AW Board)
- Michael Field, Andy Raymond (DEW)
- Marty Reeve (Adelaide City Council)

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

Jon Bok provided an overview of the consultation material utilised in community sessions, which captured the key reforms applicable to the AMLR and Four Nations.

The group went on to explore the following topics in greater detail –

1. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, AMLR boundaries *(BH to delete as appropriate – some sessions may vary)*
2. **Engagement** – How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?

1. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The creation of three new regions introduces some complexity for each of the Four Nations groups, both individually and collectively
- Based on likely boundaries, the new regions will intersect numerous cultural boundaries (as in accordance with native title determinations/claims):

Landscape SA Region	Aboriginal Nations
Plains and Valleys	Kaurna, Ngadjuri, Peramangk
Green Adelaide	Kaurna
Hills and Fleurieu	Kaurna, Peramangk, Ngarrindjeri

- Each of the Four Nations groups also have interests in at least one other Landscape SA Region
- Workshop attendees identified the potential demands of the time of cultural knowledge holders in contributing to program and project planning and delivery, and the need for a longer-term commitment to resourcing which would support inclusion
- The Four Nations grouping, initially related to the AMLR Region, was recognised as an important point of reference on high-level policy and program matters affecting the former AMLR region, or on larger-scale projects affecting all groups
- It was also recognised that most projects will occur within one group's recognised boundary (utilising native title boundaries). In these circumstances, each group deals with its own members in providing cultural advice or other input
- Where projects overlap boundaries, there is an agreed protocol that all groups with an interest are involved

- A coordinated approach to engagement with the Four Nations groups was identified as a priority, to make the most effective use of people's time and input

The notes below are written up verbatim.

2. GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

This part of the forum was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the proposed role of the future Landscape Boards, and to provide the opportunity to explore the board membership and their accountabilities. This section also enabled discussion to occur around the priorities of Green Adelaide and things participants felt the Minister should consider regarding new boundaries in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty region.

2.1 Board Representation

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Water.

COMMENTS MADE:

- Other issue; alignment with Heritage Act.
- Question: will there be at least one local Aboriginal representative on the Board? And also how?

2.3 Boundaries

The boundaries for the new Adelaide regions are not yet drawn. As part of defining these boundaries, it may be relevant to consider adjusting the boundaries of other regions adjacent to the new Adelaide regions.

What are the top 5 things that you'd like the Minister to know about boundaries affecting either your region, or beyond?

Table 1
• **NOTES**: Cultural landscape perspective: more than just 1 or 2 nations. How can Four Nations build on cultural landscape – into planning? • Kaurna native title determination as basis to consider boundaries – use this as things develop for other claims. 1. First Nations are a workable tool – system is in place – promote as a positive tool. 2. Build on strengths/structures: Four Nations: input; policy; budgets; programs. 3. Best use and impact at planning/policy level. 4. Four Nations – issue – resourcing. Need to make a workable tool. 5. Need to embed in day to day operations. Need vision – promote as something positive. Something Board can come to.

3. ENGAGEMENT

Participants were asked to consider how could Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects? They were asked what we should stop doing, what we should start doing and what we should consider doing. The following points were noted –

NOTES:

- Policy for engagement with Aboriginal Nations? This needs to be clarified
- Contracts/payment for Rangers.

- Embedded Aboriginal involvement in legislation.

STOP DOING	START DOING	CONTINUE DOING
Table 1		
• Issues with Councils not working to engage (e.g. no RAPS in some councils).	• Four Nations: focus on environment and water – Adv for Board (Aboriginal). • Dedicated budget from Levy for Aboriginal input/involvement in programs and projects: better engagement including with community – better relationships. • Need for inclusion in planning and delivery of projects.	• Opportunity to expand Kaurna Advisory Group (properly resourced decision making structure). • Resourcing to deliver support roles including internal (Department) support – how to engage?

PHASE: **FOCUSSED CONVERSATION**
SESSION: **NATIVE TITLE PBCs**
TIME/DATE: **10AM ~ 1:30PM - 11TH OCTOBER 2018**
FACILITATORS: **JON**

Representatives from a diverse range of South Australian Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) participated in the focused conversation.

Jon Bok advised attendees that Minister David Spiers was unable to attend as originally planned due to a conflicting commitment. Leonie Paulson (Policy Advisor) from the Minister's Office attended.

FOCUSED CONVERSATION

The group were provided an overview of materials used to support the community consultations, covering the following reform topics –

1. **Governance & Planning** – Discussion regarding board representation, board accountability, Green Adelaide functions and priorities, ALMR boundaries
2. **Engagement** - How should Landscape SA boards engage with their communities in planning, delivering and evaluating natural resource management programs and projects?
3. **Funding –** Discussion regarding levies, Landscape Priorities Fund, Grassroots program

Conversation then focussed on the following aspects of the reforms:

1. **Priorities** – what are the things you would like the reform to achieve for natural resource management in your regions?
2. **What's already working well** – What are the things that are currently working well and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

The following points were summarised and relayed to attendees in closing the focused conversation

- Aboriginal Nations' involvement in NRM (LSA Act) must be formalised – it can't be left as a decision of a Board or Staff (some Boards are not interested in engaging).
- Use the existing structures for representation and decision making (e.g. Ngarrindjeri, Narungga agreements, Native Title PBCs).
- Secure and sustainable resourcing is needed to support long-term Aboriginal involvement (Aboriginal people in it for the long haul).
- Understand the value that this resourcing creates – on ground outcomes – relationships/partnerships.
- At least one and preferably two Aboriginal people with connection to the region to be on the Board.
- Draw on and formalise (including resourcing) the successful Advisory Board/Committee models used already (SW, Kaurna) to embed Aboriginal involvement in strategy, policy, planning and project delivery.
- Look for commercial opportunities for Aboriginal Nations in NRM projects.
- Recognise and work to address barriers to Native Title holders to generate income/economic benefit from NT land.
- Service delivery is not a complete partnership – partnership is Aboriginal Nations taking a lead role.
- Need for cultural awareness at Rangers, Board and Departmental level.
- Strong accountability back to community – monitoring and evaluation.

SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR THE MINISTER TO CONSIDER:

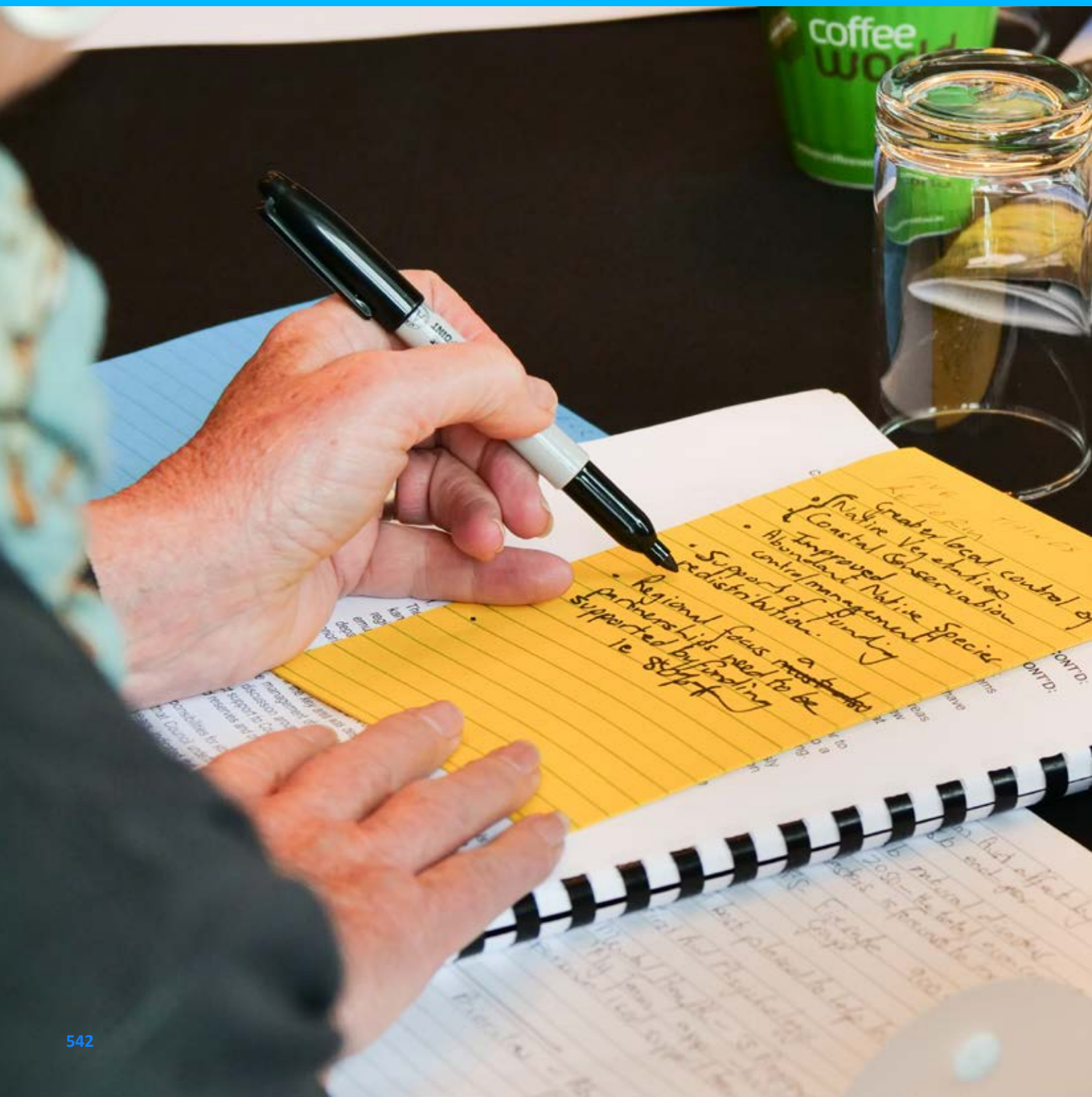
- State wide Aboriginal Advisory Group on NRM – NT PBCs to be involved – build on strengths – better link to Government.
- Workshop to consider all aspects of Aboriginal Nation's involvement in all legislation under the Minister's portfolio (recognise how Aboriginal business is integrated in NRM).
- Need to reconsider water (ground and surface) in relation to NT rights.
- Clarify position on co-management from Advisory Group – handback.
- Rangers to include Sea Rangers.

The notes below are written up verbatim from the first focussed conversation session (notes recorded by the facilitator).

Notes:

- Government needs to use existing Ngarrindjeri agreement.
- Previously: State –Wide Advisory Group – status?
- Aboriginal procurement policy implementation – need to improve.
- Question: Rangers (current commitment 2 x Aboriginal Rangers per year for 3 x years).
- Question: Position on handback – also transition from Advisory Board to co-management – then handback.
- Issue: First Nations in for long haul. Government and agencies short-term focus. Longer term planning required.
- Don't want to become service deliver agency – not a lead role.
- Partnership is taking a lead role.
- Need Aboriginal body to work on issues across the State – to work with Boards.
- Representation: at least one Aboriginal person on Boards.
- Advisory Group with shared membership (two-way communication).
- Problem with recognition of Aboriginal culture – had the basics – had the connection.
- First Nations not part of the action, kept out of picture.
- Disconnect between Ministerial responsibility and Aboriginal involvement – Aboriginal business integrated with NRM.
- IPA model for Rangers **vs** Rangers in NRM (not involved in the same way).
- Need confidence that involvement of Aboriginal people is understood.
- Secure funding/resourcing for Aboriginal Nations involvement including support for Aboriginal representatives on Boards.
- Issue: groundwater needs to be back on the table.
- Premier should not be afraid of Aboriginal advisory structures in place.
- Question: Aboriginal Action Plan?
- Concern: How will reforms impact resourcing?
- Issue: Water extraction for commercial purposes without Aboriginal (NT) consent (on property).
- Native Title rights to water has not been suitably addressed.
- Commercial opportunities for Aboriginal people in the 'Back to Basics' work e.g. pest plants/animals.
- Pursue Commonwealth funding e.g. stalled IPA applications.
- Issue: Cost of grant applications ($8K).
- Co-management – Parks/Native Title – not just NPWA – all under ministerial representation. Workshop process (state wide/national) from Parks Advisory Committee to co-management.
- Issue: Timing and process to support Board attendance (e.g. 1 month wait).
- Issue: Time required to participate and resourcing provided (reasonable costs).
- Ranger recruitment – Aboriginal involvement in selection.
- Issue: Native Title rights and ability to generate income – constraints in creating income.
- Change legislation around animal management e.g. kangaroos to accommodate Aboriginal community needs/circumstances.
- Limitations on sharing resources or providing work (shooters and community). e.g. wording (primary producers – needs to add Aboriginal TOs/NT).
- Opportunity: Land and Sea Rangers. SA coastline not recognised.
- Cultural awareness for Rangers, Boards and Departments.

8.5 | Reports From Staff-led Engagement With Community



PHASE: **STAFF-LED ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **North Flinders NRM Group**
DATE: **9/10/2018**
LOCATION: **Via phone**

Attendees –

Matthew Westover, staff facilitator, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

Brendon Bevan, Ian Ferguson, Lesley Nicholls, Kate Blackmore, Reg Wilton, Ngatina Purnell-Webb and Norton Warnest

Ngatina and Ian both attended the forum in Leigh Creek.

Staff facilitator summary of session

As community members who have been active in driving NRM in their area, the North Flinders NRM Group wanted to prepare a submission to the Landscapes SA consultation. Not all members were able to attend the public session in Leigh Creek.

The group felt that the NRM group model was helping to achieve most of the five principals and felt that this model represents decentralised decision making. The group hope this reform will result in better collaboration across regions. They welcomed the idea of a back to basics approach but also felt that methods used in pest plant and animal control should be best practice and monitoring needs to back that up.

What we heard

The group undertook three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

- What are the **top five things you would like the reform to achieve** for natural resource management in your region?
- What are the **top five things that are currently working well** and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
- The **5 Principles of the reform** - What does this principle mean to you? Does it resonate? How might it address the priorities we've identified?
- **Measuring success** - If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM – WHAT WE WOULD LIKE THE REFORM TO ACHIEVE

Each participant was asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The group then shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

Cross border collaboration	**Aboriginal Engagement**
• Better communication between districts and regions • Working together	• Would like to see greater involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM • Develop the bushfood industry (potential income stream for landholders and more involvement with Aboriginal people.

Feral Animal Management • Have staff working across multiple species rather than specialising in just one • Provide baits for other species (foxes, cats, pigs) at Wild Dog injection services	**NRM** • A less reactive system • A more efficient and streamlined system
Compliance • There needs to be accountability and some teeth to back up the act.	**Community engagement** • Continued and better community engagement

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each participant was asked to write down the top five things that are currently working well in natural resource management. The group then shared these with each other, grouping them in to themes together.

NRM Group model • Working well x3 • Gives more people a better understanding of NRM • Groups are supported by the board • Diverse range of people on the groups • Group model needed in such a large region	**Training and workshops** • NRM putting on a range of different workshops. • Providing positive education through workshops and bringing people together

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The group discussed the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform in relation to how their priorities might be addressed within each principle.

Commentary included –

Decentralised decision making

- Agree with principal x1
- Boards need to remain balanced in terms of knowledge and electing members may change that.
- Staff need to be regionally based and people who have local knowledge and networks.
- Agree, people in the field have a better understanding of NRM issues.

A simple and accessible system

- Agree with principal x3
- There needs to be better access to information
- Yes, keep it streamlined and efficient

Community and land owners at the centre

- Agree with principal
- District group model achieves this
- District groups play a role in this, and groups must be diverse

Back to basics

- Need to maintain a focus on feral predator control
- Needs to be sound methods. Collect data to ensure methods are achieving results
- There still needs to be a focus on threatened wildlife species
- Needs to be a focus on kangaroo control

A whole of landscape approach

- Agree with principal
- Projects should be carried out in water catchments and go across boundaries
- EMU (soil conservation) project was a good example
- Crucial in NRM work but accountability is needed to ensure everyone participates

4. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was two years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Not many people in South Australia understand NRM and what their levy does. A measure of success would be increasing that awareness.	Need to have good data about change in all aspects (budgets, employment, pest species, native species etc) Monitor change over time

PHASE: **STAFF-LED ENGAGEMENT**
SESSION: **North East Pastoral NRM Group**
DATE: **12/10/2018**
LOCATION: **Manna Hill Hotel**

Attendees –

Matthew Westover, staff facilitator, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

NRM Group Members Present:
Richard Williams, Nick Rasheed and David Sawers.

NRM Group Members not present but were invited to contribute:
Sanchia Treloar, Kurt Tschirner, Byron Crawford and Terrance Coulthard.

Other DEW staff present:
Peter Watkins, Ranger in charge at Bimbowrie Conservation Park
Chris Fulton, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

Staff facilitator summary of session

As community members who have been active in driving NRM in their area, the North East Pastoral NRM Group wanted to prepare a submission to the Landscapes SA consultation. Not all members were able to attend the public session in Yunta.

The North East Pastoral NRM Group felt that a lot of the priorities are being achieved by NRM groups who are local decision makers and raising awareness of NRM in their district. They also felt that funding needs to be equitably distributed across the landscape, irrespective of where the levy is collected.

What we heard

The group undertook three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

- What are the **top five things you would like the reform to achieve** for natural resource management in your region?
- What are the **top five things that are currently working well** and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
- The **5 Principles of the reform** - What does this principle mean to you? Does it resonate? How might it address the priorities we've identified?
- **Measuring success** - If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM – WHAT WE WOULD LIKE THE REFORM TO ACHIEVE

Each participant was asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The group then shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

Funding	**Boards**
• More funding going into on ground programs	• Amalgamate the dog fence board with Landscapes boards so one entity is responsible for all aspects of dog control

• Corporate service charge paid to the department is unfair to levy payers and impacts larger regions with a small levy base • Funds need to be spread equitably across the state and not just spent where the money is collected • Levies collected in densely populated areas should be used to support the region	
Tourism • Have a focus on tourism impacts. • The state is promoting tourism but not investing in addressing the impacts (erosion, roads, rubbish etc)	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each participant was asked to write down the top five things that are currently working well in natural resource management. The group then shared these with each other, grouping them in to themes together.

NRM System	NRM Group model
• The current system is working well, it just needs more funding	• Not sure how NRM would work in remote areas without NRM groups. • NRM groups have raised the profile of NRM in the regions.

3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The group discussed the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform in relation to how their priorities might be addressed within each principle.

Commentary included –

Decentralised decision making

- Already being done by the board and its NRM groups
- Needs to be done carefully in remote areas so not to overload people who are active in other parts of the community
- Majority of decision makers are city based and don't have an understanding of living in remote areas

A simple and accessible system

- Need to have regionally based staff who spend more time in the field
- Need to have more longer-term funding sources to invest longer term in issues
- Needs a clearer way of prioritising what introduced species are invested in. Funding priorities change before an issue is fully dealt with

Community and land owners at the centre

- Agree, people living and working in the regions will make the best decisions
- Still needs to be well funded to support decisions

Back to basics

- Yes, makes sense

A whole of landscape approach

- Already happening most of the time
- Baiting services for wild dogs need to be free of charge across the whole state

4. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was two years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Tough to measure. Most NRM issues require long term solutions and cannot be measured in a few years.

PHASE:	**DEW staff consultation**
SESSION:	**POINT PEARCE**
TIME/DATE	**11am – 1.30pm 24th October 2018**
FACILITATOR:	**Lachlan Sutherland**

NOTE: Point Pearce requested time to consider what they have put forward. Lachlan has provided Ed Newchurch with a copy of the below summary and asked him to get back to him with any comments as soon as possible.

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 10 participants from the Point Pearce Aboriginal Community and a representative from the Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation participated in the session.

The Coastal zone

- Because of the way Narungga Country (Yorke Peninsula) was colonised by Europeans the only areas not held freehold occur along the coastal fringe.
- The coast was a recurring topic during the session and Narungga see this zone as key to caring for their cultural heritage, engagement in natural resources management and pursuing economic development opportunities (tourism, ranger employment, visitor management, native plant harvesting).
- NRM and the coastal zone held opportunities to address the high unemployment of the Aboriginal community on Narungga Country
- Narungga seek access to, and care and control of Crown Lands along their coastlines (currently under care and control of local government)

Inclusion

- Point Pearce noted there are no NRM engagement initiatives currently in place
- NRM needs to engage the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and come to Point Pearce and involve the community in NRM engagement
- Community sought continued commitment from Northern and Yorke Board for the proposed Narungga Healthy Country Planning process
- Community sought transparent communication from the Board

Engagement

- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Point Pearce seek Landscapes Boards to partner with Aboriginal communities, bringing them in at the very start of projects and through to their completion
- Aboriginal Nations and communities need to be recognised as NRM partners, just like primary producers

Resourcing and support

- Dedicated funding needs to be made available for Aboriginal led and controlled projects
- Community seeks employment and training opportunities

Economic development

- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Point Pearce community raised concerns with the way local Council manage roadside vegetation (prefer DPTI managed approach to use of chainsaws not local Council use of hydro axe)
- Point Pearce and Narungga Nation want access to the roadside vegetation for seed collection and timber collection purposes
- Seek support from government to secure contracts to manage roadside vegetation

Board membership

- Landscapes Boards need dedicated and identified Aboriginal members (not skills based)
- It was suggested that one male and one female member was needed
- Aboriginal board members needed to be appropriately qualified in terms of being strong, knowledgeable, experienced and inclusive and they need to know what's happening on Country

Aboriginal advisory body

- The group considered that Aboriginal advisory bodies like those in the South East and Eyre Peninsula could provide support to the Aboriginal Board member
- Body could lead putting proposals to the Board and look for funding

Elections

- Concerns about who would be eligible to be elected. Would there be any barriers to Aboriginal people nominating
- No support for election process.

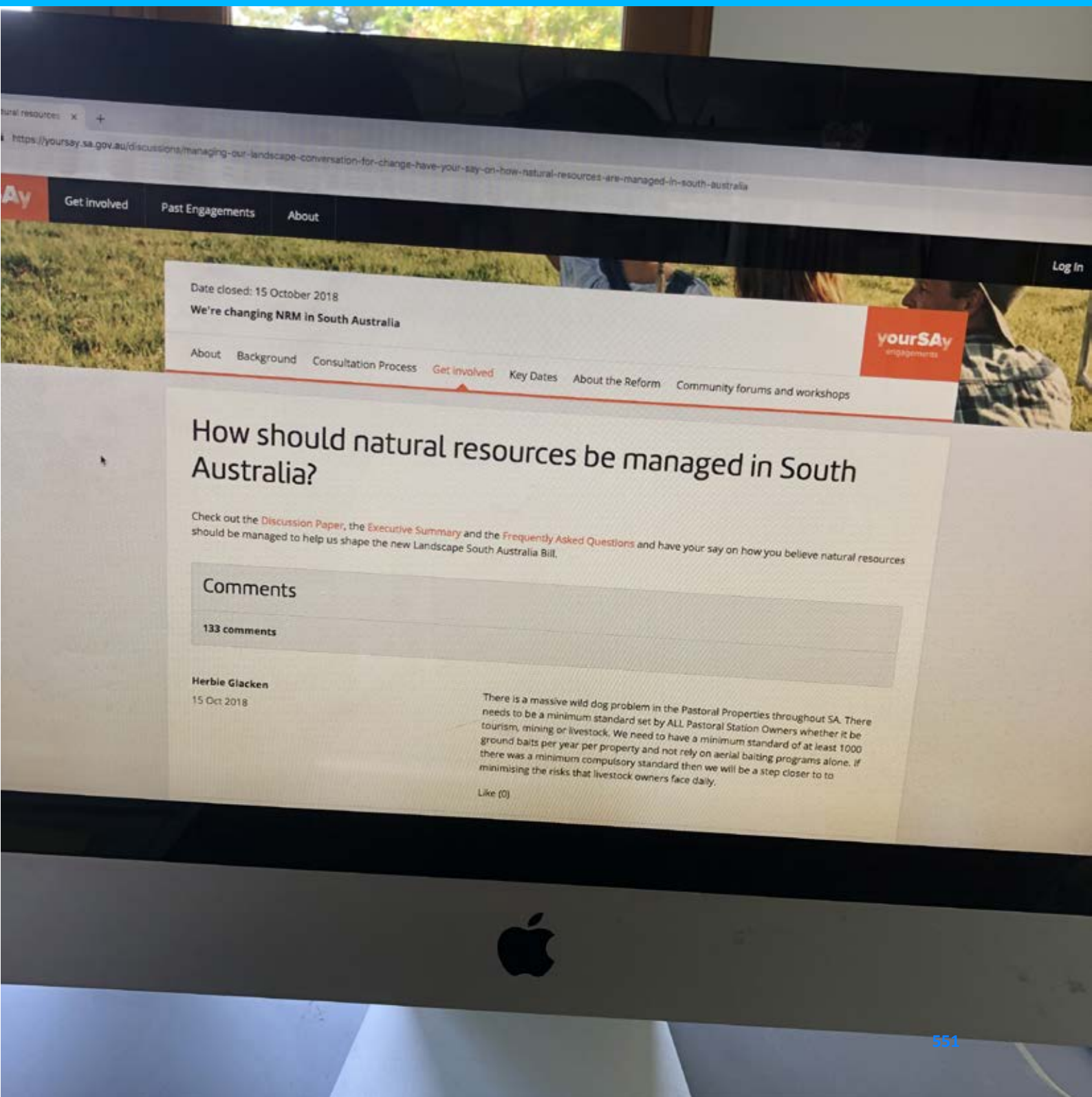
Accountability

- NRM Board has not been accountable to Narungga Nation or Point Pearce community
    - Only small help for the Indigenous Protected Area at Wardang Island
- Need to start communicating, coming to Point Pearce and meeting with Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Transparent dissemination of information is required so Point Pearce knows what is available, what opportunities exist and where we can step in. Information on grant and funding opportunities distributed when they 'first' released.
- Accountability means developing meaningful and sustainable projects in partnership between Point Pearce, NRM and Narungga Nation.

What success looks like?

- Economic development through NRM is occurring
- Point Pearce and Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation get first options on any small projects (e.g. weed eradication, roadside vegetation control)
- Income for local families and small businesses established to care for Country
- Ventures on our Country involving tourism
- Road side and pest plant and animal control contracts
- Care and control of the coastal zone – Coastal ranger program.

8.6 | Online Commentary Via YourSay



Register of comments made via YourSAy

Date received	Given name	Family name	Organisation, if specified
24 July 2018	Steve	Coombe	
24 July 2018	Paul	Turner	
25 July 2018	Di	Delaine	
25 July 2018	Elspeth	McKinnon	
25 July 2018	Andrew	Allanson	
27 July 2018	Natalie	Gentle	
29 July 2018	Marcelle	Muller	
30 July 2018	Dolores	Amos	
30 July 2018	Gerry	Thompson	
30 July 2018	Mandy	Hank	
30 July 2018	Glenys	Perri	
31 July 2018	Kristy	Bennetts	
31 July 2018	Margherita	Campbell	
31 July 2018	David	Coulter	
1 Aug 2018	Derek	Walter	
1 Aug 2018	John	Stafford	
1 Aug 2018	Ida	Moore	
1 Aug 2018	Allan	Sumner	
2 Aug 2018	Kate	Hubmayer	
3 Aug 2018	Peter	Croft	
3 Aug 2018	Melissa	Priest	City of Holdfast Bay
3 Aug 2018	Kate	Washington	
3 Aug 2018	Cheryl	Zampin	
3 Aug 2018	Jo	Gebhardt	
6 Aug 2018	Barbara	Randell	
6 Aug 2018	Lee	Williams	
7 Aug 2018	Paul	Gibbs	
8 Aug 2018	Sue	Oldfield	
9 Aug 2018	David	Leach	
10 Aug 2018	Betty Sue	Smith	
10 Aug 2018	Patricia	Rogers	
15 Aug 2018	Deb	Downes	
15 Aug 2018	Kym	McKay	
15 Aug 2018	Jenni	McGlennon	
15 Aug 2018	Stephen	Fuller	
16 Aug 2018	Julia	Peacock	
21 Aug 2018	Tanya	Taverner	
22 Aug 2018	Michael	Phillips	
23 Aug 2018	Ron	Blacker	
26 Aug 2018	Sharon	Zivkovic	
27 Aug 2018	Dan	Bailey	
29 Aug 2018	Dale	Sutton	
6 Sep 2018			The Barossa Council
8 Sep 2018	Jane	Humphrey	
9 Sep 2018	Carol	Cornish	
11 Sep 2018	Julie	Fiedler	Horse SA
14 Sep 2018	Prue	Coulls	
24 Sep 2018	Domenica	Thomson	
29 Sep 2018	Nicky	Page	
3 Oct 2018	Rod	McKenzie	
4 Oct 2018			Coast Protection Board
4 Oct 2018	Julie	Jordan	
4 Oct 2018	Melinda	Brindle	
5 Oct 2018	Michela	Skipp	
5 Oct 2018	Robert	Lawrance	
8 Oct 2018	Chris	Blaikie	
8 Oct 2018	Richard	Stott	
9 Oct 2018	Paul	Maraun	
9 Oct 2018	Debra	Simmons	
9 Oct 2018	Anonymous	Respect	
13 Oct 2018	Alex	Lourie	
14 Oct 2018	Rose	Dow	
15-Oct-18	Sara	Hourez	
15-Oct-18	Ruth	Sommerville	
15-Oct-18	Gayl	Males	
15-Oct-18	Lee	Williams	
15-Oct-18	Neil	Collins	
15-Oct-18	Herbie	Glacken	

Herbie Glacken

15 Oct 2018

There is a massive wild dog problem in the Pastoral Properties throughout SA. There needs to be a minimum standard set by ALL Pastoral Station Owners whether it be tourism, mining or livestock. We need to have a minimum standard of at least 1000 ground baits per year per property and not rely on aerial baiting programs alone. If there was a minimum compulsory standard then we will be a step closer to to minimising the risks that livestock owners face daily.

Neil Collins

15 Oct 2018

The new Landscape South Australia Bill is an opportunity for a review of the current process and keep the good and improve the parts not working as well as they could. I really support the process the Minister has undertaken with independent consultants talking to people all round the state. Its a good start.

Points Summary:

Enabling greater leadership by Aboriginal peoples
Having been associated with Aboriginal groups managing their own lands the reform aims are encouraging
• SA has the only full Aboriginal Board in Australia and it is a model that other first nations around the world can see works and should not be lost. A change without good reason that the first Nations people see is real sends the wrong message
• Have Aboriginal representation on all Boards and a way of these leaders getting together with other program areas (health, employment, community programs) regularly to help the Ministers chart direction would be to the Government and communities advantage
• All Landscape Boards need an achievable Aboriginal employment target as part of Boards measurable targets and have a long term employment strategy with Board programs
• Getting on country is one of the biggest issues for Aboriginal groups and cost effective support options are needed. Use lateral thinking. Local, interstate, international models exist to achieve this in a cost effective way
• There is a need for a long term strategy with many partners – no one can fund it all to support Aboriginal landholders and Nations achieve what they want on the ground
• Support cultural links to land as part of managing natural resource issues
• Inter-generational knowledge transfer is a legitimate use of LANDSCAPE resources

Resilient communities;
• There is a need for a long term strategy with many partners – no one can fund it all as the Minister has shown with the Cleland redevelopment. No one will give funds to government – let the Boards have their own budget at arm's length from the Department so they can chase down partners and NGO support for programs.
• The issue with the NRM process when it came under government and lost independent Boards was the loss of autonomy and "can do today" because of the red tape and bureaucratic ways of government. Set the direction, have sensible monitoring tools (ie $30000 for Auditing costs for each Board in 2014 was a ridiculous waste given the budget size) and give them their budget to manage and use as a kick start to get other funds in.
• An independent Board head (really think about what the title should be to give it status) will have more status to talk directly to industry heads.
• Let the Boards look for the opportunities and be flexible and dynamic – keeping the Minister informed so there are no surprises.
• By all means have Board members elected but have the skill base required as prerequisites to ensure considered decisions on natural resource issues and community involvement are made.
• We are losing the inter-generational battle. How many of our children know why we need to look after the land? Give them a real voice at the table (as a board member or sponsored by a Board member) and as part of an education alliance. Having the environment in the psychic of the next generation of leaders and environmental outcomes will be part of the normal risk management of doing business.

Vibrant biodiversity and sustainable economy:
• This is a real opportunity to link all natural resource environmental legislation to the Landscape program and make it clearer for the community so there is really a streamlined program for getting projects going
• Link university biodiversity research supported by 3 tiers of government to Board outcomes that reflect state and national biodiversity outcomes
• LANDSCAPE Boards can have a landscape overview about a sustainable economy based on a vibrant biodiversity if the right skills are represented on the board.
• It will be much better ecologically and economically if cross regional funding can be undertaken for high priority landscape programs
• Enable landscape natural resource links to sister programs in Australia and Internationally to flourish (as with sister city programs for local government)
• Really ensure that NGOs and the Boards have the support to work together to develop a landscape with resilience to climate change.

More detail on points:

Enabling greater leadership by Aboriginal peoples

SA has the only full Aboriginal Board in Australia and it is a model that other first nations around the world can see works and should not be lost. Aboriginal representation on all Boards and a way of these leaders getting together regularly to help the Minister chart direction would be to the Governments advantage and issues can discussed early. It is a privileged for all members of the Boards to be there so if any member does not meet their obligations deal with this through governance and support – not through changes in regulation.

Work with Aboriginal communities to get on ground and employment outcomes. Get local employment going, look at some of the groups working in industry and looking after land around Australia and see the common threads. Employment in real jobs, training that lead to that employment that has both skill and mentoring backup, managing their own businesses and learning to contract, being accountable and having access to work sites, integration of other programs, understanding of external issues that may affect performance.
There is a need for a long term strategy with many partners – no one can fund it all to support Aboriginal landholders and Nations to achieve what they want to achieve on the ground. Without a long term employment strategy the current knowledge will be lost as the intergenerational knowledge is dying out, people can't get out on county, and as with other parts of society the link to the land is going.
The AW NRM region used to have an Aboriginal employment target and the support team had to report on their progress to achieve this target. This should be across all regions and "unless you can measure it you can't meet a target" needs to be part of the new LANDSCAPE approach. It doesn't need to be a large target to start with but it needs to be there or things wont change.

Why do we need to spend so much of the limited funding available on leases of new cars when with links to TAFE we could have older cars fixed by TAFE courses, certified as road worthy and out there being used and put funds where they are really needed - to employ people and provide materials.

There are great examples around SA and Australia and First Nations around the world of really good work done and where good work can be done if the right support is given. (ie see work done in the far west coast of SA, on the Coorong, up on the Murray River, IPA programs in the APY Lands, in the mountain ranges of Queensland, the blue mountains, on the barrier reef, Vancouver Island biosphere, Bolivia floating reed communities)

Resilient communities;

The issue with the NRM process when it came under a government department and not independent Boards filled with local expertise was the loss of autonomy and "can do today" because of the red tape and bureaucratic ways of government. It is a safer way to tie things up in red tape but if you really want a change let the people linked

to the earth get on with it and have the LANDSCAPE Act there to advise and find ways to achieve what the community wants.

The Boards need energy and the "can do" people there to help the LANDSCAPE process. You want dynamic people there who know their time is not wasted as busy people have too much to do to be on a Board that does little. Not saying this is the case now – there is a need to take a calculated risk, give the Boards the right governance tools and have some mandatory reporting requirements and then let the Boards achieve the outcomes their way and support them. While it is good to have advice – knowledge builds from many sources and government advice should be just that – advice to consider.

Look for the opportunities and be flexible and dynamic. (ie where is the Twiggy Forrest Aboriginal employment program in NRM in SA?) BHP funds many programs – where is a coordinated approach to linking them to employment programs for the long term in natural resource landscape management that will help them meet their rehabilitation and offset targets.

While it is good to have advice – knowledge builds from many sources and government advice should be just that – advice to consider.

We are losing the inter-generational environmental battle. How many of our children know why we need to look after the land? There are shining examples of youth doing good work to support sustainable programs but where is their voice – how will the reforms give them a real voice – not just linked to the charity of a board but a real voice at the table and part of an education alliance to get the environment back into the psychic of the next generation of leaders so the environmental outcomes are part of the risk management of doing business.
The Boards need to be able to take up matters with the Minister independently of the support network they have – not through that network. In this way the Minister gets the message direct (as hard as it maybe to receive) and both parties can work towards bettering the natural resource issues of the state

Let the Boards get links to funders and have this as a measurable requirement. An independent Board head (really think about what the title should be to give it status) will have more status to industry heads.

Vibrant biodiversity and environmental change;

A lot of work has been done by existing Boards in this area. Plans are there – they may need some more consultation but issues appear more about implementation and priorities on limited budgets than actual plan direction.

It is strongly recommended that if any review is to be done then do it in parallel and at a fixed budget and timeline or nothing will happen while the review occurs and communities will be further disenfranchised.

thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Neil Collins

Lee Williams

15 Oct 2018

I hope all contributors to this reform look back in many years to come, with the destination in sight and the journey manageable.
we all need to take responsibility for how we impact our landscape. Owners, managers, observers and rule makers and community. In my conversations about the reform over the last couple of months. ONE big hurdle, compliance..came up time and time again.... same names, same issues..(as it has done for years.) This reform MUST address this. No-one person/company or agency should be able to blatantly disregard the rules, and not be made accountable. no-one should be able to pay their way out of non compliance. We all should be following the same rule book. Little gains, and great efforts from many can be compromised by a few. This is really important, many of our vulnerable and endangered species (including hard working humans)need our commitment to continue, and thrive, or become extinct, or see hard earnt money/income/levies/taxes wasted because we didn't put enough effort into effective compliance. Lets support and encourage all South Aussies to enjoy our landscape and environment, whether directly on ground or as decision makers. I agree with all contributors, we all want it to be nurtured and enhanced well into the future, good leadership and clear direction, precise goals and a bit of reflection along the way, to address any "fix ups" necessary. Minister Speirs and to all present and future new board members, current and future department staff, and the future Minister of the day, please sort the compliance backlog!!! this needs to happen to go forward.
Lee Williams

Landscape Reform Team > Lee Williams

08 Aug 2018

Thanks for your useful feedback Lee which will be taken into account. It’s good to hear you have booked in to attend a community forum session next month to further share your views. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gayl Males

15 Oct 2018

There have been some amazing, well thought out and considered comments on the proposed changes and it is great that people have taken the opportunity to have their say. Many of these comments question how the new Boards will be elected - and maybe we should ask at what cost - and that questions if those with vested or business/commercial interests and are well known in the community because of their high profile will be elected. Will the bigger picture be the focus, or will they be elected on platforms that suit their own purposes.

People are not bound by where they physically live but also have an strong interest in where they have other connections - with particular national parks or conservation areas, they may visit regularly the same region, they may own or rent holiday houses, or they travel long distances to participate in conservation activities, for example. What opportunities will they have for input?

Protecting our biodiversity, and in particular our threatened plant and animal species, should be a priority - extinction is forever and sadly Australia leads the way in losing species. Natural habitat retention and protection is critical, and supporting land managers to provide corridors must be encouraged, and opportunities to live with our unique wildlife must be encouraged even when there are issues - find solutions that work rather than, for example, burying wombats alive or shooting/poisoning eagles. Do we want our children and their children to only see native animals in wildlife parks or a few protected, isolated conservation zones. Without enough natural habitat more animals will continue to become endangered or go extinct.

I trust that the big picture of natural resource management will consider biodiversity protection, climate change, what currently works under the existing system with plenty of positive interaction from NRM staff with the community with their knowledge and commitment, and tweak those areas needing more work. I hope the proposed Boards won't just look at their local issues but interact with each other so that landscape management really is a single entity across the whole state, as many issues cannot be simply managed by arbitrarily drawn boundaries.

Thank you for giving concerned people the opportunity to have their say on this important issue.

Ruth Sommerville

15 Oct 2018

There are many areas of concern within this reform. The intent of increasing the landscape scale focus and fostering a autonomous and decentralised local delivery arm for encouraging sustainable environmental management is a good one. However the current proposal is structural change for changes sake. The current model of the NRM Boards, that are locally based and private land focused, and the Department of Environment and Water, which is state and public land focused working together as one delivery organisation has had significant landscape scale outcomes for the Northern and Yorke Region. It has resulted in a unified approach to managing Pest and Weed populations across boundaries, developed landscape scale restoration projects and created a one stop shop for the community to engage in environmental management issues and enquiries. The centralisation of administration was a significant downfall of this amalgamation, but this could be ratified without the complete re-design of the system. The current NRM Boards do undertake regular, thorough and transparent strategic and business planning and this has not been acknowledged. The current board members are currently local community members, who are appointed by the minister but do nominate from the community they wish to represent. To undertake elections for this type of role will be costly and engagement by the community will be low.
I work with a number of sustainable agriculture and landcare groups and the amalgamated model has significantly improved the ease of engaging with the NRM board. There is a new hub of environmental and sustainable agriculture groups that has been created in Clare and this would not have been possible without the unified delivery model that has been operated for the past few years. Landscape scale restoration projects are now working on both National Parks and adjoining private land to significantly improve the outcomes of these projects. By separating the agencies again the cross boundary network that has been established will be threatened.
I am concerned by the proposed boundary changes for the Northern and Yorke Region. Although not specified in any of the documentation, a significant issue for a consultation process, it was mentioned at the engagement session held in Clare that the northern and southern boundaries for the NY region are under proposal to me moved. It was suggested that the southern boundary may move to remove the Clare and Gilbert Valley Council area and/or the Wakefield Regional Council to make the Adelaide Plains region more substantial. These two council areas make up the majority of the population of the Northern and Yorke and as such would have significant impacts on the functionality of the Northern and Yorke Region. The town of Clare is also a significant regional centre that if removed from the region would have a major impact on recruitment and engagement in the future board activities. On the northern boundary, to remove the town of Port Augusta and its coastline would not make logical sense for either the Arid Lands or the NY region, the issues faced in this proposed region align to those of the NY region, not those faced by

Arid Lands.
There have been many significant outcomes from our local NRM Board/DEWNR over the past 5 years and I feel that the documentation supporting the LandscapeSA reform does not acknowledge the work undertaken by the staff and community and undermines their actions of the past 5+yrs. There appears to be a focus on creating a new model of delivery rather than on review and modification of the current model which is starting to function well in our region after significant change in governance and delivery. Review and modification of programs and their delivery model is always a good process if undertaken with engaged stakeholders; change for the sake of change with undermining of past practices and lack of clarity around proposals and desired objectives has the potential to cost significantly both financially and in lost staff and communities.

Ruth Sommerville

15 Oct 2018

There will be confusion created by the name and resulting website due to a similarly branded SA based organisation, The Master Landscapers of SA https://landscapesa.com.au/

Landscape Reform Team > **Ruth Sommerville**

15 Oct 2018

Many thanks for pointing this out to us Ruth. We will ensure our communications and engagement team are aware.

Sara Hourez

15 Oct 2018

My experience with our local Natural Resources Management Board has been positive. There has been enthusiastic community involvement and wide community support for its broad range of successful projects. Many of these projects involved private landowners, local organisations and businesses, while others, such as Kangaroo Island Community Education, recently won a national award 'Best Regional School' by presenting their very successful partnership in their nomination. NRM projects have been embraced by the KI community in general and every annual report supports this statement. The only difficulty I have had was with the intimate involvement created between KI Natural Resources Management Board and Department of Environment and Water, the intertwining of resources, and the 'contractual' arrangements between the two entities.

Landscape SA offers to separate the two entities, providing clear delineation and thus, the community is able to determine, identify and recognise the valuable contribution both make, in very different ways, in the protecting our environment be it agricultural or natural.

Focus:
It is good to see that the discussion paper outlines the need for continued focus on bio-security (weeds, feral animals, diseases); re-vegetation; improving soil quality and water resources although marine pests, over-abundant native animals, habitat management, and innovation in farming practices are not mentioned. Bio-security is particularly important as once compromised, a very expensive operation to reverse.

It is important to mention that unfortunately KI is already losing, due to funding delays and government red-tape, the very people who have the expert skills and abilities to lead and advise. In addition to this, when families leave a remote and isolated location the whole community suffers, economically and socially.

Management Plan:
KI Natural Resources Management Board recently went through a thorough and extensive community consultation process to produce its regional management plan. A thorough document, The Plan provides not only evidence of extensive consultation but a comprehensive guide to locally identified priorities. This is a valuable and useful document not mentioned, nor referred to, in the discussion paper.

Climate Change:
Climate is mentioned three times in the 30 page document, that is, 'climate change', 'changing climate' and 'climatic changes'. This implies ignorance or at least, shortsightedness.

Statements:
Many of the statements made in the discussion paper are misleading as they are not supported by evidence, for example, the section - 'Why is reform necessary?' implies NRM work to date didn't target issues, didn't have partnerships, was unsuccessful, and failed to apply 'best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge along with a clear understanding of the community's aspirations..' This is clearly incorrect and somewhat disingenuous.

Evidence:
In other sections, such as 'community-led landscape management', there are statements promising 'greater', 'simpler', 'more substantial', 'more focus', 'less money spent' which are influential words but there is no evidence to support that care and due diligence was ever missing in the first place. This weakens the argument for the discussion paper.

Distance from government:
Distance from government is stressed throughout the discussion paper so how will this work for Kangaroo Island? Currently there is intimate involvement and administrative cross-over with DEW as KINRMB does not employ staff. As KI levy funding is so low, some $385k pa, how will this work effectively without increasing state supplementation? How will this iconic location, one of the national's huge environmental draw cards, be supported?

Board Membership:
I have some concerns regarding the proposed membership of the Landscape Boards. If an election process is undertaken then there is a distinct possibility that a person may campaign and be elected on a platform. This means that the collaborative and efficient operation of any NRM Board, as was my experience on Kangaroo Island, may be compromised by single issues.

It is unclear whether Board Members must be residents, and thus whether local knowledge along with skills, abilities and expertise, will be a prerequisite in the acceptance of nominations. There is a real possibility of non-residents having a major say in Board decisions.

General Comments:
I note that when the environment is mentioned it is consistently last in the phrase 'economic, social and environmental' as if the environment doesn't underpin all economic activity.

Engagement:
I wrote to the organisers and requested the local community forum be held outside of business hours so that more community members could be involved. Short notice aside, I also noticed that all the community forums right across the state were held from 2 - 5pm on a weekday effectively disenfranchising the majority of community members. This is not engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.

Gayl Males > Sara Hourez

15 Oct 2018

Very well said, Sara. You've hit the nail on the head on most of the points raised.

Landscape Reform Team > Sara Hourez

15 Oct 2018

This is all really great feedback Sara - thanks for taking the time to provide this level of detail. Just to clarify the concern you raise with regard to engagement, we listened to the community who asked for forums out of business hours and arranged two new larger sessions (Marion and Grange) in the evening, we also held our youth community forum on a Saturday. While we recognise not all the times and dates would have suited everyone we did our best to be inclusive of the large number of people across the state interested in the reforms. Again, thanks for taking the time to provide your input - it is much appreciated.

Rose Dow

14 Oct 2018

NRM Education
I like many on this forum have had a long association with NRM Education as a Dept of Education teacher. I have outlined in detail how NRM education has benefited the schools and communities where I have worked and live in a more detailed email to the comments section.

I have seen how engaging and empowering it is for schools to have experienced expert KESAB and NRM staff in their classrooms. Over the past 10 years I have also benefited from the training NRM Education staff have provided teachers. This training has meant instead of one off lessons delivered by NRM Education staff once every year, teachers have been trained to develop units of work and embed education for sustainability into their curriculum. As a classroom teacher I have benefited from quality resources produced by NRM staff and also materials teachers in classrooms have collaboratively produced with NRM Ed support.

The schools where I have taught over the past 10 years have become AuSSI-SA schools and developed a School Environment Development Plan. The AuSSI model is most effective and NRM Education staff have supported and resourced schools to put their sustainability vision into practice. The effectiveness of this support is considerable and the statements from the 330 current 2017 AuSSI-SA schools provide great evidence of their success.

I've also participated in grant applications and sought funding for resource development. These include Ant, Water Macro-Invertebrates, Butterfly Garden and Fungi resources. Last year with the support of a NRM AMLR Community Grant I with my local Our Patch group invited lead ecologist Sapphire McMullan Fisher to run a series of fungi workshops and events. In mid winter we hosted over 100 for a public talk and an Education Forum with 50 participants was held. ABC, Behind the News filmed Vale Park Primary students' with Sapphire sharing the amazing qualities fungi have with a national audience school audience. A teachers PD was run and promoted

by NRM Education and Fungi Forays were hosted at our Wildflower Walk at Vale Park. From the interest generated, two fungi kits for schools to borrow were produced by NRM Ed. Further workshops with Sapphire were organised this year by the Murray Darling Basin NRM community members. None of this would have been possible without funding and the many partnerships that have been fostered and encouraged over many years with NRM Education and Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty.

With the knowledge, training, support networks and lots of experimenting Vale Park our Patch is now sharing their woodland successes with other groups across the state. A range of valuable brochures sponsored by Natural Resources AMLR and Walkerville Council provide information on native plants to inform the community and local school students. Understanding more about the inter-relationships between, soil, fungi, plants and animals has been integral to the success of the Our Patch sites we have at Vale Park and Gilberton.

With the successful reintroduction of native orchids and understory native plants we are also noticing an increase in biodiversity especially native insects and birds. The guided planting of a range of local native plants under remnant eucalypts has improved food sources and protection for native animals.

Students at our local schools of Walkerville and Vale Park are also involved in building on our success through their water investigations and boosting biodiversity within their school and local communities. Through an NRM Ed grant students have planned and planted a Butterfly garden within the school. Through partnerships with the local Vale Park Our Patch they have extended their involvement into the local community by planting additional native gardens. These are being monitored and students are noticing the effects of weather and what strategies they can put into place so their gardens have a good chance of surviving. The students are wanting to boost biodiversity in their community and are proud of what they've already achieved.

We have noticed this year more small woodland birds visiting gardens near the river. Birds like the Grey Fantail, Eastern Spinebill and Golden Whistlers that have been rarely spotted for decades in our inner city gardens. We believe local flowering gardens and native planting areas (like our VPOP patches, and the Billabong at St Peters) where a diversity of local native plants are being grown are acting as a refuge for a number of Adelaide Hills woodland birds. As the climate changes, our seasons are dryer and there are increased fires (controlled burns and bushfires) we would be wise to support the trailing and monitoring of plant, animal and fungi biodiversity within our regions. To loose even more of our local fauna and flora would be sad reflection on our state and our priorities.

An investment in NRM Education and all this small group has already accomplished is such great value. The networks and partnerships they have established are

impacting schools and their communities around the state. For the young people in our schools who look to the future and want to be part of the solution there is much to be done together. NRM Education invests in the future by encouraging student voices to be heard and giving them opportunities to plan and take wise actions at home, school and the broader community. Landscaping SA would be wise to generously fund NRM Education so they can continue with the empowering work they do from which we all ultimately benefit.

Rose Dow

14 Oct 2018

I too am coming to the discussion late. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get to any of the discussion forums. I do however appreciate the opportunity to have my say. As stated in your forward, South Australia's unique natural resources underpin our communities, our economy, our well-being and our way of life, and we all have a responsibility to be stewards of our precious natural assets.
We would be wise to ensure the new Landscape South Australia Bill has provisions that protect our land and water systems and continue to restore them to benefit all South Australians into the future.

It is my concern when reading the Reform Executive Summary that although increased participation, transparency and responsiveness are being promoted there does not seem to be overarching policies in place with identified outcomes. It seems the nine landscape boards will operate independently, yet share major ecosystems within our state. I'm interested to know what the guiding principals are that will ensure there will be vibrant biodiversity, a sustainable economy and resilient communities. How will we know if soil and water quality improves, there is a reduction of pest animal and weed species and if there is an improvement in land and water biodiversity?

What measures, assessments, trials and monitoring will be put in place? If there are not monitoring and assessment procedures enacted by all nine boards how will there be the effective management of the states natural resources? As Paul Gibbs states we already have qualified people with a solid grasp of what is happening to our land and water systems and the life that depends on them. It makes a great deal of sense to draw on the experience and partnerships already existing many through NRM. Our schools have a current emphasis on STEM, Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology. Students are graduating from our universities with science degrees with the skills to monitor and assess soil and water health impacting on the health of our farmland and landscapes more broadly. What a great investment for our future to have South Australians working together to improve our land and water systems and doing the research, monitoring and trialing that are so required.

If we are to be leaders in the fields of climate adaptation, clean food production, land and water health our scientists, ecologists, researchers, farming and tourism businesses need employment opportunities. The future benefits to both our regional and urban communities will be significant with the capacity for us to export expertise, research and know how nationally and internationally.

Unfortunately as stated by others too there is no mention of climate change in this Natural Resources Reform Executive summary or how our state can mitigate against it. The Farmers Federation policy from 2017 states the following.
The National Farmers Federation recognises that climate change poses a significant challenge for Australian farmers. As a nation, we must act to ensure that our economy is well placed to cost efficiently reduce our national greenhouse gas emissions profile.
On the 27th of September, South Australian was officially declared in drought. "For months farmers across the state have reported some of the driest conditions in recent memory, many destocking and prematurely cutting crops while others face water and feed shortages. " Sept 27th ABC online.
As we are dependent on our land and water systems it seems critical to me that climate change policy and actions to address and reduce its effects are included in the new Landscaping Bill.

As a volunteer who has given a great deal of voluntary time to my local Our Patch, Landcare and Friends of Parks Groups this has only happened because of the guidance, support and expertise or trained National Parks or NRM staff. Together we've accomplished a great deal but I'm concerned that without the staff who oversee programs, state priorities, regional targets, guidelines, training and support to groups like ours we will struggle to consolidate, grow and improve local biodiversity and weed control into the future.

Already under the previous government environment jobs were cut significantly.
It seems to me there is no better time for us to invest in our natural environment. We would be wise to seek, as you are, the guidance of those who have a vested interest in the health of our state's natural resources. Long-term environmental and economic decisions are required so our biodiversity thrives and our farming businesses survive. Without healthy and resilient water and land systems all of our communities will suffer, urban, regional and pastoral. The legislation put in place now has the potential to do a great deal of good, but also long term damage.
Thank you for providing South Australians the opportunity to contribute to this forum.

Alex Lourie

13 Oct 2018

Natural Resource Centres do a great job educating us, local residents, about environment and I would like the government to continue funding them and even increase their funding. During this year me and my family participated in many events organised by Willunga Environment Centre and I believe it is highly important to teach people and especially young generation to care about our nature and creating in all of us a sense of belonging, connection and responsibility for the environment we live in.

anonymous respect

10 Oct 2018

Since the Crown land Management Act 2009 (CLM Act) conditions were placed on all South Australian Councils in relation to the care, control and management
of dedicated land under the Crown Land Management Act 2009. This was suppose to be
updated the schedules and items of councils Community Land Management Plan (CLMP). The CLM Act states "...
management plan must be consistent with any relevant regional NRM plan adopted under the
Natural Resources Management Act 2004".

Therefore, you have erected a misleading and intimating Landscape SA Act, as there is no evidence the CLM Act is being amended to reflect the above and this would be deliberate to remove environmental responsibilities the government hated for so long.

Debra Simmons

09 Oct 2018

I would like to participate in a 'magnet fishing' competition along the banks of the Murray River each year. Prizes for biggest - weirdest - oldest etc... catch could be offered and towns along the river could offer bankside attractions. A TV show could be made from funny or interesting things that happened during the event, that were filmed by participants and a prize could also be offered for the favourite.

anonymous respect

09 Oct 2018

Comment deleted as it does not comply with our Community Guidelines. https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/community-guidelines

YourSAy Admin

anonymous respect > anonymous respect

10 Oct 2018

The Social license to be here in existence is a real issue for the government and corporate industry in Australia, isnt it.

Paul Maraun

09 Oct 2018

I only ask one thing. If we have to have these levies taxes whatever at least have the courtesy to tell us what OUR money is being used for.
I am totally sick of the NRM/ESL funds disappearing into some amorphous fund somewhere and no accountability from the Government or the organisation.

Richard STOTT

08 Oct 2018

The NRM is just duplicating roles that already exist. Farmers are paying a levy on grain produced and wool and animals. These levies pay for research done by the GRDC, Dept. Primary Industries and many more organisations. I think this Board and The NRM should be dissolved and we go back to the days before jobs were created that are not needed. Soil health and other aspects of keeping our farms healthy is in farmers best interest. The land-Care and Greening Australia planted our denuded areas.

Robert Lawrence

06 Oct 2018

Regarding: Grassroots Grants program
Having been involved with grants administration in two universities, having been on selection committees for a granting scheme for a NGO and having won an Envirofund grant and a Citizen Science grant, I would like to give my perspective on the proposed scheme.

Grants are important as a means of giving incentive to people in the community to get involved in the environment and to provide financial support to make projects more effective. A grant can get a new project started or make a huge difference to an existing project. It is important that grants end up making a real contribution toward a larger vision. Funding should reflect the environmental benefit. Projects for the on-ground protection of rare species would generally be more important than a large project in a degraded urban area.

The boundaries between regions become irrelevant with grants. Many in the city have passion for areas far and wide. People should be able to apply for grants beyond where they reside or even hold property. Likewise, they should be able to vote for a proposal outside of their area. For example, I wanted to vote for a project on Kangaroo Island recently because it was the most effective proposal I knew of, but was not eligible to vote. A whole range of projects could be worth funding, including on-ground pest-control, monitoring, citizen science, education and community engagement.

Somebody complained, at the workshop I attended, about the difficulties of ethics approval. Such things can't really be compromised. Some projects need to be managed through institutions or NGOs with adequate funding to cover the administration. Thus, universities and NGOs would need to be eligible to apply, possibly depending on having a community partner.

The distribution of grant funds should not be a reflection of the skill of the applicants. The significance needs to be taken into account. Significance could be the long-term benefit of controlling or eradicating a pest, increasing the viability of threatened species or communities or increasing community awareness and involvement in landscape management.

Landscape Reform Team > Robert Lawrence

08 Oct 2018

This is really helpful and well considered feedback Robert - thank you. Thanks also for coming along to the Marion community forum last week, we trust you found it useful. All of the advice you have provided will be given further consideration.

Robert Lawrence

05 Oct 2018

Regarding: Electing board members and community engagement
The hard thing to conceive is how to have a process for the community to select its representatives and for the community to be engaged with the management of landscapes. I see the two could happen together.

The really difficult aspect of democracy is for the people eligible to vote getting to know the candidates well enough to choose who they want to vote for. The one-paragraph approach used for selecting board members, such as for the RAA or building societies, is quite inadequate from a voter's perspective. The ideal way to get to know candidates is to see what they say and how they perform while discussing the issues. There needs to be an open forum in which people do get involved. This could be in social media or a printed newsletter. This way people could see who they would like to have speaking on their behalf. I guess people might need to be invited to comment on controversial issues. This would not just happen. A team of people would need to be employed to facilitate discussions and keep them moving on different topics and in different regions.

One of the things that came out of the discussion at the workshop at Marion was that people are not bound by where they live. People may live in the city and have a property in the hills or near the Murray. Others travel to the Flinders to treat Wheel Cactus. Some visit Kangaroo Island to do conservation work. These people should be able to have a say in what happens in the regions where they work or volunteer. We want to have a say about threatening processes such as goats in arid lands, moss-rock extraction in the eastern side of the Lofty Ranges and the grazing impact of over-abundant kangaroos across the Adelaide hills. While I live in the city, the biodiversity of the city does not matter as much to me as that of the surrounding area, including the adjacent ocean that we have a great impact on. So all South Australians should be eligible to vote for board members in any region that interests them.

A measure of whether landscape management is being effective is the degree to which moss-rock extraction and its impact is documented and controlled. This would be a great issue to kick off a discussion to involve the community. There are people who have felt that they have been silenced on this issue. Making this issue public would bring people out to have their say and could change the way that community engagement is done in this state.

Michela Skipp

05 Oct 2018

I think we should have a focus on continuing to develop a strong and robust recycling system for the state. Having recently finished my research project I found a lot of Australian's lack an understanding of what can and can't be recycled and how to present recyclables. Recycling contamination has been minimized though education programs in schools which has definitely been an effective strategy. I would really like to see a continued push to get more businesses on board with better waste management programs.

Managing the global commons is one of the most important environmental issues facing Australia. It is also particularly relevant to managing climate change as a large portion of emissions comes from these industries. Being a developed nation, Australia has a large impact on the climate through the carbon and methane emissions into the atmosphere. Society will have to make some major changes to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the energy and industrial and mining sectors.

I believe recycling and being smarter about how we use resources will help alleviate climate change and aid in the transition to a circular economy. The major problem with the current economy is we end up with an absurd amount of wasted resources which are not recycled and continue to consume more resources. I think it is very important to resource the global commons more sustainably and to use those resources much more carefully.

I commend the NRM board on all their hard work and particularly NRM education has been a very valuable contribution to my current understanding and knowledge of the environment having been involved in the YEC program.

Landscape Reform Team > Michela Skipp

08 Oct 2018

Hi Michela, thanks for your feedback regarding the state's recycling system. You will be interested to know that the State Government, through the agency Green Industries SA, is supporting South Australia’s work in recycling and resource recovery and transitioning the state to a more circular economy. Green Industries SA is focussing on measures to build the resilience and capabilities of our local industry through infrastructure investment, market development, education, innovation and procurement. Some of the programs being supported through Green Industries SA address many of the topics you have raised. These include:

• Infrastructure grants for local government and industry to maintain and build the capacity of South Australia's recycling systems and reprocessing infrastructure.
• Market development grants to stimulate an increase in the quality and market demand for recyclable materials and recycled content products.
• Support for a state-wide education campaign to maintain the community's faith in the recycling process and help to reduce contamination levels through consistent messages which will ensure better quality recyclable material enters the recycling system.
• A Business Sustainability Program which helps businesses understand and support the transition towards a more circular economy. Financial assistance is available to individual businesses and industry groups requiring specialist expertise in the areas of resource efficiency (materials, energy and water), waste management and lean production.

For further information, please visit www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au. On this site you will also find a copy of South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020, which may be of interest.

Thanks for taking the time to provide your feedback.

Melinda Brindle

04 Oct 2018

Sorry, I'm coming to this discussion late, but I would like to support the great work of the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM in the support and advocacy of the Living Smart program across SA in 2016, 2017, 2018. The NRM worked closely with sections of SA Govt. to develop the training modules that were the foundations of education provided to communities, with the support of local government councils and a group of committed facilitators. Living Smart is an integrated and holistic training program - including water, waste, transport, energy, and more - promoting sustainable living and helping people to achieve this in their own homes & communities. I would not like to see the new arrangements lose this ability to provide integrated and holistic community education and support. The type of education is very important in our changing world.

Landscape Reform Team > Melinda Brindle

10 Oct 2018

Hi Melinda. Thank you for sharing this reflection. Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM have piloted and delivered a growing number of programs in this arena, so its great to see

that it is appreciated and being offered by the community as a tactic that is wanted into the future.

Julie Jordan

04 Oct 2018

I wish to comment in support of the valuable contribution that the Willunga Environment Centre makes in the Fleurieu region. They provide a wide range of activities for all age groups and act as a resource and provider for many community projects and activities. Any changes to the system must see the continued funding of this valuable community centre.

Coast Protection Board

04 Oct 2018

Coast Protection Board submission on Natural Resources Management reform (Landscape SA), September 2018.

Shortcomings and issues with the NRM system
• The localism of the old district arrangements for soils and pest plants and animals were lost and not regained by the regional arrangements.
• The integration of regional staff from boards and government, driven by budget constraints, was seen as a government takeover – the sentiment was partly driven by board and board-staff ownership and a reluctance to embrace a different arrangement.
• Farmers felt that they had lost traditional services when NRM was created. Coincidently, the state was withdrawing from its agricultural extension services.
• The planning and accountability arrangements were overly bureaucratic and difficult to navigate and understand.
• Loss of funding was attributed to NRM even though this was a government budget choice.
• The city-country divide was seen to be exaggerated by the NRM arrangements.
• Local government opposition to the levy promoted discord and antagonism.
• Not enough emphasis was given to the provision of extension staff at the local or district level.
• Some NR functions have not been integrated into the NRM model.

Not all of the complaints and concerns are attributable to the NRM arrangements and not all of these shortcomings are universal. Some relate to shifts in government policy – governments no longer funding agricultural production extension activities

and other services now seen for private rather than public good. Some are attributable to local circumstance. The reduction in funding to natural resource management at both a state and Commonwealth level is independent of NRM arrangements. The broader cultural issue of city-rural division is driven by many factors and this plays out in an antagonism towards government generally.

Strengths of the NRM system

- Has operated for 14 years and slowly improved over time.
- Board members are generally respected and trusted in their communities.
- There are many practical achievements and successes.
- Water planning has progressed, and difficult water resource management issues tackled.
- The system has been accountable in terms of money spent and work done.
- Integrated NR planning provides the basis to make choices and set priorities.
- Unlike most other government services, a distributed staff presence has been maintained against many pressures.

There has been much to be positive about in the NRM system despite the bad press it has received over time. The challenge will be to retain the good and confront the shortcomings in the new arrangements.

Coastal Protection considerations in the new model

When NRM was established in 2004, a decision was made to retain the Coast Protection Act 1972 and to continue with a centralised Coast Protection Board. To begin with, NRM boards were preoccupied with establishment and other issues of priority. However, over time NRM boards began to integrate coastal management into their planning and recognised the special role of the Coast Protection Board. This arrangement has worked reasonably well with NRM Boards working with local government on coastal management issues and jointly funding works. The Coast Protection Board, in concert with the department, has been able to fulfil a leadership role with policy advice, specialised technical support and expertise, and providing strategic leadership on state-wide issues.

In a resource-constrained environment there is no room for duplication or overlap in function. Clarity of role and responsibility are essential. As the new Landscape model evolves there is a strong argument to retain the best features of the old and fashion them into the new.

It is hard to see an alternative to having centralised state-wide coastal management policy and technical capacity. A board may not be essential although there is considerable value in a single-focus authority that has a degree of independence from the departmental bureaucracy of government. Green Adelaide could be given the Coast Protection Board role, but it is additional to its metropolitan focus and inevitably will be an add-on rather than the first priority. Green Adelaide as it

proposed could take on a metropolitan coastal coordination role for integrating coastal management across Councils, but the highly technical domain of sand management should be left to a government agency with the required expertise, support and direct line to a Minister.

As the Landscape model develops, one could expect all coastal landscape boards to have a coastal dimension but not to the same degree as Green Adelaide where metropolitan beaches are a much more significant part of the community landscape. The relationship with local government is crucial for many reasons not the least being that councils often have care and control of many coastal reserves.

To conclude, there is a very strong argument to retain a centralised technical and policy capacity that covers the entire state and supports the new Landscape arrangements. There is also a sound basis to continue with a centralised coastal authority. It does not need to be the Coast Protection Board but there does need to be an authority that has those functions as a primary emphasis.

Landscape Reform Team

03 Oct 2018

The closing date for submissions is fast approaching with less than two weeks left to go! Thanks to everyone for your continued feedback through this discussion forum. Please keep sending through your thoughts - all input is in the process of being considered.

Rod McKenzie

03 Oct 2018

I have an interest in sustainability and believe that our human presence on the earth can only be sustainable if we are educated about how to live sustainably. I hear many comments about the various coloured bins and their use which suggests that many people of the older generation failed in this area. SA is something of a national leader in the support of EfS through the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. The support provided by NRM Education and Kesab is vital to the continuation of this facet of education in SA.
NRM Education must be expanded and the Dept of Education directed to realign its curriculum delivery so that all students are equipped to understand and be prepared to live sustainable lives at home work and play. This should be a compulsory unit for all students and our young people should participate fully in the transition to a sustainable society and economy and the repair of past mistakes.

Landscape Reform Team > Rod McKenzie

04 Oct 2018

Thanks Rod for your input and support for the continuation of NRM Education programs. We have received overwhelming support and much positive feedback about NRM Education and will be taking this all into further consideration. Your advice is much appreciated.

Nicky Page

29 Sep 2018

I'm writing in support of the immeasurably valuable contribution that the Willunga Environment Centre makes in the Fleurieu region. Their activities are far too numerous to mention here, but suffice to say that they act as a resource and enabler for many, many community projects and activities which would be much less likely to happen without the support of the centre. The multiplier effect of any money invested in the Centre by the NRM would be extraordinary. But it would probably cost as much to investigate and calculate as to simply continue the core funding which adds so much to the environmental and community health of the region.

Landscape Reform Team > Nicky Page

04 Oct 2018

Hi Nicky, thanks so much for taking the time to provide your feedback. It's great to hear how valued the centre in Willunga is.

Dominica Thomson

24 Sep 2018

I have had the pleasure of being involved with NRM within the education setting for many years. I have been involved in grants for butterfly gardens, incursions, excursions and much more. NRM educators have supported my to write SEMPs and have delivered workshops to support teachers understanding of what they do and how the school I'm working at can be directly involved.
The educators work is invaluable to support schools become more sustainable. I really hope the reforms keep the inclusion of NRM educators and allow them flexibility within their roles to allow them to contextualise their work to the schools they are involved with.

Landscape Reform Team > **Dominica Thomson**

26 Sep 2018

Thank you for your comments Domenica. We have received a lot of comments regarding education which will all be taken into further consideration. We appreciate you taking the time to provide your input.

Prue Coulls

14 Sep 2018

We have been living and operating a small business in the SA Arid Lands for nearly 30 years. Our comments on the discussion paper are as landowners and small business representatives of South Australia's $6.7B Tourism Industry. We are also passionate about our State's Natural and Built Heritage.

We have emailed and posted our comments, giving here only a summary.

We think that the new Act needs to address the following:
- both community elected and Government appointed Board members should be selected from all community representatives. It needs to recognise that tourism in the SA Arid Lands has increased exponentially and needs representation on the Board
- that all community members are aware of and can contribute to Plans. To achieve this all stakeholders should be contacted directly.
- that all community members can effectively contribute to Landscape Plans by giving equal value to each sector of the community
- balanced decision making, meaning that decisions do not benefit primary producers exclusively
- that land and water levies are consistent and equitable; that water levies be based on usage and that all users contribute
- that all users of a bore are responsible for the maintenance of the bore, not just the landowner.
- that management of pests is based on scientific evidence not just on the demands of one sector of the community. And we think
reference to 'wild dogs' (= dingoes) is not only a poor but extremely biased example of a 'pest' and it should be removed from such
documents as the Discussion Paper until it is proven that they damage the environment as a whole. (It would be more appropriate to use
'Rabbit' or 'Cat' as an example.)

Landscape Reform Team > **Prue Coulls**

14 Sep 2018

Thanks for raising these issues Prue. Your more extensive emailed comments have also been received and will be taken into account. We greatly appreciate the time you have taken to consider the proposed reforms.

Julie Fiedler

11 Sep 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Landscapes SA consultation. I am writing on behalf of Horse SA, a non-profit organisation working with and for horse owners, in this case on land care and related activities. Many comments for the Landscapes SA reform were previously recorded through the opportunity provided at a public meeting in Mt Barker. Further comments are below:

To give greater recognition within the plan to a) climate change b) recreational use of landscapes e.g. trails and c) the improvement of services or small landholders.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS: With some 6000K or more in South Australia, trails provide a unique opportunity for residents to connect with nature in a low impact way, with many trail users contributing back into environmental management through this means. These and related recreational activities to be given greater recognition going forward, and for the volunteers and their work.

Secondly, small landholders have a much higher turn-over of land ownership than traditional farmers. Often the property owners work off-site to gain the primary income and whilst while may be highly educated, it is often not in land management related areas. It is therefore important for Landscapes SA to ensure that there are agricultural specialists amongst staff skill sets across the regions, who can provide relevant free advice for landholders. These skill sets to include native and introduced grasses, weed control, farm animal nutrition, animal health & welfare, water conservation, storage and reticulation, small property planning & biosecurity. Whilst the biodiversity and related specialists are also still required, it is to ensure that the knowledge base for small property management is also balanced out.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute and we look forward to working with Landscapes SA in the future

Julie Fiedler
Executive Officer
Horse SA

Landscape Reform Team > Julie Fiedler

11 Sep 2018

Hi Julie and thanks for your feedback on behalf of Horse SA. We trust you found the Mt Barker community engagement session useful. The additional comments you have provided above will be further considered. Your interest in the proposed reforms is appreciated.

Carol Cornish

09 Sep 2018

I have been involved with NRM for many years within the school sector. It has established its place in working with schools to protect and care for the environment- developing students as environmental leaders and giving grants that facilitate student voice and agency. I too wonder why it is necessary to change the name and operations of the regions. NRM grants in two schools have recently established outdoor learning areas with native plants that have added aesthetics and environmental benefits to both schools and their wider community. The support received by the NRM staff have supported the entire process of these projects and they visit and consult with staff and students - providing ongoing advice and resources. Their knowledge of the local area and the people living and working in these regions is vital to their roles and in the way they provide resources and support. I am curious about why the hills regions are to be centralised in the city and wonder if the day to day operations if the officers will be reduced and trimmed back as a result. This would indeed be a step backwards. The NRM is much valued in schools and we would like this to continue, especially as the demands in education increase and there is an ever pressing need to foster student agency in and for the environment.

Landscape Reform Team > Carol Cornish

10 Sep 2018

Thanks so much for your comments Carol. It's great to hear about your positive experience in relation to the NRM education program. We've been receiving a lot of useful input regarding NRM education and are going to be taking it all into further consideration. Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Jane Humphrey

08 Sep 2018

Hello, I am wondering if the NRM Act 179 & 181 (1) refers to livestock. If it does not it should. Livestock is not native, left to wonder in and out of areas they are suppose to be contained in, can have significant impact on neighbouring crops, loss of income for the farmer, and native vegetation and growth areas. There needs to be some clear definition of the responsibilities that livestock owners have over their livestock and their responsibility of the impact their wondering livestock has to neighbours and the natural environment.

Landscape Reform Team > Jane Humphrey

10 Sep 2018

Hi Jane thanks for your comments and query in relation to livestock. Certain species of livestock are captured under section 179 and 181 (1) of the NRM Act. To view the full list please refer to Class 5 in the consolidated list of Declarations of Animals and Plants which can be found on the following website:
http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals
If you have any issues with accessing the document referred to above please don't hesitate to contact us via email at LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

The Barossa Council

06 Sep 2018

The Barossa Council has been fortunate to host a number of NRM programs in association with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board that have delivered successful engagement with local communities, namely
• NRM Education
• Natural Resource Centres
• Land Management Program

There is a potential that the new landscape governance framework (splitting the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region in to three) may diminish the success of these programs, as there will be a reduction in the revenue generated from the smaller, more rural Plains and Valleys region.

As a member of the Gawler River Flood Management Authority, Council fully supports the need to have stormwater management and flood management

addressed in a more holistic manner. At present, there is a clear lack of leadership in the management of watercourses, leaving it up to local councils to work through the issue of gaining access to private land holdings in order to address regional flood mitigation works. The GRFMA actions in response to the 2016 flood of the Gawler River demonstrates the frustration in coordinating a solution with the support of Federal, State and private interests. There is a clear need for leadership, and having a single entity with responsibility would help achieve this.

Council considers that there is an opportunity to further consolidate the management of natural resources by incorporating the management of coastal protection and native vegetation. In addition, a 'one stop' approach to natural resource management would be welcomed, particularly in relation to the interconnection with the planning system.

There is an opportunity with the reforms of both the Planning and NRM systems to introduce a 'Resource Consent' thereby reducing the potential number of approvals that are needed for the 'use' and 'management' of land within the State. The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act remains 'metro-centric', hence there is a need to acknowledge that the long term management of land within our regional areas plays a significant role in the State's economic prosperity.

The current regime of 'referrals' for certain development types could be streamlined with the introduction of a 'Resource Consent' that encompasses existing natural resource licensing and approval requirements. In addition, the current ambiguity of when an activity on land constitutes 'development' or a 'water affecting activity' needs to be addressed. The ability for councils to undertake operational works needs to be exempted from approvals through a more streamlined process.

Objects and Principles:
It is worth highlighting that the Objects and Principles of the current Act provide a sound base for the management of our natural resources, and should not necessarily be lost by introducing new legislation.

Council considers that the requirement for decision-making processes to integrate economic, environmental, social and equity considerations, and to treat the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity as fundamental to the management of our natural resources. It also considers that the duty to act responsibly in the management of the State's natural resources for the present and future generations is paramount to any environmental legislation.

The Government should be encouraged to retain the essence of the Objects and Principles in the new Landscape SA Act.

Planning Reform:
The previous State Government commenced the reform of the State Planning System, which received bipartisan support.

A provision in the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act allow groups of councils to enter into Planning Agreements with the Minister for Planning. A Planning Agreement is a long-term arrangement that allows for planning functions to be delegated to the regional groupings of councils, subject to agreed performance measures and targets. Once established the Joint Planning Board is responsible for the preparation and amendment of the Regional Plan.

The Joint Planning Arrangements pilot project (of which the Barossa region participated) identified that in addition to planning functions, there are other potential local and state government functions that can be delegated to a Joint Planning Board. Those regions participating in the pilot project have acknowledge the opportunity for NRM Boards to be a partner in the new planning arrangements.

Given the NRM Reform, is there an opportunity to streamline the number of governance frameworks that exist? Is there value is councils establishing a Joint Planning Board and having a Landscape Board in the same locality, each preparing a regional level plan? Could there be better efficiency in having one board that prepares one regional plan encompassing land use and land management requirements.

If this is not achievable, provision should be made in the Landscape SA Act to allow for a Landscape Board to delegate either planning or operational functions to a Joint Planning Board.

Landscape Reform Team > The Barossa Council

06 Sep 2018

Thank you for this input. A number of important issues have been raised which will be given further thought, including the query in relation to streamlining governance frameworks. Thanks again, the Council's interest in the reforms is much appreciated.

Dale Sutton

29 Aug 2018

I am supportive of the work the NRM teams have been doing and would be keen to see this continue in some form into the future. I think the partnerships the NRM

teams have formed with councils have been a great collaboration between the state and local government.

I understand the need for a levy to enable this work to continue, however this should NOT be collected via council rates because it creates a false impression of where our money is going. For transparency the state government should collect their own levies.

Landscape Reform Team > Dale Sutton

29 Aug 2018

Its good to hear this positive feedback Dale - thank you.

Your comments regarding the levy have also been noted and will be given further consideration. Thanks for your input.

Dan Bailey

27 Aug 2018

To the reform team, I have read the Executive Summary, the Discussion Paper and the Frequently Asked Questions and it's great to see that you are taking the opportunity for people to make comments, but I do wonder how much of this feedback will be realistically put into the reform?

I am an ecologist with 2 decades of experience in ecology and working with landholders and implement compliance related work under the NRM act and various other environmental acts. As a compliance officer, it always worries me when Acts are opened up and changed as they are usually changed for personal gain e.g. farming, hunting, business incentives. With a long-term interest in biodiversity and land management of the State, the NRM act was bought in by the Liberal Gov originally and has been a strong legislative requirement for farmers for decades to help provide management and guidelines.

Why Rebadge and reform the program that has had millions of dollars invested into programs, engagement and building a name and identity around NRM to change it to the Landscapes Act (backwards thinking)?

As stated in the Discussion Paper: There are parts of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 that have worked well and should be retained and other parts that are over-complicated and have impeded good, local, on-the-ground management that should be removed, amended or simplified. Can you explain what

part are over-complicated and have impeded good, local, on-the-ground management that should be removed, amended or simplified?

Both Federal and State governments have spent Billions of dollars on bringing the NRM boards, local NGO's and DEWNR now DEW together to work at a more landscape scale. Why would you change this and introduce something new when it is not broken?

Having struggled for years doing compliance under these various act and trying to get landholders to understand their management requirements and enforcing legislation where needed, I can see this heading for another native vegetation act fail, where all of the act's regulations and powers will be stripped or dulled down as per its new name.

Compliance is education and why change a name that is now part of most schools, local government organisations and been a vital part of our kids learning to help provide better choices around natural resource management into the future. Go ask school kids and the public what landscape management is?

Landscape Reform Team > Dan Bailey

28 Aug 2018

Thanks for your input Dan. Please be assured that all comments and feedback will be carefully considered before any changes are made to the legislation. The government has acknowledged that the current NRM Act brought with it some positive change and benefits but with the passing of time and gradual centralisation it believes the system is not delivering quite what it should. Therefore a more simple and accessible system for natural resources that empowers regional communities and decentralises decision making is the main aim of the reforms. You have raised some interesting points which will be taken into further account. Thanks again for your input.

Sharon Zivkovic

26 Aug 2018

In 2017 I was honoured to be invited to contribute a chapter to the book "Envisioning futures for environmental and sustainability education" - the final volume in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development series: https://transformativelearning.nl/2017/02/27/envisioning-futures-for-environmental-and-sustainability-education-now-available/
This book highlights that education has progressed from nature education, to environmental education, to sustainability education and a now we have a combined

environmental and sustainability education focus. I am therefore quite concerned that Green Adelaide is going to have nature education as a priority.

Landscape Reform Team > Sharon Zivkovic

28 Aug 2018

Hello Sharon and thanks for joining the conversation. This matter was also raised at one of the recent community forum sessions. Your feedback is appreciated and will be taken into further consideration.

Ron Blacker

23 Aug 2018

On many situations in many different schools in the state I have been ably supported by education officers from the NRM and this has always improved the environmental learning of the students and resulted in benefits to the environments of the communities. At present a group of teachers at Port Elliot Primary School are working with Education Officer Rob Wallace to improve the school environment for biodiversity and student learning opportunities. We have been able to win a grant and as a result many positive environmental and learning benefits are occurring. We are also working in partnership with Rob, The Alexandrina Council and local groups to make a local flora arboretum in nearby Waterport Reserve. Without NRM Education Officer assistance this ongoing program of improvement for our area will be less effective. Rob has also provided many resources and has presented to a staff meeting of the use of outdoor grounds to aid in the students' learning. I believe it is vital that the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board and Education Program remains a priority.
The Environment to sustain us into the future needs to be the number one priority. It concerns me greatly that allowing personal interest groups to take charge of Environmental policy is a very dangerous, counter-productive method whereby financial short-term interests become more important than the landscape and gradual deterioration of the environment occurs. Huge amounts have been done in the past by the NRM to allow for gradual improvement which in turn allows for more financial, cultural and community benefits. This must not be allowed to collapse due to political and negative vested interest opinions or greed.

Michael Phillips

22 Aug 2018

Why are forums held only during business hours? At least one evening or weekend session would enable more people to participate

Landscape Reform Team > Michael Phillips

22 Aug 2018

Hi Michael. We understand that not everyone can attend sessions during business hours so you might be pleased to know we have arranged two sessions that will commence at 6pm (Marion on 30 August and Grange on 6 September). There are still spots available at both of these sessions so please register to attend if you can. Thanks for your interest in the reforms.

Landscape Reform Team

22 Aug 2018

Please note that tomorrow's community forum session at Glenunga has been expanded to enable more people to attend. Spots are still available so if you are interested in attending please register via the community forums and workshops page on this site.

Tanya Taverner

21 Aug 2018

Sue,
Regarding your comments on the Cormorant, whilst they are obviously self-serving. I must reply to your assertion about the amount of fish and the inability to crab e.g. Honestly, you are concerned about the amount of fish these birds eat.. do you think they put them in the freezer for later? are they over-eating and cannot fly? Are you not more concerned with the over-fishing, the raping of the oceans, etc., all in the quest of making money. Unbelievable...just to let you know Sue IT is bigger than just you or I.

Sue Oldfield > Tanya Taverner

21 Aug 2018

Im not sure what you mean by inability to crab, I didn't mention anything about that! While 1 bird eats 500g per small & juvenile fish per day (do the math on how much over 1000 birds eat in just 1 location per year) You cant tell me that with the large numbers we now have that they are not having an effect on the fish stocks. I totally understand the fishing industry. Maybe you don't like eating seafood! I believe with such large numbers they should be culled!

Landscape Reform Team

17 Aug 2018

It's encouraging to see how much interest the proposed reforms have been generating over the last month. Thanks everyone for joining the conversation and providing your feedback.

Just a reminder that there are still spots available at the upcoming regional community forum sessions and some of the metropolitan sessions including Grange and Marion. If you are able to make it to a session please book your place as soon as you can and if further sessions can be arranged, they will be announced on this site. Don't forget that submissions are welcome via this discussion forum, email or letter. Thanks again everyone.

Julia Peacock

16 Aug 2018

The Nature Conservation Society of SA would like to provide the feedback that the planned number of community workshops in the Adelaide region is insufficient. We're encouraging our members and supporters to be engaged in this reform but it is difficult if sessions are booked out.

The geographic spread of the sessions also seems uneven, with western and south/south eastern locations only at present, so we would suggest additional sessions be scheduled for central Adelaide as well as northern and eastern locations. The timing of these sessions could be following the release of the separate discussion paper on "Green Adelaide" which is foreshadowed on page 17 of the Discussion Paper, so that community members can respond more specifically to the proposed priorities for that body, as well as to the reform proposal in general.

Yours sincerely,
Julia Peacock

Nature Advocate
The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia

Robyn Wood > Julia Peacock

16 Aug 2018

I agree, I have tried to register with the Mawson Lakes and Mt Barker sessions and they are both full. I am on the wait list but don't expect anything to come of it, I would expect people who have booked and then can't go to just not turn up and not bother to formally cancel.

Stephen Fuller

15 Aug 2018

I have an interest in sustainability and believe that our human presence on the earth can only be sustainable if we are educated about how to live sustainably. Education for Sustainability (or Education for Sustainable Development) is the developed method for educating our people in this respect. SA is something of a national leader in the support of EfS in the pre-tertiary education systems through the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. The support provided by NRM Education and Kesab is vital to the continuation of this facet of education in SA.
To in any way degrade these services will compromise what is already an incomplete educational aspiration.
In my opinion, NRM Education must be expanded and the Dept of Education directed to realign its curriculum delivery so that all students are equipped to understand and be prepared to live sustainable lives at home work and play.
The succession of mistakes that humanity has made over the past 200 years must be corrected and key to this is equipping our young people to participate fully in the transition to a sustainable society and economy and the repair of past mistakes.
Without a knowledgeable and engaged population we are doomed to repeat past mistakes and be incapable of developing the innovative solutions required for our current problems.
If Nature Education as your reform paper calls it omits the full range of topics, processes of engagement and skills development through applied critical thinking that is involved in EfS then you will be selling our students short and will be repeating the mistakes of the past.
Our care for nature comes from within following the development of an emotional and intellectual appreciation of our place in nature and our dependency on its health.
Our people must be fully equipped to critique and reform our approach to resource consumption and our impact on our "Landscapes" so that we can wisely and

sustainably manage our natural resources. To do otherwise is to condemn our children to live in a degraded dying Landscape.

Landscape Reform Team > Stephen Fuller

16 Aug 2018

Thanks for your comments Stephen. We have been receiving lots of valuable input in relation to NRM Education and will definitely be taking all of the feedback into consideration. Your interest in this matter is much appreciated

Robyn Wood > Stephen Fuller

16 Aug 2018

Totally agree Steve, I am concerned that the environment and education about the environment will be left in a worse state after this review

Jenni McGlennon

15 Aug 2018

Can you tell us when the Green Adelaide Discussion Paper will be released? And will this be out for consultation?

Landscape Reform Team > Jenni McGlennon

16 Aug 2018

Hi Jenni. Thanks for your interest in Green Adelaide. A Green Adelaide discussion paper and a series of FAQs are currently being developed and will be published here on YourSAy for consultation in the near future. In the meantime, if you can, we encourage you to attend one of the community forum sessions to further have your say.

Kym McKay > Jenni McGlennon

17 Aug 2018

yep no response from response team, establishes that your really not about wide and full consultation with all stakeholders, Reform Team probably all the same NRM spin Drs of past.

Kym McKay > Jenni McGlennon

17 Aug 2018

seems i posted in wrong box, should have been below in mine

Kym McKay

15 Aug 2018

There needs to be another community session in the Western Council area one at Grange is to far removed from other Council areas that have the Torrens running through them, Given the millions of dollars pillaged out of those Council areas with the NRM Levy you are diluting the opportunity for wider feedback. Are you really seeking extensive feedback or just doing a snow job to tick the box "we consulted" ?

Landscape Reform Team > **Kym McKay**

17 Aug 2018

Hi Kym, we are doing our best to hold as many forums across the state as we can given that there is such a wide range of people involved and interested in natural resources. All of your posts have been noted and if any additional sessions are able to be arranged then further advice will be provided on this site. We understand not everyone will be able to attend a local forum so we are also asking people to provide written feedback about the proposed reforms. Comments received through this online discussion forum will be taken into consideration and input is also welcomed through email or letter. Thank you for your interest.

Kym McKay

15 Aug 2018

Thank goodness this bureaucratic Greens Zealots Led Dept is being disbanded, The NRM boarded on a dictatorship, bullied land owners, its board meetings were a junket for attendance fees. The Board squandered NRM Levies on personal airy fairy whims. The River Torrens is a disgrace even though the Board trots out old chestnuts like "Oh we did breakout Creek" and Have Trash Racks, from the millions plundered in levies from the Councils along the Torrens hardly anything over the last 16 years has been done except in the Post Card Picture zone of the CBD. The NRM has been a major impediment to this States progress, I only hope this inst just a re branding of a dictatorship and hope it is purged from the Top Public Servants and its appointed cronies. Bring on the Changes ASAP

Deb Downes

14 Aug 2018

To Everyone,
Given the comments about a "Tough Budget", with the Department responsible for the Environment clearly singled out as having to "provide" a significant amount of savings, I think we can say goodbye to responsible management of National Parks and Resources in this state, for the foreseeable future.

To not adequately consider Climate Change is ridiculous.

What we have is a bunch of "Motherhood Statements" designed to take us back into ancient history as far as natural resource management is concerned.

Very disappointing. But, even worse, given the said Climate Change, it will be extremely difficult to salvage anything once these idiots have moved on. I feel very sad for our younger generations.

Patricia Rogers

11 Aug 2018

To the reform team,
I am extremely concerned regarding the plan to open our valuable reservoirs to the public for recreational water activities. The Reservoirs that provides Adelaide with it's drinking water.
What will be the impact upon the water levels in our reservoirs which are at present still below 50% and the enormous cost if accidental or deliberate contamination occurs.
It is extremely simplistic to declare that water may be extracted from the Murray River to "top up" the reservoirs. That will lead to lower environmental flows.
Our wonderful beaches are the places where we can enjoy many varied and pleasurable water activities, not our valuable reservoirs that provides the state with it's drinking water.
The impact upon our Australian fauna and flora in the reserves surrounding the reservoirs ie Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, which is at present protected from the public, is to easily dismissed.
Society has had a very detrimental impact upon our Australian fauna and flora and we don't have to totally extinguish their habitat in these very unique safe areas, just to provide " a domain for pleasurable activities " .
Patricia Rogers.

Landscape Reform Team > Patricia Rogers

13 Aug 2018

Hi Patricia and thanks for your comments. The issue of opening the reservoirs actually falls under another government election commitment which is the creation of Glenthorne National Park. Your feedback has been forwarded to the team that is working on this commitment. Feel free to head to https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/reservoirs where you can further have your say on this matter. Your input is valuable and will help to inform the way our reservoirs will be opened and managed in to the future. Thanks again, we appreciate the time you have taken to share your concerns.

Betty Sue Smith

10 Aug 2018

Mr David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide, SA 5001

I have read the Executive Summary, the Discussion Paper and the Frequently Asked Questions. Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

I am a biologist with 4 decades of experience in ecology and working with landholders. I have with a long-term interest in biodiversity and land management of the State.

Rebadge and reform the program if you must but please do not drag us back to the 1950s.

Back to Basics? Really? Sounds similar to a Local Council's return to the 3Rs – roads, rates, and rubbish, with the new environmental equivalents of these 3Rs under the moniker of Landscapes SA being: soil quality, water management, weeds and pest animal control, and tree planting.

The basics listed are not enough anymore in the 21st Century. Here are a few looming issues with no, or just a passing, mention:
• Climate Change
• Climate Change
• Climate Change
• Drought proofing farm practices; taking drought as the norm, not the exception
• Land-based biodiversity and / or its management.
• The marine environment and its biodiversity.

• Reduced resilience to change in the natural systems
• Reduced resistance to change in our natural systems
• The fundamental issue of overabundant native animals
• Tree planting is not a substitute for 'vibrant biodiversity'.
• The funding and expertise gap between current management of ecosystems and the passing mention of Rewilding.

Much of the documentation is about process (some might say busy work), not outcomes. Here are some process issues with which you will need to deal:
• Better boundaries for regions which encompass similar rainfalls, landscapes, agricultural industries, and issues.
• Loss of professional expertise and essential programs by recent defunding
• Gutting of the Environment portfolio
• The burnout of communities from previous iterations of like proposals
• The disillusionment of communities seeing busy-ness rather than progress in this proposal

I reserve the right to expand of the dot points above with specifics at a later date.

David Leach

09 Aug 2018

The info session in Mt Barker is booked out, are you going to move to a larger venue or run another session in Mount Barker???

Landscape Reform Team > David Leach

09 Aug 2018

Hi David, thanks for your message. Numbers for each forum are restricted to enable robust conversations as part of a structured facilitated session. Apologies that your preferred forum is full. However, you may like to consider signing up to the waitlist so that you can be contacted if any spots become available, alternatively if you can travel to Murray Bridge, Marion or Grange perhaps you can consider registering for one of these sessions. Please don't hesitate to email us at landscapereform@sa.gov.au if you have any further queries about the sessions.

Lee Williams > David Leach

09 Aug 2018

Reform Team, if community engagement is requested, and forums are a part of that, it seems disappointing that people may be discouraged, and asked to go to another area. Locals are the best to identify local issues, as this reform is seen as necessary,

and travelling may not be an option for participants. can I ask what numbers are restricted to in each venue. this number of responses is surely a positive, as many times communities are less engaging,

David Leach > David Leach

09 Aug 2018

I have facilitated many community discussions and agree with others that directing me to another session 30kms away is less than optimal.
We pay a couple of hundred dollars a year in NRM levies, for many years, are you all that busy that you can not run a second session in areas where there are interested.

Landscape Reform Team > David Leach

09 Aug 2018

It is definitely encouraging to see that there is a lot of interest in the proposed reforms and the community forums. We are doing our best to hold as many forums as we can across the state given the wide range of people involved in natural resources. While not everyone will be able to attend a community forum due to the scheduled times, or due to some of them reaching capacity (60 people per session) the forums are only one of the ways we are seeking feedback about the reforms. We welcome everyone's input through this online discussion or through an email or letter. We have taken note of your concerns though and if additional sessions can be arranged then further advice will be posted on this site.

Sue Oldfield

08 Aug 2018

I am not sure if this is the correct place to go with this having previously sent an email to NRM with a phone call response which I appreciate but feel the issue needs to be addressed some other way.
I can only speak for the township of Pt Vincent & Stansbury but ask how & who can change a protected species to non protected. The people do not understand why the Cormorant (Shag) is classed as a protected species when there are such large numbers in these 2 towns & have been for many years, I understand there has not been a count of numbers also for many years!
These 2 towns alone are being bombarded of a night time with Cormorant excrement. The stench is appalling & unhygienic.
They sit on the oyster bed posts where the excrement has made the water that bad that oysters cannot be farmed for some days. In Stansbury they roost in the trees

where market days are held so then other resources are wasted as the CFS sometimes has to come in & hose the pavement off. The pontoons where people swim are covered in it. Cars get bombarded & if its not washed off quickly, effects the paint. The local Hotel windows, decking & roof get splattered with it. God forbid if they wanted to use rainwater of have solar panels. It would be a waste of money. The stench is off putting for customers especially summertime when windows are open. The Norfolk Pine trees are dying at the top.
Currently a permit is issued for local Progress to shoot which is aimed at scaring them away, with a small number able to be shot. Whilst some don't agree with the shooting, such a small number have no impact & the scaring is only short lived. The cost of bullets having to be purchased is not ideal.
With such large numbers the amount of fish consumed is surely having an impact on fish stocks, its not just the fishermen depleting them!
Surely they should not be protected species & there should be another way to bring them back to an acceptable level!

Landscape Reform Team > Sue Oldfield

16 Aug 2018

Hi Sue thanks for raising this issue. One of our teams is looking into this matter further. We'll get back to you very shortly.

Tanya Taverner > Sue Oldfield

21 Aug 2018

Landscape Reform Team,
Are you serious when you write that one of your teams 'are looking into it'? Are you going to report that the Cormorant are a health risk, and require management under a new classification, maybe from being protected to abundant? I suggest that the Department puts more effort and resources into 'managing' introduced species and the impact that human activities are having on the native fauna, wildlife and their ability to sustain/survive with diminishing habitat and food source.

Landscape Reform Team > Sue Oldfield

22 Aug 2018

Hi again Sue. The management of wildlife is definitely an important issue. The Department for Environment and Water actively promotes a “Living With Wildlife” approach to managing the interaction between humans and native animals by providing advice on appropriate ways to reduce the impacts.

Where there are problems with abundant birds, the destruction of the offending

birds is often a popular option of affected community members. This option can be contentious with people opposed to the destruction of native wildlife. Large scale destruction is expensive, time consuming and, on its own, not necessarily effective in reducing bird impacts. Little Corellas, an unprotected species, is an example that demonstrates that.

Any proposal to change the listing of a native animal, whether it be a common or threatened native animal, involves gathering of data and evidence to inform decision making. In the case of the Pied Cormorant there are no accurate population estimates for Pied Cormorants nor systematic monitoring programs in place.

Departmental officers continue to work collaboratively with the Yorke Peninsula Council to develop appropriate integrated management strategies that include non-lethal and lethal methods when required to manage Pied Cormorants at Stansbury and Port Vincent.

Paul Gibbs

07 Aug 2018

To Whom It May Concern.

I would like to have my say in relation to the changes being proposed to the Natural Resources Management Act.

Whilst it is clearly reasonable to review and modify any existing government outlay it is also important to base any action on the real evidence on what has and will be managed. We need to base our decisions on the objective truth of the environmental reality that is presented to us.

Equally important, is an assessment of those in our communities who actually have the qualifications, expertise and experience to advise these decisions. It is acknowledged in the rationale for changing the NRM Act that good work has been done and that some have a perception of being too close to government.
By its very nature any organisation that is funded by government will have to work closely with government to be accountable for the limited funds it is charged to distribute.

I understand there is evidence presented by the University of Adelaide School of Biological Sciences/Ecological and Environmental Science that has made it clear that the loss of native plant habitat has been the single most destructive process to the long term sustainability of ecology and biological diversity of the wider Adelaide Hills catchment.

It is this that underpins the management of the preservation of our environmental inheritance.

The acceptance of this principle would then enable the progressive rehabilitation of our environment over the next fifty to one hundred years, which potentially would lead to the effective control of pest plants and animals as well as providing a basis for planning and implementing sustainable agriculture and major water management priorities.

The outstanding work of Professor David Paton AM and his Adelaide University team needs to be one of the authentic experts we call on in developing the Landscape South Australia Act . There are also many other qualified people who have a clear grasp of the situation and they need to be invited to present evidence that will inform government process and policy. Some of these people are currently engaged with the NRM and in addition to having qualifications, have significant experience in private enterprise and influencing local communities. Let's not lose this expertise.

Whatever final decision is made by our government let it recognise what is really happening to our natural resources. To have a situation where, in 2018, the Adelaide Hills has less than 7% of its original flora and falling numbers of bird and mammals species is an indictment on ourselves as an informed society, and the new Act must recognise and address this.

Sincerely
Paul Gibbs
Dip T; B Ed

Chris Blaikie > Paul Gibbs

08 Oct 2018

Yes and not limited to the Adelaide Hills Region either....
Our whole state is an ongoing man-made disaster for its environment and ecology. The 'rules' that are supposed to provide some protection are not working or do not apply in too many cases (or are just not enforced).

Landscape Reform Team

07 Aug 2018

Due to high demand, those wanting to hear more about the government's proposed reforms to our natural resource management system can now register to attend two new Community Forums:

• Marion – 30 August (6-9pm) – Marion Cultural Centre
• Grange – 6 September (6-9pm) – Grange Golf Club

You can register on this site through the Community Forums and Workshops page (select Metropolitan Adelaide Community Forums). Please note that numbers for each forum are restricted to enable robust conversations as part of a structured facilitated session. If your preferred forum is full, please register your interest by signing up to the waitlist. We will seek to organise additional sessions as demand allows.

Lee Williams

06 Aug 2018

How should natural resources be managed in South Australia? Perhaps realistically, from many of the previous comments. Education is a focus, and it is a big part of consideration when making plans and implementing them. Goal setting of desired outcomes, and reaching those targets needs commitment. not just a financial commitment. The "natural" landscape is changing, and as a landholder of a farming property, would like to be able to hand over a farm, and a property that is full of native animals and vegetation, and agricultural practices that compliments the land, water and soil in our care. the regions in the state are all unique in their own way, and differ as much as the adjoining landholders in any region, with individual and contrasting views and ideas of land management, and natural resource management. The natural resource management in South Australia needs to compliment and work with border states as well. Not much point having rules and regulations that cannot meet desired outcomes, or meet the intended/desired outcome because of an imaginery boundary/border on a map. This is evident with feral deer in SA, and the different view of unconfined deer in Victoria. A pest vs a game resource. The impact of other commitments with interstate things like the MDB, having drains in the SE of South Australia funded for millions of $$, moving water around through many landholdings, with unknown longterm and potentially irreversible impact on soils, water, and biodiversity outcomes. The drains, implementation and ongoing effects may or may not secure desired outcomes for natural resources of South Australia. I look forward to the managing our landscapes event in our local area in September, and hope that when the reform is realised, landholders are encouraged and supported as they manage their properties into the future.

Landscape Reform Team > Lee Williams

08 Aug 2018

Thanks for your useful feedback Lee which will be taken into account. It's good to hear you have booked in to attend a community forum session next month to further share your views. We look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara Randell

06 Aug 2018

I am a botanist with a long-term interest in the vegetation of South Australia, both within Adelaide and throughout arid areas. I have also been an active member of Friends of Parks for 25 years.

Over the years I have become very cynical about the efforts of governments to manage environments. Usually they are elected for 3-year terms, and hope to 'fix' problems within that time scale, and impress electors with their great results. Those of us in the field are well aware that the problems will barely be impacted by new approaches within any 3-year period.

That being said, I have read through the discussion paper. Like Peter Croft, I am dumbfounded to find that there is NO consideration being given to the major problem we are currently facing ie. Climate change. For there is no doubt that our climate is changing, whether or not we believe that human activity is contributing to that change. Climates have changed many times within geological eras, why should our time be any different? Surely one of the highest priorities of any new legislation dealing with the environment should be to assist soils, vegetation, water, primary producers, managers etc etc etc to be sustainable through the climate changes we are already encountering.

Another omission would appear to be any consideration of air quality. Maybe that will be left to Greening Adelaide to manage. But it's effect is not restricted to Adelaide alone.

Also I see nothing about marine ecosystems. There are many parts of the state where management of this environment is a major concern.

One final note, at a practical level. I see that the Grassroots Grants will be managed co-operatively between the landscape boards. I am sure that virtually every Board could find grant applications that would take up all the $2million dollars available. There will need to be an independent decision maker to make sure that the Boards don't have major disagreements about which applications get funded.

Chris Blaikie > Barbara Randell

08 Oct 2018

I very much agree but would like to add the most often ignored issues of light and noise pollution, both of which have impacts to the natural ecology in both marine and terrestrial environments.
If I could draw attention to a recent study 'Widely used marine seismic survey air gun operations negatively impact zooplankton' McCauley et al .....this is not something we should have been allowing in the Great Australian Bight.

Jo Gebhardt

03 Aug 2018

As part of the reform process I would like the current Operation staff sharing agreement between the Northern and Yorke NRM and Murray Darling Basin NRM boards for the Rangelands Group area reassessed. It is regarded by staff and group members as complex and difficult to work under. The Rangelands area should operate under one board, the MDB.
I also think the merger of DEWNR and NRM has not been a successful initiative. NRM is now perceived in the community as yet another government department which places it at arms length from the people it needs to be relating to.

Cheryl Zampin

03 Aug 2018

Landscape reform is a very important topic not only for the people but for the native fauna which reside in these areas. In QLD, landclearing is having a devastating impact on the wildlife with many species under threat of extinction.

In SA we are already encroaching on our wildlife however community education is wavering. Most are unaware species like koalas etc do live in suburbia like Elizabeth, Salisbury, Henley Beach, Flagstaff Hill etc.

The trees which they live in form part of the delicate ecosystem we have in SA. The trees needs these native animals, the water needs the trees, the trees need the soil and water. We are already seeing native animals die because the balance is being affected and we need to act NOW to change this.
If just one of these systems comes under threat, the whole ecosystem is affected.

We desperately need to focus on soil, our native flora and fauna and waterways to ensure they are healthy again or we will lose our lovely ecosystem.

To put it into perspective.....imagine Australia's iconic koala being extinct. Doesn't sit well does it!
It's all connected...water, flora and fauna. We MUST do something and FAST.

Kate Washington

03 Aug 2018

Kate Washington
Kitchen Garden and Environmental Educator

The current hands-on services and resources provided by the NRM Education Program is of high quality and incredibly effective at promoting environmental and sustainability education to primary schools. I am concerned that with the proposed changes and focus of Green Adelaide, we will lose this invaluable and unique resource.

I work across two different primary schools in the outer Adelaide area, and as a result have engaged with a number of different officers from the NRM Education program. I find all the individuals to have extensive expertise and experience in managing strong and impactful projects at this crucial level of our children's development. Their unceasing support is delivered through onsite visits, working directly with students and assisting teachers and SSOs to deliver high quality programming that has lasting educational and environmental benefits to our youngest generation.

The fact that schools are not even mentioned in your discussion paper or executive summary was a very strong indicator that this unique service has not been considered extensively enough. This is a landmark service that South Australia should be recognised for and strengthening, rather than throwing the baby out with the bathwater in an attempt to re-badge it as 'nature education' and forcing a re-creation of something that already works incredibly well.

I am concerned that in this restructure, us educators and our students will lose our lifeline to this incredibly important resource and it will take many years to even come close to replacing it, let alone improve on. Please do not underestimate its value and disregard the good work of this Program in the changes to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I will watch the development of this new legislation and affiliated changes closely.
Kind regards
Kate Washington

Landscape Reform Team

03 Aug 2018

Thanks everyone for your contributions so far and for getting involved in this discussion - there is some great feedback being provided. Next week marks the start of our community forums. Don't forget to register if you haven't already. The forums are another great way for everyone to have their say on the proposed reforms.

Melissa Priest

03 Aug 2018

Melissa Priest
Youth and Recreation Officer
City of Holdfast Bay

We currently have a great working partnership between NRM Education and the Cities of Marion, West Torrens and Holdfast Bay, to deliver three school garden professional development workshops across our three Council areas annually. This has been a really successful partnership for a number of reasons, including:
• Enabling the opportunity to offer free PD to teachers by utilising the expertise of NRM Ed staff and contacts, and within a very modest support budget provided by the three Councils.
• Showcasing what schools and early learning centres are achieving around our regions whether it is big or small scale projects and give educators the opportunity to make connections to provide each other with information on learning and successes and to support each other.
• Providing an avenue to promote opportunities available to schools and earning centre centres through each of our three Councils.
• Providing an avenue to promote opportunities available for schools through NRM Ed staff and resources.
We would really like to be able to continue with this great partnership into the future.

Peter Croft

03 Aug 2018

Mr David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047

Adelaide
SA 5001

I am responding to your invitation to comment on the Discussion paper "Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change". Thank you for the invitation to do so.

I was surprised that the document did not start with the key issue for any land manager right now: the impact of climate change on landscapes in the future. The recent severe weather in the northern hemisphere (Sweden forest fires, Greece fires, Japan heatwaves and typhoons to name a few) has highlighted the changes taking place right now. We can reasonably expect that South Australia will experience more severe weather (bushfires, drought conditions and storms) to an increasing extent from now on across its landscapes. This coming summer is likely to be a testing time for South Australia. The future will be much more so.

With this in mind, I found the document read as a paper mainly concerned with process not outcome. As an example: the page (page 11) entitled "Benefits" outlines 12 benefits of the proposed changes and highlights process benefits (e.g. governance, agility, administration costs, system changes etc). While "Vibrant biodiversity" was mentioned on page 8 of the document, the document has scarcely any mention of biodiversity in the description of the proposed changes in the pages that follow. The need for well-funded monitoring of landscapes to check how they are responding to climate change does not rate a mention either.

My overall impression of the document is that it reads as a return to the system of pest control, soil conservation and water boards which existed in the 1990s and previously, albeit on a lower funding base.

I urge you to rethink the changes that you are making. In particular, I suggest that you:

• start from climate change adaptation as the key future driver of change to landscapes
• ensure that the arrangements for NRM functions reflect what is required to adapt to climate change with some success. That includes adequate monitoring and adaptation to climate change.
• upgrade the role of biodiversity management in your planning: it's not just managing the pest plants and animals to achieve viable landscapes; it's important that the ecosystems in the landscapes work.
• ensure that these functions are resourced appropriately. No one will thank the government in ten years time for chopping a few million dollars each year off the cost of NRM and Environment Departments only to find that the South Australian landscapes are not adapting to climate change and that farming businesses aren't viable and the natural parts of our landscapes are declining.

I am happy to discuss these suggestions in more detail at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Peter Croft

Kate Hubmayer

02 Aug 2018

The services that NRM Education has offered to schools and community groups over the past decade has been excellent.
I have been involved with a number of school gardens, community gardens, community centres and native revegetation projects, and the support given by NRM Education has been broad and useful. This support has included hands-on help building a frog pond, excellent teaching resources, professional development and networking opportunities, small grants, a great website, weekly email newsletters and more. NRM Education has been the only government department which has offered such meaningful and useful support. Hugh Kneebone and his team have been fabulous. I hope their work will be able to continue under the new structure.

Allan Sumner

01 Aug 2018

Natural resources should be managed in South Australia in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples of interest. We need to decolonize the oppressive systems that continue the process of colonization in South Australia and to restructure the system to be more inclusive of Aboriginal people. 50,000 years of traditional knowledge and practices yet today, Aboriginal voices and participation are not being valued.

The "Managing our Landscapes Conversations for Change" publication talks of South Australian's as being blessed with diverse, productive and stunning resources. I don't see any Aboriginal people being blessed nor enjoying these resources. Most Aboriginal people have not experienced the privileges associated with economic viability nor have they had an opportunity in managing their own land. Once upon a time, Aboriginal people had complete control over their lands and waters. 50,000 years of traditional knowledge, but unfortunately, promises in forging strong, enduring and productive partnerships with Aboriginal nations are often seen as token gestures and the commitments to maintain these relationships often fade away due to inadequate funding allocations. It's great to support landowners, growers, and pastoralists but what support is given to Aboriginal people whose lands

and waters were taken away. Where is their economic base and how can Aboriginal people move forward autonomously in managing their own affairs equally if they don't have the infrastructure to work from?

My recommendations for Minister Spears

1. To provide adequate resources to assist in the establishment of an Aboriginal Natural Resource Center in South Australia.
1. 1 Build an Aboriginal Natural Resource Center that has the autonomy to speak on behalf of natural resources in South Australia, providing direction, offering projects and educational programs to Schools, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Growers, and Pastoralists.

2. Provide adequate resources to support the establishment of an Aboriginal Natural Resource Center to that will foster collaborative and close relationships directly with NRM boards/staff, Schools, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Growers, and Pastoralists.

My questions for Minister Spears

1. Will the minister offer a strategy in ensuring long-term employment for Aboriginal People in Natural Resources South Australia?

2. Will the minister consider the above recommendations in relation to NRM?

Thank you
Allan Sumner
Ngarrindjeri Kaurna Yankunytjatjara Representative
South Australia

Landscape Reform Team > Allan Sumner

03 Aug 2018

Thanks for your insightful feedback Allan, which will be used to help shape the reforms. Your comments and suggestions will most definitely be given further consideration. Thanks again for joining the conversation.

Ida Moore

01 Aug 2018

As a current Year 12 student, the NRM board has been an important part of my education. It has helped support my work with the environment from primary school, through teachers and NRM Education, and into my high school years, through the

Willunga Environment Centre and YACCA. I feel that while some of the reforms may benefit some parties, it excludes supporting people with expert knowledge in the environmental and sustainability sector, placing the focus on landholders without improving the land quality through expert advice and guidance, and most importantly, education. While the reforms boast making, "strong, enduring and productive partnerships with land managers, volunteer groups, industry experts, Aboriginal nations, other tiers of government and advocacy organisations to deliver practical, on-ground works that address local priorities," the only true experts are either private (thus having a significant bias depending on industry) or are volunteers, who could be paid employees in the NRM rather than giving advice for free only in available hours; so while this may empower community members, it also separates them from the unbiased opinions and advice of current NRM workers, who have highly specific qualifications. I aim to be part of the environmental and land management sector, and I find this very disempowering. While I know there are many job opportunities out there, the reforms will significantly reduce the job availability pool and the nature of the jobs regarding government land and natural resource management.
The "Landscape Boards" idea is a heavily simplified system compared to the NRM! It has no prerequisite for a knowledge base of the area, the natural environment, conservation or sustainability. It sets a low precedent for the goals for environmental preservation and action for local areas. A democracy even in a small region requires more people and more opinions to gain a wider view from the community. This sector is also an important industry; natural resource management requires strong qualifications and experience, not just being local.
While "a transparent system that draws a clear line of sight between funding sources and on-ground action" and increasing participation are positive values, reforms will not achieve this - especially by getting rid of NRM education, which will actually reduce the scope of landscape management and discourage young people from becoming involved. Building upon the existing system would be much more effective, perhaps by adding a "Landscape board" composed of community members and landholders to communicate with the NRM, and this could be effective in implementing the many plans of the NRM, and in the exchange of ideas from community and landholders to the experts to develop plans and increase the effectiveness of NRM and community efforts. Reforms will only weaken the system and reduce management effectiveness.
How should natural resources be managed in South Australia? With Natural Resources Management boards.

Landscape Reform Team > Ida Moore

02 Aug 2018

Thanks for your very thoughtful feedback and interest in the proposed reforms Ida. There are many issues which still require consideration and will be informed by the

engagement process - it is feedback such as yours which will be valuable in helping to shape the government's new direction.

John Stafford

01 Aug 2018

The Roman emperor Nero has often been accused of fiddling while Rome burned. As a member of a Friends of Parks group and as a private rural land owner I often feel somewhat complicit with Nero in being totally irrelevant to the issues at hand.

In the conservation park under our group's care I see trees that have succumbed to summer moisture stress or have blown over in winter. An inspection of the latter's root systems reveals that there are no deep tap roots to access subsoil moisture in the summer nor to physically support the tree in winter.

Some 10km away on my own farming property this same scenario is repeated, only this time I can add further concerns. A gently sloping hillside that should be well drained is in fact a bog in winter and a swamp-inhabiting plant in Juncus is now invading the site. A recent attempt to run steers on the 60 acre property revealed that its stocking rate (if it has one) is way below what it was 40 years ago when managed as a dairy farm.

It seems to me that this is a classic landscape issue affecting both conservation and farming land. Are the soils becoming anaerobic and thereby facilitating the decay of tree tap roots, along with impairing natural soil structure and drainage? A very practical hands-on agency is surely needed to help resolve such soil issues.

John Stafford

David Coulter

31 Jul 2018

Our early childhood Centre has been well supported by the NRM education program. The support has enabled community members and educators working together to receive practical knowledge and guidance in designing and planning improvements to the children's outdoor learning environments.

Margherita Campbell

31 Jul 2018

NRM have been instrumental in supporting local schools in sustainability and environmental projects. Access to professional development, advice, leadership and networks have been absolutely necessary to ensure the educators and community members are up-to-date with their knowledge and action plans. This has also ensured that our children understand their continual responsibility in this area. Will this continue? Who will look after the website needed to ensure the information continues to be accessible? How will schools, child care centres and other institutions stay motivated if they cannot access the person with the knowledge and experience to share? We love Steve and Cally. Keep them in our neighbourhood!

Kristy Bennets

31 Jul 2018

Not really sure if this falls under the umbrella of this discussion but I live in Richmond, a fairly industrial area and I would love to see more greenery within the suburb and in all suburbs for that matter. Its depressing looking out the window and seeing a factory right next to me. Of course, this is my choice but I foresee that if more investment was made into more dedicated areas for natural vegetation around this area it would improve local resistant health and atmosphere health. In particular, I would love to see a community garden here as well. This would bring a sense of community, help citizens have more access to natural areas they can walk to and not have to drive too far and further congesting the roads.

Landscape Reform Team > Kristy Bennets

02 Aug 2018

Hi Kristy, thanks for your feedback. The issue you have raised definitely falls under the umbrella of this discussion and in particular relates to the government's commitment to establish Green Adelaide which will deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. Don't forget to sign up for updates in order to see how Green Adelaide is shaped following feedback received through this engagement process. Thanks again for your input.

Landscape Reform Team

31 Jul 2018

Thanks to everyone who has been commenting on the NRM education programs. It's great to hear how beneficial these programs are in ensuring our State's younger generation are involved and connected to their local environment. Please continue to keep your feedback coming though.

Glenys Perri

30 Jul 2018

I would like to attend the discussion session but as I work 9-12 noon on a week day is not suitable. NRM has had a great influence in schools - education, revegetation and biodiversity is great but a lot needs to be done in regards to weed eradication, large scale native revegetation and financially backing amazing not for profits like 'friends' groups and Trees For Life. I live in the Blackwood area and we have some lovely parcels of native vegetation remaining but the amount of weeds is really disturbing

Derek Walter > Glenys Perri

01 Aug 2018

I think weeds are a huge issue for everyone at the moment. I think community groups need to step up, and help out in areas of communal benefit. I also think we need to stop expecting things to be done for us. This is one problem that has led the NRM levy to skyrocket, because as the community expects more and more to be done for nothing, the money has to flow from somewhere, and levies create an unequal movement of money from one place to another. If everybody helped out in their own region more, and even created work groups to move and help out in other regions, there would be less demand for the dollars that get caught up in red tape. Also, more money from the levies actually hitting the ground would be helpful.

Mandy Hank

30 Jul 2018

As an educator, the NRM education program has been most valuable in attempting to get a plan for our school to be sustainable and teach environmentally sound

practices to our senior secondary students. the NRM is the only service that appears to be available for schools to conduct thorough educational assistance

Dolores Amos

30 Jul 2018

As a natural resource manager of 30yrs and an environmental educator at a R-12 school located on the Fleurieu Peninsula, I am a little concerned that through the proposed changes, learning communities will lose the valuable support of the NRM education team. These teams are an integral support of schools and vital in the education of landscape ecology and sustainable practices. NRM teams empower our youth with knowledge and together with schools, we inspire and give them confidence and a passion to become ethically minded citizens which assists them to make a positive impact at a local and global level.
I am also a little concerned that a large focus will be on Green Adelaide and the division of monies will be unfair. The name itself is not suitable - what does 'green' mean anyway? I suggest it is an old fashioned term and used as a derogatory at times. Why not something like Sustainable Adelaide or EcoAdelaide or the like.
I also comment here about the severe reduction of park rangers in recent times. These people are vital in hands-on action at a ground level and themselves have become a threatened species. I note in the blurb re proposed changes, the lack of the word, biodiversity. Caring for the biodiversity and ecological status of the state's 'natural' areas is fundamental and support must be given to threatened species and protection of these areas.
I note the community forums are during business working hours and this reduces the capacity of some interested parties being able to attend, including myself. Can I suggest evening or weekend sessions?

Rebeka Probert > Dolores Amos

30 Jul 2018

I agree with the points above and will add my comments and thoughts shortly. I agree with offering a weekend slot for community discussion. 9am-12pm on a work day isn't sufficient in being able to include and gain the voice of a fair group sample within these communties. I think this is a very important consideration moving forward.

Landscape Reform Team > Dolores Amos

31 Jul 2018

Hi Dolores and Rebeka, thanks for your helpful feedback. In terms of your concerns about the community forum session times, we appreciate the times allocated may not suit everyone. Unfortunately it's just not possible to find a single time that meets the schedules of all participants, given the wide range of people involved in managing natural resources. While the forum times may not be suitable for everyone, the community forums are only one of the ways we are seeking feedback about the reforms. We welcome everyone's input through this online discussion or through an email or letter (please refer to the 'Get Involved' section on the front page for more details). In the meantime your concerns have been noted. If additional sessions can be arranged then further advice will be posted on this site. Thanks again.

Derek Walter > Dolores Amos

01 Aug 2018

Re: Education. I'm unsure whether the Landscape South Australia Bill should be encumbered with the job of educating everyone in the State about the Environment. Surely there is enough awareness in schools now for them to seek out information on their own. Landscape SA should be used to liaise with the community and add local knowledge from different sources to the large amount of general knowledge already out there.

Landscape Reform Team

27 Jul 2018

Thanks everyone for joining the conversation and providing your input. The feedback provided is valuable and will be taken into further consideration. In the meantime, please don't forget to register to attend one of our community forums and also sign up to stay informed and receive notification of updates.

Natalie Gentle

27 Jul 2018

As an educator, the NRM education program has been valuable in building capacity in young children to learn about natural environments and sustainable practices. I would like to see a program for early childhood and school aged children continue, as education of young children is an investment for future sustainable practices, which ensures that when these children reach adulthood, they are highly skilled in navigating waste systems, and hold a deeper understanding and connection to the natural environment. The NRM grant scheme has also been incredibly important in

setting up community based, sustainable initiatives, that improve the natural environments of education settings and encourage creative solutions to barriers relating to sustainability.

Marcelle Muller > Natalie Gentle

29 Jul 2018

As a teacher at. Climate change school, I feel it is our duty to teach sustainable practices as part of the Australian Curriculum so we need the NRM to continue their support.

Elspeth McKinnon

25 Jul 2018

As an educator of young children I have found the NRM Education Program to be highly valuable and I am extremely concerned that the streamlining of the management and abolishment of the board will mean an end or a vast reduction of a highly effective service. As educators we can be sometimes be expected to be a Jack of all trades and some may argue a master of none. The NRM Education team has not only worked with children but has also built the capacity of educators and our communities. With the support of NRM we have been able to go further and deeper with educating for sustainability. NRM has also supported the educational sector to work with other community groups such as KESAB and Reconciliation Australia.

Landscape Reform Team > Elspeth McKinnon

27 Jul 2018

Thanks for your input Elspeth in relation to the NRM Education Program, its great to hear how valuable you have found this program. Just wanted to follow up with you about what is happening with the Boards to make sure you have all the information. The existing eight NRM Boards will be abolished and replaced with nine Landscape SA Boards. The existing boundaries for the Boards are proposed to be largely unchanged except in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges region where they will be covered by Green Adelaide and two new Landscape Boards to serve the Hills and Fleurieu region and the Plains and Valleys region. Hope this was helpful. Thanks again for sharing your views. Your feedback will certainly be taken into account.

Derek Walter > Elspeth McKinnon

01 Aug 2018

I agree that the NRM has been able to get some high quality information into the community. As education has always been an important and necessary part of ensuring community programmes succeed, these have been invaluable to many groups. As a commercial farmer, though, it seems that a very small portion of this output is geared towards the people who care for the vast majority of the landscape (outside the metro area).

Di DeLaine

25 Jul 2018

I am concerned about the ability of some regions (of vast areas with a low population) as to how to fund their programs. There is a very real inequality between the regions in terms of funding resources from levies that needs to be addressed.
In addition, soil quality and water management rely on robust natural ecosystems and native vegetation, yet native vegetation is not the key priority for NRM.
Thirdly, the Boards having more community representation/focus is one thing, however the cost of supporting these boards does erode the regions of valuable funds for on ground works and community support from extension officers. I believe the state needs to cover the costs of running the boards, not the region's levies.

Gerry Thompson > Di DeLaine

30 Jul 2018

I agree. Some regions have natural landscapes with high conservation value, but a low population base from which to fund management of those resources. It would be better if those landscapes were recognised as of state or national importance and funded accordingly. I am thinking of the pastoral area and River Murray. It should not be an impost on landowners in those regions who are already struggling with the costs of production.

Di DeLaine > Di DeLaine

02 Aug 2018

Hi Gerry. Add the AW, Outback and EP regions to that mix!

Paul Turner

24 Jul 2018

As a Highbury resident close to the River Torrens Linear Park I am concerned about the attention given the River Torrens by the NRM (or is it more correct to say lack of attention). Having adequate funds is obviously the issue. In September 2016 we had the massive flood which caused considerable damage along the River. Some of the damage is still yet to be repaired. There are some "settling ponds" (Sedimentation basins?) which have been seriously damaged and no action has been taken to restore them. All of these ponds were put in for a reason but one major pond is now just a tributary of the River and others have been partially filled with silt build up thus limiting their effectiveness.
Also many of the stormwater inlets with catch nets are poorly maintained - more often than not are so filled up with rubbish that they are almost ineffective.
It seems that the original design was set up with oversight by the NRM but ongoing work has been hand-balled over to local Councils who do not seem to have funds required to adequately maintain the infrastructure. Is it a failure by the NRM, Councils or State Government or perhaps all due to lack of direction or interest?

Cheryl Zampin > Paul Turner

03 Aug 2018

Absolutely agree Paul. Linear Park is a haven for many native animals and native trees who rely on the creek bed for water.

I am concerned about the soil which feeds all of those elements as well as the ongoing litter which enters these waterways.

Steve Coombe

24 Jul 2018

The SAMDB was acknowlledged as having one of the best community based systems in the country. They were the Local Action Planning groups; incorporated associations run by local volunteer landholders. From the mid-1980s they did remarkable works at moderate cost across the region. In 2011 it was shown that for every dollar received, eleven dollars of funding was leveraged for targetted on ground works.

In 2018 these groups are a shadow of their former selves, de-staffing and, in some instances, closing down. The proposed changes will come too late for some.

First came the slash and burn of the Department for the Environment. Their focus fell on acquiring the Natural Resources Levy for survival. NRM staff became Department staff. Government pressed harder for returns and slashed again. So much administration piled up that the remaining staff spent their time attending to process rather than outcomes. The miracle is that these outcome oriented staff were able to achieve anything at all, but they did against the unrelenting pressure of paperwork.

Meanwhile, the once cooperative LAPs were set against each other competing for a diminishing pool of funding. Other groups were added to the list of bidders for the funds. Competing government programs were set up as well, further diluting the LAPs' access to funding for on ground works. Money was fed out piecemeal and later and later where once it was paid up front. The buffers that the LAPs had built up in the early days are now all but gone.

People with the core knowledge and the passion have traiked off and re-organised their lives. If the syestem is resuscitated a few may wander back for a look but I fear that two or more decades of capacity has been lost. Maybe the cynicism of the old will be washed away by the new wave of graduates, but for how long?

Working in the environmental industry is a tough gig. This new thrust makes many of the right noises at this end of the process but ultimately its success or failure will rely on trust.

Trust by government in the community to get good outcomes on ground.

Andrew Allanson > Steve Coombe

25 Jul 2018

Excellent comments Steve. As a member of a surviving LAP group, I have become incredibly frustrated. LAP began before the NRMs were set up. I remember attending a forum in Adelaide about the creation of NRMs; when I voiced my concerns about an extra layer of bureaucracy I was assured that NRM boards would be assisting LAP groups. History has shown this not to be true.
Whilst people are needed in offices to manage and be administrators of programs, there is a huge need for on-ground work - largely neglected at the moment. "You can't manage bushland from an office" seems apt at the moment.

Landscape Reform Team > Steve Coombe

25 Jul 2018

Thanks for joining the conversation Steve and Andrew and for sharing your comments on the Local Action Planning (LAP) Groups.

The LAP Groups have played an important role in providing support to volunteers and community groups across the SAMDB region and have made great contributions.

We would encourage you to come along to one of the community forums to have your say.

Thanks again for sharing your thoughts.

8.7 | Written Submissions From Individuals



Register of written submissions from individuals

Date Received	Given name	Family name
03-Aug-18	Lyn	Edwards
03-Aug-18	Vanessa	Green
05-Aug-18	Paul	Gibbs
01-Aug-18	Andrew	Hewett
04-Aug-18	Susan	Luchich
31-Jul-18	Dato	Mdinaradze
10-Aug-18	Clint and Dara	True
10-Aug-18	Patricia	Rogers
13-Aug-18	Peter	Day
09-Aug-18	Elizabeth	Brooker
15-Aug-18	Simon	Wundersitz
16-Aug-18	Janet	Copping
31-Jul-18	Chris	Butler
19-Aug-18	Richard	Stott
20-Aug-18	Kim	Lau
26-Aug-18	Joy	Cuneen
27-Aug-18	Cate	Foskett
30-Aug-18	Ian	Fitzgerald
30-Aug-18	Almeda	Peer
04-Sep-18	Helen	Macilwain
10-Sep-18	Craig	Flavel
10-Sep-18	Bill	Nosworthy
10-Sep-18	Catharine	Morrison
13-Sep-18	John	Hunwick
14-Sep-18	Prue	Coulls
15-Sep-18	Ian	Blight
08-Aug-18	Peter	Sheridan
17-Sep-18	Ash	Read
24-Sep-18	Bob	Lange
30-Sep-18	David	Lindner
01-Oct-18	Rodney	Bell
02-Oct-18	James	Ferguson
02-Oct-18	Greg	Hill
02-Oct-18	Michelle	Peterson
18-Sep-18	Gavin	Rehn
14-Aug-18	Tony	Dickson
24-Sep-18	Julie	Turner
25-Sep-18	Richard	Lawrance
25-Sep-18	Amanda	Fleming
26-Sep-18	Kirsty	Wallis
26-Sep-18	Tanya	Stott
27-Sep-18	Simon	Lewis
04-Oct-18	Wendi	Avery
04-Oct-18	Kerry	L'Estrange
05-Oct-18	Alan	Burns
06-Oct-18	Margret	Keath

06-Oct-18	Jenny	Woodley
07-Oct-18	Jenni	Douglas
07-Oct-18	Mandy	M
07-Oct-18	Olga and Doug	Farnill
08-Oct-18	Douglas	Ransom
10-Oct-18	Rose	Ashton
10-Oct-18	Suzanne	Wiebkin
11-Oct-18	Ole	Wiebkin
12-Oct-18	Mark	Holman
12-Oct-18	Lynda	Yates
12-Oct-18	Leone	Shapter
12-Oct-18	Jeanette	Terry
12-Oct-18	John	Mullins
13-Oct-18	Emma	Sandery
14-Oct-18	Rose	Dow
14-Oct-18	Valerie	Wales
15-Oct-18	Caterina	Gioffre
15-Oct-18	Melissa	Rebbeck
14-Oct-18	Ben	Pontifex
14-Oct-18	Fahimeh	Shahvarpour
14-Oct-18	Grant	Gartrell
15-Oct-18	Greg	Horner
15-Oct-18	Priscilla	Buckley
15-Oct-18	John	Read
15-Oct-18	Greg & Yvonne	Varcoe
15-Oct-18	Clayton	Crabbe
15-Oct-18	Rob	Lewis
15-Oct-18	Carlsa	Carter
15-Oct-18	Neville	Pfeiffer
15-Oct-18	Millie	Nichols
15-Oct-18	Helen	Lindstrom
15-Oct-18	Kent	Martin
15-Oct-18	Harry	Seager
17-Oct-18	Lindsay	Gibson
16-Oct-18	Anthony	Bennett
15-Oct-18	Karen	Spry
25-Jul-18	Annette	Bulling
04-Aug-18	David	Watkins
30-Jul-18	Greg	Badcoe
18-Sep-18	Natasha	Morgan
10-Oct-18	Patsy	Johnson
26-Jul-18	Robyn	Palmer
6-Aug-18	Andrew	Lothian

From: YourSay
Sent: Friday, 3 August, 2018 10:59 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: FW: Mount Lofty Botanic Garden

Feedback below received into the yoursay inbox this morning while this email address is published on the Landscape Reform website while we await the fix on the landscape reform email address.

From: Lyn Edwards
Sent: 03 August 2018 10:00
To: YourSay <YourSay@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Mount Lofty Botanic Garden

As a volunteer garden guide, I am very concerned about the level of maintenance of many of the paths in the garden.
It is good to see that following summer storm damage, several paths have been repaired and upgraded. My concern is the smaller paths which have not been maintained adequately, to the extent that when I guide visitors, I often avoid certain areas as I consider them unsafe and do not want visitors to fall or be injured.
The horticultural staff are stretched to their limit and do a commendable job maintaining the gardens themselves, but the infrastructure of the garden needs to be maintained so these world -class gardens can be enjoyed.
I urge consideration of further funding to adequately maintain this valuable state asset.

Lyn Edwards
Volunteer Garden Guide

From: Vanessa Green
Sent: Friday, 3 August, 2018 3:03 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM Reform

I have worked with many NRM staff over the past 7 years to deliver a range of programs and services to schools and kindys within our Council area. The support that they are able to provide to schools and kindys around sustainability, climate change, food gardens, natural play spaces, water and waste has been invaluable, and has enabled our local schools and kindys to create environmentally friendly environments while educating children on the importance of taking care of our natural resources. The staff are extremely knowledgeable and have been consistently amazing to work with.

Most recently I have formed a partnership with NRM and two adjoining Councils to deliver free workshops for educators to provide them with the skills and resources to create food gardens in their schools and kindys. To date we have delivered 6 workshops with extremely positive feedback from attendees. NRM staff and their experience, skills, knowledge and resources are critical to the success of this partnership.

The support, resources and education that NRM provides to schools and kindys across SA is extremely valuable and is essential in providing access to natural spaces and opportunities for all children to learn about, experience and protect our natural resources.

Vanessa Green
Community Development Officer
City of West Torrens
165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
Hilton SA 5033

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From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:34 AM
To:
Subject: Email Submission [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Anderson-Gibbs [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 5 August, 2018 12:07 PM
To: YourSay <YourSay@sa.gov.au>
Subject: The environment

To Whom It May Concern.

I would like to have "my say" in relation to the changes being proposed to the Natural Resources Management Act.

Whilst it is clearly reasonable to review and modify any existing government outlay it is also important to base any action on the real evidence on what has and will be managed. We need to basing our decisions on the object truth of the environmental reality that is presented to us. Equally important, is an assessment of whom it is in our community who actual have the qualifications, expertise and experience to advise our these decisions.

I believe that we have evidence that has been presented by the University of Adelaide School of Biological Sciences/Ecological and Environmental Science that has made it clear that the loss of native plant habitat has been the single most destructive process to the long term sustainability of ecology and biological diversity of the wider Adelaide Hills catchment.

It is this that underpins the management of the preservation of soil quality for when we clear lands we create the potential for a 'dust bowl' in the hotter drier seasons.

The acceptance of this principle would then enable the progressive rehabilitation of our environment over the next fifty to one hundred years , this could lead to the effective control of pest plant and animals as well as effective planning for sustainable agriculture and water management major priorities.

The magnificent work of Professor David Paton AM and his Adelaide University team must be one of the authentic experts we call on to inform the Landscape South Australia Act . There are many other qualified people who have a clear grasp of the situation and they need to be invited to let the evidence inform government process and policy.

To have a situation where, in 2018 , the Adelaide Hills has less than 7% of its original plant cover and falling numbers of bird and mammals species is an indictment on ourselves as an informed society.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Gibbs

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:36 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Establishing a Bird Sanctuary on Unproductive land using Salt tolerant Trees [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Rebecca Hewett
Sent: Wednesday, 1 August, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Establishing a Bird Sanctuary on Unproductive land using Salt tolerant Trees

I own a property south of Port BROUGHTON, We crop most of the Paddock's, but after heavy summer rains in 2014 , some areas became waterlogged, as these areas dried out ,the salt rose to the surface.
In July I sowed this area into eucalyptus, acacia and other salt tolerant trees.

Would the NRM be able to help me with this project ?

Establishing trees, possible re seeding where they don't germinate.

Tree guards for trees as they germinate.

Watering trees, physically for the first 2 years

Watering costs using mains water.

Fencing area from Kangaroos ,rabbits and livestock.

Develop site as bird sanctuary .

Possibilities create a tourist attraction in long term.

I would appreciate your feedback of what I can achieve working with NRM.

Regards

Andrew Hewett

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September. 2018 11:36 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email submission - Managing our Landscapes summary improvements [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: sueluchich [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 4 August, 2018 10:52 PM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Managing our Landscapes summary improvements

I read this on my phone, not the best but I have some ideas.

1. In the summary of the discussion paper July 18, the Guiding Principles and Benefits pages use fancy dot points. I think there could be a case for numbering these to make it easier to refer to for responses and discussion purposes.

2. I wonder what prompted the minister to believe things needed change. Why is reform needed? Some background would be good please.

3. Why change the name of the NRM? Most ordinary members of the public don't even know what it is but they're getting to know. I'm spreading the word. If the name is changed it may take years for the public to come to know what the newly named organisation is, what it does and how it helps the community. If they don't know they won't use it.

4. Why does the Act need to be repealed and replaced?
Reform is good only if it is an improvement.
NRM has been a fantastic resource for landowners and environmentalists, LAP's and Landcare groups.
Things may need to be improved but to change the name may be counter productive.

5. Some of the links didn't work for me:
FAQ, and video. Also I didn't get offered to "open" the downloadables, I wanted to look at them!

Thanks for offering this opportunity to give this initial response.

Yours faithfully
Susan Luchich

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:38 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Opinion [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Dato Mdinaradze
Sent: Tuesday, 31 July, 2018 9:47 PM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Opinion

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dato Mdinaradze and i'd like to propose an idea and show my support of it.

Encourage people to be mindful about their waste by rewarding them financially. Councils charge same amount as rates based on the valuation. Same price if you throw rubbish every week or once a year.

I believe it would encourage the majority to be more aware and mindful (some might chuck rubbish in neighbours bins, but hopefully majority will do the right thing.)

Happy to discuss idea further, can be contacted on this email or

P.S. Also have thoughts about waterwise adelaide.

Regards

Dato

Landscapes SA
Submission re changes to the new Landscapes SA framework

Having read through I have answered most of the questions and intent of what is to change in bold. I thank you for the opportunity to put my views.
I have no problem with a review of the NRM Act and possible changes that may be forth coming. But you need to realise that some of the NRM Boards have been actively engaged with the Community.
"Landscape SA" seems to mean landscapes, I thought I was asked a long time ago to look after the Natural Resources, the name "Landscapes SA" seem to be more agriculturally intended when first explained?

Managing natural resources with decentralises decision making, empowering regional communities to take responsibility for managing natural resources at the local level. **We have formed the CAP (Community Action Planning) process and this has engaged many wider group to already be involved. I would be loathed to see this taken away as it is very difficult to get rural community members involved as time and distance make it hard. It is working well in my region.** Less money spent on administration, management and documentation would not go amiss if we are able to run the programs from the region not Adelaide. **More focus on facilitating delivery through partnerships has been something our Board has done. Our reports of our activities has been done by all our Board members, not to say some improvement could not take place.**

Landscape SA? Landscapes are the natural systems and resources that make up our surroundings – the soils, water, plants and animals that make up our rivers and plains, forests and hills, coasts and seas. If this is the intent then that is OK, **I did get the impression that Agriculture was to take a larger role? I really hope we continue to look after the Natural Resources, whilst this contains Agriculture we have all the other natural resources to maintain as well. I would like to see Agriculture be looked after more by PIRSA.**

Decentralised decision making and putting the focus on local issues and priorities that matter to regional communities. **This is what our Board has done and would continue. Community and landowners at the centre, our CAP process has done this, please keep the CAP's going.** What will be the key priorities of the new legislation? The new legislation will be simplified – identifying soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management as major priorities, while maintaining a commitment to broader environmental programs such as revegetation. **We have been undertaking just this in our region.**

The new legislation will be simplified – identifying soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management as major priorities, while maintaining a commitment to broader environmental programs such as revegetation, **this would be greatly encouraged.**

The NRM Levies will continue to be collected by councils, **it would be better to collect then like the Essential Services levy from Government, not added to my Council rate collection. Many Councils feel it is an impost and they feel that they are paying this money and see no reward for it, this needs to be considered. As for levies collected being spent in the region collected I have no issues, but our collection is not great and inhibits on ground works, we would need Federal, State and other funds to assist.**

What are landscape scale restoration projects? Landscape scale restoration projects are those that operate at a larger scale than individual properties or small areas of land. Instead, they require cross-regional or even state-wide coordination. Many pests and weeds occur over two or more regions and require a coordinated approach. South Australians are already undertaking a number of landscape scale restoration projects, such as the Wild Eyre and Naturally Yorke projects. The projects involve many partner organisations, land managers and volunteers working together to achieve a range of shared goals. They occur over many years and help to achieve visible long lasting change. Our reforms aim to support more investment in landscape scale restoration projects, such as through potentially creating a Landscape Priorities Fund. **These cross-regional activities need to be encouraged more.**

Will marine areas be covered in the new Act? Yes, it is proposed that the Landscape South Australia Bill will apply to the same areas as the current NRM Act. For instance, regional NRM plans currently apply to the marine environment out to three nautical miles. It is proposed that regional Landscape Plans would also cover this area. **We have already had discussions on a "Marine CAP" for Spencer Gulf and then adding to Gulf St Vincent. The Marine side has been left out by Coastal Boards for much of their existence and needs to be encourage to happen. Our Board has started the engagement and I would again be loathed to see this not encourage more. After all a lot of our food source comes from the sea and we need to maintain more involvement not to continue to pollute the sea environment. I personally think this aspect of the environment will create greater importance.**

Existing boundaries are proposed to be largely retained, although there may be some small changes to boundaries informed by the outcomes of the engagement process. Factors to consider in defining their boundaries include: • Financial viability – to ensure sufficient funding to fulfil their functions Logical administrative boundaries – to simplify levy administration, relationships and delivery • The Country of Aboriginal nations • Community connections and identity • Land use • Water catchments and marine ecosystems. **This needs addressing**

How will the Landscape Boards be different to the current NRM Boards? The new Landscape South Australia Act will create nine Landscape Boards to replace existing NRM Boards, with the intent to place community at the heart of delivery. Landscape Boards will be at arm's length from government. Landscape Boards would have more autonomy than the current NRM Boards. They would be responsible for their own budgets and employ a general manager who would manage staff. Landscape Boards would have the power to set and manage their own levies. Increased autonomy brings with it a need for improved transparency and reporting. It is proposed that the Landscape SA Bill would establish a regulator to oversee a cap on levy increases and Landscape Boards would need to provide publicly available plans and budgets. An end of financial year report would document actual expenditure as well as the measurable outcomes achieved. **This whole aspect has major implications for smaller Boards to deliver what the region may require. Much of what is outlined is already done by the local NRM Board and very strict financial controls are taken by us a Community Board members. We are transparent in what we do now.**

The new Landscape Boards will employ a general manager and staff to undertake environmental management only in the region employing them - unless agreed otherwise. Boards will be required to outsource some of their work to the private and non-government sector to create jobs and drive investment further. Local councils will also be encouraged to apply to undertake this work. It is anticipated Landscape Boards would continue to facilitate funded delivery of natural resources management services on behalf of the Australian Government, such as through the National Landcare Program. The new Landscape Boards and local regions will also benefit from decentralised

decision making and a back to basics approach, with less money spent on administration, management and documentation, thereby freeing up funds for on-ground activities. **If we do not get outside financial assistance then much of what we wish to achieve will not be able to be achieved.**

The nine Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. Collectively, the members of each Landscape Board would need to have the relevant skills to facilitate management of the region's natural resources. To be effective, Landscape Board members will need to have local knowledge and strong connections with the local community, and appropriately reflect the diversity in the community. The appointment process would be streamlined and simple, requiring minimal approval "gates". Specifying these processes in regulations rather than in the Act would improve flexibility to adjust those that aren't working as intended. A number of options will be considered during the engagement process to inform how community members would be elected. **Be careful to get people from Community who are wanting to be on the Landscapes SA as someone put up by Council / Community may only fill a seat, passionate interested people are what is needed. I am a passionate person for the Natural Environment but this idea may not get the best people. I am a Community person attend meetings and report back to the NYNRM board regularly.**

Supporting vibrant biodiversity is a key goal of the reforms. The new legislation will focus on the fundamentals of natural resources management, soil quality, water management, and pest plant and animal control. Biodiversity conservation will be supported by all three of these fundamental priorities. In addition activities that assist biodiversity conservation will also continue to be enabled, such as revegetation. **Make sure that this does continue to happen.**

The strong focus on soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control needs the priorities of managing, soil, water and pest plant and animals are fundamental to landscape scale restoration. In addition to these priorities, other local and landscape scale activities will be needed in particular areas. These activities, such as revegetation, sustainable agricultural practices, rewilding, protecting habitats of native priority species and fencing can also be important contributions to achieving the community's desired outcomes for their landscapes. Combining the priorities of managing, soil, water, pest plant and animals with these other practices will collectively help to revitalise and restore the quality of our natural environments. Keep doing this otherwise we will not have soil, water into the future.

What will the reforms mean for volunteers, project partners and participants? Volunteers, project partners and participants play a major role in managing natural resources across South Australia. Their contribution of time, energy, expertise, equipment and resources is extremely valuable and underpins the sustainable management of our natural resources. Volunteers are the backbone of much of South Australia's environmental management – supporting us to scour beaches for litter, educate and create behavioural change, track the progress of endangered animals and look after our heritage assets – amongst many other vital activities. The proposed Landscape South Australia Act will see the establishment of the Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million state-wide annual fund (in addition to existing NRM grants programs), administered at a Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access. Until the new Act is passed, NRM Boards will continue to focus on delivery of services for the community. Current NRM arrangements will remain largely unchanged for the 2018-19 financial year. **Good**

What will the reform mean for employees currently working with NRM Boards? Employees working with the NRM Boards are important stakeholders in this process– with expert local knowledge in delivering vital natural resources outcomes to the South Australian community. Their feedback will help to shape the development of the Landscape South Australia Bill to ensure it meets the needs of community and industry as well as regulatory and South Australian Government requirements. In terms of their day to day role, very little will change until the proposed legislation is passed through parliament. We will keep employees informed on the status of the new Act and how the transition to it will be implemented. We understand our reforms will require a change in approach and some uncertainty for many people invested in the current natural resources management of the state. Once the new Act is passed, we are looking at a collaborative approach with key staff, stakeholders, Aboriginal Nations and the community to inform the implementation process, which is likely to take place in stages over a 12 month period. Until then, NRM Boards will continue to focus on delivery of services for the community.

Aboriginal Nations and the Communities need to be informed of the implementation process. This is an area where we need to continue to invite Aboriginal Groups in our respective regions to seek what they want for their requirements. Our Board has done as best it can and some of us members have had over a long time wonderful interaction with some of the Aboriginal Groups in our region, it must continue.

What about reforms in other areas? Our new government's focus is the Landscape South Australia reforms. However there is more that can be done and as part of the government's future agenda, there will be opportunities to explore improved interactions between a range of legislation. Further engagement will be required on any further reforms in coming years. Some of this legislation includes: • The Aquaculture Act 2001 • The Coast Protection Act 1972 • The Fisheries Management Act 2007 • The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 • The Native Vegetation Act 1991 • The Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 • The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 • The Water Industry Act 2012 **There is a hell of lot that needs addressing with respect to many of the above mentioned departments. The Pastoral Board need to be given back the opportunity to enforce overstocking of their regions as was done years before with Pastoral Inspectors and stock counts. The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act needs to address that structures are not built anymore on coastal dunes or within anywhere the high tide and storm tide events. The Coast Protection Act needs to be able to support the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act with respect to where future structures are placed, not the whim of a moneyed developer.**

In addition, water resource management engages a range of stakeholders who may or may not be actively engaged in the Landscape Boards, and involves a broad suite of legislative and policy arrangements. **This again is part of what our Board has been undertaking in our Region it needs greater support not to extract water beyond the capacity of the resource.**

From Peter Stockings a NYNRM Community Board member at present.
I have been involved with NRM through the Groups and before that through Coastal projects.
I have in my work been working with the Narungga (mainly Point Pearce) people for many years. I now volunteer my time to continue to assist as an advocate for them.

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September 2018 11:41 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - your say [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: clint true [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 9 August, 2018 9:30 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: your say

Whom it may concern,

My name is Clint True, my wife Dara and I purchased a property just out side of Cowell in South Australia about 3 years ago to start a new life venture / business that we strongly believe that the state would benefit from. We are setting up an adventure park to include dirt bike tracks, 4x4 tracks, paintball field, mini putt putt golf course, obstacle course, café, camp area, sporting ground, bmx track and and entertainment arena to bring a range of exciting shows to the area. We have had the aid of URPS development planners assist us with our business plan, we have had meetings with the SA tourism mistral Miranda Lang and have gained positive feedback of the business, but our most recent dilemma is the Native Veg on our property.
I had a meeting with an Adam Schultz (DEWNR) and was quickly shut down on any thought of the idea, after a 5 hour travel to see him it was a highly disappointing day.
I have since had native seeds (Merrick Savage) come to my property off my own back to give me thoughts of the situation, and was told that the property is prime native vegetation, Merricks suggestion was to use the north side of the property as offset and talk to the farmer next door to try buy some cleared land off him. This idea does not sit with us as it goes against the vision we have held for this business, We do not wish to have a park like all the rest where it is cleared land with tracks, we purchased such a beautiful property to incorporate it into the business, so people are riding between the natural surroundings with the benefit of riding on a groomed and controlled environment.
I understand native veg do not want the vegetation to be damaged, and this is also my goal not to damage the land, hence by placing tracks through out will give designated tracks for people to stick to, and enjoy the lands, we have also included in our business plan we are looking to reveg in bare areas of the property including looking in to a bore being placed and plumbed to an irrigation system for assisting with dust and growth, and we are happy to remap our tracks to minimise any tree losses.
I'm am now in process of trying to gain a meeting with the minister of SA native vegetation to speak of my options.
It has been a process to get to where we are now with a lot invested, to much for me to give up on what we set out to achieve.
My thoughts were that once we purchased the property it was ours to do what we will. And again our goal is not to destroy the land but to inherit it in to our business for the true beauty it brings to the land.
we are a simple family trying to build something we believe will be an exciting opportunity for South Australia, and something to pass on to our kids in the future yet we have a red tape placed in front of us because there is no interest in our end goals.

We strongly believe if the land is so pure and the Native Vegetation wish for it to remain this way they should consider to buy our property back from us and do as they will…
if this is not an option, I believe their say on what we do with our property should remain the same way……
Not an option

Regards

Clint and Dara True

True Extreme Adventure Park

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:42 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Use of S.A. Reservoirs. [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Patricia Rogers
Sent: Saturday, 11 August, 2018 10:16 PM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Use of S.A. Reservoirs.

I am extremely concerned regarding the plan to open our valuable reservoirs to the public for recreational water activities.
I would like to ask, what will be the impact upon the water levels in our reservoirs, which are still below 50% and the enormous cost if accidental or deliberate water contamination occurs?
It is extremely simplistic to declare that water may be extracted from the Murray River to " top up " the reservoirs. This will mean even less environmental flows.
South Australia does not necessarily have to follow the eastern states or certain overseas countries who permit water activities to occur in their " drinking water ".
The water in S.A. Reservoirs is "too precious " to put at risk.
Our wonderful beaches are the places where we can enjoy many varied and pleasurable water activities, not our valuable reservoirs that provides the state with it's drinking water.
The impact upon our Australian fauna and flora in the Reserves surrounding the Reservoirs ie, Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, which at present is protected from the public, is so very easily dismissed. Society has already had a very detrimental impact upon our Australian fauna and flora, do we have to totally extinguish their habitat in these very unique safe areas, just to provide "a domain for pleasurable activities ".
Our Reservoirs must not be taken advantage of, as they are too precious to put at risk.
Sincerely Yours,

Patricia Rogers,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Landscape SA Act – Submission – Peter Day

Core Principles

Some key principles in South Australia's NRM legislation originated back in the Soil Conservation and Landcare Act (1989); and they're worth keeping.

The Soil Conservation and Landcare Act was the first legislation in Australia to introduce 'district (or regional) planning'. It was influenced by the concept of a 'duty of care', which traced back to England and a tenants obligation to maintain the leased assets of the landlord. It aimed to instill an equivalent 'duty', regardless of land tenure or ownership.

It also emphasized the need for landholders to 'own the problem' and 'own the solution' – at the individual and community level. Drawing on 'extension' theory it required district communities to identify problems and their solution – and the same applied to individuals faced with serious soil conservation issues.

The legislation insisted on regional communities acknowledging issues and planning to address them, but it did not aim to dictate **how** they should manage their land.

The concept of regional planning was then incorporated into Victoria's integrated NRM legislation (the first of its type in Australia) with the Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994). South Australia followed the integration suit with the Natural Resources Management Act (2004).

The principles of regional and individual responsibility, and a duty of care, are as important today as they were nearly thirty years ago.

Integration

Many resource management issues require an integrated response for an effective solution – at the property and landscape scale. Examples include:

- **Water quality.** The management of soil erosion in headwaters, the management of nutrients from irrigation or intensive grazing, or the generation of litter and urban storm-water may all need attention to optimize water quality.
- **Pest control.** Production and conservation goals can require the control of rabbits, cats, foxes and wild dogs across lands used for urban, rural and conservation purposes – with the broad community and all landholders involved.

An important foundation to integrated programs is the development of consensus within a community – agreeing on the nature of a problem, its cause and solution. As rural communities become more diverse in nature, the importance of such conversations grows.

'Regional planning' should generate and facilitate that sort of dialogue. The discussion and agreement is more important than a highly technical report or plan, or a regimented engagement process. The outcome should be well-founded on science, but with an emphasis on local 'ownership' and being a clear, agreed expression of priorities and strategies.

Descriptions of solutions should be more about principles of resource management, rather than prescriptive management – similar to the use of policies and principles in the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act (2016) and proposed State Planning Policies.

Hopefully it will be possible to adopt existing regional NRM plans as transitional Landscape plans, and steadily move toward new Landscape plans as part of a five-yearly cycle.

Delivery models

Across Australia, the administration of regional NRM bodies range in structure from predominantly in-house staff, to a small core of staff and out-sourced service provision. An example of the latter is a recent call for the provision of strategic natural resource management planning, reporting, community participation and Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Services, through the Regional Land Partnership program in Queensland.

Staff-based structures can engage in-house technical experts and specialist technical officers, while private provider models offer great flexibility, access to skilled providers with wide experience and access to ideas from afar, and the growth of service-based businesses within the region. Both have advantages and there isn't a 'one size fits all'. The ratio of staff to private-provider should vary with the wishes of the community and in response to the availability of skilled providers.

Delivery inevitably requires a mix of:

- Agency staff and/or private service providers,
- Community volunteers and landholders,
- Research and teaching institutions, and
- Industry, Landcare and conservation networks.

It is about developing the partnerships required for effective operations. Eyre Peninsula presents several examples of the proactive development of relationships to attract research; including an emphasis on water resources research by the then Catchment Water Management Board, a climate change focus for research by the NRM Board and, more recently, a citizen science strategy.

Regions should have the ability to develop bodies along lines that best meet their situation. They should have ready access to, and support from, State agencies – but not be beholden to them. They need access to, or funds for, technical specialists and people able to integrate and link issues throughout landscapes – i.e. they need a mix of specialists and generalists, whether they be staff or private providers.

More important than the structure of a regional body is the resourcing provided to them. Any duties imposed upon a regional body must be matched with adequate resources – be they staff or funding for private providers and works.

Landscapes

Landscapes contain built (or economic) and natural capital (e.g. landforms, soils, water, and biota of all types), as well as social capital (people and communities, and their industries and institutions). They include ecosystems, production systems and social systems – and the interactions between them and the cycles of which they are part.

The Landscapes Act will need to define 'landscapes' and clarify the capitals, or components of each, to be considered and monitored. Similarly it may be necessary to define 'landscape health' to guide future monitoring and reporting, especially if it is to go wider than just reporting on the condition of physical resources, as was done in the National Land & Water Resources Audit's 'Landscape Health in Australia, 2001'.

Landscapes are constantly evolving and, as they do, so to do their issues of priority and their solutions. Physical aspects may be relatively constant, but other aspects are in constant flux – such as the climate, socio-economics (e.g. markets, landuse, and communication), and technology (e.g. moves to automation, if not autonomous farming).

Agriculture-dominated landscapes face two sometimes opposing trends:

- Intensification. Competitive demand pushes more use of water, nutrients, and boicides to increase production.
- Restorative production. An emphasis on the quality of produce and the production system; requiring positive stories about things like healthy soils, carbon, humane animal management, and the promotion or integration of biodiversity.

There are production systems that seek to optimize both, but there is also potential to see more diversity in production and landuse – a landscape of mosaics focused on intensification or restoration. It offers new challenges and new opportunities. Soil, water and pests will remain important, but it will be equally important to deliver biodiversity outcomes as well. The management of soil, water, pests and native flora and fauna must be integrated, and all aspects given equal merit.

Regular review of the condition and trend of natural resources, and the efficiency (or productivity) of their use, should inform regional planning and priority setting. As should information on the social and economic context, especially features influencing, or relying on, natural resources.

Efficiency and effectiveness

Regions should be encouraged to work collaboratively for maximum benefit. Working with others on joint programs (both within and external to South Australia) will provide numerous benefits. Cross-regional programs also offer better opportunities to link with national partners – making it easier for them and providing stronger delivery options. As examples:

- The Eyre, Northern & Yorke, and Murray (mallee) regions could present a stronger case for cropland NRM programs to the Australian Government and bodies like Grains R&D Corporation, than any could on their own.
- The SA Arid Lands may present a more attractive pitch to a body like Meat & Livestock Australia if collaborating with Queensland's Desert Channels Group than going in alone.
- The South East may find strength in numbers working with the Glenelg-Hopkins and Corangamite CMAs with which it shares many issues, industries and even some communities.

If South Australia promoted such alliances it may also help encourage the Australian Government to be more responsive to regional priorities, rather than encouraging regions to continually respond to national priorities.

As the nature of the Landscape Act becomes clear there may be opportunities to rationalize or modernize related legislation, including aspects related to landuse planning, and to pastoral, native vegetation and wildlife management.

A matter related to inter-regional collaboration is the nature of collaboration between regional and centrally located personnel. The emphasis on community ownership dictates that resources need to be available within regions, but some services may be more efficiently or effectively provided centrally. Some enforcement or compliance roles could fall into that category. Considerations include the amount of work, the degree of specialist expertise required, and the merit of independence from the local community.

Whether an independent body, such as the Natural Resources Commission of NSW, is warranted or of net value should be explored when considering means to promote efficiency and effectiveness, and when aligning the Landscape Act with other legislation.

Conclusion

The general thrust of the proposed Landscape Act is endorsed, in particular:

- Decentralization and a community/landholder-centric approach.
- Whole of landscape approach – with the proviso that biodiversity (or native flora and fauna) be clearly identified as part of that.

The basics of soils, water and pests are enduring foundations for landscape management, but:

- Natural systems (ecosystems) must be accorded equal billing.
- There has to be a balance between issue-specific expertise and integrated whole-of-landscape responses. The needs of landscapes and their communities will not be met by a retreat to silo-thinking.
- Regional planning must be a means for communities to agree on contentious management issues and to own their resolution.

Peter R Day
13/8/2018

POSTAL ADDRESS:
[redacted]

10 AUG 2018

PAGE 1,

TH. 9/8/18.

THE MANAGER,
MURRAY LANDS NATURAL RESOURCES.

Dear Sir,

The accompanying newspaper clipping prompts my response.

My property: [redacted]

Over the decades I have been making appeals about the Boxthorn problem e.g. in the easement under the powerline running along Avoca Dell Drive between Mitchell Ave & Kawonda Rd. (And the colourful berries are spread by birds into wider area). It is essential for follow up work to be carried out, to spray reshoots, otherwise the initial work is wasted.

My experience with the local NR is that the staff are knowledgeable people about such things as botanical names of weed infestations and perhaps they monitor the spread. The problem is there appears to be a dire shortage of staff and/or funding to actually carry out control work — after all land holders have failed to meet their obligation.

→ PAGE 2.



We're changing NRM in South Australia

This involves significant reforms and ***we want your input***

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia

We want to see local communities and people central to managing the natural resources of their region.

Your opinions, feedback and ideas are critical to shaping our reforms and ensuring they work as well as they can.

Join the conversation *(registration essential)*

McLaren Vale
14 August
9am–12pm
Serafino Winery

Gawler
28 August, 9am–12pm
The Hewett Centre

Glenunga
23 August
9am–12pm
Glenunga Hub

Mawson Lakes
27 August, 9am–12pm
The Denison Centre
Mawson Lakes School

Mount Barker
30 August, 9am–12pm
Auchendarroch House

For more information and to register
www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/landscape-reform

HARK THE HERALD - NOW DELIVERED TO 900 BUSINESS POINTS EACH WEEK

Pl. 2/8/13.

Going forward for reform in NR I would like to see practicalities set in motion for active work on weed eradication.

Yours Faithfully
Elizabeth Brooker.

From: Simon Wundersitz <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 August, 2018 9:29 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc:
Subject: Landscape reform feedback

To Whom it may concern

Whilst I'm not fully abreast of potential new legislation/reform I wanted to express my thoughts hopefully before changes are made that will likely to have an impact on our school (and society).

Our school has had a close relationship with NRM Education over the past 7 years. The support, guidance and encouragement given by NRM Education has been integral in developing our school which now (thanks to NRM Education) has a significant emphasis on sustainability. Through working with NRM Education our students have been given a voice, taken action here at school, home and wider community and developed an awareness of the world around them (and how to care for it).

Some of the activities that have stemmed from our partnership with NRM Education have included;

- A waste audit followed by an action plan that was implemented
- An energy audit followed by an action plan that was implemented
- A vibrant kitchen garden program
- Students learning and creating alternate ways of sustainable gardening; hydroponics, aquaponics and straw bale gardening
- Solar panels (soon to be installed)
- Setting up a wind turbine
- Tree planting days
- Creating garden spaces that encourage native wildlife; frogs, birds, butterflies and lizards

Schools are essential in educating children about sustainability issues (biodiversity, water, transport, air quality, waste and energy). The messages students receive and the habits they develop whilst at school are often carried on into their adult life. Surely an educated society aware of environmental issues will have a positive impact on our society and environment. My hope that this is not lost in the proposed changes.

Thanks you for your time

Yours sincerely

Simon Wundersitz
B Ed, B Teaching, Grad Dip Theol
PE, Outdoor Education & Events Coordinator
Immanuel Lutheran School Gawler
Phone: [redacted]
Fax:
www.ilsg.sa.edu.au

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From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:43 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Landscape SA Act [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Alfalfa Products
Sent: Thursday, 16 August, 2018 4:52 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Landscape SA Act

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
I have waded through the discussion paper etc, much of which was repeated.
From what I read I am extremely doubtful that we will end up with any more funds for on ground works.
It is stated that the 9 Landscape Boards will be at arms length from the Government, but that hardly seems possible when 4/7 will be govt appts. The comment was also made that there is a perception that some of the NRM boards were too close to govt. Having 4/7 govt appts would not help . As for the elected members, I think they should come from the subregion they will represent, & be elected by the people from their particular region.
Processes unnecessarily complicated & bureaucratic, we can all agree with, but what are you actually going to do to alleviate that ?
Re compliance, I think that is a huge issue & needs to be addressed & have teeth. We are all getting tired of there being no money to force compliance. While it is OK to target issues of greatest risk, there is always the point that meanwhile a host of small issues when taken together can add up to an awful lot of non compliant actions, which can potentially have a huge affect. Just the notion of having staff about can help. I am actually a farmer & a member of a Friend's group. I know the attitude that "nothing is done " is prevalent, but also the bigger danger is people setting a precedent, & others doing likewise.
Re Levies, I would just like to see the CPI used. Surely that would be the simplest, cheapest option, not have to set up another so called independent body. How ever it is done, everyone is not going to agree.
We all know that weeds, vermin etc don't recognise boundaries. Surely these managers that each board is to have can liase with each other. It has been happening anyway. I think it is important for the authorised officers to continue to be able to control weeds & bill the relevant landowner, if the landowner is non compliant.
You talk about 'ecologically sustainable management'. There needs to be a commitment to protect the natural environment that is still in good shape. It is so much cheaper/ easier to look after what we already have & protect it from clearing, development, pest plants & animals. It is always better to be proactive instead of always reactive. The need for ongoing funding to control/eradicate feral plants/animals is huge. And it needs to continue, it is a waste of time/money to not have continuous programmes in place. It is mentioned that "legislation helps to ensure that soil resources are managed sustainably', I have never seen any enforcement of that legislation.
Plenty of talk about landscape scale approach, but our towns & cities are sadly lacking in supporting our native flora. I have never been to an urban area in this country that prioritises our native veg. I am not just talking about trees, they are only a minor part of our biodiversity.I think we could do much better. There needs to be more liasing with nurseries, re invasive plants that are sold.
With regard to rural areas, we desperately need more rangers/parkworkers in the field. In the area I live they do an excellent job with minimum support. It has been disturbing to see politics playing its hand and staff not being used in the most efficient manner. One incident had 2 staff members, who live 2 hrs apart, having to do work in each others 'areas". Not only did it involve a lot of extra time driving on the day for both staff, it also involved having to

visit each others sites to familiarise themselves with the work to be done, beforehand. So there was a lot of time wasted. The issue of job sharing doesn't seem to be appreciated by those in management. I can tell you it can work really well, if the staff we have at the moment are allowed to get on with the job.
Unfortunately I will still be away when the forums are on, so I have had to do this in writing. I hope there will be some good outcomes, but I won't be holding my breath.
Janet Copping

Chris Butler

[redacted]

31-07-18

While this project has some superficial attractions there are a number of worrying aspects regarding both the project and its marketing.

1-State of the natural vegetation.

I have no doubt that the native vegetation on SYP is in serious decline.

It may be that some of this decline can be attributed to the absence of previously present animals, but there are other issues, especially bureaucratic ones, having a dramatic effect that I have not heard the environmental lobby wanting to address.

The most serious one is native vegetation laws that effectively ban any kind of management of native vegetation, especially on private land. Sometimes a laissez faire approach gives a superior result. For example, 40 – 50 years ago if bushes started infringing on the road carriageway, the bulldozer or grader driver would simply drive over them to break them down. People complained it looked untidy. After a few years there would be regeneration and magnificent display of wildflowers, which would in turn attract all sorts of botany enthusiasts, who would manage to find all sorts of unusual plants. They complained that their precious finds might be run over. So such rough methods that might encourage regeneration were banned and in more recent times the Council has been forced to trim the vegetation at great expense so that the roads can be used. There are places where roads were cut though Mallee scrub that was less than 2 metres high. Now, having the benefit of a bare road on one side and a fertilized paddock on the other, the remnant Mallee is closer to 8metres high. There is vegetation growing of its own accord, but not so much in the way of understory or wildflowers. Both as a tourist attraction and as a vague representation of what was there "naturally"`, it is finished.

It is illegal to plough down or even burn native vegetation on private land. This is a particular problem with small pieces of scrub that have had livestock in them at some stage, but even large areas, most of which have not had a fire in them for over 60 years (parts possibly since 1913) are a relative desert as compared to what they were in my youth. The only hope for this vegetation is a major (and by human standards, catastrophic) bushfire emergency.

There appears to have been something of an awakening in Environment Department circles in recent years regarding the need for fire but, regardless of the abilities of the individuals involved, bureaucracies are incompetent when it comes to using it. There was an incident in our district a few years ago, where, despite forecasts of improving conditions, Dept. Environment staff lit a fire with minimal fire breaks on a day when it was raining, A couple of days later the fire broke out. The result was probably more environmentally useful than originally planned, but the people who lit the fire had gone home because their shift had finished. It was left to local volunteers, who really had better things to do, to make sure people and property were protected. Try that kind of behaviour if you are a private landholder.

There has also been a recognition that there are too many kangaroos around, but you still have to get a permit to kill one. The official recommendation is that only males should be culled. And unless you have paid for a tag it must be simply left where it drops and not used. In other words the breeding ability of the roo population must be perpetuated and use of the resource discouraged.

2- Misrepresentation of feral pests.

The main farming pests I have had to contend with are, in declining order of destructiveness- emus until about 20 years ago when they were outperformed by snails (but the emus are still there), rats, kangaroos, mice (except for last year which was only time we have suffered a plague and they were no. 1) and rabbits.

While I am sure they would be a menace if I had poultry, foxes are nothing more than an irritation. There has been an attempt to talk up their effect on sheep breeders but the fact is that the sheep industry has managed to thrive for a hundred years in presence of foxes. Sheep people worry about foxes roaming among their lambs but there has long been conjecture as to how many, if any, they kill. At one rewilding meeting I went to, a claim was made that in one study a 50% increase in lambing was achieved by controlling foxes. This was obviously an extreme example which requires more detailed information to be taken seriously. A local sheep producer commented to me that he expects 150% lambing. If he finds himself the right side of the proposed fox fence will he be guaranteed 300% lambing?

Rats eat snails.

Foxes eat mice and rats and snails and rabbits.

Research done by the NRM, in connection with their fox baiting programme, which was supposed to be supporting farmers, showed that these animals made up most of the diet of foxes in this area. Declaring foxes an agricultural pest is not supported by this evidence.

A cornerstone of this rewilding scheme seems to be the theory that foxes exterminated the missing animals. There is certainly evidence that some extinctions more or less coincided with the appearance of foxes, but the mechanism is less clear. Some years ago when Tamar Wallabies were re-introduced into Innes National Park, the official line was that they were wiped out by PREDATION of foxes.

The oral history from a number of unrelated sources simply does not support this theory. From what was described as "plague" numbers, the wallabies simply vanished "overnight". A recurring story was that the usual Sunday afternoon sport for pre-teen Kids in the early 1900s was to go chasing wallabies. One Sunday, to their astonishment, they could not find any, they never saw a trace of a wallaby again. If foxes were moving into virgin country it would have taken some time to eat their way through an abundant prey. If they played with them "fox in the hen house" style there would have been quite a mess. The supposed experts are yet to provide an explanation, and indeed, seem to be offended by the notion they need to.

Much is being made of the ability of owls to control mice, and if farmers would only put up a few nesting boxes they could save thousands of dollars on bait. This is an idea which may have some merit, but it is likely to be most useful in the more open and plague prone parts of upper YP. I do not doubt the ability

of owls to eat thousands of mice, but I am yet to hear anyone give an assurance they can out breed a mouse plague.

A flier was put out suggesting that people were enquiring as to the effect of phosphide baits on owls and there was an assurance that they were not a danger because owls would not go into pre-flowering crops. While there may be a few farmers on upper YP who pre-emptively bait mice at that time of year, in most places on YP baiting mice is an unusual practice only resorted to in desperation during infrequent plagues. It is carried out early in the year in an attempt to get seed germinated before it gets eaten. If baits are going out, the ground will be relatively bare, but the owls have already failed. A more relevant issue is - what are the owls going to live off in times of low mouse numbers? How to sustain a sufficient owl population to meet rising mouse populations. What other small animals will they take? And will they be damaged by anti-coagulant baits used around buildings.

3.-exageration of benefits to the economy

This district has some serious demographic challenges. They are not likely to be helped by rewilding. Not many people are going to decide to live in their otherwise empty holiday homes on a permanent basis just so they can gaze at the phascogales

While it is true that people like to look at animals, and sometimes astute marketing can capitalize on that, it is a fickle business. We are talking about animals we are assured will stay in the scrub. I do not know of any grand tourist ventures based on the pygmy possums that are already here, or on any of the animals slated for introduction in the places they already exist. Animals that are a tourist attraction tend to be large and highly visible.

Whale watching at various places, sharks at Dangerous Reef, seals at Seal Bay, penguins at Victor Harbour come to mind. Turns out that killer whales like swimming with the sharks whereas a lot of people find it a very off putting idea. Seals like penguins. Seals also like Coorong mullet. I am sure lower lakes fishermen have an understanding how they benefit their economy.

4.-Clean and green nonsense.

The concept of a clean and green image is a very tenuous one. It is certainly better than a dirty and polluted one, but fashionable causes and political conniving are in continuous flux.

Chinese mothers don't raid our baby formula because the cows grazed with kangaroos, but because they think it is unlikely to be pumped up with inedible ingredients- it's about avoiding corrupt middle men. It has nothing to do with farmers.

I have to declare that my canola is not GM and that I have not drained any swamps if I want to sell to the EU. It is about internal EU issues and providing protection to European farmers who have to live with those issues, nothing to do with me and the wildlife I have to deal with. I have never had any swamps to drain.

Australian grain is seen as "clean and green" because it tends to be delivered on specification and without mould or insect damage. It's about quality control.

It is very unlikely that anyone will want to buy my barley in preference to say, the product of someone from eastern Eyre Peninsula, or southern Alberta because there is a patch of scrub in the corner of my paddock that has a few otherwise absent animals and plants injected into it.

There is a common refrain from the green lobby that there is a preference for products produced by farmers who can show that they work with nature. It is absolute rubbish. If a 25 ton truck load of grain is delivered to any silo in SA with so much as a single gum nut or a Mallee leaf in it, it will be rejected as unsaleable.

5.-Promise of no cost.

Believe it when I see it.

When Tamar Wallabies were introduced into Innes National Park some years ago, the notion that they might get out of the park and cause a problem was ridiculed, partly because the presence of foxes would make it impossible. There is almost no chance that an established population of Tamar Wallabies on farm land won't cause damage. Almost immediately the wallabies were released, a fox baiting programme was extended to cover all of the Hundred of Warrenben to, amongst other things, protect the Tamar Wallaby.

Publicity about the re wilding programme suggests that it will only involve species of no agricultural interest. Not one word has been uttered about how the promoters of this programme intend to keep the wallabies in the park. The most likely explanation is that they have no intention of doing so. That they think they have got away with that one.

There will need to be a great deal more clarity of intentions and a great deal less misleading promotional hype before I will be supporting this project.

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:45 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - NRM [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: RM & JE Stott
Sent: Sunday, 19 August, 2018 8:10 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM

Dear Have Your Say, I am a semi-retired farmer aged 69. I have farmed for 51 years. Most farmers are great caretakers of their land. The Dept. of Agriculture used to do research and do the soil conservation. The local council used to make us do our declared weeds along with the pest plant commission. Their was ONE inspector. The Evnvironment protecion authority was caretaker of the environment. Landcare did most of the tree planting and restoration of neglected, bare areas. From what I make of it we pay this levy to put some backsides on seats (called the board.) then there are the Staff. ALL AT A SUBSTANTIAL COST. The GDRC take a levy from all grain grown and this goes into research. This includes soil research. better plant breeding and improving the environment. Why are we duplicating roles. The rate we pay for the NRM levy has gone mad. Get rid of the NRM and go back to the days when common sense prevailed. Yours sincerely, Richard M. Stott.

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:45 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - NRM are great already [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Kim Lau [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 20 August, 2018 6:41 PM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: NRM are great already

In 2001 I came to live in the Adelaide Hills before this I have never lived on acreage, kept livestock or management a property full of bush weeds. I had lived on the city of Adelaide and Sydney in suburbia. The first thing I did was a small property land management course with the NRM. It was great. I did other courses with NRM about livestock and cattle and bush weeding and mixing & using chemicals. We invited them to the property to tell us about the weeds and how to management. We rang them to ask when spray blackberries and what to spray and how to manage them. We attended sessions about native animals, fungi, butterfly plant planting. There are this great educational program where the students at the school are taught lots of environment information.

I just hope that all this knowledge from these great people will continue giving information to us, property owners and community members.

Best Regards

Kim Lau

[redacted]

From: Joy Cunneen [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 26 August, 2018 10:12 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM Reform conversation

NRM Reform Conversation:

1. I strongly support the Landscape Board's being at arms-length from government and employing their own General Manager and staff.

   However to ensure that community confidence in the Board's is restored, General Manager appointments will need to be totally new personnel with no link to the old structure in order to avoid the public perception of agency influence and also to bring fresh ideas and direction. The organisations would also need to be housed in separate buildings if possible, to remove the perception of undue influence.

   The current organisational structures that are in place will need to be reviewed as the current structures are unaffordable for the Boards. All positions and classifications need to be reviewed with all positions to be called to ensure that the best, fit for purpose skills are retained. This would also ensure that any surplus employees would not become a Board liability. All positions need to be located within the regions where possible to provide local knowledge, develop community trust and relevance.

   Finance and corporate services need to be returned to the Board's as the current arrangement of these services being provided via DEW and shared services has resulted in increased costs to the Board's, not savings as promised. The current arrangements are unaffordable to regions.

   The current situation where we have a regionally based work portfolio (not too many parks or farms located in the city) and yet over half of the employees are CBD based is a little curious.

   I strongly support the "return to basics" approach, however consideration also needs to be given to the leveraging and use of other funding streams (eg Aust Govt, State Govt) to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the regions. Australian Government funding streams have been extremely important in providing onground outcomes for the Boards and the community.

2. I strongly support the concept of simplified planning. NRM plans take years to develop and provide little guidance for the Boards or the community. Water allocation planning (WAP) will always be long and drawn out due to the political influences exerted at all levels. The current model actually works quite well with a lot of community ownership. Reductions will always be strongly resisted at the licensee level but are a reality if the resources are to be managed sustainably into the future.

   The separation of policy development and regulation would provide greater transparency and accountability. The Boards should be responsible for the policy development and the agency should be the regulator.

3. I support the concept of electing community members and capping levy rates, however consideration needs to be given to the most cost effective means of doing this. It is of little benefit if independent regulators and election costs erode the benefit to the Boards. Nominees would still need screening to ensure candidates have the desired skill set and are not just pushing a self-interest agenda.

4. Smaller Boards with limited capacity to raise levies such as Kangaroo Island (KI) & Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) should be joined to larger Board such as KI to Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) and AW to SA Arid Lands (SAAL) or Eyre Peninsula (EP), to provide them with the financial capacity to operate effectively.

5. State government funds should be allocated to support the setup of new offices. Many of the Boards have had their funds depleted over the past few years and the cost of re-establishing new offices – desks, storage, IT, phones etc will be significant.

6. Partnering with local organisations to deliver programs where possible, has always been an objective of the Boards. However some NGOs are not based within the regions and any funds directed to these organisations to deliver programs do not generate the full financial benefit to the regions (the multiplier effect), as the bulk of these funds (wages, vehicles etc) are spent in their home bases, and these are usually city centric.

   Utilising statewide/national NGOs also contributes to the loss of local capacity and expertise as the small local businesses that provide these services are unable to secure contracts to deliver these services.

7. Water Management Cost recovery charges: Although they were recommended by the National Water Initiative they have not been widely adopted by the other states, making an additional cost impost on SA producers. NWI also suggested that the charges needed to be transparent and applied to the catchments where the costs have been incurred. Both of which have not occurred since they have been introduced in SA.

8. Water reform: the unbundling of entitlements has made for a cumbersome and confusing process which is overly bureaucratic with additional fees required for the transfer or amendment of each of the 4 instruments. Changes to the water section of the Act need to be made to ensure that licensees can easily understand and manage their entitlements. Announced allocations may be suitable for a surface water environment where quantities can be readily estimated but are much more difficult to administer in groundwater systems. Greater uncertainty exists in groundwater systems due to variable recharge rates due to the permeability of the aquifers and recharge time is not instantaneous. Also through flow rates and timing vary considerably making trends much harder to establish over a short period of time.

Thanking you, I look forward to the seeing the development and implementation of the new vision.

Joy Cunneen

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:48 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Kangaroo Management [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Cate Foskett [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 27 August, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Kangaroo Management

To whom it may concern,

I am taking the opportunity of the changes to the structure of the NRM to highlight an existing serious problem with kangaroo numbers in the Kuitpo region. I believe this is also an issue in the Adelaide Hills wine region but it is exacerbated near our vineyard by the large mobs of kangaroos living in Kuitpo Forest.

Not being rated as a feral animal, since they are native, no concerted control efforts have taken place and the numbers have exploded in this area. We had as many as 80 Western Grey Kangaroos on our vineyard every evening three years ago. At great expense we have fenced our entire property and have gained a license to shoot but having to dispose of the bodies ourselves has made this difficult to do regularly as we have to bury the bodies ourselves.

Kangaroos in the numbers we are dealing with severely hamper our vineyard operations, eating shoots, damaging irrigation, nets and fencing and, most seriously, eating grapes. In the 2014 vintage kangaroos got in under the nets and ate approximately 2 tonnes of Cabernet Sauvignon over a two week period. Kangaroos have also destroyed the biodiversity of our neighbours virgin scrub by eating the understory plants. They are a travel hazard on the roads in this area.

I would ask the Landscape South Australia Act to consider implementing funding to document the kangaroo population in this area and implement an humane culling to reduce the population to more manageable levels. Also to look into the possibility of making this area a place where kangaroos might be shot for commercial meat.

Regards,

Cate Foskett

Top Note *Cate Foskett*

LANDSCAPE SA PUBLIC MEETING
GLENUNGA HUB
THURS 23 AUGUST 2018

SUBMITTED TO YOURSAY ON 30 AUGUST 2018

WATER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER ISSUES

1. In terms of what the Catchment Management Boards and the NRMs were doing that should be retained, our table were supportive of the continuation of **Environmental Flows** that had been arranged by the AML NRM for western flowing streams and rivers such as the River Torrens, South Para River, Onkaparinga River etc.
    a. Flows between 20 Ml and 50 Ml have been achieved, and we believe were successful in allowing fish and other animals to move in the streams for breeding and other purposes, as well as benefiting birds, algae and water plants.
    b. As the releases are planned in advance, local media could be targeted to get out the info that the flow/s are occurring, possibly for educational purposes where appropriate.
    c. The flows in the River Torrens have probably helped in reducing the volatility and volumes of the black flushes as well, and improved the water quality overall.
2. The extensive use of **Gross Pollutant Traps** and the huge volumes of materials so trapped has also contributed to better water quality.
    a. It would be interesting to see post evaluation results since the Catchment Management Boards/ NRMs have commenced the GPTs processes to encourage community participation and build further awareness.
    b. Our table supported continued use of Gross Pollutant Traps.
3. There is some community awareness that **native fish** have been the victims of overfishing, poor water quality, and almost total loss of fish habitat.
    a. There has been minimal activity by the NRMs and the SA Government to bring back large bodied recreationally attractive freshwater native fish, which are Locally Extinct, Vulnerable or Threatened Species, according to Commonwealth reports and International Standards. Only one large bodied recreationally attractive fish is in good condition, Golden Perch, and the rest are in these categories, particularly along the River Murray.
    b. In recognition of the Coorong Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth (known as the CLLMM projects) , it is very important to acknowledge the better conditions for native fish, both andromous and catadromus, with the ability to use the 9 completed Fish Passages in the Goolwa Barrages and the median

26 Gl flows likely to commence flowing within 12 months from the $60M project from the SE.

c. Fish habitat of logs, stumps and other suitable detritus has been removed from the River Murray to improve navigation over the last 150 years until little remains.
d. In the South East Coastal Lagoons such as Lake Bonney SE, Lake George, and the Coorong and Lower Lakes (Alexandrina and Albert), the Estuary Perch is classified as Locally Extinct, but could be brought back with fish fry sourced from the Glenelg River, which is, in part, in South Australia. And those fry are readily available. This area would come under the proposed Limestone Coast Landscape SA.
e. The responsibility for rectification of the Locally Extinct, Vulnerable and Threatened animals, whether on the land or in water, is clearly the responsibility of the State Government and its environmental agencies.

4. Our perception was that now that water quality has improved, that community use of the water bodies eg **River Torrens in the middle of the city, could be increased through the introduction of larger native fish**, such as Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Golden Perch, and Fish Habitat, to enable recreational fishing from the edges of the grassed areas along the banks.
    a. People would be delighted that some 20 years of Catchment Management Boards (CMBs) and NRMs, would have resulted in native fish fry growing and surviving.
    b. Stocking for a three year period would provide initial evidence that fish could survive the challenges.
    c. Already, freshwater catfish, Tandanus tandanus, survive just downstream of the main Torrens Weir, and have been for the last 20 years. SARDI Aquatic Sciences know of these fish as do recreational fishers, who generally follow the Catch and Release Code.
    d. Catching fish in the middle of the CBD! How good would that be!
    e. PIRSA Fisheries would be the government organization to issue Permits to stock appropriate species, certified to appropriate health standards.
    f. Native fish are fairly resilient to black flushes, as some would always survive, as they do in their natural environment.
    g. Continued use of mechanical aerators for algae reduction may need to be reviewed.
5. Fish Habitat. Many Councils would be delighted to donate their tree stumps, which are expensive to bury/ consign to Waste Disposal Stations, to underwater locations in the rivers, lakes, unused smaller former reservoirs.
    a. OzFish is a significant Australian fish habitat organization, and have undertaken numerous projects around Australia, and are currently engaged for a project in the Onkaparinga River.

6. There are numerous **water bodies owned and/or managed by Councils around South Australia,** which could be stocked with native fish, possibly as grown on fish, such as:
    a. Wynn Vale Dam, in the City of Tea Tree Gully
    b. Thorndon Park Reservoir, managed by the City of Campbelltown,
    c. Lake Inchiquin, Clare and Gilbert Valley Council
    d. City of Salisbury Lakes
    e. Mawson Lakes, previously stocked by the developers many years ago, and with ensuing fishing competitions, strong demand was evident for fishing in safe waters near where people lived.
    f. And many more, surrounded by domestic dwellings, and therefore very close and convenient to recreational fishers, including many children, and ideal to provide family fishing days.
7. There are numerous **water bodies owned and/or managed by the SA Government, by the Department of Environment and Water, which could have their community use, water quality and clarity improved through their improved community use** throughout South Australia, such as:
    a. The magnificent Aroona Dam is near Leigh Creek. A viewing of the Departmental drone footage highlights this very attractive water body, in the middle of the desert. This has already been opened to shore based recreational fishing on 1 Feb 2018, by the previous government, and its facilities and access expanded.
    b. The beautiful Totness Dam is over 100 years old, a former railway dam, near Mt Barker, and is open to the public with excellent access, and good clarity water, but could be improved with the additional of recreationally attractive fish, and is in the River Murray Catchment.
    c. The superb Lake Bonney SE, near Millicent, of over 6500 Ha, is the classic remediation exercise having been the dump for paper plants' effluent for over 60 years, but cleared by the EPA in 2008, but no action has been taken by the SA Government to harness the natural benefits of this truly wonderful location. Lake Bonney SE is bigger than all the Metropolitan reservoirs combined, in surface area. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring local industry into a community partnership, and may attract substantial Federal funds. Getting Lake Bonney SE back into community usage may achieve a major opportunity of conserving and restoring a locally extinct fish, Estuary Perch, and boosting many other fish types. Non powered craft eg kayaks, canoes regained access in 2013. This would be a major attraction for Metropolitan anglers and Victorian anglers, provided suitable species are stocked. No recreational netting is allowed in this lake, and there is no commercial conflict.
    d. The wonderful Bel Air National Park has two waterbodies, Playford Dam, and the Railway Dam. Playford is a brown waterbody, that is surrounded by the Park, with benches, and no chance of having the water cleared, without the introduction of native fish. The Railway Dam is usually much clearer, but with nothing to do, but plenty of opportunity.

e. And many more.....

8. Our table could not get our heads around why the best funded Landscape SA Unit, Green Adelaide, would have NO Community Board participants, when all the others do. This needs to be further justified.
9. Our table supported science based decision making, as this was not mentioned, and is very important to get natural improvements done right.
10. Another Post evaluation review supported was of tree and shrub planting, of which tens of thousands of plants have been put in, and more will probably.
11. Our table also considered that fencing pasture from watercourses should be weighted more for hectares covered, compared with smaller holdings.
12. I am available to further discuss these issues if you wish.

Ian Fitzgerald

Attendee at the Glenunga Hub
23 August 2018

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:49 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - My Say [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From. [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 30 August, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: My Say

Hello team,

I attended the Mount Barker forum yesterday and I was very pleased I did and the facilitator was excellent. I went home and thought I still have a few points to make, which are:

1. The definition of **biodiversity** is underemphasised – "it is the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable". To me this is paramount and needs to be at the forefront of any legislation and takes precedence over anyone and/or everyone's desires and rights.
2. It is important to have a very good representation of the original owner/custodian's of this land on the board.
3. Our health depends on the health of the natural world – it cannot be separated – and we must not be blind to the good science out there in favour of the environment and its health.
4. I am delighted to see that the Gulf is being considered and therefore we need to look at stormwater – the pollution that runs into the ocean and the harvesting of stormwater in such a dry state.

Thank you.

Almeda Peer.

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:50 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Email Submission - NRM reforms and the Landscape South Australia Act [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Helen Macilwain
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September, 2018 9:15 AM
To: Landscape Reform <LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: NRM reforms and the Landscape South Australia Act

The intended Landscape South Australia Act comes at a crucial time for the sustainability and viability of SA's environmental assets. This is because of the progressive and rapid changes through climate change and the absurdly slow response of our policy and governance from our political leaders. There are also challenges to our environment through rapid and on going species extinctions and stranded vulnerable fauna and flora.

Is this because our political leadership continues to fail to manage and plan as our populations, cities and corporates expand and gobble up resources and habitats? Or is it also because current authorities are unable to or unwilling to implement the environmental regulations already available to them?

I am part of a very active group of environment volunteers that live on the Le Fevre Peninsula who are very concerned that the Landscape Act SA is effective in the face of the challenges mentioned above.

In response to the Discussion Paper July 2018 I make the following comments:

- the guiding principles described generally read more like a list of tasks and fail to give me any vision of how the new Act will effect change. For instance community and land owners may be well placed to sustain our environment but because of past poor stewardship in many places we need a principle that places care and stewardship at the centre. Great responsibility comes with our relations with land, soils and water and not just community or individual self interest (The Murray-Darling Basin being a case in point).

- I don't agree that we can "go back to basics" as the ecology that we need to manage is anything but basic. I argue that we need to understand and properly value our Ecosystem Services which we now know will help sustain low levels of atmospheric CO2 through our extensive seagrasses, mangroves and forests. My local landscape includes coastal and marine reserves and wetlands that sustain important migratory bird habitat and marine mammal sanctuaries as well as providing security against sea level rises. I am quite concerned that lumping these landscapes in with a "greening Adelaide" strategy will be dwarfed by urban infill and metro recreational needs.

In response to the question about what's most important for me
- acknowledge Traditional Owners as managers and decision makers
- stewardship and care as central for community and individuals
- understand the ecological connections across the landscape
- establish biodiversity, social and economic value of a natural environment, protect and enhance it.

What works well now?

- from personal experience active community groups providing stewardship and advocating for the health and regeneration of ecological systems
- supportive structures in the NRM for training and resources for volunteers as well as information and advice for a local Councils.

What we could do better?
-Work with other departments to better manage waste and reduce impact on environment, and reduce and control pest species.
- enable landscape scale projects that address fragmentation of landscapes and ecological systems
- ensure there are buffers from development and human impact
- build and maintain connectivity between habitats
- improve baseline data, ongoing monitoring of wildlife and vegetation.
- plan and implement for climate change
- develop policies and regulations that will maintain, enhance and protect our sanctuaries, natural reserves and vulnerable species
- properly fund the environment and if other outcomes such as employment, health and infrastructure are needed then apportion funds from those institutions and departments directly responsible.

The landscape boards must be accountable to their communities and should be founded on clear principles that prevent conflict of interest. Most effective appointments might be ministerial following community consultation. At least accountability should be assured.

The cities will always subsidise regional areas with levies so these need to be accounted and not swallowed up by other Council administration. Levies may not be enough however so a properly funded environment department is essential as well as programs, that address climate change impacts, from other departments. A coordinated approach across Local, State and Australian Government, is desperately needed.

Kind regards
Helen Macilwain

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Sent from my iPad

From: Craig Flavel [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 10 September, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM feedback: Groundwater replenishment

Good morning,

Aquifers are an important water resource for the future that is part of the water cycle and shared by everybody.

Regarding the changing NRM in South Australia, I would like to suggest that the current groundwater levy placed on extraction is paid to any entity recharging the groundwater with managed aquifer recharge at a $/kL rate that reflects the freshening of the aquifers.

Kind regards,

Craig Flavel

Matt – some rambling thoughts! Bill Nosworthy.

- Levies – should be equal for all, not double for land managers, who also do a large part of the on-ground works
- NRM has, generally, become "project focussed" relying on that funding source short term. Pest plants and animals are "service delivery" areas; could easily be re-joined with local government, NRM component fully funded by boards. It could see better, localised, shared service with local government, and more staff on ground. The same approach can apply to Soils.
- We need better work contracts for "lower level" staff, not short term. Also, less office staff dealing purely with board + government issues + compliance
- NRM Must be completely separate from DEW. NRM could, in some cases, provide services to DEW, reverse of present.
- NRM Must re-engage the general community to be successful in future.
- Smaller boards, less meetings, less staff directly connected with boards.
- Re-establish regional groups. Could be the same ones who oversee pest plants and animals (?), and soils.

[redacted]

The Premier
The Hon Steven Marshall
Level 15
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide Sa 5000

Sir,

1. UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION TRIAL AT LEIGH CREEK
2. GAS AND OIL DRILLING SOUTH OF THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT
3. THE LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA ACT

1. It was with alarm that my husband and I noted the above. South Australia needs to continue to lead the way by adopting renewable energy, in all it's diversity, in order that we are in a position to restore and improve our State to a condition where the land can withstand the trauma and difficulties of climate change. The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association are quite justified in seeking an opportunity for their lands to heal, rather than be further assaulted.

2. We implore you to use your influence to protect the Great Australian Bight from the above. This could affect our recreational fishers, our fishing industry, businesses across the region and the migration of the southern right whales. This is quite a threatening issue for the people of Finniss.

3. In repealing the *Natural Resources Management Act of 2004* and plans to introduce a new Landscape South Australia Bill in early 2019, I hope that the health of the Lands of South Australia take precedence in the drafting of the Bill. We have to continue to look after our land for the future health of South Australians. We cannot feed ourselves if vermin and weeds have overcome healthy Parks and Reserves. We have an ageing volunteer work force who are under real pressure trying to deal with the precious gifts of land which gives homes to unique flora and fauna.

Sincerely

[redacted]

Monday 10 September '18

Catharine L Morrison

John Hunwick

Managing Our Landscapes One Person's Response

Summary

The **"Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change"** is the basis of the discussion presented.

Decentralised decision making (page 2)

-
- Must be implemented in a transparent and unambiguous way (and that applies to this implementation process as well).

- Greater participation as presented is insufficient. At the most, only three or four "locals" are being supported by the people in the region. Two or three ways of increasing that number while reinforcing the regional "planning" and on-ground participation are presented.

- Greater responsiveness is also achieved by making adjustments to the administrative structure as suggested.

- A simple and accessible system as outlined is very much needed.

- Community and land owners at the centre (as presented) seems to assume that land owners are de facto experts in landscape NRM planning. By defining the responsibilities of a planning body and an "on-ground" action body of equal standing the present proposal is clarified.

- A whole of landscape approach is very much needed as the foundation for on-going natural resource management, but it is easier to describe but far more difficult, especially in the early years when the reformers (the Government) want to see desired results to support their changes.

- Back to basics is good foundation for the principles of reform, but the "issues that matter most to regional communities" must be dealt with an integrated (ie landscape) level and not separately.

- Further comments need to be read and considered in their entirety.

- Decentralising Responsibility. This is essential following the last 12 years in which it has become more centralized. The difficulty is working out how to do it. While members of the regional community have put forward their ideas in the past they have frequently been over-ruled, dismissed without reason, and even forgotten by decisions made in Adelaide. Any sense that regional decision-making is being subject to manipulation, even overturned, directly or overtly outside the region without local (public) discussions about it, will bring back memories of the past and will cause locals to turn away from the new Board.

  Greater participation by regional community. It is easy to get local participation, but this won't continue and grow unless the participation is "rewarded" by the Minister showing trust in the regional community during this present Reform process. The

setting up of the Board(s) have to include responsibility for making significant decisions by the wider community and NOT just the Local Council.

Greater responsiveness. The shorter the chain of decision-making the quicker and more confident will be the responses. However, the people in the chain of decision-making must be [largely] from the regional community and perceived to be free from unnecessary political pressure.

A simple and accessible system (page 2)

Simple and straight forward. Goes without saying really. Such a system however must not be so simple that proper experience is not built. Responsibility for the Boards will always be the Minister who needs to be cognizant of what the Boards are planning and doing and why.

Transparent. The system is transparent when there is nothing hidden and nothing to hide, and no place to hide anything. This is achieved easily when the decision-makers are on hand in the region , AND make themselves available to the community to explain their decisions. In fact, this is one of the most significant processes that achieves the 'ecologically sustainable' [landscape] education of the community – seeing it all in practice in front of them.

Building greater trust. This starts from the very beginning by the Minister fronting the community and explaining the Boards' new role and introducing the people on it. These people must be 'owned' by the regional community from the start (and not accompanied by any impression that they are being imposed).

Land owners at the centre. (page 2)

The role of landowners. While those who work and live on the land are extremely important, it must be recognized (publicly) that land-owning experience does NOT automatically equate with being able to manage the environment at the landscape level. To put 3-4 regional landowners on the BOARD just because they are landowners is a recipe for disaster. Such people MUST be part of the regional decision-making process but not necessarily by being BOARD members. (More on this later).

Reforms and partnerships. For the new Boards to avoid the problems of the past, the reforms being proposed cannot be minor changes. They must go far enough that the intended reform is obvious in the structures put forward. If understanding of the landscape is a major reform emphasis then land ownership by itself is an unreliable indicator.

Role of government. It can be argued that it is NOT the role of government to work alongside land managers. Nearly every politician and political servant (usually in suits) are NOT wanted alongside land managers. These people are to set the infrastructure and financial constraints, and then let the land managers get on with it!! Trust the Board (and the proposed Partnership Committees), watch them, talk with them, but do NOT work alongside them. If things are not working out to the satisfaction of the Minister, then he/she can visit the Boards and threaten disbanding it and replacing it with his own appointee/administrator. This threat should be sufficient for the wishes of the Minister to be to be taken into account.

A whole of landscape approach. (page 2)

(The sooner a new title is given to what is intended and 'landscape' is quietly dropped (or modified), the better. The phrase 'Natural Systems Approach' could be made to work, or possible Eco-landscapes). The three boxes under this reform I pass without comment. The most important is that 'interactions between natural systems and people' must be considered).

Back to basics. (page 2)

> The system for managing natural resources. Here is the first contradiction in the Discussion Paper Summary. Are we on about 'landscapes' OR natural resources?? All natural resources occur within landscapes, and sometimes one can only be managed at the expense of the other eg trees can be both a resource and essential to maintaining the landscape. Where there is conflict between the two, considerable caution must be taken in managing all the interests involved. Is it intended that the Minister makes these sorts of decisions, or will the community 'sort it out'?
>
> Issues and backbone. The issues must be without contradiction, and the proposed backbone must be starkly apparent in the administrative structures put in place to achieve them.

A Summary of Our Reforms (page 5)

Landscape Boards (page 5)

> ***Create nine landscape boards to replace existing NRM Boards.***
>
> The initial proposal to have seven members on the Boards poses no problems. However, having four members and the chairman appointed by the Minister, although a reform, does not go far enough nor indicates sufficient trust in the people of the regions. No mater what tweaking of this might occur before implementation, a bolder initiative would better to throw off the taint of the past.

Suggestion. (1) The number of members to be appointed by the Minister be reduced by ***at least one***, with a corresponding increase in the number to be elected by the community. In no way should the Minister appoint the Chair – that is what was done in the past, and in at least one region it was a disaster. (2) The Chair should be appointed by Board members at their first meeting. Also, (3) Ministerial appointees MUST come from the region, (or have spent significant time in the region prior to appointment). FOR THE BOARD TO FULFIL ITS PLANNING ROLE AT THE LANDSCAPE LEVEL all the appointees need to have "landscape" management experience (several square kilometres). Most farmers might be successful at managing a very small portion of the region's landscape, but this is not sufficient to be on the BOARD.

Discussion. The approach of just having a seven-member Board without any real definition of the qualifications or expertise needed is not enough for a "decentralized decision-making" structure for natural resource management in the region. As presently proposed, there will be 3 members on the Board elected by the community. While any region containing the City of

Adelaide may have plenty of talent and expertise to choose from, most regions will find it difficult to elect suitable (qualified/expert) members to maintain a Board over 8-12 years. The election by the community of only 3 members can be seen to be too limiting UNLESS the remaining (appointed) members comes from the region too. Even so, this division can be seen to favour 'centralised' control by the Minister.

This perception, no matter that it is not intended, can be diminished by either (1) the Minister reducing the number of appointees; or (2) allowing the new Board to appoint its own Chairperson; or (3) expanding the number of persons elected by the region by enlarging the proposed administrative structure. This third option can be done in a number of ways, and here is one suggestion.

A separate entity OF EQUAL STANDING to the Board could be created made up of a few PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEES (or their representatives) identified as being relevant to each region. These PCs (or their convenors) are elected to include more regional expertise, and can be sections such as in Biodiversity (plants, vegetation, wildlife), Water (surface and groundwater) Soils (and carbon sequestration) Weeds and Feral animals, and Ecological Education (formal, informal, all ages). Membership of the PCs is drawn from the region. Plans developed and projects supported by the BOARD must then be discussed and approved with the participation of the PCs (with the necessary integration of their separate contributions being done by the Board to achieve a 'landscape approach). The final integrated plan would need to be approved by both the Board and the majority of members on the PCs before released. At all times the Board can ask questions and input from the PCs AND the PCs can question the Board which must provide the necessary responses.

The Board would be responsible for producing "landscape" (integrated) plans for the region, giving final approval for any projects occurring in the region, and the allocation of money to be spent in the region. The Partnership Committees would be responsible for ensuring that the Board receives the best regional information on the various natural resources, and where that is not available to advise the Board exactly what is needed to fulfill the needs of any Plan or Project.

This relationship between Board and PCs is itself a partnership, eg it allows any community member with any level of interest in the 'landscape', to approach another community member who is either on the Board or one of the PCs and get an answer relevant to the region.

Not to have "two sides" to the one administrative structure would perpetuate the existing divisions between 'biodiversity', 'water', 'soils', 'weeds and feral animals' and 'ecological education' (could be called something else but never to be called nature education). At some point, for a truly 'landscape' approach to develop 'integration' in the plans and within projects, the integration must occur early before their implementation. The perpetuation of the various "silos" based on limited expertise needs to be overcome by ensuring the Board has appointed and elected members capable of integrating the various components.

Selection by the community for possible members to be on the Board and the Partnership Committees must conform to publicly acknowledged selection criteria. Elected Board members from within the region must have 'landscape' credentials, while regionally elected members for the Partnership Committees must be acknowledged leaders in their field (expert vineyard operators, local biodiversity experts, weed and feral animal managers, etc). At present there is a farmer on an NRM committee whose management of his own farm is so

poor that it is the laughing stock of the community. Such an appointee drags down any remaining credibility of the present NRM Board. This situation must be avoided in the future.

One of the advantages of this two-part system is that it allows the regional community to "own" more of what is going on because of the increased number of representatives they can elect to the "governing" body. The other distinct advantage is that "landscape" (integrated) planning is done at the regional level, *and can be seen to be done there,* while at the same time the whole community is learning about what it means to manage natural resources sustainably in their own landscape.

The rest of the Reforms as outlined on Page 5 would remain unchanged.

Boundaries and Green Adelaide (page 6)

The idea of creating a Green Adelaide to deliver NRM outcomes in the Adelaide Metropolitan area can only be credible and successful **IF** it is formed with appropriate boundaries to allow it to happen.

It is not clear what the "landscape" is for Adelaide besides that of "skyscrapers". For the principles of NRM to have any meaning and application to this region it must contain more than people, roads, buildings and open spaces.

The identification of the boundaries for "Green Adelaide" are important both for the area within the boundaries and the integrity of the areas remaining outside the boundaries. In a real sense, the region of "Adelaide" encompasses the whole state – but that is obviously not what is intended. Neither, presumably, is "Green Adelaide", the area bounded by the Parklands for both North and South Adelaide. This region has no resource integrity whatever with water coming from outside, soil use being virtually non-existent, native vegetation (where present) is tolerated only to the extent that it does not get in the way of roads or developments), and so few examples of native fauna living there.

For Green Adelaide to be an outstanding example of landscape NRM there must at least a sample of the major resources needed to maintain it, ie energy (solar, wind), water, biodiversity (vegetation and native fauna) and remnants of natural ecosystems that can be sustainably managed into the future.

Following is a quote taken from a Federal Government document (2002):

"Integrated natural resource management.

Increasingly, a whole of landscape approach to natural resource management that includes biodiversity conservation is being advocated within regional, State and Commonwealth programs. This requires a broad range of management strategies to fit different environmental, land use and community circumstances."

Among the range of conservation measures being used:

Incentives	Legislation (and duty of care)
Institutional reform	Establishing markets for ecosystem services
Threat abatement planning	Industry code of practice
Environmental management systems	Capacity building
Local Government planning	Integration with property management

Part B from D. John Hunwick

My Background

For more than 14 years I was involved with a regional NRM Board that can be assessed as failing badly. This is not the place to enumerate the problems created by this Board. What it means for the future is that I have been an observer of many of the problems that such a Board can create. That experience can be used to avoid them in the future. I now live in a region where the present NRM Board has been more successful and I find that many people in the local community are very much unaware of the problems that can arise. I am suggesting that future management has more to learn from past failures than past successes, especially when it is the intention to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Political Context

Right now the Australian people view the three levels of government with considerable suspicion, even if the spotlight has been mainly on the Federal level. The two words that sum up the present situation as far as the community is concerned are: disconnected and distrusted. If adequate changes are to be made to NRM in South Australia, then through not much fault of its own, the present Liberal Government needs to proceed with this in mind.

Behind the Scenes

(1) Appropriate expertise on the Board

Following the public meetings on Managing our Landscapes what is now happening is "behind the scenes". My concern is what is going to happen "behind the scenes" in the lead up to local communities "voting" for their regional representatives.

The intended result is to have a Board that has membership elected by regional communities. Such membership cannot be determined in relatively random fashion. If our landscapes are to be "managed" in any integrated way then Board membership needs to have the necessary background, skills and experience to have any chance of succeeding. There are two ways of going about this:

(1) ensuring that likely candidates for the Board have the necessary "qualifications" (other than being "land owners") *before* the election; or

(2) taking steps to ensure they have the necessary background *after* the election.

Some sort of "induction" relating to landscape management needs to occur if the desired reforms are to be reasonably effective. If it happens "before" the election then the potential pool of people eligible for the Board is much larger than if it occurs "after" the election. For this reason "induction" before the election is preferable. In both instances the "induction" can be much the same, it is just that "after" the election any member of the Board that does not really respond to the inputs of the induction is going to be there for some years before any change.

Before any elections to the Board occur in a region, it would therefore be desirable to hold at least a full day session dealing with landscape integration, natural resource management, and ecology. This would be a mixture of input, group discussion and "hypothetical" issues requiring the participants to explain how they would go about planning and implementing actions under various circumstances. Their participation and involvement would be used as an indicator of the desirability of having them on the Board (or not).

Following this "preparation" for anyone wanting to be eligible for nomination to the Board and face election by the community, a list of potential candidates would be drawn up along with a synopsis of their background that makes them suitable members of the Board. The community could then go to their Local Council and vote for their preferred representative.

It would be highly desirable for the Minister, along with any of the people he might be seeking to be nominated for the Board, to attend such an induction session themselves.

At some point this sort of process needs to be considered and put in place, preferably with community support.

It is not the purpose of this feedback to go into the detail of any induction but to examine the detail of how to proceed before the nomination and election of Board representatives.

(2) The new Legislation*

The proposed changes to natural resource management will require changes to the present NRM Act. So far there has been no public discussion on what they might be. However, any changes must not throw out the baby with the bathwater in that the present Act contains an exceptionally good background to managing the environment, with Section 7 dealing with Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

The failure of the present Act to produce better resource management throughout the state can in no small part be attributed to the complete lack of understanding of this section of the Act by most people working for the Department, most people on the various regional boards, and most people in the community. This part of the Act has been closely analysed in the first State NRM Management Handbook and does not need to be repeated here.

Anyone seeking to build a sense of integrated landscape management needs legislative support for it to succeed. This occurs by requiring environmental actions over time to conform to the principles of ESD. In the Act it provides a vision, a direction and a measure of landscape management success. However, for it to succeed it needs to be understood more fully, and this should be an ongoing priority of NRM education over the next few years. Without it the intent of the Government's intended changes involving community support and understanding will be more difficult to achieve.

(3) Climate Change*

There is a direct relationship between integrated landscape management, natural resources and climate change. Soil sustainability and improvement, food production, and saving endangered species all have to be part of environmental sustainability and how natural resources are managed in practice.

More and more people are coming to the conclusion that action on climate change is now urgent - more urgent than the Federal Government seems to be taking it. As governments get closer to the people (ie State Governments then Local councils) the urgency is being felt from the wider community.

In some way, the proposed changes to NRM should be linked to the State's commitment to taking action on Climate Change.

At present these three topics, if they are being discussed, it appear to being done "behind the scenes". If the Government is committed to involving the community in natural resource management then at some time they need to have the opportunity to respond to these issues.

* I have written elsewhere on these issues but have not included anything here, because I am not sure that it is wanted yet, and I do not know who will read it.

D. John Hunwick

Mr David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide, SA 5001

Re: The proposed Landscape South Australia Act and how natural resources should be managed in South Australia

The following comments address the discussion paper and your legislative promises not only to Natural Resource Management but also to Built Heritage and Ecotourism.

As landowners and small business representatives of South Australia's $6.7B Tourism Industry our first reaction on reading the discussion paper was that there was no mention of the new Board working with our sector of the community. We also note that the entire focus is on primary producers and their needs rather than a balanced approach to viewing and managing our environment/landscape/natural resources.

We have been living and operating in the SA Arid Lands for nearly 30 years and feel that we have contributed significantly towards our Community, Environment and both our Natural and Built Heritage. We not only accommodate but also educate an exponentially increasing number of our region's tourists. In doing so we also manage our land and our heritage as part of the wider landscape. In addition, as tour operators, we have travelled through the surrounding pastoral country and seen the devastation wrought by unmanaged rabbits and cats.

As small business operators our livelihood is dependent on sound government decisions on water and land and pest management.

Landscape Boards & election of members:

- Board members need to be representative of the community and not stacked to one sector. For our region that means representatives need to be included from tourism and aboriginal communities.
- We wonder what skills you are looking for when electing Board members. We think that the skills of understanding and knowing the land as a whole (not just from a primary producer's perspective) need to be valued as much as skills needed to work within a Board.
- There needs to be a way to engage all possible candidates. We note that no-one from the Aboriginal community of Marree were aware of the Community Forum held in their town. There was no direct contact made with community members and we only knew about it because we follow the NRM facebook page.
- We also ask the question – how does the Government elect the other four members of the Board? Will they also be representative of the whole community and what skills will be sought?

Landscape Plan

- It is important that community is consulted actively and can comment on draft Landscape Plans. The SA Arid Lands cover a wide area and as a small business operator we are not able to attend meetings. We suggest that comments on Plans be made online.
- Who will drive an integrated, balanced approach to the management of our environment and its natural resources? We note that currently funding for pest management is directed towards dingo baiting. Our observation over the last 30 years is that rabbits particularly and also cats have a far greater impact on our natural landscape. Remnant shrubs (trees are long gone) now shelter only huge rabbit warrens in a 50km radius around us – and that includes around our iconic Lake Eyre. The last time we took a safari out to Lake Eyre we were horrified to see two feral cats jump out of the only two Wedge-tailed Eagle nests (built in two-metre high dead trees) over a 40 kilometre walk.
- If streamlining Regional Plans means a blinkered (a non-integrated) view we do not support the process.

Improving the Levy System

We applaud the capping of land and water levies according to the CPI. It is also really important that levies are consistent throughout the State.

Fairness of levies is critically important to us. Currently our combined land and water levies represent 8% or our gross income - too high for a small business operator.

We feel that

- ALL water users should contribute to the levy system – with no exceptions, such as currently in the SA Arid Lands where BHP (for example) is exempt.
- Water levies should be based on usage.

Who determines how funding from levies is spent? Funding needs to be spent across the community. Who determines what a high priority landscape project is? How can we input EFFECTIVELY into this decision-making?

Pest plant and animal control

We object to the consistent mention of 'wild dogs' (dingoes) as a pest. We object even more strongly that it is raised in a discussion paper on a proposed new Act! Why is this particular pest the only one mentioned? Where is the scientific research to say that this particular pest is damaging our landscape? This focus is entirely serving the pastoral community and cattle production NOT the integrity of landscape. Until it is scientifically proven that this animal is a pest to anything other than primary producers then we think another pest example should be used.

Why is there absolutely no mention of rabbit and cat numbers and their affect on our natural resources? There is already evidence that these pests are reduced by the presence of dingoes and that vegetation communities are

healthier where there is a dingo population. Why are these real threats to our landscape not mentioned in a Discussion Paper on a Proposed new Act?

The new Act needs to address this bias by providing serious funding to these environmentally devastating animal pests. The last release of calicivirus was confined to southern regions. Why not in our region? The first release did allow some regeneration but without follow-up or fencing trees and shrubs have since disappeared again.
If consultation with the wider community and examining available scientific research is needed to reach a balanced view then that needs to be written into the Act.
Further to these comments, the notion of compliance for dingo baiting needs to be reconsidered.

Water management
Is this the appropriate forum to mention 'Bore Sharing Agreements'?

We share the bores on our property with BHP (as water to stockyards when mustering and trucking) and with DPTI (as water to a dam for road and building maintenance). Both have refused to sign a Bore Sharing Agreement that admits shared responsibility for costs if the bore on our property fails. As small business owners a failed bore would mean bankruptcy.
Can this new Act protect us as small business owners and expect compliance from more powerful operators who share the bore for which we are currently legally responsible.

And lastly, tourism will create increasing impacts if not managed appropriately. For us the dramatic increase in tourist numbers and their impact on our property means that we will close to day visitors in 2019 and remain open only to campers. During the peak tourist season (July school holidays across all states) every creek-line and every abandoned railway siding and bridge was crowded with campers and caravanners. As successful Eco-tourism operators in this region for nearly 30 years we are willing to discuss ideas for protecting these places at an arranged date.

In summary, the new Act needs to address the following:

- both community elected and Government appointed Board members should be selected from all community representatives. It needs to recognise that tourism in the SA Arid Lands has increased exponentially and needs representation on the Board
- that all community members are aware of and can contribute to Plans by always contacting stakeholders directly
- that all community members can effectively contribute to Landscape Plans by giving equal value to each sector of the community
- balanced decision making, meaning that decisions do not benefit primary producers exclusively

- that management of pests is based on scientific evidence not just on the demands of one sector of the community. And we think reference to 'wild dogs' (= dingoes) is not only a poor but extremely biased example of a 'pest' and it should be removed from such documents as the Discussion Paper until it is proven that they damage the environment as a whole.
- that levies are consistent and equitable; that water levies be based on usage and that all users contribute
- that all users of a bore are responsible for the maintenance of the bore, not just the landowner.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Emmett and Prue Coulls

Coward Springs Campground
Oodnadatta Track
Outback South Australia
PO Box 20
Coober Pedy 5723
(08) 8675 8336

Managing Our Landscapes - Conversations for Change

Submission -

1. Comment on '*A Simple and Accessible System*':
   Since the prescription of water in the EMLR in 2003, the reason given for this intervention was, "*The State Government is acting to prevent resource decline ..*" (Eastern Mt lofty Ranges(EMLR) Water Resource Management Fact Sheet 25 - SA Govt). Preventing overuse of a limited resource is understandable. The groundwater on my property though has a different problem. Where the water-table is too close to the surface of the ground, surface salting has occurred. That is, there is too much water and it is beneficial to remove some water to lower the water-table. This is a different situation than '*..acting to prevent resource decline*'.

   In the past, since prescription in 2003, the Government's management of the water has gradually developed into a more streamlined and simple process. This has tended to result in broad, 'one size fits all' categories of water use, which fails to recognise and treat different situations in a manner which is fair and equitable. Because my situation seems to be a minority situation, it is just bundled into the '*prevent resource decline*' category, whereas this does not fairly represent what is needed.

   I would like to ask that in reviewing the legislation and processes relating to NRM in SA, and in aiming for, '*A Simple and Accessible System*', that minority categories of water use are not overlooked, but everyone is treated fairly. As everyone, exept for few exemptions, is required to be licenced for their water use then everyone should have the opportunity to be treated equitably.

2. Comment on '*Improving the levy system*':
   "*Under the NRM Act ...Water levies may be based on a fixed rate, water allocations or water usage...*". The current water levy has a fixed minimum rate of $200.00, which is quite unjust for those licenced to use small volumes of water. My water allocation is about 1.5Ml, which on current market valuations is worth about $150.00pa., yet the minimum levy I am expected to pay is greater than the value of water I am allocated. If everyone, including users of small volumes, are required to be licenced, then everyone should be treated fairly.

   If the costs of administering the water usage are greater than the value of that water, for small volumes, there should be a different way of managing those small volumes. Small volumes could be exempted from licencing requirements, or the Government could aquire those small allocations and compensate the licence holders for the irrigation infrastructure that would become redundant.

   However the small allocations of water are managed, those three factors- 1.exemption, 2.purchase and compensation, and 3.minimum levies/fixed rates, should all be considered together, and not be separated. If the Boards are given power to fix minimum rates, they should also be given powers to grant exemption from licence requirements, and for purchase and compensation. If the Boards do not have the power to grant exemption or purchase and compensation, then they should not have powers to set fixed

rates/ minimum levies.

In practice, I do not think Boards should be, nor are likely to be, given powers to grant exemption or purchase and compensation, and I would like to request that they also do not be given powers to set minimum rates/ levies. My request is that, under the new legislation, water levies may only be based on water allocations or water usage and not on a fixed rate. Any fixed or minimum levy will be treating holders of small allocations unjustly.

3. Comment on '*Water Management*':
When it comes to water trading, holders of small volume allocations do not get fair access to the system of water trading. For my allocation value of $150.00pa. the cost of applying to trade any or all of this allocation is $736.00 for each application to trade. Again the point I would like to make is- If everyone, including users of small volumes, are required to be licenced, then everyone should be treated fairly and equitably and have a fair opportunity to use and trade their water allocation profitably.

I. Blight



Since the notice of prohibition was issued in October 2003 leading up to the prescription of water in the EMLR, the reason given for this intervention was, "*The State Government is acting to prevent resource decline and provide security for all water users in the EMLR, now, and into the future..*" (Eastern Mt lofty Ranges(EMLR) Water Resource Management Fact Sheet 25 - SA Govt). After soliciting co-operation from the community throughout the prescription and licencing process by the department, with this assurance of security for all water users, now, and into the future, it is a great disappointment that the interests of some water users, those using low volumes, are now being disregarded.

2. Prior to the prescription of water in the EMLR, the water assets on a property belonged to the property owner. I was free to use the water assets on my property in any responsible way I chose to. In good faith I did invest in water infrastructure and used water as I have described. When the water resources were prescribed, the water assets were separated from the property ownership.

The qualification to be met by water users to be able to apply for a water licence, following prescription in 2005, was that they could demonstrate water use or a significant commitment to water use during the establishment period. It is clear from this qualification requirement that initial licence holders would have significant water infrastructure in place to facilitate water use.

Now that a minimum of $200 has been introduced to the annual water levy, making it unviable and uneconomical for me to use my water infrastructure, will I be compensated for that water infrastructure if I have no other choice but to cancel my water licence?

This process of, at first prescribing water use on my property, and then imposing levies and charges greater than the value of water I use, followed by suggestions from the Department that I may want to cancel my water licence, is much like compulsory acquisition by stealth without any requirement to make fair compensation for the loss of my water asset through this process.

3. A question I would like to ask is: *Does your Government recognise that responsible environmental protection is important and needs to be encouraged alongside of other water uses like commercial irrigation*?

The reason given for prescription revolves around, "*...acting to prevent resource decline ..*" (Eastern Mt lofty Ranges(EMLR) Water Resource Management Fact Sheet 25 - SA Govt). On the other hand the '*SA River Murray Salinity Strategy*' from 2000, recognises the salinity caused by rising water tables. A strategy to deal with the salinity problem called "Vision 2020", had as one of its goals, "*Salinity management will be delivered in partnership with an informed and involved community*". One of the key policy proposals was that, "*The South Australian Government recognises community groups involved in salinity management*".

From this, it seems to me that the intention of water prescription is to prevent the over use of our water resources. The 'Salinity Strategy' is aimed at dealing with an excess of water in the water table. If prescription is going to apply to all water use within the prescribed area, there should be adequate conditions and exemptions in place to deal with all situations which arise, especially where the intention of prescription cannot be fairly applied. The

water use on my property was set up through the local landcare group as a salinity strategy management tool and is an issue of use of water where the water table is too high, and is not where the intention of prescription can be fairly applied.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Blight.

Peter Sheridan

185—NRM authorities may recover certain costs from owners of land adjoining road reserves

(1) If an NRM authority carries out on road reserve measures for the destruction or control of animals or plants of a class to which this section applies, the NRM authority may, within 3 months, give notice in writing to each owner of land adjoining the road reserve requiring the owner to pay to the NRM authority an amount specified in the notice within a period specified in the notice, being not less than 28 days from the date of the notice.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the amount specified in a notice under subsection (1) directed to an owner of land must be the amount determined by the NRM authority to be the costs and expenses incurred by the NRM authority in carrying out the measures referred to in subsection (1) on the section of road reserve adjoining the owner's land up to the middle of the road reserve.

(3) Despite subsection (2), an NRM authority may, from time to time, fix a standard charge and determine the circumstances in which the standard charge is to apply (being a standard charge not exceeding an amount determined on the basis for the time being fixed by the Minister), and, if those circumstances apply in relation to an owner of land, the amount specified in a notice under subsection (1) directed to that owner will be the standard charge.

(4) If an amount is not paid by an owner of land within the period within which it is required to be paid under this section, the owner is liable to pay interest charged at the prescribed rate per annum on the amount unpaid.

(5) An amount payable to an NRM authority by an owner of land under this section (including any interest charge) may be recovered by the NRM authority as a debt.

(6) An NRM authority may, if it is satisfied that just and proper grounds exists for it to do so, remit the whole, or part, of any amount payable by a person under this section.

This piece of legislation (section 185) has been an ongoing "bone of contention" for many years with many NRM Officers around the state, why?

Road reserves are under the care and control of the Local Council, no works of any kind are allowed on a road reserve without the specific permission of the Local Council. However, section 185 places the onus on the adjoining landowner for any pest plant or animal control carried out! Why? The council road reserve to all intents and purposes is the property of the Local Council which then conveniently handballs all pest plant and animal control, AND COSTS, to the adjacent landowner, and if he/she doesn't carry out this control, the NRM Board does and this usually starts a "shit fight" ie I just sprayed it myself, sprayed it before you buggars came etc

As far as I am aware, all other states vest the pest animal and plant control in the local owner, ie the Department of Transport are responsible for APC control on their Highway reserves, Railways are responsible for APC on their Rail reserves and Local Councils are responsible for APC control on all their local roads.

Is this were incorporated into the new Land Management Act proposed for SA it would save a lot of time wasting, incrimination etc for ALL Authorised Officers.

How does a Council cover this cost? For most councils it wouldn't even be .5% of their Annual Budget to hire a weed spray contractor to spray THEIR own roadside weeds.

From: Sue and Ash Read [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 September, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Comments on Managing Our Landscapes

Dear Sir/madam,

My wife and I have been volunteers with the Friends of the Hooded Plover – Fleurieu Peninsula since its inception 10 years ago, The project is part of the Birdlife Australia's Beach Nesting Birds program, a scientific project to monitor and manage the non-migratory shorebirds that nest on our beaches. The Hooded Plover was classified as a focal species in the Coastal Action Plans and hence the project has received assistance from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM in the form of both financial support and access to experienced staff. Other regions including Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas, Kangaroo Island and the South East also participate in the Beach Nesting Birds program and have also received some assistance from their respective NRM Boards.

Due to the extensive records kept by the volunteers we have been able to measure the success we have been able to achieve in raising the nesting success rate of the Hooded Plovers on our beaches. Although the primary focus of the program has been on the Hooded Plover, other species such as Red-capped Plovers and Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers have also benefited.

We attended a Managing Our Landscapes Discussion meeting at McLaren Vale on the 14th August and we have some concerns arising from the meeting and the information available regarding the proposed changes:

- The stated emphasis of the new boards (with the exception of Green Adelaide) is on soil, pests and water with no mention of coastal habitats or threatened species. This could mean that coastal programs such as the Beach Nesting Birds program may find themselves neglected by the new boards with their stated aims and likely member composition focussing on rural issues.
- Another concern arises due to the drawing up of the boundary between Green Adelaide and the Hills and Fleurieu regions. The old boundary of the AMLRNRM included the entire Fleurieu Peninsula, but it seems likely that most of the region will be in the new Hills and Fleurieu Board. This again raises the problem with coastal issues versus rural ones. The coastal area from Adelaide to Sellicks Beach contains very important coastal habitat including the Onkaparinga Estuary and Aldinga Reef (Snapper Point) and many generally unmodified beaches that provide a habitat for both migratory and non-migratory bird species. The Green Adelaide Board with its emphasis on coastal areas and wetlands would seem to provide a better fit for the needs of the coastal part of the Fleurieu. The majority of the participants at the McLaren Vale Discussion meeting thought that the Hills and Fleurieu Board would better suit their needs and suggested that the boundary between Green Adelaide and Hills and Fleurieu should be either the Onkaparinga River or the northern boundary of the City of Onkaparinga. A possible solution to the problem of the coastal issues mentioned previously, would be to include a narrow coastal strip as far as Sellicks Beach as part of the Green Adelaide Board rather than Hills and Fleurieu.
- Our final concern is in regards to the Grassroots Grants fund. Such grants, which offer the best hope for groups such as ours, whose aims do not fit those of the rural-orientated boards. Will these funds be tailored to those groups who do not receive normal funding from the boards?

Yours,
Ash Read
Volunteer Regional Co-ordinator - Friends of the Hooded Plover - Fleurieu Peninsula - Northern Region

---- Message sent via Adam Internet WebMail - http://www.adam.com.au/

Rec'd 28 SEP 2018
Reg. No. 18EW000290
File No.
Ack.
Action Officer
Response due
MATCH

[redacted]

Hon David Speirs, MP
Minister for Environment and Water, SA 24 Sept '18

re: reading access to Landscapes SA draft bill

I greatly appreciate your handwritten addendum to your letter of 3 September, acknowledging my role in this area.

I do not seek to rain on your parade but must point out my view, which is that LSA is the 4th attempt by vested farming and pastoral "-- stakeholders --" (see Stock Journal article, attached) to expand their sector's interests yet again, via balkanized "boards".

Ask yourself – what is to be achieved that cannot be achieved in NRM Boards? Noone is saying, publically. Public support from "-- stakeholders --" is just vapid platitudes. Thus PPSA chair, Rob Kerin says NRSW "-- lost it's way -- but does'nt say how.

Without access to the draft bill, how can I be sure that it will not liberalize the attrition of remnant native vegetation in farmland? Native vegetation consists of a multiphyletic, localized web of interdependences evolved for that locality. It's remnants should be guarded and sent forward into a more enlightened future.

Can you guarantee a clause stating that regardless of other provisions, further attrition is forbidden? Or that each, and every proposal affecting NV must pass your departments attention with veto powers? That ought to rip the cloak of hidden intensions.

Sincerely Bob Lange

From:
Sent: Sunday, 30 September, 2018 10:53 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: reform comment

Hello
I was involved in the old Soil Board structure and a an inaugural NRM Group chair. I was also heavily involved with discussions when the new NRM Act came into effect from a community leader perspective. I believe that the first 3 years we achieved a lot but went down hill once things got changed.

NRM has lost its way, even moreso when DEH took it over. There was no amalgamation!! The system must get back to where it started and for the reasons this new system was developed. We must have a one stop shop for community environmental management which can then focus on the needs of society, manage our water catchments on a landscape basis and make sure our natural resources are properly functioning to maintain a productive agricultural sector. Conservation management (DEH) should sit along side of this body. To go back to where it started would be a good move.

I believe the NRM Act objectives are a sound base. There are a couple factors which I feel needs some consideration. In the old Soil Conservation Act, one of the key aspects was that "land is to be used to its capability". If this statement is truly considered, then it is much easier to decipher if there is degradation happening. Also, as I have been through a process in the ERD court about a development, I believe any of the penalties in relation to degradation of a water system or aquifer is laughed at by lawyers as it can't be proven. That whole section of the NRM Act is a waste of time. On the other hand, there are only limited areas where water prescription is achievable, but what happens to all other areas especially those who are showing signs of stress? We need to come up with a new legally binding guideline on how we manage those smaller systems. One of the ways is to start with the land being used to its capability.

I propose that a discussion be taken place to consider the concept that (which is not that dissimilar to the Basin Plan) you can either crop or graze land to the level that the land can support that activity without introduction of outside resources. In cropping for instance, to add fertilizer is acceptable to replace what has been extracted. For grazing, to have animals in the natural fields and to top up with hay or grain is OK. But to have a feedlot, more emphasis needs to be placed on where the resources are coming from before approval. The most important factor for any of these activities is where is the water coming from? This is the limiting factor. For crops of any type or permanent plantings, if irrigation is to occur, is the water being collected in a dam in its catchment or coming from an aquifer? Same question for a feedlot. For paddock grazing, once the natural feed source is depleted then the land is being used beyond its capability and if hay or grain is introduced then the pressure on the natural water source of a dam or aquifer is likely to be beyond the land capability. If water from a regulated source is used such as mains water, then there is no issue with substitute feeding.
A major issue now with smaller water catchments is that most of the water usage is for stock or domestic which means there is no ability to regulate usage. In a number of water catchments, the water resources are showing high signs of stress which can be exacerbated through introduction of some sort of irrigation or a feedlot. A set of enforceable guidelines should be drawn up around the principle of calculating rainfall and recharge into the aquifer and adding the known surface water catchment in relation to your own property. From this it is known how much moisture a crop will use (in cropping they have now become quite precise on using as much as possible of the available upper soil moisture which reduces any recharge). If the crop uses above the estimated required recharge rate, the landholder should be in breach of the Act which is no different to someone who has dam capacity larger that the system can sustain which in the end reduces recharge. Same rules apply for livestock, if you have crops soaking up recharge, you can't have livestock having their water needs coming from an aquifer that the property is not contributing to in a positive rate. In summary, the land you operate, no matter what enterprise, once you add up all the water usage amongst all the enterprises you can't exceed water recharge of rainfall of your own property.

There is talk about boundary change. I have been involved in one of those proposed, in the Burra district. I can to a point understand why people don't feel they belong to the MDB. But we need to keep to our principle objective, to

manage the land to a landscape. Whilst I acknowledge that the Burra Creek has surface flow to the Murray River on rare occasions these days, it is still the longest tributary in South Australia. If this proposal was to eventuate, the main catchment would be segregated from the flood plain. Therefore, it becomes very difficult to deal with issues such as weed control and groundwater quality not to mention a full understanding of the total health of the system. Same goes for the pastoral zone of the Eastern Districts. If that were to be annexed to the SAAL Board it would be totally lost in the system and end up being neglected. The Eastern Districts area has a community of interest to Burra and has little association with the area to the north of Yunta / Manna Hill etc. If we all agree that the landscape approach is the most efficient and effective way to manage the land, then we must recognise that water catchments and water flow is the key natural element that dictates the health of the system, be it recharge, surface water catchment, erosion or weed infestation. If either or both of these areas were to be shifted to another Board area then it would split the management plans and outcomes and make it very difficult to get a landscape outcome. Water flow dictates the issues.

Regions and local areas should have more say in what happens. The requirements of maintaining a healthy landscape should be paramount. Our NRM Group have tried to keep our landscapes healthy and productive by implementing programs to deal with the risks of degrading aspects through rigorous planning process that was community based. Some of our landscapes do not have some species of noxious weeds which are rampant in other areas. We wanted to keep the emphasis on control of these species to allow these landscapes to maintain their agricultural productivity and to keep a quality representative of a healthy grassland system. We can no longer do this because some bureaucrats in Adelaide took these plants off the weed control list (even before the community consultation period had ended, a predetermined conclusion). We are furious that someone completely oblivious to our plight makes a decision on our behalf which will in time totally degrade our native grasslands and reduce our agricultural productivity with the real long term effect being a massive loss of total biodiversity. If a weed is not on a schedule then we have no way of getting any control mechanisms, resources or funding in the system. Native grass is the basis to our native ecology and we need every risk to its health minimised.

Levies. It is a hard one to decide on where levies should be spent. If what is collected in a Board must be spent in a Board area is adopted, it makes it hard to get equity. I believe the MDB is a special case. The Murray River is a state asset and I believe over the years the Board has had so much emphasis on the River corridor other areas and agricultural industries have been well down the list to a level I believe is forgotten. Funding should come from around the state. The SAAL Board has a very limited ability to rate. Whilst Pastoral Leases can not be rated, is it not the obligation of government to pay their rightful amount? As for the metro area, they have a high ability to gain revenue across a very broad population base for a low management requirement. So should they be contributing to all the other Boards as their population use the natural assets of the other Boards for recreation etc? For me, it is more around a formula for requirement across the state. Have a base level of funding and then maybe more down the path of competitive project bids which would be aligned to a decent regional plan.

Collection of levies. It would be politically courageous to do, but a great business case should be put, that Revenue SA collect all capital based levies and rates. RSA now collects ESL. Local Government collects council rates and NRM levy. SA Water collects sewerage etc and then there is land tax. All have individual costs to collect and distribute and small business and consumers have multiple accounts to pay at differing times. If RSA sent one bill quarterly it would be so transparent. And then if there are concessions, you don't need to apply to all departments.

Less emphasis should be placed on planning. So many plans are out there now that have not been implemented. Do desktop review and write a small readable plan. Too much time and money spent on writing plans which are in a lot of cases just motherhood statements that appease middle management and not on ground outcomes.

Hope these comments are of value. If you wish to discuss any of these aspects further, please contact me.

David Lindner

BELLEVISTA

(Judie & Rodney Bell)
K[redacted]

25 September 2018

Hon David Speirs
Minister Agriculture
Level 10, 81 – 95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

COMMENTS RE LANDSCAPE REFORM

Since the Decade of Landcare, 1980's, I believe the environment has suffered for the following reasons and observations.

During the decade of landcare Kangaroo Island had 13 landcare groups made up of a mix of farmers, school teachers, abattoir workers, fishermen etc. Many outstanding projects were achieved and the movement united the community like none other.

The key to it was we had a very good leader in highly dedicated PIRSA KI staff.

I believe at that time very little was spent on administration. Today it is exactly the opposite where we have a paid board and public servants covering each aspect, ie Water, Soil, Coastal etc and all on very good remuneration!!

But the on-ground work program funding is getting less and less, in fact it is virtually nothing!! Red tape is king, common sense has gone out the door and it has become extremely top heavy in administration and unproductive at the grass roots level.

I believe there needs to be a change on how members are elected onto the board. As farmers and fishermen are the biggest managers of natural resources they should be in the majority with a green element, but not controlling as happens now.

Do you set up a panel or use the local council to select this board?

Do you need a board at all?? Hand it back to PIRSA like previously and let them oversee the projects again.

My thoughts.

Regards
Rodney Bell

James A Ferguson OAM

I wish to make a submission to the discussion paper " Managing our Landscapes "

I do so as a citizen who has had 12 years of experience with the previous NRM board in the SE of the state. I was chair of the central NRM group and subsequently chair of the Upper SE NRM group as well being involved with Friends of Parks for 34 Years. I have followed the changes in the South East for 80 years as an agricultural scientist and ecologist.

My first concern is the composition of the Landscape Boards

In the discussion paper there is no indication of the skills that will be required for one to be appointed by the Minister, other than the implied suggestion that these persons will be landholders. On what basis will the Minister select his or her four appointees?

The other 3 persons who will be offered for election by the community are first to be vetted by the Minister. Again what criteria are to be used in this process? If one were to be cynical it could be read that all seven persons will need to well known to the Minister of the moment or , at best, that they are part of the lobby team advising the Minister of the day.

I do not believe this would lead to our natural resources being managed responsibly.

There is no mention of the need to include persons who would have the knowledge and skills to look after the conservation areas in the South east. There are at least 72 areas which have been put aside to preserve the native flora and fauna and, what is more to the point, the communities produced by their association with each other. It has been my observation that many landholders do not or cannot give consideration to these in their day to day management

If the authors of the paper think that the provision of $2 million to all the volunteer groups in the state will satisfy the needs of the areas mentioned above, I believe this will be seen as patronising by the volunteers and the Minister can look forward to mass feeling of apathy from these groups.

Many of these groups do not feel comfortable with the trend to apply for grants on line and consequently they do not apply. I understand why DEW staff need to use these methods but if this is the only way to get help, then I can see much of this money not-being directed to where it should be spent. In fact much of it may stay in the DEW books not spent.

Throughout the paper I feel uneasy that this new body will not have the desire to preserve the conservation areas, especially those that have been put aside to protect threatened species. While there is an indication of change I was really concerned that in the previous administration, money was being spent only on the parks which had high visitation numbers, at the expense of those areas which have been saved to protect threatened species and I would not be happy to see this trend continue.

In the discussion paper there seems to be little attention given to the Marine Parks. They seem to fall outside the major topics of soil, water , pests and diseases. Even the venue choice of public meetings seems to ignore these topics. It is my belief that the concerns raised at Meningie and Bordertown would be very similar and very different from those you may come across at Robe or

Kingston which think about and talk about marine issues in the environment. I do concede that Pt MacDonnell and Beachport could be covered by the Mt. Gambier meeting

There is no mention in the paper of the term members could or would serve in any of these positions which may help people get a better picture of what the Minister has in mind.

I commend the Minister for providing an opportunity to comment even though I believe the paper provided insufficient detail on many issues that would enable members of the public to make a more reasoned response to what is a very serious policy change. We should not allow current policy development to leave our Natural resources in a worse state than they are at present because some parties would seem to be excluded from future management.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 2 October, 2018 4:15 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: more reforms

Hello,

Every new government enters parliament with the idea they have a mandate to change everything. The reason the Liberals are now in is because they were not smart last time and the electoral system works, tried and true. Dont get greedy.

Politicians know or ignore that the reason the system is set up the way it is to prevent over committing policies. These regional community environment resources have been tuned and are in step with the current needs of the local social fabric. Mess with a good system at your detriment.

You got plenty to play with in Health, Transport and the Justice System than this money tinkering with everything. Liberal used to mean small government, but by the time you hire all the consultants and project officers you end up with a larger whole of Government workforce by default. Leave off.

Spend money wisely not ad hoc idealistically/ ideologically.

gjh

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 October, 2018 9:33 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make known my support for keeping our Natural Resource Centres as they currently stand.
In fact the importance of their work should see them have an increase in urgent funding, not the abolishment of their current structure.
Our 3 local centres (Nuriootpa, Gawler & Mt Pleasant) offer fabulous assistance (and resources) for those of us who live in regional South Australia....and on a limited budget too.
Should the structure of NRC's change and facilities or resources only become available in Metro Adelaide, our family will not be able to travel that far to access them.

With thanks & kind regards
Michelle Peterson
[redacted]

From: Judith Rehn
Sent: Tuesday, 18 September, 2018 9:28 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: What do they do?

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
I have a huge problem not of my making caused by the mismanagement of a neighbour. Opportunities to fix this have been lost because the nrm refused to take a tough stand and get some seed put in the ground when the conditions were right. I have lost production and am still losing more ground to drift .If some attempt had been made to fix this problem I might have some respect for the nrm.
It seems the people that do the right thing will do them anyway and there is no accountability for mismanagement. I have attempted to stabilize my own drift but have had and will continue to have a dust cloud and rolling drift bank heading for my house. What is my levy for .To pay some fat cat public servants that are to scared to upset someone that has dome the wrong thing. Well you have upset me .I fail to see the use of preaching to the converted while ignoring the mismanagers. Will this reform just move deckchairs around on the titanic or put some balls and teeth on the tiger?
Gavin Rehn

[redacted]

From: Tony Dickson
Sent: Tuesday, 14 August, 2018 1:54 PM
To: DEW:Minister Speirs
Subject: Proposed NRM Restructure

The Hon. David Speirs,
Minister for Environment and Water.
14-8-18

Dear Sir,
I am writing to you consequent to attending the public meeting in Victor Harbor yesterday afternoon. Such events are, of necessity, rather superficial interactions that invite further dialogue.
You may remember me; I raised the subject of deck chairs and some inconvenient statistics. My purpose is to interrogate the broader assumptions and perspectives underpinning the policy development being undertaken.
Before I do so, because I am aware that it is inevitable that the character of the messenger has significant bearing on the value ascribed to the message, that I provide a brief CV.
It appears that we have a few things in common. The Dicksons were economic refugees from a fishing village called Cockenzie in East Lothian. I am also a graduate of Adelaide Law School, as is my son and his partner, who is also a Scot.

I have been an environmental activist since attending the inaugural meeting of the Adelaide University chapter of Friends of the Earth in 1972. I had been radicalised, when as an economics student, it occurred to me that our entire economic system was predicated on a monstrous and fallacious assumption: that it is possible to have perpetual economic growth in a finite biosphere. I also became aware of the science of climate disruption.
The main agenda item at that first meeting was to compile a prioritised list of issues to address. The top two items were ozone depletion and carbon dioxide emissions. These problems seemed rather beyond the reach of a gaggle of hippy science students (I was the only budding lawyer) and so we contented ourselves with a campaign that contributed to the first, and as far as I know, still the only deposit and recycling system for beverage containers in Australia.

My next epiphany was the realisation that although the environmental problems challenging most industrial economies concern the detritus of their industrial processes; (i.e. pollution) paradoxically, in Australia, one of the most urbanised societies in the world, the most serious environmental issues are those relating to non-urban land management.
Some years later I decided to put my money where my mouth was and abandoned my nascent legal career to become an experimental farmer. Over the subsequent 39 years, I have made no money from my ecological services; but I have saved a fortune in gym fees.

Subsequently, I chaired the Inman Valley/Torrens Vale Land Care Group, ran against Dean Brown for the Democrats, spent 11 years on school councils and been an executive member of a range of industry and community groups.
It is my conceit that my rather eclectic career, (which also includes being a dessert chef in Amsterdam, programming music for ABC radio, teaching business law and accounting, house painting, retail business etc), provides me with some perspectives and insights that are seemingly not apparent to most of the people responsible for formulating public policy. I am regularly astounded at the inability of such people to join the dots, or find the courage to do so publicly. The apparent reason for this disability is the psychological phenomenon of cognitive dissonance, commonly consequent to an affliction called ideology.

This brings us to the NRM. The link is to a submission I made to the Western Mt. Lofty Ranges Draft Water Action Plan. I think it provides some indication of the deficiencies in the vision of the

NRM as it was back in 2011. http://ferretfarmforestry.com/forestry/submission-to-wmlr-nrm-draft-wap/

The next link is to a 2009 polemic ostensibly about the haemorrhaging of CFS volunteers, but in fact, was an attempt to more broadly highlight the economic genocide being waged against rural Australia, by a political system enthral to the myopic priorities of the denizens of our coastal theme parks. Its core assertion is that the most essential factor in maintaining and enhancing our landscape values is an economically viable rural population. That population is as endangered as many of our native creatures and if these communities die, who is going to do the actual work of repairing the damage inflicted on our country? It is easy being green when someone else is footing the bill. http://ferretfarmforestry.com/philosophy-politics/lets-scrap-the-subsidies-the-country-fire-service-and-the-market-economy/

During the 1970s it slowly dawned on me that our increasingly materialistic society was not receptive to aesthetic or moral concerns about our destruction of the natural systems that sustain us. The reality is rather that economics is the only universal theology. Consequently, for the past forty years I have framed all my environmental arguments in economic terms; particularly so since the GFC. The final link I am inflicting on you is the latest iteration of a polemic I wrote nearly forty years ago. Sadly, its argument is even more relevant now, than when it was first written. It is a clarion call and challenge to all who assume the responsibilities of leadership. Its core assertion is that the only difference between an environmental problem and an economic one, is time.
http://ferretfarmforestry.com/philosophy-politics/the-market-economys-dirty-little-secret/

I understand that the demands upon your attention are great and that to expect you to read these polemics is a considerable presumption on my part. I make this request for two reasons. First, because you impressed me as someone who gave an impression of being afflicted by both intellectual and ethical integrity; a politician not much given to facile platitudes.
Secondly, trying to create an awareness among those in positions of power that we have fundamental cultural problems in our political and economic dialogue, has been my intellectual raison 'd'être for most of my life. So far, my efforts seem to have been entirely unsuccessful.
If my essentially simple observations and arguments cannot be easily rebutted, the implications for the governance of our society and your role in such, are profound.

Kind Regards,
Tony Dickson.

PS. Your observation about the Marshall government being less city-centric than Labour governments is very likely correct. However, I suspect that the margin is not great, as is evidenced by the policy to cut the ESL.
I suggest a better plan might be to double the ESL and pay CFS personnel for risking their lives and livelihoods to subsidise the insurance premiums of urbanites . By abolishing this egregious subsidy to the insurance industry, one of the significant burdens would be lifted from the shoulders of rural Australia; thus helping them to continue producing the below cost food that Australians blithely take for granted.
Let's see: say $30 an hour for 700,000 hrs pa, that's a snip at 21 million. Wildfires cost the state, or rather the insurance industry, about 50 million a year on average, but that is projected to increase dramatically over the next couple of decades. The Pinery fire alone cost about 200 million. What would the cost have been if there was no CFS? What will the cost be to establish a huge professional alternative to the 10,000 + volunteers?
What does this policy represent, if not pandering to the priorities of urban consumers (note, we don't hear the word "citizen" much any more)?
When I heard about this policy, I finally decided I had had enough of being exploited and quit, after thirty-five years of service in the CFS. I suspect that I am not alone.

SUBMISSION TO WMLR NRM DRAFT WAP

To whom it may concern,

Three years ago I wrote a submission to the first Draft WAP. Nothing of substance in the policy proposals has changed since that submission. None of the issues I raised in that document have been answered, or even addressed.

From my perspective, the consultative process is a complete sham, as is usually the case in our wide brown polity.

I understand that the extent to which the Board can change the policy foundations is limited, but suggest that there are some shared moral imperatives involved in heading off the creation of profoundly flawed public policy. I am very much more of a pragmatist than an ideologue and am quite prepared to change my position when cogently challenged. It is not unreasonable to expect the political process to do the same; provided of course that good policy is the first priority of those involved. If my "big picture" issues are ignored by the process of developing the detail, surely there can only be madness in the method. This is where Kafka perhaps becomes a useful reference.

However, where there is life, there is hope.

Below is a condensation of the points, explicit and implicit in my previous submission, in the form of some questions that demand recognition for the sake of the credibility of this process.

- Why is the policy focused only on water based ecologies at the expense of terrestrial ones?
- Why isn't connectivity the main ecological priority?
- Why is the ecological point of reference an arbitrary date, rather than pre-clearance of the land? The reason given, that we cannot turn back the clock, is a logical nonsense. I endorse the concept of ecological triage (or tree-age) but this can still only be achieved with reference to a time before the catastrophe.
- Why does the policy refuse to distinguish between industrial scale forestry and the realities of farm forestry?
- Why does the policy refuse to acknowledge that there are many management regimes for forests and that most do not embrace clear felling.
- Why does the policy not acknowledge that there is a difference between water use by forests and irrigation, in that forests only use available water, whereas irrigated crops use more water in dry years? And why isn't the research that indicates that plantations use marginally less water than remnant vegetation acknowledged?
- Why does a policy that purports to have a raison d'être of protecting the environment, refuse to distinguish between land-uses that differ widely in their environmental and social impacts (except in the context of salinity, in which case why only that?). The market place has only one bottom line, so where does that leave the environment? Why would the NRM board be silent in allowing a policy to be foisted on it that will inevitably favour the recreational drug and gambling industries over food security and the ecological benefits of re-vegetation by way of FF? How

does the legal separation of land from water contribute to food security or ecological health?

- Why does the policy fail to acknowledge the connection of water quality as well as quantity?
- Why is it not acknowledged that flood water in the erosion gullies we call the Inman and Hindmarsh "rivers" does huge damage to the littoral ecology of Encounter Bay. These flood events would have been very rare prior to the clearance of 85% of their catchments.

  Why does the policy fail to acknowledge the research which indicates the surprisingly high ecological values of even industrial forestry, let alone the possibilities for analogue farm forestry in its various manifestations?
- Why does the policy not acknowledge, when comparing "reveg." with FF that the ecological damage caused by inevitable fire events will almost certainly be greater in the former than the later, periodic harvesting notwithstanding?
- The policy rightly identifies climate instability as the greatest threat to ecological values, so why does it completely ignore the moral responsibility to mitigate the causes of the problem, as well as its effects. Re-vegetation has very limited ability to sequester carbon compared to forestry. This is addressed nowhere in the discussion papers. Why not? This failure represents a degree of ethical bankruptcy in the whole process, as does the assumption that land holders are expected to do the bidding of an urban based environmental lobby at their own expense, and thus at no cost to the urban majority. It is easy being green if someone else is footing the bill.

Two things have changed since 2007:

- The demise of Adelaide Blue Gum means that any possibility of a viable native forestry industry in the MLR is also dead. With no

possibility of an expansion of large plantations (indeed many of the existing ones are in the process of being removed) the justification for the continuing opposition to farm forestry is gone as well.

- The policy now contains the astounding assertion that, "Forests planted at these densities (ie 250 trees per hectare) are not considered to intercept rainfall or take water from shallow water tables in a significant way." P70 of the Guide to the DWAP.

Assuming that it is envisaged that these trees would be allowed to reach maturity, this is a revelation, because 250 stems/hectare is a greater density than is usual in a commercial plantation of mature trees. Such densities represent a full occupation of the site. The fact that forest management requires initially higher densities could not increase water usage beyond that of the full occupation of that site.

This raises two issues. The first is that if this is correct, then forestry should not be considered to be a water effecting activity and should therefore be exempt from the suffocating embrace of the policy. If this is not correct, then the credibility of the science underpinning the policy is profoundly compromised.

This is a very important point from both a substantive and political perspective.

In addressing the above questions the observations below are of great relevance.

- There is a growing body of research that indicates that even industrial forest monocultures have significant benefits for biodiversity.
  For example:

- Indigenous Biodiversity Conservation and Plantation Forestry: Options for the future.

  David A Norton, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury NZ. 1998 Our goals in plantation forests should be to integrate production and protection in the same landscape (as advocated by the Resource Management Act 1991) rather than replacing one with the other. A review of indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand's plantation forests shows that many indigenous plants and animals occur in exotic plantations, with the number of species being dependent on plantation age, proximity to indigenous remnants and a variety of site factors (slope, aspect, etc). Plantation forests contribute to the conservation of indigenous biodiversity through: (i) providing habitat for indigenous species; (ii) buffering indigenous forest remnants; and (iii) improving connectivity between remnants.

  Options for enhancing indigenous biodiversity conservation in plantation forests include: (i) retention of indigenous forest; (ii) establishing a greater diversity of planted species; (iii) planting a diversity of tree species along streams and roads to provide additional habitat for indigenous animals; and (iv) modifying silvicultural practices within plantations. It is suggested that through the use of spatial modelling, optimisation of the arrangement of different aged compartments, and different plantation species, will maximise both timber production and indigenous biodiversity within a forest thus allowing full integration of these two activities without the loss of production values.

- Fauna conservation in Australian plantation forests

  D.H. Lindenmayer R.J. Hobbs. Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, The Australian National University

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2003.

Our review showed that almost all research undertaken in Australian plantations, both in conifers and eucalypts, highlighted the importance of landscape heterogeneity and stand structural complexity for fauna conservation. At the landscape level, patches of retained native vegetation, strips of riparian vegetation, dams, open and clearing areas can significantly increase the number of native species that occur within plantations. Some species that occur in these areas can also use adjacent planted areas, a result common to conifer and eucalypt plantations. The spatial juxtaposition of stands of varying ages throughout plantation landscapes also can contribute to the maintenance of some populations of native taxa. At the stand level, structural complexity is also important for fauna with many species responding positively to the presence of native understorey plants, the presence of windrowed logs, and logging slash left on the forest floor. The management of plantations to promote landscape heterogeneity and stand structural complexity will, in many cases, involve trade-offs that will influence wood and pulp production. The extent to which this occurs will be dependent on the objectives of plantation management and how far they extend toward the complex plantation forestry model to incorporate social and environmental values in addition to wood and pulp production.

- Eucalypt plantations as habitat for birds on previously cleared farmland in south-eastern Australia

  Richard H. Loyn, Edward G. McNabb, Phoebe Macak, Philippa Noble 2007*

  Mean abundance of forest and woodland birds was higher in eucalypt plantations than cleared farmland, and marginally lower than in native forest. Patterns differed between bird

guilds. For example, insectivores that forage in the canopy and tall shrub layers were at least as common in plantations as in native forest, with birds in the latter group using young eucalypts as if they were tall shrubs. Birds that forage from open ground among trees were more common in plantations than native forest, and may benefit substantially from the new habitat fortuitously provided for them. This group includes several species that have declined in natural woodland habitats. Nectarivores, carnivores and birds that forage among low shrubs were less common in plantations than in native forest. Insectivores that forage from eucalypt bark made little use of plantations. Different approaches to plantation design and management would be needed to cater for groups such as these. Specific measures include planting of rough-barked eucalypts in addition to smooth-barked species, and provision of artificial hollows. Retention of existing remnants of native forest (e.g. old trees and forest patches) is a priority, to supply habitat elements that would otherwise be missing for long periods.

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- **If this is true for industrial scale forestry, it is clear that the ecological value of diverse farm forestry, designed to integrate the complexity of analogue forests with remnant habitat, would be exponentially greater.**

- The above research and most of the conversation about ecological values in this process of policy development suffers significantly from ecological myopia. The imperatives imposed by the political process and the practicalities of administration, combined with populist, but often facile environmental enthusiasm, has focussed excessive attention on fur, feathers and scales at the expense of the vast majority of the species that inhabit our landscapes.

  We must not lose sight of the fact that it is estimated that perhaps 50% of the biomass and 95% of all terrestrial species

are to be found below the ground; and that recent estimates of arthropod fauna alone, in the canopies of Australia's eucalypt forests, suggest that the number of species could exceed 250,000. The potential significance of farm forestry in providing the structural requirements for biodiversity enhancement should be clear.

- It is unfortunate that habitat is inevitably synonymous with fuel load. This reality creates an exquisite dilemma for those of us who are passionate about saving as much as possible of our natural heritage from the next approaching and probably inevitable catastrophe. Fire is the knife that has sculptured our environment. It has been the crucible of our unique variety of life forms, but as a consequence of our greed and stupidity, fire has become a mortal threat to many of those species. The insane over clearing of the land has left only isolated pockets of healthy habitat that are extremely vulnerable to the devastating consequences of fire.

  The dilemma posed by restorative revegetation is that whilst its ecological values are undoubtedly superior to forestry, it is hugely more vulnerable to fire events. The lower ecological values of farm forestry are significantly offset by the lower intensity of fire risk and the consequent increase in ecological resilience.

- Fire is the focus of another reason why farm forestry is a better ecological option than restorative revegetation.

  The "Kyoto Protocol" was deficient in several respects, one of which was the failure to recognise forestry products as a continuing mode of carbon sequestration. Timber products can continue to lock up carbon for decades or centuries. This reality is widely accepted and is expected to receive formal recognition in the near future.

  Given that any form of mature vegetation is only carbon neutral and is constantly at risk of releasing its stored carbon if burnt,

the rotation harvesting of plantation forests provides on-going sequestration. High growth rates, removal of timber, replanting, and reduced fire risk are factors that encourage commercial forestry as the most effective land use for sequestering carbon.

With the demise of our best hope of developing a native forestry industry in the MLR, (that could have provided the infrastructure and markets to support associated boutique FF activities), we are left with one obvious market for timber products, the local firewood industry.

Burning wood is often denounced by urban environmentalists for reasons associated with air quality and habitat destruction; not to mention CO2 emissions. It stands to reason, wood fires are just bad for the environment, right?

Certainly if the wood is sourced from remnant vegetation or windfall hollows, there are significant ecological consequences. However, if the wood is plantation grown for the purpose, the ecological benefits are huge.

Adelaide's current market for firewood is variously estimated at somewhere between 30,000 and 300,000 tonnes a year. All we know is that retail wood yards sell about 30,000 tonnes a year. Almost all of this product is trucked over 600 kms from the red gum forests in NSW and Victoria, creating a considerable carbon footprint. The opportunity exists to embrace the ecological benefits of farm forestry and create a range of other, broader environmental benefits as well.

A tree harvested for firewood leaves almost half of its biomass under the ground and its smaller limbs, leaves and bark on the forest floor as mulch. Thus to produce one tonne of firewood will remove roughly

twice as much CO2 from the atmosphere as will be released when the firewood is burned.

Modern slow combustion stoves can be expected to achieve efficiencies of about 80%. By comparison, because the generation of electricity from burning fossil fuels is only about 20-25% efficient (this varies depending upon transmission losses), for an equivalent amount of heat, the net emissions from using electricity may be approximately, 7-8 times greater if resistance heaters are used. Heat pumps are considerably more efficient and may reduce that advantage to a factor of two. If the same piece of wood also heats the household's water, the efficiency of the firewood increases dramatically.

Currently almost all the firewood burnt in Australia comes from wild harvest. This amounts to taking 4 to 5 million tonnes of wood per year out of our woodlands and forests. This must have serious ecological impacts. Activities such as the removal of fallen timber, dead branches, live trees and hollow logs (from the ground, or standing dead trees) are removing habitat for many species. It is estimated that over 300 native species in Australia use hollow logs.

Other impacts on biodiversity of wood collection include the spread of weeds and diseases like Phytophthora.

The NSW and Victorian Governments are severely restricting logging access to their remnant red gum forests. This can only create more demand for wild harvest from either private property or public woodlands and roadsides, as availability declines and prices rise. The habitat loss, particularly of hollows can be expected to be significant. Farm forestry thus provides further opportunity to create positive environmental outcomes by filling this market vacuum.

These factors are by no means arcane and so I remain perplexed and confounded that a body such as the NRM board, charged with managing our natural heritage in an environmentally sustainable way, seems implacably resistant to cogently confronting the case for the equitable treatment of farm forestry.

Thus a carefully designed, strategically placed analogue forest that connects remnant vegetation, improves water quality, reduces fire risk, sequesters carbon, reduces demand for wild harvest firewood and compensates the land owner for the effort of establishment and maintenance, must be granted a permit, or compete against the recreational drug industry (ie vineyards) in the market place for a water license. By comparison, someone who randomly plants the same area with pine trees, or some other exotic species, but calls it "revegetation", or indeed anything but "forestry" or "commercial", may do so without any oversight or constraint at all.

Brilliant!

So, let us charge our glasses with this innocent little wine from our irrigated vineyard and propose a toast: to The Clever Country.

Have a nice day,

Tony Dickson.

LET'S SCRAP THE SUBSIDIES - THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE AND THE MARKET ECONOMY.

To whom it may concern,

I am a lucky man. I am a farmer and as such, of necessity, something of jack-of- all -trades. I enjoy the beauty of my environment and the intellectual and creative challenges that daily confront me. I work seven days a week with occasional breaks to join my neighbours on the fire truck; for training, or the real thing.

Most of the work I do is "overhead" (weed control, fuel reduction, fencing, machinery maintenance, book keeping, beaurocratic compliance etc). On those occasions that I do work directly related to producing saleable commodities, I can kid myself I am making wages. Not the $100.00/hour my 22 yr. old nephew makes as a tradesman in the city, but better than working in a call centre. Of course, if I take into account fuel, fertiliser, wear and tear on machinery, insurance, rates and taxes, transport, telecoms, commissions etc. it doesn't look so good. In a reasonable year I can just about break-even. Fortunately, my wife works.

Yes, I am a lucky man. The people I feel sorry for are the overwhelming majority of Australians who live in urban areas and

who are going to receive a nasty shock at some point in the not so distant future. The consumers who have become so detached from the real world and used to cheap food (indeed, cheap everything) that they may well end up going hungry in a future where there are too few farmers and too little, or too much water.

There has been mention in the media recently about a significant increase in the price of food and the consequent economic and social implications.

The forty percent rise in food prices may be real (it hasn't been clear whether that is raw data or adjusted for inflation and increases in real family incomes) and it may be in part the result of increased corporate power and the spike in the price of phosphate, but the real reason is the nascent unravelling of the web of subsidies that have priced food at unrealistic levels for many years.

The Europeans and to a lesser extent the North Americans, have kept food prices down by a formal system of subsidies that is paid for by the taxpayer. The Europeans do this because they understand the importance of maintaining a viable rural population, for reasons of food security and broad environmental and demographic imperatives. The policy factors in the US are complicated by the extent to which corporatisation of agriculture has corrupted the political process and detailed understanding continues to elude me.

In Australia, we have been more ideologically committed to the strictures of market economics and have abandoned formal agricultural subsidies. (It seems that subsidising Australian farmers is perceived as bad economic policy, but subsidising multinational corporations is good policy; understanding of this also continues to elude me.) However, our primary production continues to be heavily subsidised, essentially from two sources: the first is the natural

environment; the second is the financial and physical health of farming families and the communities to which they are symbiotically bound. Ultimately however, our cut-price consumer society is subsidised by the future. This is because, as Malcolm Fraser would tell you, there is no such thing as a free lunch and these days he might also agree that removing less tangible liabilities from the balance sheet, to later become someone else's problem, is not fiscally rewarding in the long run. Ecologically, as well as economically, we have been living beyond our means for a long time. Our ecological debt in particular, is rapidly growing beyond reasonable expectations of our ability to repay it. The GFC provides an elegant metaphor for the way our economic system cherry picks its costing of our rampant consumerism. It gives increasingly literal clarity to the concept of toxic debt.

Although uncosted environmental damage has contributed to the low price of commodities as a result of unsustainable agricultural practices, it is also true that the environment benefits from the unpaid labour of farmers, through their maintenance of our vast hinterlands. Labour that will only become more important as ecological cataclysm looms ever closer.

(Thirty percent of the world's identified species are designated as threatened and Australia has the worst record for conservation among industrialised nations. Some of the more pessimistic forecasts warn of thirty percent extinction rates by the middle of the century. The current attrition rates are somewhere between 1000 and 10,000 times background levels; and this is before global heating builds a head of steam).

The largely urban environmental movement, let alone the average wilfully ignorant consumer, finds it difficult to grasp these realities, but must finally understand that the most essential factor in

maintaining and enhancing our landscape values is an economically viable rural population. That population is as endangered as many of our native creatures. If these communities die, who is going to do the actual work of repairing the damage inflicted on our country? It is easy being green when someone else is footing the bill.

Regional Australia subsidises urban consumers in ways other than by providing cheap food and unpaid environmental management. Civil defence is another good example. As fire and flood become an ever-greater threat to our rural infrastructure, natural heritage, urban fringes and associated human populations, an increasing burden of responsibility and risk is being undertaken by an ageing "Dads Army" of civil defence volunteers. They are ageing because these volunteers are drawn disproportionately from a rural population that is steadily haemorrhaging its young people; enticed to less arduous lives.

I am never quite sure whether to laugh or cry with pride when I watch the gallant men and women of our brigade forcing their stiffening muscles to exertions that shouldn't be asked of them, but is, because there is no one else.

That these sixty-somethings must continue to risk their lives in the defence of their homes and communities may appear to be unfortunate but inevitable. However, the reality is actually scandalous. This is because in the event of a major fire, the strategic plan is to deploy brigades like ours to defend nearby population centres; in our case, a coastal tourist town. The logic is compelling: deploy your resources to defend the greatest concentration of assets. The dispersed homes and livelihoods and even families of the rural volunteers are of less value.

If this story makes you feel uncomfortable, I trust the punch line will provoke you to the same anger that it does me. In the wake of the

Victorian bushfire disaster, at least one insurance company has ceased to write policies in rural areas. This may well become a trend over the next few years and will undoubtedly accelerate if we have another bad fire season, which is inevitable. So, at some point in the near future it is conceivable that our brigade may be asked to leave our uninsured homes to burn, in order that the insured property of the town's folk is protected. What could be fairer than that?

And with every injury comes a free insult.

In cities and large towns in South Australia, structure fires are dealt with by the MFS (Metropolitan Fire Service), while rural fires are dealt with by the CFS. The MFS is staffed by a mixture of professionals and paid "volunteers". The latter are part-time/on call personnel who are paid for the time spent training or on deployment.

In smaller towns, structure fires are dealt with by the CFS. Our nearest town is one of the few smaller regional centres to boast an MFS station. It so happens that CFS and MFS may attend the same fires: we in support for structure fires, they in support for bush fires. They get paid – we do not. Indeed, as landowners we must pay a substantial emergency services levy for the privilege.

If a house fire cannot be extinguished, the drill is to simply pull back and stop it spreading. There is generally little danger to personnel. Broad front wildfire is another matter. The number of CFS people and their equivalents interstate, who have been killed since I first joined thirty years ago, is more than the number of military combat fatalities over the same period (as of date of writing). They get paid – we do not.

Indeed, whilst MFS personnel routinely use BA (breathing apparatus) to protect themselves against the toxic effects of smoke inhalation,

CFS volunteers do not. This is despite the reality that whilst the majority of structure fires are contained relatively quickly, the standard CFS fire-ground shift is twelve hours, on deployment that may last days. The South Australian Government recently introduced legislation reversing the burden of proof re the causal link between working conditions and certain types of cancer, for MFS personnel. After some reluctance the same assumptions have been extended to the CFS. Unfortunately, for self employed volunteers, the victory remains a pyrrhic one.

We often get sent on "strike teams" to other districts or even interstate, at great cost to our livelihoods. Recently, it became policy to boost our declining ability to mount strike teams by including MFS personnel in our crews. They will get paid for the time they are away – we do not. MFS people have no training in the very dangerous work of containing wild fire. That is our specialty. They needed to be trained before they could be deployed. The MFS students presumably got paid – our instructors did not.

Of course a significant percentage of CFS volunteers are not fulltime farmers. Currently, although the two percent of the population that make up the farming community create (with value adding) approximately twelve percent of GDP, about fifty percent of farming enterprises in Australia are not financially viable without off farm income.

Many volunteers are not farmers at all. They come from all walks of life. They may be tradespeople, shop assistants, or public servants. This diversity creates another anomalous injustice because, as one of the few remaining fulltime farmers active in our brigade, I might find myself on a truck with a local council worker, a bank teller or a teacher. On the fire-ground we are all equal in our commitment to our job and the shared risks we take. There is only one difference: if

the deployment takes place during working hours, they may still get paid by their employers. I and other self employed volunteers do not.

In rural areas a common and potentially dangerous occurrence is the obstruction of roads, consequent to falling branches or even whole trees. Such obstructions need to be cleared as a matter of urgency. However, trees can fall at any time, so where is such labour to be found twenty-four hours a day? One possibility would be to roster local council workers to be on standby to deal with such emergencies. They are after-all, well equipped to do such work. Unfortunately, this option would be expensive and unpopular with employees, who would no doubt resent the imposition on their leisure time.

There must be another solution. Of course! Why not put a chainsaw on CFS trucks and call the volunteers out of their beds to deal with such inconveniences? Brilliant! Farmers are used to working for nothing and they don't have leisure time to interrupt; an excellent result for road users and rate payers as well.

Recently a concern has arisen among ambulance drivers in SA regarding occupational health and safety. They are limited by the weight they are allowed to lift. This creates a problem when confronted by the increasing numbers of obese people they encounter. Solution? Easy; just call the CFS volunteers out of their beds again, or away from their jobs. They can do the heavy lifting for free; not a problem mate.

This country spends billions of dollars every year defending itself against hypothetical enemies. Of the eight or nine wars (as distinct from peace-keeping deployments) that we have become embroiled in over the last 110 years, only one can reasonably be considered as self defence; the rest might best be designated as politically strategic

adventurism. The time Australia's military has spent fighting other people's battles amounts to well over fifty years of continuous conflict (57 years as of 2014). By contrast, combating the most acute threat to the security of Australia is left to an army of ageing amateurs.

Our society is very reluctant to pay the full cost of anything. Our version of a market economy tends to value immediate desires more than less apparent needs and the doctrinaire advocates of the "free market" have their eyes wide shut to the obvious hypocrisies of their ideology.

Whilst subsidies are anathema to "neo-liberal" dogma and "user pays" is the glib, self serving slogan of privilege, the reality is that our society is habitually subsidised by the proceeds of exploitation. Whether of the disempowered, or of the benevolence of social activists (volunteers), such misuse represents a corruption of the principles of market economics, as envisaged by Adam Smith.

Recent research in Britain has found that while merchant bankers were paid extraordinary amounts of money for contributing very little, if anything, to society, hospital cleaners save thousands of lives and vast resources by minimising infection rates. For this they are paid a pittance. This is not what Adam Smith had in mind for the invisible hand.

Our society happily pays large amounts of money to individuals for playing with a ball for a few hours, while leaving the defence of the nation to a creaking band of grandparents whose numbers in SA have declined by almost thirty percent over recent years and continues to decline at a rate of approximately 700 pa.

The failure to value the contribution of the CFS (and other volunteers) is not only a moral travesty, but self defeating idiocy by policy makers of all political colours. Whilst the urban majority is, apparently, morally sanguine about its careless use of the goodwill of this dedicated community of exploited workers, the very least that Government can do is reward hard and dangerous work of immense value.

As the song laments, "Don't it always seem to go

that you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone."

When our "Dad's Army" is gone, and with it another of the rural subsidies to the cities, so will a great deal more – in a puff of smoke.

Set our volunteers free and let the market place determine the real value of security, without hidden subsidies. It may be expensive, but it won't cost the earth.

Tony Dickson.

FILED UNDER: PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS

THE MARKET ECONOMY'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET

Or how I learned to stop worrying and cook the books.

An analogical polemic. Tony Dickson May 2010 (The latest iteration of an essay written over thirty years ago)

"If the earth must lose that great portion of its pleasantness which it owes to things that the unlimited increase of wealth and population would extirpate from it, for the mere purpose of enabling it to support a larger, but not a better or a happier population, I sincerely hope, for the sake of posterity, that they will be content to be stationary, long before necessity compel them to it" John Stuart Mill "Principles of Political Economy" – Book IV, Chapter VI (1848)

To whom it may concern,

Our society is much given to regarding our technological and economic prowess with great complacency. We now live, so we are told, in a post-industrial age. An age where the primal concerns that engaged the attention of humanity throughout the millennia have been left far behind. We are after all, no longer hunters and gatherers, but economic sophisticates with mobile phones and central locking, who regard the few remaining primitives with implacable condescension. This perception is of course, both a monumental

conceit and a profound delusion, because those primitive economies achieved something that quite eludes us: an approximation of stasis and thereby sustainability. Economists tell us that if our economy does not grow it will...it will...well, they're not sure.... perhaps hold its breath until it turns blue. There is simply no *long-term* model for a static industrial economy; although we may do well to consider the Japanese as potential canaries.

I have been a "greenie," man and boy, for forty years. At school, my best subjects were geography and economics. It occurred to me that there was an apparent conflict between these disciplines. On the one hand I was taught that we live on a small, blue-green planet, supporting an incredibly diverse biosphere, which is in-turn dependant on a set of finely calibrated interrelationships of even greater complexity. At the same time, I was asked to accept that our society, past, present and future, was absolutely identified with the economic philosophy of perpetual growth. Now, I am only a simple farmer and maths was never my long suit, which may explain why I could never quite grasp how an economic system based on the equation: *finite resources divided by infinite demand* could equal anything but ultimate disappointment. It would seem merely a question of carrying capacity.

Of course, being green, I am pretty much used to being denigrated. A common insult is that I am having it off with the tooth fairy because I question the religion of economic growth. I admit to committing this heresy, but in forty years I have never been blessed with a cogent answer to the apparent paradox of endless growth in a finite world.

One conversation I had many years ago with a senior economics lecturer at Adelaide University, is notable. He was glib and patronising when I asked him whether, given the impact of ever increasing human activity, was anyone working on an alternative

economic model. He replied that the laws of supply and demand would solve such problems because eventually, when resources became sufficiently valuable and technology sufficiently sophisticated, it would become viable to extract them from the seabed, or the Moon, or Mars. When I asked him whether this analysis included arable land, biodiversity, stable climate, clean air and water, or for that matter standing room, he hung up. He probably remembered an appointment with Father Christmas.

While our economic philosophy remains hostage to this over-arching assumption: that the Earth is a magic pudding, it is not and never can be sustainable. Even if we totally embrace best environmental practice in every facet of our culture; even if we rely totally on renewable energy and recycle 100 % of our resources, we must reach a limit to the Earth's ability to cope with our economic expansion. This is closely related to population growth, but is by no means synonymous with it.

If the logic of this assertion is accepted and an end to growth is inevitable, then the question arises as to when enough is enough. Given that we are a country mile short of best practise, and that we are facing an imminent ecological crisis, at what point do we start to consider the limits to growth. Do we attempt to change direction while (hopefully) there is still time, or do we maintain full steam ahead, in arrogant disregard of the warnings, until we hit the iceberg?

I am well aware of the economic and social implications of such a prospect; they would be difficult to overstate. I am suggesting no less, that we deny one of humanity's most fundamental drives. We may not be capable of such a change of course, in which case it will eventually and dramatically, be made for us. What is obvious is that adapting to not only a much lower level of resource consumption, but of even greater difficulty, static or lower material expectations, would

require a fundamental change of values and culture; particularly political culture. [i]

But what would we do if we no longer had the same material ambitions? What could we strive for? Hmm, let me see, ... how about survival! Should not that be, ultimately, our highest ambition and crowning achievement? Else, all our other victories are at best pyrrhic ones.

Such a dramatic change in consciousness, if at all possible, can only be achieved slowly and incrementally. Currently, this society, far from embarking on this process, is actually exhorting its citizens to do just the opposite, through the relentless social engineering of the commercial media and the encouragement of government policies.

Unfortunately, it seems that economic growth is an idea of religious immutability, less subject to subversion than dedication to any mere deity. This is an idea to which not just deluded individuals are prepared to martyr themselves, but an entire culture, if not a species.

Whilst the definition of this economic conundrum is, I believe, axiomatic; like many seemingly simple issues it contains many strands of complexity, which are generally historical in origin and irrational by nature. The two strands that come most readily to mind are our use of technology and the convenient, but ultimately pathological assumptions underpinning accounting conventions.

The first of these needs little said about it in this essay. Quite clearly, we have failed to develop cultural tools of sufficient sophistication to manage the tsunami that is our technological inventiveness. We are like a teenage boy, barely in control of a hot car; intoxicated by power and freedom and a denial of all but the moment.

None of our social institutions can keep up with the current rate of technological change, which continues to accelerate; legal and regulatory frameworks, political institutions and cultures, educational practises, cultural conventions, social relationships and economic theory; all struggle to accommodate the stresses of adaptation.

CONTACT

The dramatic increase in productivity spawned by new technologies creates a perceived imperative to promote economic growth through consumption, in order to absorb the otherwise unemployed. We have so far failed the challenge to culturally reinterpret the benefits of innovation in a manner compatible with our long term habitation of this planet, let alone our psychological and metaphysical health.

One of the most whimsical of fantasies is that we can solve our problems with technological magic bullets. In reality, our problems are primarily cultural. This is best illustrated by the dilemma posed by the promise of nuclear fusion and a plethora of renewable energy sources. These potential solutions to carbon dioxide emissions would give us limitless energy and thereby the potential to keep expanding our destructive hegemony over this planet, until we completely destroy its ecological integrity. Is that really how we define human progress? One thing is certain, once we have arrived at this destiny; there will be no going back.

The more accessible problem is that of book keeping.

It is my view that economics is not so much a dismal science, as a Clayton's one, in that like the Law, it is an entirely human construct. Current economic theory and practise gives every appearance of being wholly preoccupied with human affairs, to the exclusion of the "real world". By "real world" I mean the biosphere upon which we are totally dependent, but which does not need us at all.

This economic tunnel vision renders many assumptions and much analysis and modelling, quite arbitrary and subjective. Only by embracing the complexities of the whole planet can economic methodology achieve a bona fide objectivity. This failure of process goes to the very core of our dissociation from the ecological systems that sustain us.[ii]

CONTACT

Many years ago this economic self possession inspired me to appropriate the term "homocentric". The usual definition of this word borrows from the Greek "homo" to provide the meaning of a common centre. Substituting the Latin meaning of "homo" gives an entirely different, but very apt description of the disciplines of both economics and law. Indeed, our increasingly urban society has become almost entirely homocentric.

[It should be recognised however, that unlike economics, legal innovation has made significant contributions in environmental law, as well as the nascent conceptual development of animal rights.]

While on the subject of linguistics, it is worth considering another comparison between the Law and economics, the second part of which derives from the Greek nomos, meaning "law". It is a tenet of legal wisdom that the essence of the Law is experience (i.e. custom) and not logic. Contrast this with the alternative to economics: ecology, the essence of which, as its name suggests, is the same as other "real" sciences. My point is metaphorical and admittedly somewhat laboured, but its main purpose is to introduce the idea of ecology as the new economics.

Those 18th C heroes of the Enlightenment, the vanguard exponents of our notions of reason and empiricism, the natural philosophers, spoke of the "economy" of the various species they observed and recorded. Whether this habit reflected a deep understanding of the

workings of nature or was just a quaint turn of phrase, it remains an entirely appropriate perspective of the natural world.

Nature is the quintessential free market economy. The survival of the fittest is no metaphor. There are no distortions created by accumulated capital, no welfare safety net and certainly no Federal Reserve to rescue the inept and corrupt from their folly. Failure and even modest underperformance can have only one result. If Humanity Inc. continues to rely on the Enron / Lehman Bros. business model, there will be no bail-out. **Nature does not subscribe to the "too big to fail" argument** because it's pure, objective, market economics (ecology) remains uncorrupted by either capitalism, politics, social justice, or indeed any of the concerns that occupy humanity.

Like its pale human imitations, the real-world market economy transacts its business with a variety of currencies.

Its universal gold standard is of course energy, as prescribed by the first Law of Thermodynamics, but other more terrestrial currencies are also vital for running a biospherical enterprise. Water, air in the right proportions, carbon and intellectual property (biodiversity, alias DNA) are all necessary components for successful management.

Nature is the ultimate economic rationalist. It is wholly unsentimental and ruthless in its rigorous execution of the principles of market economics. **Unlike the human dilettantes who practice their pseudo science, nature does not cherry pick what it wants to include in its calculations of efficiency and cost benefit.** Its algorithms are all embracing; its computational power virtually unlimited. Determining the effect of the flap of an Amazonian butterfly wing on the futures market for Australasian sea-turtle eggs is nothing to Nature. It literally has a brain the size of a planet.

By contrast, human economists (with some laudable exceptions) have chosen to ignore the rather obvious fact that an economic system that cannot distinguish real-world capital from income, environmental overhead from current expenditure and ecological profit from loss, is badly in need of some training and development.

ARTICLES BLOG CONTACT

The prospect of global heating has at long last provoked a debate about pricing the environmental costs of green house gas emissions into the economic equation. It is a small first step towards an awareness that **sooner or later we must account for the environmental costs of everything we consume and have consumed, these past several centuries.** These costs are liabilities that industrial economies have habitually externalised and conveniently kept off balance sheet as SEPs, or someone else's problem. The GFC provides an elegant metaphor for the way our economic system has been less than transparent in it's costing of our rampant consumerism.

Ecologically as well as economically, we have been living beyond our means for a long time. Our ecological tab in particular, is rapidly growing beyond reasonable expectations of our ability to repay it, giving literal clarity to the notion of toxic debt.

High rates of growth since the industrial revolution has fuelled runaway inflation of the only currencies that truly matter and they have become so debased that they are in imminent danger of collapsing.

What can we do about this? The simplest solution is to do nothing and let nature's economics run its course. After all, life on earth has seen plenty of booms and busts. Perhaps we should resign ourselves to the bio-business cycle and follow the dinosaurs to that great dole queue in the sky.

Alternatively, we could take on the role of a central bank or treasury and devise an interventionist approach. But what sort of economic policy would be most appropriate? Monetarism has never been much good at dealing with this sort of terminal stagflation, nor conventional fiscal policy, which tends to result in the difficult political process of picking winners and losers.

Maybe an economic philosophy totally predicated on the assumption of perpetual economic growth is just not the best muse for inspiring solutions to our problems. Perhaps we should look for inspiration to an economic system with a rather better track record; one with a computer the size of a planet at its disposal.

This is not a recommendation for a survival of the fittest competition policy, but rather a plea for ecological fiscal responsibility and the other, conveniently forgotten half of the law of the jungle: interspecies symbiosis. In other words, we need a genuine economic conservatism that would necessarily embrace the precautionary principle, which surely underpins the fiscal conservative's instinctive horror of debt.[iii]

Nor is this essay a rejection of market economics.

Whilst the market is undoubtedly a valuable servant, it can also be a dangerous master and should not be allowed to usurp the role of democratic governance; as is increasingly the case as free enterprise succumbs to the power of global corporations. However, I also believe that the market is our best hope of ultimately resolving this singular problem of nihilistic growth and in the interim, encouraging more sustainable economic activity. Neither of these goals can be achieved unless the environment (as well as many cultural and social intangibles) is valued as an asset on the balance sheet and recognized as an input cost in the profit and loss statement. Only when this is

done can the market apply its inventive genius to seeking better ways to do things and impose a more stringent regime of cost benefit analysis; a regime that would consign great swaths of our current economic activity to the receivers, deemed unviable.

CONTACT

One of the reasons ecological accounting has not been embraced of course, is that it is a task of mind boggling complexity. Thus it has ended up at the bottom of the too hard basket. We are left with the simple choice of making the effort, or to continue to just not bother. Did I mention icebergs and dinosaurs?

However, **the market place will not spontaneously impose such a cost on itself** because ultimately the market is merely an abacus. It does not have values, or a sense of destiny. Only governments can make collective value judgments about the sort of society we wish to leave to our children and ascribe aesthetic and moral value to the natural world.

Ecological catastrophe and its political ramifications are the biggest medium and long term security threats we face. This is the judgment of strategic planners in the Pentagon. The weight of evidence would indicate that climatic instability is the direst threat, but it remains only a symptom of the underlying problem: our escalating consumption of resources and its ecological consequences. The most persistent misapprehension under which policy makers labour, is that there is a clear distinction between economic and environmental priorities.

The only difference between an ecological problem and an economic one, is time; and time is rapidly becoming another very finite resource.

The original inhabitants of this continent had, arguably, evolved the most successful economic system in human history. It provided for the modest needs of its practitioners for tens of millennia. By contrast, our idea of economic management has brought the whole planet to the brink of disaster in just a few short centuries.

ABOUT BLOG CONTACT

The degree of providence enjoyed by aboriginal society seems very meagre to our bloated appetites, but there was a sufficiency that supported a cultural and spiritual life of astounding richness and complexity. Whilst these people were undoubtedly subject to many vicissitudes, their cultural achievements indicate a bounty of leisure time that we may well be envious of.

They took their cultural life seriously. This was not trite entertainment, but the very fabric of their knowledge base and the glue for their social ecology. It bound them absolutely to the landscape, so that every nuance of their lives reflected the complexities of the very real- world economy they managed.

It is our challenge and probably our only chance of survival as a civilised society, to achieve an equivalent nexus with what is left of the natural world. Science may replace lore, (or Law) but it will not save us unless we rediscover a more empathic relationship with this very lonely planet.

The unresolved question remains why, to my knowledge, the issue of economic growth has not been part of any serious public conversation since Jerry Brown was elected Governor of California in 1975. The short answer would seem to be self interest, moral cowardice and severe myopia among those charged with the responsibility of developing public policy. The silence has been eloquent, deafening and unforgivable.

NOTES

[i] I suppose that I should preempt some of the more serious but predictable objections to the idea that we should make some attempt to curb our appetites. The reasoning runs as follows: it is all very well this chardonnay, sack cloth talk of limits to growth and self righteous frugality, but what about the aspirations of billions of people in the developing world?

Yes indeed, what about those billions of people who currently teeter on the crumbling edge of the precarious state of global food security, while we die of obesity. The answer is twofold. First, is the reality that the threat to climatic stability and a plethora of other ecological problems, affect the poor, first and foremost.

Secondly, because there is no possibility that another four or five (or ten) billion people can ever replicate our decadent and wasteful lifestyles, we must find a way to use our surfeit to provide the have nots with, at the very least, a modest sufficiency. This will require significant sacrifice of our own level of consumption. However, we need not be concerned lest this might be seen as benevolence; it can easily be rationalised as enlightened self interest.

[ii] It is my understanding that Malthus has been largely discredited for two reasons.

The first of these was his failure to perceive the extent to which technological advances would increase efficiencies in food production and distribution. These innovations not only dramatically increased production of tradable food, but created a global market which could mitigate or abolish localised shortages

The second problem with Malthus' theory of population was that he mistakenly extrapolated directly from the behaviour of biological systems to human behaviour. Human intellect and collective experience allow for a degree of adaptability to environmental constraints that has put us beyond many of the determinants that govern other species; to a point. Malthus was even wrong in generalising about these other species, many of which regulate their fecundity according to food supply.

HOME BLOG CONTACT

We now take as accepted wisdom that the key to reducing population growth in developing economies is to increase standards of living and education, particularly of women. In this respect Malthus could not have been more wrong. And yet; and yet, in essence, he was right. If we think in terms of ecological impact and resources rather than simply population; and globally rather than parochially, his basic insight is sound, technology notwithstanding.

However, for me, the real wisdom to be teased from the work of Malthus is the nature of its shortcomings. His basic error was applying the laws of nature directly to human society, which clearly plays by different rules. In other words, he was making the same mistake as contemporary economists, but in reverse. Today, economists don't ensnare humanity in the laws of nature; they do not even acknowledge the existence of those laws.

Yes, we are different, but we share the same world as our fellow species and we need them infinitely more than they need us.

[iii] Cost Benefit Analysis

The argument in favour of adopting the precautionary principle is really a simple cost benefit analysis. If you are living in a state of absolute poverty, a very modest improvement in your standard of living is likely to pay huge dividends in terms of happiness, whereas

insurance policies will not. Having a full stomach and a roof over your head may seem like utopia. Seeing your children survive infancy because they have clean drinking water and perhaps going to school will undoubtedly make your spirits soar with thanksgiving. Having a sense of making economic progress and attaining some buffer against the inevitable hard times, makes you sanguine and inclined to benevolence. However, the wealthier you become, the less cost efficient is the acquisition of happiness.

CONTACT

The best analogy is that of addictive behaviour, which of course, is exactly what excessive materialism is. There is even a name for this pathological syndrome: affluenza. Eventually, wealth is not about increasing happiness, but about warding off the unhappiness that attends the prospect of a decline in prosperity, or any of the other forms of malaise abroad in our increasingly fey society. A variation of affluenza is what might be called Murdochulosis, where the sufferer becomes obsessed with wealth, not for its promised pleasures, but for the power it gives over those people who are less ill.

If we were to take out some insurance against climate change and the multitude of other pending ecological disasters, even though it cost us a significant amount of economic growth, would it really matter very much if we never had to make a claim? After all, the saved opportunity cost of the premiums is only making us sick and the unused resources are not going anywhere. Perhaps buying some peace of mind would bring us more happiness than that plasma TV.

The global economy spent many billions of dollars attempting to forestall the possible consequences of the millennium bug, which proved to be largely illusory. Why was the precautionary principle appropriate to invoke to keep our computers alive, but not appropriate to potentially save a sizeable percentage of the earth's species, including possibly, our own?

The cost of dealing with Y2K would have been nominal had we not adopted the same approach as we have with global warming: that is, the ostrich strategy. It is worth noting that research has repeatedly indicated that our society wastes in the order of sixty percent of the energy that we consume. By an odd coincidence that is the same percentage, it is estimated, that we need to reduce green house emissions.

ABOUT REVIEW CONTACT

POSTSCRIPT

The calls for an enquiry into this country's population policy recently inspired the federal treasurer to offer statements supporting the current extraordinary rate of Australia's population growth, and the projection that it would grow to 35 million by 2050. The justification he gave was that the ageing of the population would, in the near future, become an impediment to the "sustainability" of our economic growth, due to an imbalance between the productive and dependant sectors of the population.

These statements, apart from providing a luminous illustration of the homocentric mindset, also highlight two other deficiencies in the reasoning underpinning our economic culture.

The first of these is the very short term thinking that would incline someone to conclude that growing the population will solve the problem of an aging demographic. The other insight into our economic perspective is the assumption that the employment of large numbers of people to look after the needs of tourists sitting around swimming pools is productive economic activity, whereas employing people to look after the needs of the frail and sick, is an economic burden.

It is a traditional measure of a mature and successful economy that it has progressed from a commodity base, through manufacturing, to be a provider of services. This transition is largely the consequence of the same technological progress and financial sophistication that creates unemployment. Surely an ageing population can just as easily be seen as mitigating the consequences of the technologically sponsored increases in productivity that fuels the churning imperatives of endless growth.

ABOUT FEED CONTACT

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From: Julie Turner [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 24 September, 2018 8:03 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Natural Resource Management in SA

I would like to make some comments on the replacement of the current NRM Act with the proposed Landscapes SA Act.

I have been a volunteer with Trees For Life for over 25 years, and have volunteered for many DEW, City of Onkaparinga and NRM led revegetation and bush care type activities over the same period. Saving and enhancing our natural bushland remnants as well as revegetating with the local native flora on both public and private land is of crucial importance to halting the precipitous decline of our native fauna and flora in SA. None of us can foresee what environmental calamities we will be faced with if this decline continues. How sad that future generations may not be able to experience many of the these natural wonders.
During my 25 years as an "environmental" volunteer I have seen the ongoing decimation of government funding to the environment and natural resources sector. I have great respect for all those "hands on" people employed and working in the sector (both NRM and DEW) as they are always under threat of job loss or funding cuts. Only their passion for the environment keeps many of them going.
The invaluable contribution that the current NRM makes and has made to our natural and farming environments should not be underestimated.

To comment on a few specifics:

1. Landscape Boards

Landscape Boards should **not** be required to partner with the private sector to deliver environmental programs to create jobs and drive investment. Surely that is in conflict with carrying out the best possible solutions for the environment and care of our land, and compromises the ideal of placing such care for our environment (both farmed and natural) as uppermost?
I see this as watering down the brief of the "natural resources" arm of government and potentially allowing individual Boards to be placed under pressure from potential developers in the community who are driven by self-interest. This possible scenario is not acceptable for a part of government charged with looking after our "landscapes".

2. Levies

Capping Land and Water Levies - looks like investment in our environment is not a priority and easing the financial pressure on households by capping the levies is the inevitable compromise of a short sighted view. Funding for the environment is now at an all time low, at a point in history where we should be increasing the funding. It would be a courageous and applaud of the government to take the long term view and invest much more in projects and processes that will secure our future and the natural systems upon which we depend.

3.Legislation

It has been made clear that the new act will focus on soil, water and pest plant and animal control but what about the great role that the current NRM plays in education? All the fantastic land management courses, seminars and workshops as well as the involvement of the NRM Education in schools outdoor programs - please do not dismantle such excellent programs nor make redundant the skilled and knowledgeable staff who run them. It would be such a loss to communities all over South Australia, and all that goodwill and respect that has been built up over many years is irreplaceable.
This leads directly onto the rebranding of the NRM to Landscapes SA - can the government afford to indulge in such an unnecessary and expensive exercise. Why cannot the NRM brand be left in place and the funds saved be put back into enhancing the operations of the NRM?
Is rebranding necessary to streamline what has been described as an overly complex and bureaucratic system? Surely this can be done by implementation of a simpler system only.

What about climate change?? Focussing on soil, water and pest plants and animals in regional communities is not the whole picture and does not encompass a whole of landscape approach essential in a world of changing climate. It represents a reversion to the natural resource management of the 1990's. We have gained so much more knowledge since then and simplification of what we now know are very complex issues needing whole of landscape solutions - lets not go backwards.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the NRM.

Regards

Julie Turner

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Richard Lawrence >
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September, 2018 1:02 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: angela
Subject: CHANGING NRM IN SA.

Thank you for the invitation to give feedback and make comments.
I make the following 2 comments:

1. In order to restore/regain any degree of credibility or trust with the farming community, first and foremost NRM will have to address the issue of WATER LEVIES, in particular the gross inequity of taxing some and not others.
The Fleurieu is one area that could easily and justifiably be exempt from all forms of water licencing.

A landholder maintaining the 'right to irrigate' solely for the purpose of irrigating during an extended dry period is no reason to tax that prudent drought proofing measure on an ongoing annual basis.

One step in the right direction could be the introduction of a "holding licence" exempt from levies when the water allocation is not being used in any given period/year.

2. I am firmly of the view that the Fleurieu area should become a separate "Landscape Board Area" and NOT amalgamated with the Adelaide Hills.
The Fleurieu has its own unique issues eg.(feral deer population, Cape Tulip weed control etc) which requires focused attention and not have such issues diminished or downgraded when combined with other Landscape Board Areas.

Richard Lawrence.

From: Amanda Fleming <
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September, 2018 8:11 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Willunga Environment Centre

I understand that there is discussion regarding changes to the NRM and that this may also affect the Willunga Environment Centre (WEC) and wanted to tell you what a fantastic job the WEC does for the community of Willunga.
As a Willunga resident, I regularly use the centre for recycling, borrow books and magazines, have attended many workshops, and have been involved in the Boomerang Bag making. It also serves as an informal tourist information centre. If it was not longer here, or was changed it would be very much missed, and I would like to support having a full time coordinator.
Regards,
Amanda Fleming

From: Wallis, Kirsty (Golden Grove High School) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 September, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Changes to NRM SA Feedback

To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to write in regarding proposed reforms to the natural resources management system in South Australia. My comments are in relation to the NRM Education for Sustainability program.

My school has a volunteer-based Environmental Action Team that was established about 7 years ago. This team would not have got off the ground without the guidance and support of NRM. They have been invaluable in the sense of providing direction, and their resources, such as the Education for Sustainability Rubrics and Core Indictors, have allowed us to shift our passion as a small group with little influence or power to now implementing whole-school change in the area of sustainability. We use our School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) to guide and direct whole school improvement strategies. We now pride ourselves in the actions we have taken and the shift in mentality of staff, students and the wider school community. We have an NRM representative attend our meetings 3 times a term and we certainly wouldn't be where we are today without her expertise in the field of building sustainable practices in schools.

NRM Education have also supported us with projects within the school that engage students in sustainability projects. Just this year we had a group of disengaged Year 9 students actively participating in a revegetation program with the sole purpose of doing something positive for the environment. Trust me, this is quite an achievement! Even more importantly, with the support of NRM I was able to establish connections with park rangers and volunteer organisations and organise a sustainability day at our local national park, Cobbler Creek Recreation Park, for all 250 of our Year 8 students. On this day students participated in tree planting and other conservation activities, learning about the Indigenous history of the park, learning about the impacts of urbanisation, and simply engaging with nature. NRM staff were absolutely vital in helping me create relevant and meaningful activities, and helping with running activities on the day. This was 4 years ago and with their ongoing support we have managed to take every group of Year 8s since!

I'm not sure of the proposed reforms to this sector of the NRM, but I felt it was important to voice just how important the NRM Education team have been to making meaningful and long-term change in environmental management systems at our school, and engaging young people with exploring natural resources in our region!

Regards

Kirsty Wallis
HASS & SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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Email: dl.1834.info@schools.sa.edu.au

From: Tanya Stott [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 September, 2018 6:31 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: Deidre Knight
Subject: Changing NRM

Hi there,
Have read the discussion paper with regards changes to NRM etc.
I would like to challenge a couple of points under P.5 'Significant change is therefore essential'

- Disagree greatly with the comment regarding funds being wasted on planning and administration! I am in the education sector and have had NRM partnering the schools I have been in. This partnering has been a huge facilitator of learning, expertise sharing etc that has resulted in long term growth and embedding of sustainability practices across the entire school community – it has in fact supported a major cultural shift. NRM team members partner us and provide knowledge, skills, useful processes and resources, hands on practical assistance and work with us and the students and families. Invaluable!!!!!!!!!!! Our students are our future – no money wastage here!!!!!
- "Some boards...too close to government agencies, reducing their independence..." - Have not experienced that in Mt Lofty Region or NRM board that services schools in the Prospect area. In both cases, the support, resourcing, partnerships were responsive to the contexts of the school communities, needs they had and challenges they were facing. They were real partnerships that brought about powerful changes in culture and highly effective learning for students and capacity building for staff!

There must not be any watering down of the relationships or resourcing of people in relation to education. So much progress has been made in so many schools in relation to sustainability – find it staggering that there are people out there that say the work of NRM is not visible – these people are not looking in the right places!!!!!

An Education for Sustainability Focus – EFS – is vital for a healthy societal future. Schools have the ability and are charged with the responsibility of educating for preferred futures. NRM has been a highly valued partner in this and I strongly make the appeal that this continues.

I urge you to go out and see what has been happening as the result of NRM partnerships with schools and listen to the students, the families, the staff of these schools – I think you will be amazed and also hope filled!

Sincerely,
Tanya Stott
St Catherine's School, Stirling

From: Simon and Chris Lewis [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 27 September, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Comments on Proposed Landscape Legislation

Dear Landscape Reform Team

I would like to offer the following comments for consideration. In doing so, I need to note that, in a past life, I did have some involvement in the development of the NRM Act 2004.

1. In many ways, the proposed new legislation appears to be a variation on the model of the current NRM legislation. Indeed, it is arguable that many of the proposed objectives under the Landscape legislation could be achieved through amendment of the NRM Act rather than new legislation. Part of the process in improving the current model should be a rigorous assessment of the short-comings and successes of the current legislation and associated processes – what has worked and should be maintained and what needs to be improved upon. The Discussion Paper doesn't provide evidence that this type of assessment has been undertaken. Some personal views on successes and short-comings are as follows:

    - Successes
        - Integrated approach to management of soils, water and biodiversity;
        - Long-term planning frameworks;
        - Local community input through NRM Groups (although this has been more successful in some regions than others);
        - Increased funding potential through levy arrangements.
    - Short-comings
        - NRM structures became too enmeshed with Departmental arrangements;
        - NRM regional plans and investment strategies too general to give the community a clear indication of project and funding priorities;
        - Insufficient funding for on-ground works;
        - Departure from "triple bottom line" objectives (social, environmental and economic): some tendency for environmental aspects to not be included in the equation.

2. On-ground works to combat threats such as animal and plant pests are critical and it is equally critical that there should be landholder and community ownership of such on-ground activities. These threats may well increase with the effects of climate change. The proposed Landscape programs should seek to increase funding in on-ground activities.

3. It is agreed that landscape-scale approaches are needed. However, landscape-scale programs sometimes comprise a myriad of small-scale projects undertaken by separate volunteer groups and there needs to be a better process to guide, coordinate and support small-scale projects that contribute to landscape-scale outcomes.

4. Landscape-scale approaches are also essential in terms of tackling the high degree of ecosystem fragmentation that exists over much of the agricultural areas of South Australia. Many of the State's native vegetation remnants will progressively lose much of their biodiversity over time unless they are linked and/or expanded through revegetation programs.

5. The current NRM model is partly based on the concept of a regional board with responsibility for policy overview and development and overall program and investment planning, and sub-regional / district NRM groups that have a strong community focus and have close links with on-ground works. I think this is a good model and the sub-regional / district group approach can be an effective mechanism for community involvement – although in some regions there does not appear to have been enough effort to support these groups and to maximise their effectiveness. These sub-regional, community-based groups should be well placed to link and collaborate with local voluntary landcare / bushcare groups. I don't think the Discussion Paper clarifies what sub-regional structures might exist under the new arrangements but the current NRM group processes do have the potential to enhance community involvement.

6. Triple bottom line principles – meshing social, environmental and economic objectives – should be a fundamental basis for NRM / landscape programs. In recent years it appears that there has been a departure from this – with a focus on economic, secondary attention to social and environmental well to the back of the field. This imbalance needs to be addressed and corrected and it can well be argued that environmental considerations should be paramount – without a healthy environment, social and economic objectives will suffer in the longer term.

7. While the focus on community engagement in landscape programs is supported, there is a risk in this that decisions about program priorities by a community based board may tend to be subjective. Processes will need to be carefully managed to ensure that programs are evidence-based and informed by adequate scientific analysis. Accordingly, while the regional landscape boards may be at "arm's length" from government agencies and possibly research bodies, there will need to be good communication channels to foster information flow.

8. Historically, it has always proven difficult to strike the appropriate balance between regulation / enforcement and cooperation / encouragement (in other words, "stick and carrot") in dealing with landholders who have not complied with their land management responsibilities. As a general rule, it is considered that enforcement should be the responsibility of the relevant government agency rather than a regional landscape board and its staff.

9. To expand upon one of the dot points under 1 above, regional NRM plans and particularly investment strategies have in many cases been too general to give community people any clear indication about program and funding priorities. This, in turn, can foster community indifference to the whole process. Investment strategies in particular should aim to give a much clearer indication of program / project priorities over the ensuing one to three years.

10. The current NRM program has generally embraced the principle that levies collected in a region are used in that region. This seems fair at face value but arguably has disadvantaged some of the less populous regions. The concept of a Statewide Landscape Priorities Fund is supported has it may help to address the levy funding imbalance. To nominate a hypothetical example, it may mean for example that all levy payers across the State contribute to the management of natural resources in iconic areas such as the Flinders Ranges.

I hope the above comments are of interest.

Kind regards
Simon Lewis

From: wendi Avery [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 4 October, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Please support our Natural Resource Centres

Dear Minister for Environment and Water, I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the NRM Act and associated structures. I fully support the integration of the statutory bodies and their functions, brought together under the old Act, as well as their management within the local community.

Natural Resource Centres have played a vital role as a major interface between the Boards and their local communities. The Willunga NRC had provided an enormous range of education to the local community. Their work is of very high quality, for example the production of Willunga Birds book, recently launched by the Minnister.

The continuing (and increased) funding of the Centre and the Coordinator position is a very cost effective way of engaging with our local community around all aspects of NRM/Landscape management.

I hope this will be an integral part of the new Landscape SA structure and function.

Yours sincerely,
Wendi Avery

From: Kerry L'Estrange
Sent: Thursday, 4 October, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Please support our Natural Resource Centres

I am writing to voice my concern that as part of the reforms funding may be cut to the Natural Resource Centres, such as the Willunga Environment Centre. The Centre provides such an important function in our community, and the loss or reduction of it would be a disservice to Willunga and surrounds. The workshops, knowledge of staff/volunteers, the youth group, recycling facility and community meeting place is so valuable in ways that cannot be measured. If anything, funding should be increased to this facility, not cut.

Regards,
Kerry L'Estrange

From: Alan Burns >
Sent: Friday, 5 October, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Importance of Roadside Verges

Importance: High

Good morning,
I attended the Forum last evening at Marion and wanted to make the following comment, which I omitted to make last night.

I understand that the NRM legislation proposed is all about rural private properties, but it needs to be stated that roadside verges in this State are crucial areas of habitat for our wildlife.
Farmers are not willing to give over land to expand these areas and the widening of roads and other transport requirements means that these areas are under constant threat and reduction.
These areas are crucial corridors for wildlife and a refuge for many endangered plants.
This needs to be taken into serious consideration when legislating for the rural landscape.
Yours sincerely,
Alan Burns

From: margret keath [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 6 October, 2018 4:37 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Please support our Natural Resource Centres

Willunga Environment Center provides an essential service to our community. It is a recycling hub, education facility and meeting place for many effective community groups. The current co-ordinator is an energetic, welcoming and efficient person who leads a strong team of volunteers. Funding for its continuation (and even expansion) is strongly recommended.
Yours sincerely, Margret Keath

From: Jenny and Peter Woodley
Sent: Saturday, 6 October, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Response to Landscape -reform paper

Managing our landscapes conversations for change.
The response from Jenny Woodley.
In the forward, reference is made to stewards of our precious natural resources. I would suggest a stronger statement about being stewards of our precious precious asset needs to be developed so that it underpinns everything that is written: for example a steward is a person who needs to consider what who and why and what are our precious assets, so expand about this and what are our beliefs as perhaps some people don't agree as to what precious assets are,for example excess in kangaroo numbers or the use of surface water.
The description of what is natural resources only mentions pest plants perhaps it should mention native vegetation not just prst plants which marries up with all the Acts that are already in place. Are we also talking about the air that surrounds our natural resources and perhaps this should be added to the statements about what is natural resources.
The term community is used a lot during the paper and I would suggest that it is not just for example land managers and volunteers but is also a person who lives in a house in a small town or city and is also the children and young people in schools and universities and trades and other workplaces. Greater emphasid should therefore be put on the word community involvement and participation including education of and for everyone. This would therefore impact on the funding with regard to futures and should involve research and education when funding is provided to each of the boards. This is important as to where the work done by the education and learning section of the Adelaide Mount lofty ranges is at the moment and funding perhaps would need to be added so that more work can be done with them in not just schools and other other places that they working now but into wider communities.
It also involves the funding of the natural resource centres which to me shows a crucial role in providing research, resources and opportunities for the wider community to learn about the importance of our natural resources. I would suggest then that the funding continues and perhaps even be increased for the natural resource centres so that the coordinators or managers are at their centres perhaps for more than three days a week.
It seems to me that emphasis is put on land managers whereas I think that all of the people who live in South Australia need to consider the impact that they have a need and will need to know about managing our natural resources.

Statement says that the community import is critical to ensuring the purpose and implementation of the reforms I would suggest that as long as the community reflects the futures and sustainability not just those things that happen at the present.

I have found in the past that some land manages see natural resources as their own for example the use of water and I would be concerned that the new act does not reflect the need to share and be aware of all of our natural resources and how they impact on each other.
There are those who live on the land and care for the land who are not well placed to sustain our environment but only look for the economical need and greed for the land on which they live.
I believe the section called community lead landscape management is perhaps introverted as this is often the problem as people are not in encouraged and expected to look,learn and question them outside their own region and in respect looking to the bigger picture and the future. Therefore the statement at the top of page 7 with regard to local actions and landscape style restoration is very important and needs to be at the beginning of everything. I would suggest that when a group is looking at local landscape that it needs to be what is agreed and understood with regard to the bigger picture as well as local landscape, for example managing surface water not just individual the landowner but more about how that the management of surface water is across many areas of South Australia and in fact Australia.
I find it hard to comment on the section with regard to enabling greater leadership by aboriginal people and I wonder how the statement been made in consultation with aboriginal groups it might be better to integrate these ideas into all previous statements particularly with regard to the talk about communities.

With regard to decentralising decision-making I think that it is possible as long as the decision-making takes into account the big picture and not just the local landscape picture. I wonder also what does it mean by sharper focus on the fundamentals of managing natural resources so what does fundamentals of managing naturalist resources mean.

In the section entitled landscape boards I would see that the setting of levies takes into account the overlap of boards boundaries and needs for example the use of water both surface water, ground water and recycled water. As a community member on a grant application proces I have noticed that huge amounts of money are spent on the management of controlling for example olive trees and perhaps the funding for the eradication of such a pest would be better managed across the state so that local contractors could then be employed who know how to do this effectively.. that is share resources and knowledge and expertise.

The section entitled cross regional and state wide coordination is too ambiguous but very important but I am not able to give much input into this at this time. The term local ownership of the issues and partnerships use of this is of concern to me so long as landowners operate according to futures for the environment and not just for business for example as has happened in the past in the southern Fleurieu Peninsula.

In finishing I have always believed that the area covered by the Adelaide Mount lofty natural resource management board is too huge and too diverse and I applaud the actions that are being taken to create opportunities for those people involved in their own communities to be able to help make decisions to be able to have access immediately to more information and learning. I do believe though that the staff employed by the AMLRNRM Board in local areas have huge amounts of expertise and should be involved in the futures of each of the management areas that the boards look after.

It is therefore very important that whatever decisions are made funding is made available to help people present information and opportunities for everyone to become involved in how to be able to manage effectively our natural resources. Some of us don't even know the questions to ask and therefore information giving is as important as the opportunity to share information and therefore to be able to have input into the decision-making process.

From Jenny Woodley

Sent from my iPad

From: jenni.m.douglas
Sent: Sunday, 7 October, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Restructure of the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM boards

Hello. I am aware of a proposed restructure of the NRM to Landscape Boards & Green Adelaide. I wish to raise my concern for the future funding of the Community Natural Resource Centres. I reside in Gawler & have maintained a connection with the Gawler Environment Centre for over 6 years. This locally managed community program has provided outstanding information to myself & the region in the following
▪responsible recycling & waste management strategies for the home & workplace (this has enabled me to adapt home & work systems educating a staff team of 10 & promoting responsible recycling to the general community.)
▪education in biodiversity (promoting me to plant local indigenous plants in my garden, conserving water & providing safe place for local wildlife.)
▪a connection point for the community to come together to be proactive in regards to environmental concerns (including •education in schools, •a community generated Sustainable Living Festival promoting local businesses that advocate sustainability through products or education)
The Gawler Environment Centre is accessible to the community & is known as a grassroots, friendly organization that empowers individuals to make wise choices that support our local community & the planet.
From my experience of working in community development, each of the local Community Natural Resource Centres being community driven are unique & individual in their approach. Providing information that is relevant to the individual needs of the local community in which they reside. This is a powerful & proactive community development model, which needs to be financially supported.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
I look forward to your feedback.
Jenni Douglas

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From:
Sent: Sunday, 7 October, 2018 5:40 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: RE: Have your Say NRM Reform

Apologies, one point missed which I have now included. Please disregard first email.

From: Mandy
Sent: Sunday, 7 October 2018 4:37 PM
To: 'landscapereform@sa.gov.au' <landscapereform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Have your Say NRM Reform

Hello there NRM Reform Team

As a property owner & levy payer I thank you for the opportunity to make comment on NRM Reform in SA. Please find below some comments in response to the discussion paper and also in response to my views for NRM.

1. Overall, I feel that in the past five years the community sentiment, trust & willingness to participate in local NRM has waned, this is problematic from a community well-being and trust in government perspective. The observations that the Minister made on reasons for reform correlate reasonably well with what I am seeing and hearing in the community. The concept of decentralisation is a good one and also has great potential to help enliven & strengthen regional economies.
2. Largely, the NRM Act is still suitable for the desired back to basics approach and enables good scope through planning processes to address local issues whilst working towards a legislated requirement of 'sustainability'. I see on the forum site people have commented on a range of other environmental matters which I guess are issues that are dear to them however I would encourage the new act to not go too broad and stick to the original intentions as I feel that this all-encompassing approach years creates a 'spread' of busyness but lack of clarity on actual achievements. It also adds to complexity around planning and administration which I understand and also observed as an issue for the community.
3. There is a need to create greater cooperation and consistency between individual Landscape Boards to prevent 'artificial boundary issues' from arising. An example I would give is the management of weeds along roadsides. It is pointless for one Board to take a more relaxed approach to a declared pest plant control which then creates issues for another area. Road transport, visitors to the area using our roadways and railway tracks act as vectors for unnatural and invasive weed species right around the state threatening our agricultural productivity and also our national parks & bio diversity. We should therefore ensure that boards either undertake themselves or arrange for road side weed control to occur. There are some great working examples of this occurring by Boards in the state already and the service is highly regarded and funded using NRM levy. I recognise that the levy would probably need to be raised using property values or something like that for it to be equitable and fair.
4. Landscape Boards need to retain a good contingent of staff that will work directly with the community to educate, engage, introduce new technologies for NRM practices and also to undertake basic compliance. Staff working directly with the community on NRM matters is a great way to build constructive relationships, re build trust and a sense of purpose for NRM. NRM Board members need to be afforded greater involvement at the interface between community, board level, receiving direct feedback and setting programs.
5. In relation to point 4, It is apparent to me that some NRM regions are a lot more successful others. It will be very important to create a fresh new approach and re-establish leadership in the regions. The General management positions for the Boards and presiding member roles must be opened up & advertised for everyone to apply for so that the best talent is made available to create the new focus and deliver on the reforms. The thinking, empowerment of staff and community along with not acting from a position of authority will need to be different from traditional bureaucratic approaches that have been evident in some areas.

6. Providing the Boards with a level of autonomy is important for them to be effective provided that the legislation requires that their planning processes must result in an improvement or cannot be unsustainable. In addition, the landscape boards and staff should operate under their own terms being at arm's length from the Environment Department however understandably still work together cooperatively on joint initiatives and services.
7. There should be a consideration of amalgamating management the KI NRM area with Mount Lofty Ranges/Green Adelaide for financial sustainability reasons.
8. The Coorong would be better off going from the South East to the SA Murray Darling Basin due to the reliance on water management (state and commonwealth) and connection with the river and also type of land uses being managed particularly around the lower lakes.
9. I also feel that there is opportunity from a land use and financial sustainability reason to look at amalgamating one of the Far North Boards wih the Eyre Peninsula region.
10. I don't feel that it is necessary to have a regulator oversee levy increases as this just creates additional expense. The provisions in the Act could simply only allow for CPI increases with anything above that requiring approval by the Minister and being justified.
11. Having a mix of both community appointed and minister appointed members on the boards is a good idea however it might be difficult to attract the right people for the community to vote on. Voting will create a new process to administer so terms of 4 years expiring on or about 30 June should be considered so that there is some structure around terms and timing and a state wide process that can be ran to reduce inefficiencies.
12. I feel the area of planning needs considerable reform, improved efficiency and refocussed towards community engagement. I do feel that the existing legislation provides a good framework for planning to occur for Water Allocation Plans and feel that a ten year approach to writing new plans should with a review of condition at the five year interval, the plan and legislation should then enable action to be taken if assessment of monitoring and technical information reveals changes in sustainability conditions. The new replacement for NRM plans need to be written with specific goals for achievement and not at a high level which then creates administrative inefficiencies requiring further strategies, risk assessments, operational plans, business plans, approvals processes etc to be written so that implementation can take place. In a state with such a small population there is a great opportunity for planning staff to have a project team approach & work across the state and across landscape board boundaries thereby reducing costs in number of staff required and inefficiencies with not considering cross boundary issues. Input to the plans could be well informed technically by Landscapes SA operational staff who would work closely with the community and Board members at the regional level to deliver NRM services and have oversight and encourage progression of projects by the community and other organisations.
13. I don't feel, a convincing reason exists to outsource core NRM work however potential certainly exists for some smaller projects with board staff providing governance support and oversight. Perhaps some planning aspects could also have a trial use of external contractors.
14. For levies I feel that money raised should be spent in the region noting that it may be necessary to have a Landscapes SA CEO appointed for which all boards would need to make contribution. It is therefore really important that the financial viability of individual boards is considered along with equity in where the funding is being raised and where it is being used. Some boards are cross subsidising others and this should be discontinued. Moving to a capital value system of levy raising would make more sense noting that this would need to be phased in over time as it would be problematic for a general farming property to go from the current $300 - $350 levy per annum to a capital value one as the levy increase could be ten fold..... One area that does need to be looked at is the ability to amalgamate into single farming enterprise, this is quite unequitable, it results in a farmer with multiple properties being able to amalgamate properties (for NRM levy purposes) into a single entity that only paying one NRM levy fee. This is particularly inequitable where largest farmers are consuming a lot of NRM resources whilst only paying one NRM levy.
15. I don't feel that NRM would be well served by establishment of a cross sector or boundary advisory group. We need to establish improved focus and efficiency so this function could happen via the planning process as outlined in point 12 above.
16. For statewide and regional coordination and to achieve efficiency in planning processes (or cross sector advisory function) appointment of a state Landscapes SA CEO as outlined in point 13 along with a very small centralised coordination team should be considered (most doing and staff should be regionalised). This structure would allow Landscapes SA to operate at length from other agencies. This team should also administer the statewide landscape priorities fund which should also incorporate the green Adelaide fund.

17. It is good to see that many of the existing legislative provisions for pest animal plant control, soils and water management will remain the same as in the current Act as these seem to work well. Some improvement in the speed of effecting compliance outcomes would be good including the ability to issue expiation notices, issue notices and enter property to take action and then recover costs.
18. Provisions in the Act need to allow for a Water Holding licence to be issued. They could be previously then that part of the act was repealed. The ability to hold allocations supports water trade and reductions to use where required without taking the allocation away.
19. I know there have been some great working partnerships formed between NRM staff and Environment Dept staff. It would be good to keep some of the 'holistic' approaches to land management going. An example of this is where a group of farmers are baiting foxes in an area where there is a national park. What works well is if the national park boundary is also included in the NRM program as it increases the effectiveness in numbers of bait uptake. The result is good for farmers with less lamb losses and for national parks it is good for native animals who would other wise be predated upon.
20. The proposals for reform involve new legislation being drafted. I understand that this process can take some considerable time along with debate and the risk is that a move towards the landscapes SA operating arrangement is delayed well beyond the original timeframe and as a result the momentum and impact of change is lost. There is also a risk when opening up debate on the legislation for unintended outcomes and loss of important aspects such as compliance functions and powers of entry to land which are required to administer the Act. My suggestion would be that as the existing NRM Act already has many of the desired provisions contained in it I would suggest that the separation into Landscapes SA occurs under the existing NRM Act and that it operates as a separate entity in the same way as former NRM Boards did whilst the new legislation is being created or debated. I would imagine that Landscapes SA branding could be used even though the NRM Act was the operative legislation.

Regards & thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

From: Olga Farnill
Sent: Sunday, 7 October, 2018 7:34 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Landscape Reform funding

As conservationists who have revegetated a 60-acre property in the Adelaide Hills, near Macclesfield, from the year 2000 to 2013, my husband and I
have much experience of the issues and problems involved in both attempting to restore a diverse native ecology, and caring for existing bush.
Many overlapping organisations have been involved in such efforts, including:
- Council Environmental Officers
- Pest Plant and Animal Control Officers from local Catchment Areas, under the NRM,
- Trees for Life
- Landcare volunteers from among local property owners, many being farmers
- Occasional other volunteer groups such as Greening Australia
- Contractors organised by local Councils.

In spite of the efforts of all these groups, we have witnessed the severe degradation of much valuable native vegetation on local roadsides and patches of bushland.
Similarly, there have been many revegetation projects carried out by landholders like us, which provide wildlife habitat and add so much to improving aspects of the environment including the quality of watercourses and riparian areas, carbon sequestration, micro-climate, and preventing soil-erosion and salinity. These all tend to suffer from weed-encroachment and pest-animals, unless continuing efforts are made to control them. These major works may be wasted through degradation when the landowners have to leave or can no longer continue working.

My suggestions are :

1. The paramount need is for serious funding for conservation of what is left of our native biodiversity, after 200 years of clearing, and years of further degradation, so that, eg, the Adelaide Hills has less than 7% of its original flora, and drastically declining native birds and other wildlife.
$2m for all green not-for profit organisations in the State is a purely token gesture, ensuring that these groups must continue to struggle with inadequate resources, and to compete for ever-dwindling funds, instead of being enabled to co-operate, and to have sufficicient personnel to bring about real improvements in the natural enviromnent.

2. Re-organisation is no substitute for genuinely adequate funding, and can too easily waste valuable time and money in administrative change, instead of continuing urgent environmental work.
However, if the 9 new regions are now set in stone, I suggest a minimum funding of $2m per annum for the not-for profit groups in each region would be more adequate, particularly if it is to cover water- and soil-projects as well as flora and fauna, although these all overlap to some extent.

3. There is a great need for far greater numbers of volunteers for conservation work. In our time we saw the numbers dwindling. To motivate and recruit them, we need educators to explain the value of such work in general, the importance of preventing the spread of pest plant and animal species to farmers and land-holders, and to train them in the appropriate methods.
We state this need after witnessing the following inadewuacies in resources:
Firstly, while some farmers are well-versed in these topics, many are not bothered with conservation of native plants or control of animal pests, or apply wholesale spraying to weeds, destroying native plants at the same time.
Secondly, an Information for Landholders leaflet on Control of Roadside Weeds was ambiguous and confusing, so that neighbour-disagreements occurred as to whether landholders were responsible for weed-control on their roadsides. Some also neglected even Declared Noxious weeds on their own properties.

Both of these factors accelerate the spread of weeds to other properties and to areas of native vegetation.
Thirdly, local Pest Plant and Animal Control Officers and Council Environmental Officers had excessive demands on their time, and despite their best efforts, could not meet many of the needs for recruiting, education, motivation and co-ordination of landholders stated above.
Fourthly, there have apparently been decisions to drop certain highly invasive weeds from the list of Declared Noxious Weeds (eg, Soursobs, dropped in 2014), not because they were under control (in fact their spread was accelerating), but because too many new alien species were threatening to spread and needed to be prevented. Again, because of inadequate resources.

4. Whatever organisation is finalised, there is a continuing need for liaison and co-operation between green organisations.
One likely educator and co-ordinator may be a local Council Enviromental Officer. I suggest an additional such staff member be funded for each local Council, whose main task would be to work with landholders, volunteers, plant nurseries (which often sell inappropriate pest species) and roadside contractors (who can destroy native vegetation on roadsides, or spread weed-seeds, as we have often seen). They could carry out the recruitment, education, and co-ordination needed, and support revegetation projects (see below).
Perhaps funding for green groups could flow through these
Officers, who will be familiar with the environmenral needs in their areas.

5. We have seen the need for a separate fund for ongoing maintenance of significant revegetation projects, to assist landholders who may be aging, or are succeeded by new owners.
Revegetation is also crucial to restoring our native ecologies, and providing the many benefits I have listed. It is far more beneficial if joined to other areas of native bush or neighbouring plantings, and includes as much diversity as possible, as well as allowing natural regeneration of existing native seed which often exists in the ground.
Establishing and maintaining diverse revegetation involves much time and effort. When landholders can no longer continue this, there is great danger of degradation, and the years of work may be wasted, with consequent loss to our biodiversity.

We hope the government will give serious suppo4rt to our biodiversity, before it is irrevocably lost.
Yours sincerely,
Olga and Doug Farnill

From: Douglas Ransom
Sent: Monday, 8 October, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Managing Our Landscapes NRM changes & new legislation

To Whom it may Concern

My name is Douglas Ransom and as a concerned citizen active with a community based organisation involved very directly in matters to do with landscape management I welcome the initiatives described in the Managing our Landscapes Discussion Paper July 2018. I am presenting my personal position in relation to the initiatives outlined. I want to mention that I am a councillor and the Honorary Treasurer of the Nature Foundation of SA (NFSA) so I have a direct and broad interest in landscape management matters. So although I am associated with the NFSA the views I express below are my personal views.

Firstly, I welcome the idea that the new landscapes boards are to be community-based. The NFSA seeks to involve regional communities where the NFSA is active and I have seen that this works very effectively for all concerned.

Secondly, I think the the new Boards should have some autonomy and responsibility within the proposed framework, so the idea that funds directed to the Boards are to a controlled by the Board, (not a government agency), and to have their own bank accounts and to use their funds to be deployed only by decision of the Board is sensible.

Thirdly, I understand the proposed legislation defines natural assets broadly as people, land, water and biodiversity, and it is sensible that they be afforded equal standing.

Fourthly, I understand the new Act requires the Boards to define the threatening processes holistically affecting the natural assets, this is very sensible. By this I understand a holistic approach to encompass regional planning, threatening factors like pest plants and pest animals, climate change, fragmentation and the cumulative effect of the approved clearance of native vegetation.

Fifthly, Boards should be able to employ a small staff to service the Board, assist development of the community-supported plan, and arrange delivery of projects that progress the plan.

Sixthly, a focus on restoration of the natural assets of land water and biodiversity should focus and inspire landholders, communities industries and governments to protect them, make positive gains, and provide for future primary production, tourism and conservation benefits to the whole state and future generations. I have seen these positive spinoffs in the NFSA Water for Nature program.

Seventh, delivery should be organised primarily through non-government organisations, community groups and industry, as they will bring other resources and value-add. The environmental non-government sector is particularly important in this regard.

Eighth, regional boards need to collaborate for a coherent state-wide approach to managing the soil water and biodiversity resources of the state. Suggested is an independent, skills-based, community, state-level body to coordinate this and provide advice to the Minister.

Ninth, emphasis needs to be on inspiring and mobilising the community for on-ground results – preventing degradation and expanding restoration.

Tenth, there needs to be strengthening links with Aboriginal communities, and growing emphasis on helping them manage their lands.

Eleventh, having an open and transparent process to appoint Board members adds credibility to governance arrangements.

Twelfth, done well, the reform can amplify jobs in regions, sustaining the clean green base for primary production for world market, the resilience and confidence of regional communities and through prevention of degradation, very significantly reduce later mediation costs.

It has been noted that the SA Government has reduced its spend on environment from about 2.7% of the state budget in 2006-07 to about 1% currently (It is understood that this does not include the NRM levy). It is critical that all interested in soil, water and biodiversity management collectively find a way to assist the Minister and government return it to at least 5% of the state budget. This is an investment in the core infrastructure of the state and it should not be seen as an expense. The economic benefits to regional and economies and the state overall will be substantial. The actual spend on on-ground action and regional jobs has decreased accordingly over successive budgets.

From: Paul Johnston & Rose Ashton
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October, 2018 8:48 AM
To: Landscape Reform; Speirs, David (DEW)
Subject: response to proposed Landscape Act

Dear David,
I am very concerned about the yoursay method of deciding policies. Usually the people who have the strongest opinions will respond. These people are not always informed or care about the research, the whole ecosystem, and the long term consequences of actions. They are often motivated by their own financial considerations. **It is SA government's responsibility to govern - not to delegate that responsibility to others. The government should listen to the experts, not the vested interests.**

In terms of the repeal of the Native Vegetation Act, I notice that 'Threatened Species' is mentioned only once - in Question 14. That is appalling. It clearly shows the motivation of the SA Government is not the protection and conservation of the natural environment. The motivation seems to me to be absconding its responsibility, and making it easier for vested interests to take control.

Protection of the environment (not just pest control, soil quality & land management) for the future is the responsibility of government. Before you were elected you phoned me to say you genuinely cared about the environment. It is clear to me now that you don't. I am very very concerned.

Yours sincerely,
Rose Ashton

From: Sue Pooh
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October, 2018 5:48 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Pest control.

As a landholder in the south east of south australia we have spent many years engaged in rabbit control on our property. In years past we have received a small grant to assist us with the onerous task of trying to deal with the ever present problem of rabbit control. Our property does not allow for ripping of warrens and we must deal with the problem by applying phostoxin to every warren, generally at least 200 applications 3-4 times a year. When small grants were available to assist in this task we responsibly carried out the task, definitely value-adding to the small amount of grant offered. The motivation to carry out the pest control was huge due to the requirement to report on the result of efforts achieved which were over and above the amount of money offered. The responsibility to achieve was motivated by the award of the grant.
Grants have been no longer offered. In the past the grants have been small but none the less motivational. The motivation to carry out the pest control has wained since funding has no longer been offered. The benefits from offering landholders small grants to deal with pest control I believe is crucial for the responsibility of landholders to deal with problems. Certainly from our own perspective grants encourage action. With the absence of grants pest control is also limited.
I would like my comments to be considered in the overall restructuring ofthe NRM.

Suzanne Wiebkin

Natural Resources Management Act 2004

(Reform of...)

Landscape South Australia Act (Proposed...)

RESPONSE from...

Dr. Ole W. Wiebkin
Relevant extramural interest: the history and relevance of evolution and biodiversity in society.
Guest Editor of 'Charles Darwin , His Connection with South Australia'
and contributor (Trans. Roy. Soc. SA 2013, 137 (2) 1-27)

Past-president and Hon. Sec.; Royal Society of South Australia.
Heritage bush (150ha) owner and member of Friends of Private Bushland,
Senior Visiting Research Fellow (biochemist); Discipline Orthopaedic Surgery and Trauma, University of Adelaide.

Question 1
What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

South Australia has only a very poor residuum of conservation sites for **Natural Resources**. Consequently, these sites are very precious and need protection. Indeed, we must allow these sites to continue to ***provide*** their disproportionate benefits to South Australians and to their communities, as well as their contribution to the dynamics of the rest of our environment. We must resist ***taking*** (actively harvesting) these benefits.

We must be aware that our enthusiasms to manage the exploitation of such conservation sites for their resources can be substantially tempered. For any new Government, the inevitable eagerness to make reforms to management of natural resources legislation needs to take into account the sensitivity of our very limited conservation reserve to any management practices. Management of such resources must be very lightly handled. Such resources should not be taken for granted. While un-abused nature is robust, even very minimal human intervention - the removal of a tree, the cutting of a track, or the provision of a toilet block - has an impact.

Note that the definition of the word *conservation* does not embrace recreation/education/resource-generating sites etc. And while the notion of *natural resources* might be embraced by the tourist, agricultural and energy industries or it can even provide for streams of education, the bank from which these resources come is finite and vulnerable. Managing of natural resources does not mean providing improved facilities for visitors or educators, creating fashionable beautification or by manicuring the land into the beliefs of what it

should look like. A healthy natural un-abused conservation site requires very little management. But it can do with a little help from addressing the amelioration of impingement by neighbouring damaging agents and modification (e.g. agricultural weeds, fertilisers, farm animals and feral pests as well as the involvement of any integral research activity etc.). Management begins on the outside, on already occupied land.

Question 2
What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

Advice from local regional conservationists was a great help. But their appointments are being eroded away by funding cuts and 'rationalisation'.

Separating recreational sites; where awareness, education and 'happiness' can be accessed; from the tracts of native vegetation that exclusively represent un-abused native reserve ensures the provision of a bank of almost virgin resources.

Question 3
What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

I hear the perceived and possibly real problems about centralised (Adelaide) decision making, but siting more authoritative, qualified personnel in the regions and differentiating the notion of *landscape* from *conservation* sites of natural resource seem to be simple and practical changes.

While the costly publication of the extravagant and blatantly spin-worthy ***Discussion Paper*** with its greater emphasis on *agriculture* than on *natural resource* may be politically satisfying, it is not a good start. Just fix the current problems within a structure that has some of the merits of having be established for some years.

Question 4
How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

What is 'Landscape Scale'? – jargon!

Question 5
How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

Ask Aboriginal people and **LISTEN** to them.

Question 6
How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

They cannot. In the context of the **Discussion Paper**, landscape is a euphemism for farmland. Agriculture comes from farmed land. Natural resources come from conserved land (even on farmed land) These are completely different management bases. Both need their own specialists. (It is like asking the coal industry to facilitate the management of the steel industry or the power providers... they all are involved with coal). Certainly, some individuals undertake both management roles, but the principles are substantially differently. The concept in the question is a nonsense!

Question 7
What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

They could be appointed similarly to Select Committees with a special emphasis on expertise and qualification. Difficult, but avoid political bias.

Question 8
How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

Refer to Professor Chris Daniels' previous Uni of South Australia Department and to the Royal Society of South Australia.

Make Christopher B. Daniels', Catherine J. Tait's book on Urban Ecology in Adelaide compulsory reading and test the implementers of management on it!!! There is a spectrum of ideas on natural resources from 1836 to 2036.

Question 9
How can regional planning be streamlined?

As soon as the 'streamlining' of planning is evoked, corners are cut and accidents happen.

There are two vested interests... free enterprise based on what can be taken from the land and the rest of us who, while we benefit from its products, want a habitable state. Free enterprise is in for the short- and medium-term returns. The natural resources should be sustained for the long haul. Advocates for both interests have a handle on Government, so step up and manage our natural resources for both of us - through agriculture/ tourism/energy etc and through policies for sustainability, but just for once, be bigger than political party ideology.

Question 10
How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

Sack the authors and compilers of the **Discussion Paper** and revert to simply-put statements and graphics in hard copy and on line. Give students (and even school children) a meaningful say in both content and communication. (Be cautious about media-trained students... some or v. good but many are clones of their teachers! Engage with 'hands-on practitioners'). To further promote loyalty and inclusivity among co-opted contributers, employ some of these bright young people on internships. It is their future. The role of us with grey hair and wrinkles is as advisory elders, not for decision-making. Corporately, we have stuffed up for far too long.

Question 12
How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

Very important. This importance is enshrined in of the use of the levies and must be transparent. We all benefit from a healthy environment. I would prefer that the whole matter was part of general revenue but nobody in the big house in North Terrace has the fortitude to do what is necessary – to put the environment next to health, education, and dare I say, the economy. We don't have levies for these.

Question 11
How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Professor Cory Bradshaw and his colleagues are experts in the measurement and relevance of measures in biology.... there are others. Unfortunately, recommendations arising from rational science may not always be politically comfortable. Perhaps the question should be asked of politicians 'How do politicians best implement remedial mechanisms resulting from the measured outcomes of their failed management of natural resources? cf cost and efficacy of

the neutering of koalas on KI, the cost of reduced funding for feral animal control and weed reduction, reduced funding for other projects (e.g. fencing to eliminate cattle and sheep from on native bush, etc).

Question 13
How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Without any nominal project priority this is a nonsense question. Who determines the height of the priority? Above all, avoid the priority status debacle of the shadowy realms of the dept. for major planning projects!

Question 14
How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

The loss of NRM structure makes this a new issue... get your proposed structure published first... Pages 7 and 12 are hardly bases from which such a question can be answered. Much better improve the system currently in place.

Question 15
How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

Our experience from having several grants (now dried up) has been that they add responsibility to the project. Moreover, they add some sense of corporate involvement in the State, not just the part remuneration for a job well done.

Question 16
What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Policing. Wanton deer release is the responsibility of a maverick few. Rabbit control is patchy. It needs a practical cost effective implementation. For 'bounty ideology', read Mundy's book on wild rabbits!

Question 17
Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

This is an agricultural issue and the historical record of politicians listening to expert advice is poor.

Question 18
What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

Vide supra

Question 19
What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

Management is a dynamic process and Legislation is a static instrument. Get the legislation right so that the management can be developed over time. Management should not be included in the Legislation. Legislation should provide the reasonable constraints within which management can reliably and effectively work.

Question 20
What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

At last, that old fashioned concept... Stewardship.

Very difficult to define, but oh, so important in our ethics... Stewardship will be part of the culture as Landcare has been for a long time amongst responsible farmers. If the advocates for the Constitution cannot get 'mateship' into its preamble, it will be a challenge to get Stewardship into the legislation about Landscape. It will be better to stick to some sound legislation about natural resources than link it with agriculture and landscape gardening!

Question 21
How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

Compliance of authority comes with a genuine respect for that authority. Respect comes with truth outside politics. Build that respect. The discussion Paper contuse to reinforce the view that politics is outside the real world... it is delusional.

Back in the real world, for the really exploitative offenders with damaging practices and for those who flout the law, a quick and formidable policing and prosecution approach must be done and seen to be done. Ask and listen to the farmers who suffer from feral deer. Ask the responsible deer breeders whose reputation have been sullied by those who are violating the regulations.

Conclusion

- Be creative with the current legislative mechanisms. Certainly amend it but make it work for us.

Many of us in the business of sustaining the state's bank of natural resources could have done a lot with the funds currently being spent on the process of couching, printing and disseminating the **Discussion Paper**. And even more can be done if the exhaustive process of getting new legislation installed is abandoned. Listen to those who are on the ground, the farmers and the environmentalists, and be big enough to back down on this flamboyant initiative.

- Avoid *exploiting* our natural resources. The conservation sites don't like being trampled on or even being fiddled with. They will yield up plenty if just protected.

Instead, show creative leadership by actually getting things done on our land not by creating new laws in the cloisters of bureaucracy.

[redacted]

9th September 2018

Facilitator Landscape Reform

GPO Box 1047

Adelaide 5001

Dear Sir/Madam,

The opportunity for change in the management of natural resources throughout South Australia can open doors that have been unclear for some time. The expectation of new areas to be preserved from the urban spread is challenging and should be tackled with honest foresight.

The idea of "Green Adelaide" should be expanded to Green Adelaide and Sustainable Country if the state is to be held responsible for change.

Areas in danger of being overlooked as places of coastal management, urban rivers/creeks and wetlands will be saved if progress is the aim.

One area in particular is the land privately owned immediately to the east of the Moana Sands Conservation Park. This area could be a buffer zone for the aboriginal park. There are several species of fauna living there in harmony with the present environment and could be protected by a change in attitude and plan. The bird life in particular include, yellow tailed black cockatoo, black shoulder kite, red wattle bird and rosella. Kangaroo also call this area home. The concept of fauna in the city could be realised immediately here. The Pedler Creek runs here too and could be much better managed with control of noxious weeds and rubbish. The aims of a vibrant biodiversity, healthy native species and ecosystems could be established along with a sustainable economy that evolve a healthy community that have stewardship of their natural environment.

I enclose a list of answers to the questions posed.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Holman BT

Mark Holman BT

Answers to the questions.

1 The most important thing to me in managing natural resources is to manage water.
2 The innovative action taken by this government to change and enact is working well.
3 Changes made to fines of graffiti.
4 A whole community approach is needed here.
5 The recognition of aboriginal culture and traditions is a treasure trove of implementation.
6 Best use of NR by boards is not to sit in an office to feel the situation.
7 The best people to have on boards is to have those with practical knowledge plus knowledge of how boards operate.
8 Green Adelaide is achievable only if the state comes with and is part of the plan
9 Steam lining is achieved by being simple to use and understandable.
10 Plans have to be regional or they will fail.
11 Photographing and video reporting are best in showing and measuring outcomes.
12 All residents should be levied, not just those who use parks/gardens etc.
13 High priority projects could be supported by business and philanthropy.
14 The far west and the south east will need to be in the same room.
15 Best plans without suitable funding should be given first choice.
16 Use work for the unemployed schemes.
17 Encourage managed water saving methods.
18 Urban water storage in back yards encouraged.
19 Minimum tillage practises, noxious weeds and feral cats targeted.
20 Rewards and accolades where appropriate.
21 Education/reward for compliance and not penalty for ignorance.

From: Lynda Yates [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 12 October, 2018 10:46 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Replacing the NRM

I am concerned that the NRM Board currently funds quite a lot of coastal projects. I believe that the proposed funding will not adequately continue this research and protection eg. Hooded plover volunteer support, seagrass bed restoration, sand movement studies. There is not much difference in the money being provided for the new reformed department to previously and I am worried that areas currently funded will lose that funding in order to create new star projects that will give the impression of more cash being available but at the expense of the older projects, many of which have a wealth of data from several years of research and are bearing fruit because of that. Change for change's sake may not be that beneficial when more of the same will continue to provide important data, even if it is not 'sexy'.

Lynda Yates
[redacted]

From: Leone Shapter
Sent: Friday, 12 October, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM Education Feedback

To Whom it may Concern,

As you look to make reforms through the Natural Resources Management I thought I would pass on some feedback about some of the fantastic things the NRM education group support in our school environment.

1. I have participated in a number of professional development opportunities around sustainability education and they have included sessions on waste management and recycling through to the Creek Discovery Program. These have always provided excellent background to the issues setting up authentic learning opportunities (as well as observable and measurable action outcomes for students), practical hands on advice and case studies as well as mentoring opportunities when bringing the learning back into the classroom. This support enhances the successful implementation of new programs within the school environment. The PD opportunities also provide great networking opportunities with other like-minded educators across a wide range of age groups (early learning through to high school).
2. The opportunity to meet with NRM education officers to look at the needs of your school environment or to support an idea you have for sustainability education for a unit of learning or a whole school change is incredibly valuable. I have meet with Jeremy Gramp on many occasions for support when looking at creating a butterfly and bush tucker garden at the school, teaching students about the local creek and water testing, discussing ideas for the environmental team to pursue.
3. Support and mentoring has also happened for the students through a variety of interactions with NRM Education officers:
    a. Guest speaker for environment club and year level presentations
    b. Working with environment club students on plastic waste management and ideas to implement within the school.
    c. Mentoring students who are investigating impacts on the environment through pollution (air, land and water), deforestation, over fishing, costal erosion, water management for the Yr 5 exhibition (students share their research and provide strategies to other students about how they can make a difference to this problems). Jeremy often attends the exhibition to see what the students have created and to show them that their work is valued and respected.
    d. Participation in our community STEM night showcasing the NRM and the local environment.
4. The NRM website is filled with valuable resources and case studies, I particularly value the lessons around water and environment that have been created by the NRM.
5. The NRM also run the Youth Environment Council which I have had students participate in. I think this is an incredibly valuable opportunity for students as there is not a lot around to support students who are passionate about the environment and sustainability. This program provides great mentoring and a fantastic networking opportunity for these students to connect with others across the state who have similar interests to themselves. This year my own son has joined the YEC and thorough this work has put in a proposal to the school to have chickens, and this has been accepted and he is now looking at leading the environment team to set this up for 2019. The likely hood of having this happen without participation in the YEC was very low. If fact they are now so inspired that they are already looking at proposing garden beds for growing vegetables as well as creating a lizard garden at the school.

I would like to thank the NRM education group for their flexibility to work with schools to meet the needs of the educators and the students as well as managing to still share of this knowledge and experience with the community. The links the group have to WOW (Wipe Out Waste) and Nature Play SA are also incredibility valuable not just to school communities but to our local communities with the activities that are run to engage families in outdoor learning creating a greater understanding and respect for our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this email, I'm sure there are a number of other services that are provided by the NRM education group that I have forgotten to list, I just want to let you know that this is a truly valuable resource in educating our young people about the environment and the fact that they can take action and have an impact on their world.

Kind regards
Leone Shapter
Leone Shapter | Scientist In Residence

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From: Terry, Jeanette (Naracoorte High School)
Sent: Friday, 12 October, 2018 9:24 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: Harris, John (Naracoorte High School); Nicholas, Marianne (Education); Crouch, CC (Naracoorte High School)
Subject: re: 'your say' on the re-structure of NRM

My responses to the questions for feedback on the restructure of NRM are below:

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?
We need to continue to have NRM Education Officers in partnership with schools. These people are wonderful resources for our teachers and students to value-add to our programs with 'real-world' learning.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?
From a school/regional perspective, programs such as Frog Watch, Water Watch, Young Environmenal Leaders Program, River Murray Council, Citizen Science, developing a school environmental management plan, on-ground projects, , swamp savers, creek walks, Bool Lagoon birdlife, Naracoorte Caves, etc. are invaluable for environmental/sustainability programs in History and Social Sciences (HASS) and Science.
STEM education: outdoor sessions to learn about the science, technology, engineering and maths involved in the region's water and drainage systems.
Work Experience and Community Volunteering projects for individuals and groups/classes.

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?
Involve schools more. Our students should be participating and learning about their local environment in order for sustainability.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?
Involve students. We have a Community Volunteering program and need to have community projects for students to manage (with support from our teachers and NRM Education Officers) in and out of school hours.

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?
Involve the Aboriginal Community Education Officer at the school. These staff members have a wealth of knowledge and community connections to tap into.
All our students in every site need programs to give them understanding of the land they live on and how to look after it for generations to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

regards
Jeanette

Jeanette Terry
Deputy Principal
Naracoorte High School | Department for Education
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NRM Review

I appreciate the opportunity to have input into the review of the NRM legislation, but was disappointed in the lack of advertising for the event (in Mount Gambier) which limited the possibility of a wider input.

When the NRM model was first mooted there was and is still a feeling that it is a way for the State Government and, in some cases, local councils to obviate their financial responsibility to natural resource management. (Albeit, the model would give greater autonomy to the regions in decision making and did.)

I do not think using the Act to raise funds for cost recovery of funding that is a State responsibility is appropriate, e.g. the $2.9 million re water management; the costing of which, is debatable.

If the NRM model is to continue, the blurring of job role responsibilities that has happened under the NRSE banner need to be rectified. With the best intent of using skills and knowledge across different management areas, there has been some clouding of roles, particularly in relation to ground water.

I stated as part of the consultation one of the most significant developments of the last 20 years has been the water allocation plans; including the proclamation of Morambro Creek catchment and forest allocations.

As an area, we are most fortunate to have had people with the foresight to see the need to manage ground resources and to continue to fine tune the plan. While for all it may not seem perfect, however the availability of good quality water to the health of the region agriculturally and environmentally cannot be over stated and we must be careful not to have change just for change sake.

There is a call for better science in making decisions to reduce allocations. In this vein, one of the most useful tools in this decision making is monitoring water levels and quality.

It is hard enough to know what is going on down there, let alone winding back the monitoring the indicators that do give us information to make sound decisions.

I strongly oppose the proposal of local NRM levies going to a Grass Roots grants program. It is cumbersome and bureaucratic and is counter to all the dialogue in the discussion paper which focuses on local management of local funds for local projects (needs) that locals best understand.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the process.

Yours sincerely,

John Mullins

October 12th, 2018

[redacted]

Submission on the proposed landscape reform (NRM)
13th October 2018
Emma Sandery
[redacted]

Good afternoon,

Please find below my submission regarding the NRM reform process.

I am a resident of metropolitan Adelaide and am passionate about environmental sustainability and building environmentally conscious communities. As a mum to two young children, I am also very aware that the decision we make today will significantly affect them (and others of their generation) going forward. We are at a critical point right now, with the opportunity to take strong action and avoid devastating impacts of climate change, and the opportunity to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environments.

At a high level, here are some of my key points:

1. there is a huge need for broader urban sustainability education for our community beyond just 'nature education'
2. Living Smart courses have demonstrated success and positive outcomes in creating real behaviour change and fostering community (Living Smart is one of the best things I've been involved with and I know it has been life changing for many)
3. I appreciate the events and services of the Adelaide Sustainability Centre (at the Joinery) and believe they are doing a great job of reaching a diverse audience and communicating about all aspects of environmental sustainability
4. there needs to be increased focus on mitigating climate change (reducing overall carbon emissions) and continued support for Carbon Neutral Adelaide

Please find below some of my further comments on the landscape reform, outlining some of the things that are important to me (as an urban resident).

Grassroots Grants Program and volunteer support

- *Question 15 – How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?*
- Grants should be for work that align with priorities. It is important that this grant program doesn't just result in peace meal activities, and projects that aren't able to then be maintained in the longer term. It needs to be well coordinated and there needs to be paid staff that can identify gaps and provide support to get new initiatives up and running that address these gaps. There needs to be sufficient staff to support community groups and projects.
- The application process needs to be simple and realistic for small groups to manage.
- There need to be enough paid staff (equivalent of NRM Volunteer Officers) so that volunteer groups can be supported to get established, work effectively, navigate legal requirements, insurance requirements, grant process and learn technical and knowledge skills needed.

- An example of this from my local area – a group of residents have got together to help protect and restore a local gully. This is one of the few remnant native places in our area.

However, they needed help to figure out how they should go about things, both technically and legally. An NRM officer was able to help them meet with the right people from council, provide them with insurance, provide them with a framework to manage volunteer safety etc. and make sure they are assisted with technical environmental knowledge. If it wasn't for the NRM support, the group would not have progressed. It is hard to get a volunteer group up and running, and even harder to maintain their momentum. Support is needed (from paid staff) to ensure we don't lose community involvement in our natural places. It is also not fair to expect everything to be done by volunteers and there needs to be employment opportunities for people to do this work and receive an income for it.

- I believe (although I'm not sure) that NRM currently can provide insurance for community groups. If so, this is a valuable service. I believe there is also NRM support for Sustainable Communities SA. Sustainable Communities SA provide insurance for community groups and can act as their auspicing body. This year, I've started up a local produce swap operating under Sustainable Communities SA. They are insuring me, and I am doing all of the organising and running of the swap. This monthly event has been a great way to get my local community together and share and celebrate local produce and backyard gardening in our area. Going forward, we hope to use this group to encourage and support more people to grow their own food in our local area.

Green Adelaide

- *"Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resources management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing."*
  "Green Adelaide will focus on seven key priorities: coastal management, urban rivers and wetlands, water sensitive urban design, green streets and flourishing parklands, fauna in the city, controlling pest plants and animals and nature education." I am concerned by the wording of the seventh priority "nature education". We need much broader sustainability education beyond just "nature education". I am concerned that the focus of Green Adelaide seems to be around ecology and nature. Whilst I think this is very important, I hope this focus doesn't take away from broader environmental sustainability. Yes, we need nature in our city, yes we need to get people more connected to nature and yes we need to work to improve and enhance our natural environments. But, to limit climate change and live within our environmental means, we need to foster broader sustainable behaviour change within our communities. How people live, the levels of waste we generate, the amount of power, water and stuff we consume, how we grow and get our food, and how we create strong, local, connected communities is just as important.

- There is huge community need and community interest to learn and do more regarding living sustainably. We need more funding for and broader application of community environmental sustainability education.

- I think the work that the urban sustainability team at AMLR NRM has been doing is great and should be expanded upon. The environmental issues we face in the urban environment require multiple and broad solutions, of which "nature" education is only one element. I think they are doing a good job (but it can always be expanded) to focus on creating

behaviour changes through education, working to support urban agriculture, community gardens, productive gardens, building community, education in schools, and overall environmental engagement.

- I have been involved with the Living Smart program, which has been doing a great job of providing broader sustainability education to local communities, with a real focus on supporting participants to create real and positive changes in their homes and communities. NRM support for Living Smart is very important and should be maintained. There is also a huge community need for more programs like this that can be conducted through partnerships with local government. We need to be able to reach so many more households and continue to create a real groundswell of environmental change.

- The Joinery and the Adelaide Sustainability Centre (supported by AMLR NRM) does a great job of reaching new audiences and getting people interested and engaged with environmental issues. I like that they are covering a range of topic areas, from waste and consumption, through ethical fashion, food, gardening as well as connections with nature and local biodiversity. I would love to see more hubs like this throughout the suburbs, bringing environmental action to life.

- *Question 8: How can Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?* We need to also address climate change and broader sustainability. We will not be ecologically vibrant if we are suffering the impacts of climate change. We need to increase and protect biodiversity and a big impact will be maintaining open space and gardens within our city and suburbs. Green Adelaide objectives need to be included in the planning process for developments.

- *"It will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world."* I hope this isn't at the expense of Carbon Neutral Adelaide. Carbon Neutral Adelaide is getting recognition around the world and showing that Adelaide is a leader in sustainability innovation. Strong targets like this show leadership and vision for our city – I hope that we continue on the path to Adelaide becoming Carbon Neutral as this shows we are serious about climate change and builds upon the strong position of South Australia driving renewable energy projects, plus keeps the community engaged and focussed on action on climate change.

- What is the timeframe of the Green Adelaide discussion paper and consultation process?

General

- *Question 20. What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?* We need to make sure that the right balance is achieved between environmental outcomes (conservation, revegetation) and community / economic outcomes (agriculture). The rights of our natural environment and the rights of future generations need to be protected and I would like to see them included in the legislation.

- *"The new Act will identify soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management as major priorities".* I think several key elements are missing: what about an emphasis on

biodiversity conservation, taking action to avoid climate change (reducing overall carbon emissions), and protecting and restoring our natural environment?

- Whilst I am supportive of community elected members, I think it is important to ensure that they have appropriate skills / qualifications / experience and there are checks in place to ensure the board is working for positive environmental outcomes and community outcomes and not self-interest. There needs to be some merit base for board members. The boards need to have specific objectives to work towards, including increased sustainability education, reduced carbon emissions (including improved carbon content in soil and increased tree cover), improved natural environment and enhanced biodiversity.

- I don't think we should be aiming to reduce the NRM levy. As a citizen I want to contribute financially to improving our states natural environment and resources and would be willing to pay more if I knew it was being spent well. I think a lot of people would agree, as long as they understood the value and outcomes achieved with this money. However, for those on low income, perhaps there could be a mechanism for reduced levy payments to ensure that it doesn't place additional financial strain on those that can't afford it.

- All NRM staff that I have encountered to date have been fantastic and I would like to see them supported going forward.

From: rose dow
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 10:23 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Landscape Reform - Natural Resources

Landscape Reform South Australia - For your consideration

Please find below my comments some of which I posted on the Forum page.

I am a semi-retired teacher having grown up on a farm south of Adelaide. I have seen first hand the benefits of protecting creeks and stabilising hillsides through extensive tree planting. I understood early in my life what happens if land and soils are not looked after. Washes, creek erosion and landslides were memorable sights from my childhood. I also learned as I began to work in other parts of South Australia that our land and water systems are very much connected.

As stated in your forward, South Australia's unique natural resources underpin our communities, our economy, our well-being and our way of life, and we all have a responsibility to be stewards of our precious natural assets. We would be wise to ensure the new Landscape South Australia Bill has provisions that protect our land and water systems and continue to restore them to benefit all South Australians into the future.

It is my concern when reading the Reform Executive Summary that although increased participation, transparency and responsiveness are being promoted there does not seem to be overarching policies in place with identified outcomes. It seems the nine landscape boards will operate independently, yet share major ecosystems within our state. I'm interested to know what the guiding principals are that will ensure there will be vibrant biodiversity, a sustainable economy and resilient communities. How will we know if soil and water quality improves, there is a reduction of pest animal and weed species and if there is an improvement in land and water biodiversity.

The evidence almost unanimously among scientists now is that human-induced climate change is impacting on the planet. We are seeing the results of this in our state with the prediction of much lower expected yields from drought conditions this year and for a dangerous fire season. "*For months farmers across the state have reported some of the driest conditions in recent memory, many destocking and prematurely cutting crops while others face water and feed shortages.* " Sept ABC online
Climate change mitigation policy and actions are critical for our state to embrace now and into the future. Unfortunately there is no mention of climate change in this Natural Resources Reform Executive summary or how our state can mitigate against it. The Farmers Federation policy from 2017 states the following.
The National Farmers Federation recognises that climate change poses a significant challenge for Australian farmers. As a nation, we must act to ensure that our economy is well placed to cost efficiently reduce our national greenhouse gas emissions profile.
As we are dependent on our land and water systems it seems critical to me that climate change policy and actions to address and reduce its effects are included in the new Landscaping Bill.

Australia has the fourth worst extinction record on the planet.
"As species from Mauritius to Australia slip towards extinction, we risk losing a part of our culture and our identity, as well as the life-supporting benefits these species provide by pollinating our crops or preserving healthy soils." International Union for the Conservation of Species director-general Inger Andersen.

What measures, assessments and monitoring will be put in place? If there are not monitoring and assessment procedures enacted by all nine boards how will there be the effective management of the states natural resources? As Paul Gibbs states we already have qualified people with a solid grasp of what is happening to our land and water systems and the life that depend on them. It makes a great deal of sense to draw on the experience and partnerships already existing many through NRM.

Our schools have a current emphasis on STEM, Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology. Students are graduating from our universities with science degrees with the skills to monitor and assess soil and water health impacting on the health of our farmland and landscapes more broadly. What a great investment for our future to have South Australians working together to improve our land and water systems and doing the research, monitoring and trialing that's required. If we are to be leaders in the fields of climate adaptation, clean food production, land and water health our scientists, researchers, farming and tourism businesses need employment opportunities. The benefits to both our regional and urban communities will be significant with the capacity for us to export expertise, research and know how nationally and internationally.

As a volunteer who has given a great deal of voluntary time to my local Our Patch, Landcare and Friends of Parks Groups this has only happened because of the guidance, support and expertise or trained National Parks or NRM staff. Together we've accomplished a great deal but I'm concerned that without the staff who oversee programs, set regional targets, provide guidelines, training and support to groups like ours we will struggle to consolidate, grow and improve local biodiversity and weed control into the future.

How will partnerships be promoted with primary producers, conservation organisations, Aboriginal nations and councils and government agencies if paid staff are not employed to facilitate these partnerships? If there is greater autonomy given to the individual boards what structures will be in place to ensure all these stakeholders are involved? How will representation be fairly decided?

It seems to me there is no better time for us to invest in our natural environment. We would be wise to seek, as you are, the guidance of those who have a vested interest in the health of our state's natural resources. Long-term environmental and economic decisions are required so our natural resources are protected and restored for the benefit of all South Australians into the future.

With kind regards

Rose Dow

From: rose dow
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 10:42 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM Education a personal account

Landscaping South Australia - NRM Education - A personal account

As a teacher working for the Department of Education I have worked closely with NRM Education for over a decade. Initially the KESAB team came in as experts and provided lessons on waste and recycling, water catchments, Danny the Drip, A Frog's Life, macro invertebrates (A Bug's Life), Something Fishy and more. These lessons often kick started units of inquiry or provided timely information to initiate student action at school, at home or in their community.

We also applied for grants to set up energy saving solar panels, to install water saving taps and to establish and maintain a propagating area to grow local species to plant along an adjoining creek. Water monitoring began along with Gutter Guardians and Drain stencilling. A butterfly garden and vegetable gardens were also established. All of this was accomplished through the support, guidance and grants made available to schools by KESAB and NRM officers.

We worked in partnership with a range of other organisations including the local council, Trees for Life and national private and government organisations including the EPA and Clean Up Australia. We set up an environment club, staff environment group and student voice environment committee. Some student representatives joined the Youth Environment Council and attended meetings and camps. All this was made possible through the leadership of NRM Education staff. Students, staff and parents engagement in planning and action for the environment grew significantly through this time.

Teachers were also trained to deliver lessons as the KESAB/NRM Ed staff had done in the past and supported to integrate key learning into units of work. Resources were also developed for teachers to use and schools to purchase. This was very empowering for teachers and interesting for students. Instead of one off 'expert' lessons by KESAB staff teachers were provided with the resources for units of work that were engaging and linked to key learning outcomes. This training on a range of sustainability programs continues to be a key cornerstone of NRM Education.

Like so many other schools around the state the schools I worked in became AuSSI-SA schools and developed a School Environment Development Plan. The AuSSI model is most effective and NRM Education staff have supported and resourced schools to put their sustainability vision into practice. The effectiveness of this support is considerable and the statements from the 330 current AuSSI-SA schools provide great evidence of the success of this model.

Having a model and support helped us to integrate environmental sustainability into all aspects of school life. Our South Australian and International Baccalaureate curriculums being committed to inquiry and actions reflecting care for the environment. Having assistance to document the programs and projects and allocating responsibilities to different year levels helped programs and projects to become embedded in the curriculum. Without the skilled support, structures and guidance of NRM and Australian Curriculum staff (a former Principal) this would not have been possible.

The AuSSI schools program really does help schools to create a sustainability vision and to work towards the vision. Having the backing of the school's administration gives the commitment to education for sustainability additional creditability with staff and the Governing Council. Also staff changes can have a disruptive effect to environmental programs, but when the school has committed

to a vision, a plan and have actions in place the loss of key staff to programs and projects can be minimised.

At this point I moved to 6 months in the SA Museum and then onto Arbury Park Outdoor School. My involvement with NRM Education continued. NRM Ed approached experienced teachers to develop units of work. With an upper primary teacher who had been testing water in the River Torrens and investigating catchments with her students for many years we developed units of work linked to the Australian Curriculum for early years and middle years. These units of work are still available on the NRMEd website along with many others put together by NRM Education staff and teachers working in schools.

The NRM Education Weekly Digest provides great insight into the quality of their professional development and the leadership they show towards teaching for sustainability within our state but also nationally. They have become lead players in a number of networks and formed partnerships with a range of government, council and non-government bodies. These partnerships have been built over many years and much of the time given is voluntary. This means that there is a great added value to the paid work of NRM Education staff.

To give three recent examples I have assisted in a voluntary capacity to produce Ant Teacher Resources for schools and pre-schools. A student from Adelaide University was paid modestly to produce the resources. He was guided in a mostly voluntary way by an Adelaide Uni Research Fellow Jasmin Packer and by highly regarded Ant expert and SA Museum Research Fellow Archie McArthur. This valuable Ant ID Chart and Teacher Pack are extremely user friendly and a valuable legacy to some of Archie's work. Chris Daniels launched the Ant Resource Pack in the SA Museum last year with Archie's daughters present. NRM Education paid for all the expenses associated with producing the pack. These resources along with similar ones on Butterflies, Bees, Frogs, Bats, Fungi, Birds etc are largely put together using experts in the field many giving their time voluntarily.
The networks that are built and strengthened through such partnerships are also a great asset for future ventures and research. It would be a big loss if these partnerships were lost with the momentum they've created due to budget costs.

Last year with guidance from Heather Whiting and Vale Park Our Patch we were successful in winning a NRM Education Community Grant. The $5000 allowed us to bring renowned mycologist/ecologist Sapphire McMullan Fisher back to Adelaide for four days after a successful visit to Upper Sturt the year before. All of the $5000 went towards Sapphire for her time for the four days she was here including traveling expenses from Melbourne. Sapphire is involved in lead research working for Fungimap. As our understanding of the critical role fungi plays within ecosystems and its vital role in soil health such initiatives are invaluable. Here is a list of our partners and the events they supported.
Vale Park Our Patch *(Coordinate Sapphire's visit and all events, Rose Dow and Heather Whiting key Coordinators)*
Shanelle Palmer, Bush Classroom *(Assistant Coordinator, Public Talk, Grant preparation, Teacher PD, Educators' Forum)*
Vale Park Primary School *(Fungal Foray, BTN visit, Fungi Teacher's PD)*
Friends of the Billabong *(Public Talk, Fungal Foray)*
Natural Resource Management and NRM Education *(PD for teachers, advertising through NRM Weekly News / Sedge Snippet and major sponsor in covering Sapphire's time, travel and accommodation costs per this grant)*
Discovery Circle – Philip Roetman Citizen Science *(Public Talk, and publicity)*
Arbury Park Outdoor School *(Host Educators' Forum)*
Adelaide Studies Fungal Group, ASFG *(Public Talk, Educators Forum, Fungal Foray)*
Native Orchid Society of South Australia *(Public Talk, Fungal Foray)*
Behind the News ABC *(School visits Vale Park)*

SA Museum Discovery Centre *(Publicity and Public Talk)*
Walkerville Council *(Public Talk Promotion).*
ABC Digital Radio – (Suzy Ramone)

As you can see by this extensive list the $5000 was extremely valuable. A Fungi Kit x 2 was also produced by NRM Education for schools to borrow. This has led to another local partnership for Vale Park Our Patch. Walkerville PS Staff attended the NRM Education Fungi PD and Vale Park Our Patch (VPOP) members voluntarily delivered fungi workshops and a fungi foray to one of the 5/6 classes.

Led by student interest from their Arbury Park Camp the Walkerville students wanted to create more biodiversity in their school. VPOP provided a class presentation on plants that attract butterflies, birds and bees. Students with their teacher then applied for a NRM Education Grant to set up a butterfly garden using the information shared to make wise plant selection. They were successful and the garden is planted and flowering has begun.

Once again led by the students' interest they wanted to help create more biodiversity in their local community. They approached VPOP again and with the Walkerville Council we have successfully planted two areas near the Swing Bridge site at Gilberton. The class will mulch, weed and monitor the site and with the Council assistance water the plants through the summer. Drought resistant local species were selected and planted in late winter for the best prospect of survival.

I understand this has become quite an extensive piece of feedback about NRM Education. There is much I have not written about the lead work they have undertaken in many different areas of educating for sustainability. These are well documented including the Youth Environment Council. I just wanted to give some first hand examples from the past 10 years of working fairly closely with NRM Education and their staff.

The NRM Ed team are very professional, experienced and leaders in their own fields of expertise. So much of what they provide is double, tripled and more in in kind voluntary help often by the students themselves, lead scientists/ecologists and community volunteers with expert knowledge. Unfortunately without the leadership, networks, guidelines and financial support the above community and school resources would not have been created.

The evidence is very clear about the benefits of children spending time in nature and taking action to improve their communities. An investment in NRM Education and all this small group of personnel accomplish is such great value. For the young people in our schools who look to the future and want to be part of the solution there is much to be done together. NRM Education invests in the future by encouraging student voices and giving them opportunities to plan and take wise actions at home, school and the broader community. Landscaping SA would be wise to generously fund NRM Education so they can continue with the empowering work they do from which we all ultimately benefit.

Thank you for reading my extensive reflections.

Kind regards

Rose Dow

Valerie Wales
[redacted]

Dear Sir, Madam

Submission to Proposed Landscape Reform paper

I have had over 20 years experience of being a volunteer in coastal revegetation projects, most specifically the Tennyson Dunes Group Inc. This Group has worked tirelessly to preserve this precious dune system, a small remnant of a much larger system that used to be all along our coast. In a mere 200 years we have managed to destroy virtually all of our coast that the original Aboriginal inhabitants cared for and relied on for great food.

During my time volunteering I have been privileged to be a part of getting the Dunes Dedicated as a Coastal Reserve under the Crown Lands Act 2009. Local people now appreciate what a treasure they have in their midst, the largest remaining dune system in a metropolitan area. Unfortunately the rest of the coast has not fared as well which not only saddens me greatly but also is a real concern with the ever-increasing threat of climate change.

Volunteers need leaders who are well educated in biodiversity to support and co-ordinate their activities, the loss of so many Rangers in the last few years is very regrettable. I have found the present staff at AMLR NRM to be extremely helpful and supportive because they have the same goals as we do. Access to the assistance of such organisations such as Trees for Life has been hugely helpful, because they also have the same goals. This is more difficult to find in local Councils because some of them do not even have environmental officers and in those that do, their job description is much broader.

Very often volunteers in coastal areas have valuable knowledge but little opportunity is given to share this knowledge with others in workshops. We look forward to a time when less revegetation will be needed because plants will be able to naturally revegetate. In order to do this there needs to be recognition of how this occurs in native plants.

For example plants such as the Adriana Quadripitata need both male and female plants in reasonable proximity to each other, but all too often in plantings there are only female plants and even nurseries cannot inform you as to gender. This plant is the only source of food for the Bitter-bush blue butterfly Theclinesthes Albocincta) and is part of a planned planting all along the coast to encourage the spread of the butterfly, without much success so far.

Stewardship to me means all facets of management from seed collecting, propagation, planting and initial watering, all of which we do.

Applicants for Grant funding need too start being judged on how well they have spent any previous Grants.

Often I see in planting programs not enough regard taken to placement of plants, for example how do they occur naturally in the dunes. Planted in the wrong place they can and do cause problems, likewise with urban tree planting careful selection is needed so as to not cause expensive repairs. There appears to be too much emphasis on planting programs and not enough on follow-up programs to ensure plantings survive. I often wonder how many trees in the 1million tree program have survived over the years. Plantings have many obstacles to overcome water being a huge one, pests such as rabbits, and insects such as gall wasps and of course weeds.

Greening Adelaide is a good idea but again needs careful selection and follow up on a regular basis with watering and pruning. Colourful containers with flowers and plants can reduce the effect of the concrete jungle and bring pleasure to all, not to mention the bees. Consider training Work for the Dole volunteers in this work as done currently interstate very successfully. The program Water Sensitive Urban Design should be continued, as with all the urban infill occurring everywhere run-off has no-where to go. We need to get better with re-use of water so as to mitigate the amount of stormwater entering our Gulf with subsequent pollution.

Our coast is under constant attack from numerous sources and not enough real effort it appears to me is being put into mitigating this.

Both the EPA and Coast Protection Board are fine organisations employing very knowledgeable people but often their advice is not heeded with subsequent ongoing problems. I would like to see the powers of these organisations increased.

The Environment needs to have an economic value placed upon its Biodiversity as it appears to me that it often loses out to mining, housing and other forms of development. I think that we are at the cutting edge of finding out the true value of our native plants in food, medicine and fire prevention. We can be helped in this by careful listening to our local Aboriginal custodians and working with them and respecting their knowledge.

It is important to me that the Metro coast is treated as one system in order to facilitate plant and reptile movement, Tennyson Dunes needs that to happen in order to keep surviving. Development along the coast is very ad hoc according to what Council you live in and we already have done too much damage. I am mindful of the dunes in front of Minda already impacted by the Brighton Dunes development and to now have a four-metre path through them, which means that the impact will be 10 metres. How much will remain of the natural dunes system which used to be regarded as second only to Tennyson?

Finally,please do not close the Urrbrae Tafe, I feel that it would be a truly retrograde step to the environment and our economy generally.

Yours sincerely
Valerie Wales

From: (Banksia Park Kindergarten)
@schools.sa.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: re reform

I read through the paper I was quite concerned the importance of education was not mentioned.
People underestimate the value of educating especially our children their voice and sense of agency. They are our future.How can they value the environment if not connected and don't understand the impact of their actions because of lack of knowledge and interaction with environment. Children can be active agents and drive for change now and the future
I know from personal experience at my kindergarten it is through teaching the children it reciprocates to their families and wider community Our centre has Site Management Plan established through NRM to embed in our curriculum all areas of sustainability such as food garden ,biodiversity, Anstey Hill rejuvenation,recycling, water conservation etc so can reduce our carbon footprint and change community practice We give our families a survey to find out what they know and are doing at home what else would they like to find out
It has transformed our community shifting their attitudes and behaviour towards the environment creating continuity in local school through children and families agency. We have also TAFE students doing their placement and other colleagues come to our centre to learn about sustainability
Parents are more willing to be involved in community events because have gained understanding and value the principles of sustainability
Through constant modelling, sharing of information and active participation only then will the shift begin.
Learning is an ongoing process as even today through attending NRM professional training I am still discovering new things I did not know which now I can share to others.
This document is done in collaboration with NRM "Site Education Management Plan" which ensures continuity and commitment from staff even if there are staffing changes to continue Education for Sustainability It would be a great loss if this service is lost The children are our future and its their future it will impact.
We all have a responsibility and can make a difference by from our choices and actions we take. All sectors need to work together Its through educating people that they gain an understanding of "The why!" it is important that can make change happen.
I am grateful to all the NRM Educators for their professionalism, resource and guidance they have provided us. I would be sorry to lose this support.Through NRM I have gained a deeper understanding of our relationship and interdependence of living things and natural environment
Its how I deeply feel about this issue I hope we don't lose sight of the good work that is already being done.
Best Wishes

Please keep me posted!

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both. If you are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Info for your reform

To Whom it May concern,

I would like to submit my interest in the Landscapes Reform Process. I feel I can adequately represent the Fleurieu and Alexandrina region as I have been an applied researcher in agriculture and natural resources for 20 + years and I currently sit on the following groups and boards

South Australian Livestock Consultants

South Australian Dairy Association Fresh Board

Fleurieu Farming Systems Board - Project officer and Communications officer

Fleurieu Beef Group Secretary/Treasurer

Alexandrina Sustainable Agricultural Round Table

Ranges to River NRM Group

Roseworthy Old Collegians Treasurer

In addition I am running for council in the Alexandrina region for the Goolwa/Hindmarsh Island Ward.

I would be most interested to represent the board for the regions.

I do applaud the overhaul of NRM to the Landscapes Reform. I have run a number of projects that pertain to the new reform including soil health, climate change, collaborative farming, pasture health, animal health. Most details can be found on my web site as per my links below.

I personally feel that Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island should be included in the proposed Fleurieu and Hills region as the soils and land management issues are similar despite the different catchment area. I guess the question is are you project funds going to be more related to catchment or soils and landscapes? If the boundaries can be blurred and projects can cut across both regions it should not matter.

If I can be of any further assistance to you please let me know as I manage a number of stakeholders in the Fleurieu and Alexandrina region.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Rebbeck

Climate & Agricultural Support
Melissa Rebbeck – Director
melissa.rebbeck@bigpond.com

Web Twitter LinkedIn

From: Ben Pontifex <
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 8:24 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Concerning reforms

To whom it may concern,

I believe the proposed changes should help achieve the desired outcomes. My only concern is how the three community members will be elected. If allowed to be a popularity contest with no skills based qualifications being necessary, these boards could become as wasteful as the current setup. I firmly believe candidates will need to be qualified for such important and broadly effecting positions. The science and impartiality need to be quantified and scrupulously taken into account to ensure differing opinions on emotional uninformed basis do not waste any more time. These boards will be responsible for extremely important resources that have many varied uses with the ability to affect many differing interests so it will be necessary to be able to communicate effectively a balanced overview with no personal biases influencing outcomes.

Thank you,
Ben Pontifex.
Kangaroo Island

From: Fahimeh Shahvarpour >
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 8:59 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Have your say

Hi There

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to have our says!
I have been living in crafers for more than a year.
While I have been enjoying staying in the nature I wanted to share a few concerns:

Gumtrees are getting old in resedential areas and they are not replaced. I wish resendents good support and guidance to remove dangerous branches and plant new trees in the proper spot of their garden or council verge.

My personal view is that too many farming lands are used for development. I am not sure whether it is healthy for hill environment.

I can see trees are being pruned to avoid them reaching power cables. I believe there are opportunities for improvements.

Thanks for reading my comments.

Best regards
Fahimeh

From: Grant Gartrell [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 10:42 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: The Landscape Reform Process as it pertains to Caves and Karst
Attachments: Cave Conservationist Article.doc

Although I am both an Honorary Life Member of the Cave Exploration Group (SA) Inc., and an Honorary Life Member of the Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association Inc., I am writing the following in my personal capacity and not as a representative of either of those organizations.

The proposed Landscape Reform process would be a good opportunity to redress what has seemed to be until now a "too little too late" consideration of the special values of karst landscapes in South Australia.
Many of the mooted Landscape regions include significant karst features which may nevertheless be sufficiently rare and sufficiently distinct that many of their values and properties may commonly be forgotten or overlooked in making decisions which can potentially be damaging.

Tertiary limestones are widespread across the Limestone Coast region and the Nullarbor, yet relatively little is known about the interaction between solutional features and groundwater flows. Systematic exploration by cavers and cave divers is revealing some amazing information about these regions, but it is an ongoing process, and any Landscape Reform process should foster an atmosphere in which such research into one of the "last frontiers" is encouraged and incorporated as appropriate into future management strategies.
South Australia's currently only entry in the UNESCO World Heritage Register to date is the Fossil Mammal site at Naracoorte, fortunately protected by its discovery within the now designated Naracoorte Caves National Park. In the same year (1969, 50 years ago next year!) that we made the discovery that lead on to this particular recognition of Naracoorte and South Australia, we also made substantial discoveries in a band of Cambrian Limestone at Sellicks Hill while searching for caves quite distinct in form to those in the South-east of the State. The comparison is particularly poignant, because after searching for what we know from the already observed indicators would be a couple of major cave systems, we were able to have temporary access to one of those large caves when it was broken into by quarrying operations being conducted at the time by Southern Quarries. The events that followed were, not only in my estimation, handled by the Mines Department with little or no consideration for any values other than what they perceived to be a need to show that environmental considerations would not be permitted to diminish the attractiveness of SA for mining investment and the short-term interests of the quarry operators. Had that same philosophy been in place at Naracoorte, the loss of what has since flowed from the nurturing of the World Heritage site does not bear thinking about. For further information refer either to the attached synopsis of these events, extracted from an American cave conservation publication, or the full report of the Environment Resources & Development Committee of the SA Parliament.

The other posited major Sellicks Cave system has yet to be fully accessed, and has also been under threat for some time, as the land under which it lies has been the subject of exploration licences held by Boral. These caves occur in Cambrian limestone beds which also occur extensively under Yorke Peninsula and in the Flinders Ranges. At Curramulka several extensive joint-controlled caves are known, and clearly there are more to be found. The Corra Lynn Cave is a grid system on several levels with a surveyed passage length so far of the order of 14km. The Town Well Cave accesses a similar joint-controlled partly water-filled passage network which was once used as a regional water supply.

A variant of the same limestone runs under the town of Macclesfield, where it is known as the "Macclesfield Marble." Often over the summer months the bed of the Angas River through Macclesfield is dry, whereas the river may still be flowing a kilometre or two upstream, before it sinks into cavities in the Marble beds. A short distance further downstream is Crystal Lake. It would appear that the Angas generally rises again under Crystal Lake, because there is almost always a significant flow of water over the Crystal Lake spillway wall.

There are numerous examples of streams sinking into limestone cavities from Sellicks Hill down to Delamere, and one of these influxes may eventually yield mainland Australia's deepest cave.

There are numerous examples around the world that subterranean drainage systems by following geological strata may extend well beyond the confines of more easily defined surface catchments.

These are just a few basic "dot-points." Overall, much still needs to be explored, studied, surveyed, documented and assessed for significance, but I would suggest that the new Landscape regime would be all the better if it can incorporate in its fabric a framework which recognizes the need to properly accommodate our cave and karst heritage.

Kind regards,

Grant Gartrell

Cave Conservationist

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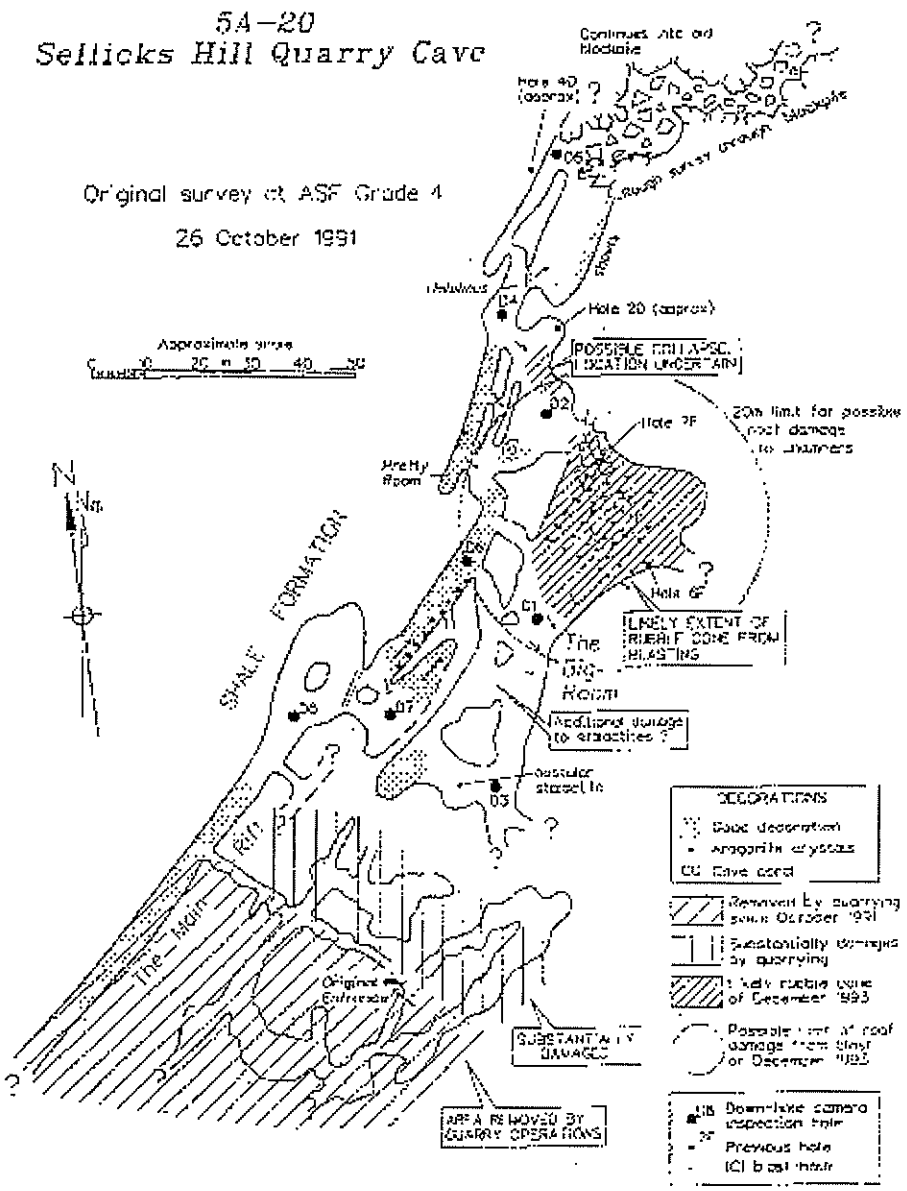


Figure Three.
Likely status of the Cave after the blast of 10 December 1993 with suggested down hole camera sites.
Source: Grimes, K., Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave Independent Review. Report to the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources 4 Feb 1994.

Sellicks Hill Quarry, Hawaii Road Crisis, Sloans Valley Landfill, Arizona Bat Management, Cave Registers, New Melones Resource Plan, Providence Mountains MOU, Annual Meeting Minutes

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSED FOR NEW MELONES, CALIFORNIA
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PROVIDENCE MOUNTAINS STATE RECREATION AREA AND SOUTHERN CALIF GROTTO PROPOSED.
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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've just returned from the 1995 National Cave Management Symposium held in Indiana. Over 150 cavers, cave managers, cave owners, and cave scientists attended this year's Symposium in Southern Indiana. This was an invaluable opportunity for exchanging information and ideas about caves and

cave management. Since the proceedings of the Symposium will be published separately, we won't be excerpting much of it here, but a future issue may contain a summary article.

The 1997 Symposium will be held in Washington State, with field trips to caves on Vancouver Island, Canada in the planning stages. Stay tuned for more information.

This issue of **The Cave Conservationist** (and the next one, which will be mailed at the same time) contain a variety of information and articles collected over the last several months. Some of it is out of date by now, as issues tend to be fast moving and may be resolved by the time it makes it into print. For a more up-to-date window onto many of the fast moving issues, check out the Section Web page on the Internet. - Rob Stitt

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF 5A20 (SELLICKS HILL QUARRY CAVE)- AUSTRALIA

Submitted by Heiko Maurer via the Internet.

Mine workings uncovered an opening in a Cambrian dolomite quarry on private property in late 1991. The Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) was called in, in September 1991, to map the cave on condition of total secrecy. There were nine trips into the cave totaling 40 hours, with the last being on October 26th 1991. These resulted in a map, a video and some photographs, which were handed over to the Quarry. Approximately 1km of passage was surveyed with many potential leads and some very fragile (aragonite) and beautiful formation, as well as sediment beds. The Quarry claimed insurance and liability problems and barred cavers further access to the cave, named Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave and numbered 5A20. The following two years were spent negotiating, in good faith, access to the cave while, it was later discovered, the quarry prepared to blast the cave.

The quarry, with the approval of the department of Mines and Energy South Australia (MESA) and in the interests of 'safety' detonated charges to implode "The Big Room", a chamber 70x30x20m on Friday, Dec 10, 1993 the day before a State election. The Big Room was said to have posed a collapse danger to vehicles traveling over it, along a haul road crossing the north east corner of the room.

The Quarry manager, Ron Delaney notified Dr. Grant Gartrell who had been negotiating with the Quarry and MESA for the cavers. Grant was furious at the betrayal of trust and no longer felt bound by the secrecy agreement. The media was notified and the local tourist commission was alerted to the fact that a potential major tourist attraction had possibly been destroyed. Presentations were made to the local shire council and the tourist association. Ministers were approached and their staff briefed. The media took a close interest. The newly elected state government succumbed to the pressure and called an "Inquiry into the Facts" and notified the cavers on the afternoon of the 25th. The 26th was a public holiday and the Inquiry sat on the 27th & 28th of January, 1994. We effectively had one day to gather our facts.

Fortunately, interstate experience was available and Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) Senior VP Pat Larkin was flown over along with DR Armstrong Osborne. The Quarry and MESA argued that the cave was professionally and completely destroyed, that the Big Room was a safety hazard and that under occupational health and safety law the quarry was obliged to make the area safe. The frame by frame viewing of the video of the blast was saddening.

A constant problem was that the Quarry presented their data as facts with little evidence, for example their drilling logs showed that they had to skew the cavers map some 20-25m in an easterly direction to fit the quarry floor and where they thought the Big Room was under it; any challenge to their facts always responded in hiding behind "commercial confidence" reasons. Being a medium sized commercial enterprise they would have political clout and would have lobbied the local council and government ministers, particularly the Minister for Mines and Energy who is perceived to have more influence than the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. The company had

previously provided hospitality tents at major sporting events such as the F1 Grand Prix, in which political leaders and other captains of industry mingled and were entertained.

To the surprise of the other parties, the cavers gave a very professional and persuasive presentation, arguing for access to the cave to ascertain the state of the cave. Thus no further quarrying should be permitted in the area of the known cave. We argued that significant parts of the cave would have survived the blast and physical inspection was the only way to assess the state of the cave-if it was destroyed, worth preserving or had tourism potential. The footage from the failed attempt to blow up Speaking Tube Cave at Mt. Etna, Queensland, helped enormously, although the same lessons are available to those planning future blasting of caves.

We pointed out that the quarry had been operating quite safely for two years, by simply having the dump trucks drive around the area of the Big Room, pointed to the conflict over responsibilities within MESA and presented draft legislation to require notification and investigation of the discovery of significant voids encountered during routine quarry drilling operations. At no stage was closing the quarry presented as an option; we simply want to establish the facts (is the cave still there?) by a physical inspection.

The Inquiry report , by the independent assessor Messrs. Grimes and Moore, was entirely in the cavers favor. The government ignored it. The cavers then put their case before the State Heritage Commission. Its charter is to consider heritage values and ignore any political consequences. It put an interim stop order on the area of the quarry containing the cave. The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources overruled his own Committee, canceled the Stop Order the next day, and publicly denigrated cavers in the media for using the cave as their own private playground for two years, stating that it would cost the government some A$40m to close the quarry. The ASF then took the Minister, Quarry and MESA to court.

The case was set down for hearing before Justice Bollen on 30-31 May. We received excellent legal representation and had set up a fighting fund to raise cash and personal guarantees of $40k. The arguments had changed from safety, tourism, heritage and economics to legal ones about whether the

Minister had acted properly in overturning the advice of his own committee (to impose the Stop Order and investigate).

The Judge found against the cavers and an appeal was considered but eventually rejected on the grounds of expense and the lowered chance of success. Meanwhile the Shadow Ministers of the Labour (opposition) and Democrat parties had been kept informed and they raised questions in the state parliament, resulting in the matter being placed on the agenda of the Environment and Resource Development Committee (ERDC). In the meantime, quarrying continued and cavers kept a watchful eye on activities in the quarry.

The ERDC meets once per week and the case was listed for May/June 1995. The Committee heard submissions from all interested groups including cavers. The ERDC commenced hearings with a visit to the quarry in late May and then the following groups presented to the Committee:

31/5 Southern Quarries Pty Ltd. - Mr. David Salkeld, General Manager
Professor David Stapledon - Consultant Geologist for the quarry 7/6 Dept. Environment & Natural Resources Australian Speleological Federation
14/6 SA Museum Environment, Legal Community Advisory Service (ELCAS) Conservation Council of SA
7/7 Dept. Mines & Energy SA Dept. Industrial Affairs Southern Quarries Pty Ltd- Mr. David Salkeld, General Manager Olliver Geological Services Pty Ltd - Consultant Geologists for the quarry

In total four submissions were made to the committee, being three written submission and the presentation of 7th June. The Sellicks Hill fighting fund, funded the attendance of Dr. Armstrong Osborne, Sydney University and Ms. Willow Forsyth, Westpac Bank also from Sydney to appear on our behalf. The ASF funded the attendance of Patrick Larkin, Senior Vice President and Dr. Grant Gartrell completed the presentation team.

Grant submitted a paper and spoke regarding the cave discovery and exploration (Sep-Nov 91), all the negotiations and discussions with Southern Quarries Pty Ltd and Mines and Energy SA up to the blast (Dec 10, 94). Highlighting several issues dealing with the 'Quarries Confidential Agreements' and the proposed consultancy contract, the promises and

continued intent, by all parties, to allow access again. He then pointed out that since the blast, through the Independent Inquiry we have discovered that they had been planning the blast for at least 4-6 weeks and that he had had a number of discussions with both the quarry and MESA during that period and they gave no indication of their intention. This was a crucial point which the Committee reiterated in questioning Grant, that the cavers had been misled by the quarry and a government department.

Dr Osborne presented a case from the scientific perspective, giving facts and details and drawing comparisons with other caves in Australia. He referred to the government's Independent Inquiry Report (Messrs Grimes & Moore) and the transcript of the Inquiry, Jan. 94, in supporting our case. The significant question the Committee asked of Dr Armstrong was "How long do you believe the quarry will need to be disrupted to allow for scientific assessment of the cave ?" Dr. Osborne replied that approximately two weeks, in cave research, initially to gather data. This may not have to disrupt quarry operations as this depends on where they are blasting and the frequency of blasting.

If we recall the governments press release of 11 Mar. 94, they referred to figures of A$8-14m to quarantine the cave area and up to A$40m to close the quarry down. Ms. Forsyth handles a significant Mining default loan portfolio for Westpac Bank and presented a case to assist the committee in deliberating about the economics. Her presentation concluded that the upper limit for closing the quarry completely was A$8m and that the upper limit to quarantine the cave area was A$2.3m. A very significant difference in magnitude to the figures used by the government.

Unfortunately, time ran against us (the committee started late) and Patrick was only given five minutes to sum up the case. He did this well, getting across the message that the Game Keeper should be separate to the Poacher. The Committee invited further written submission from the cavers. The Sellicks Team then took their fingers to the keyboard and produced a final written submission, we included a paper written on "Tourism Assessment of Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave," commissioned from Ernst Holland, Karst Manager, Jenolan Caves Trust. We obtained copies of Cave & Karst Acts from the USA and other Australian states and ensured that we had covered and answered

the Committee's Terms of Reference. The submission was completed around 2am early one Sunday morning, ready for delivery to the ERDC. Patrick also submitted a paper dealing with the government processes, the legal questions and how this failed and should be altered to ensure this doesn't happen in the future.

The quality of the work and the presenters for the ASF are beyond reproach. Comments have also filtered back via politicians and others that the ERDC was also very impressed. The future of karst and caves in South Australia HAS CHANGED. Government departments will no longer treat them, nor the caving fraternity, lightly

The Committee has finished the hearings on Sellicks and the latest news is that they will report to Parliament in late September. Once their report has been tabled in Parliament, the public will be able to obtain a copy, and the respective Ministers and Government departments will be given three months to respond.

The ERDC report will be the beginning of the next phase.

The ERDC Report is Released 11/22/95

A preliminary assessment, before close study, of the ~150 page report hot off the presses: The Environment and Resources Development Committee (ERDC) tabled its Report into Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave today at 2.15. In its Report, the ERDC recommends that, if possible, the Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave be opened up to further exploration. In the face of conflicting evidence about the cave's current condition, the Committee finds that the best way of assessing that condition now is to enter the cave and have independent experts evaluate the evidence collected underground. The Committee was careful to emphasize however that such entry should only be attempted if: 1) an initial downhole camera study finds that the cave retains its potential value,

2) it is safe to enter and 3) non-intrusive and non-destructive access is possible. The Report says that the quarry owners' role in the implosion was central and crucial. The Report criticizes Mines and Energy SA's (MESA) failure to involve other agencies with greater expertise in a wider range of disciplines in the decision-making process. The Report is also critical of the length to which MESA has been prepared to go "in an effort to re-write the history of its involvement in this controversy", adding that, "there is an obvious and irreconcilable discrepancy between the contemporaneous evidence about the Department's role and the view of that role subsequently fashioned and presented to the Committee."

The Report basically follows the Grimes and Moore recommendations and the government has two months to reply.

The Committee has drawn on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Nature Conservancy and the NSS, Nov. 1991. A big THANK YOU all for your support, especially Rob Stitt and the NSS Office!

Heiko Maurer

From: Greg Horner [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 12:00 AM
To: Landscape Reform; black@parliament.sa.gov.au; morialta@parliament.sa.gov.au
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: NRM Act replacement

Dear David, John, Steve (who co-ordinated the forum I attended) and other members of the reform team.

Thanks for reviewing and hopefully replacing the NRM Act with something fair and clear. I attended one of the community meetings and provided input there also. There are many submissions regarding the changes and a lot of complexity. What I would like to see are clear guidelines to improve biodiversity with sensible measurables.

On a more specific topic I am writing about the management of water - because the current NRM Act is grossly inadequate and unjust. I will explain below in more detail, but in summary we went through a court hearing regarding our water licence and discovered that the court was not interested in justice, but adhering to what the judge referred to as an inherently unjust Act that they had to comply with!

In our case our property was one of the first commercial orchards in SA and one of the first group to export fruit to the UK in the 19th century. Unfortunately, the property was at a low point during the window of observance of water use for the purposes of issuing water licenses.

The water should NOT be disassociated from the land when the water is from rainfall ON that land. The land is rendered useless for commercial purposes if the water is taken away. The value of land has had the value of the water built into it forever. Dry land with no rainfall is practically worthless. As the rainfall goes up then so does the value of the land. We don't want all the farm land to be turned into hobby farms or just residential areas. Business on the land changes with time, but by allocating water based on the use through a 3 year window there can be massive economic damage to the owners of the land. As an example, our water license was issued for about 30 Megalitres. The neighbours with the same amount of land received a water license for close to 150 Megalitres. The reason was simply because of the crops being grown during the magic 3 year window, despite it having been an orchard for the other 150 years since European settlement. What this does is automatically render our land unable to be able to be used again for commercial orchards or anything else that requires more water than grapes (just about anything), and strips somewhere around $500,000 in value from our farm. I know there are many farming families impacted in such a massively negative way. I know there were big winners from this process too, but no fair way of dealing with it to ensure everyone was looked after and treated appropriately fairly.

The two main items the judge commented on were that if the 3 year window was interpreted as the only thing to look at then he was stuck with an Act that was inherently unjust. I don't believe for one second the Act was intending to be unjust, but poorly written so poorly interpreted easily.

The second one was if our argument was correct then how would the department manage it. This was answered by the opposing lawyer – exactly it would be near impossible, to which I completely disagree if their process is modified and will explain why.

Let's go back to fundamentals.

The Act is designed to manage the water resource to ensure it is not overused and shared fairly between the competing needs including farming/agriculture. No-one disagrees with the principles.

The implementation of this has in my opinion been done in a way that is extremely difficult to administer, and even more difficult to be fair to the users. This is the cause of all the issues, and the solution is to fix the implementation to be consistent with the intent of the Act – and fair and reasonable to everyone. The top down approach is inherently going to have major issues to administer and is not possible to be fair to everyone.

It would appear the boundaries of the subdivisions of the water regions is not necessarily valid either, in the same way the colonially imposed boundaries in Africa were designated for convenience in one way but not in others.

We are not dealing with a River Murray scenario in our region. In the River Murray instance there is a finite resource that can be worked on from a top down approach to dish out water to the various users.

In our region, topologically we are extremely different. We are also in a high rainfall area. Water running down the Torrens Valley does not have any impact on those users in the southern areas of the region, or even the next twisted valley and vice versa. In this respect each water course has a life of its own. Water should not be able to be traded in this scenario, as it is simply not the same water. Trading away water from land in this context is making the land worthless which is not consistent with looking after the agricultural requirements.

To ensure the water resource is not abused I would suggest the following approach – which is a bottom up approach.

1. For each farm. Work out the land area. Multiply by average rainfall. Choose a percentage that can fairly be used by each farm. Let's say 25% of the rainfall landing on each farm as an example. This would allow for runoff etc, and could be adjusted broadly if needed, or water course specifically in an easy way.
2. Look at the 'window of time' specified to determine what has been used in that period. If this amount is less than item 1, then ignore it. If it is greater than item 1, then to be fair to those farms give them the allocation based on what they used at the time so they are not being disadvantaged and effectively being put out of business.
3. Check the total water allocated does not exceed what each water course can cope with. If necessary, adjust the percentage use of the rainfall allowed to be used so that the resource is not being abused. Fairly and reasonably for everyone. Simple to work out and simple to administer.

This is completely consistent with the intent of the Act. It looks after all users in a just way. It does not restrain the trade of a farmer other than limiting the cap of production based on what is fair and reasonable to use in a local and overall context for the long term. As markets change, the farmer can adjust what they produce to ensure economic viability – always within the bounds of ensuring the water course is also taken care of.

Regarding the water use for each resource.

1. Surface water is used first.
2. River water – which in our case is our surface water anyway.
3. Underground water is used for the balance of the allocation.

Each resource has a meter on it anyway and has to be recorded. Subtracting from the total is no more difficult than subtracting from an individual limit.

As for 'average'. The calculations for inputs and allocations being average is fine – provided the output is averaged too. The weather cycles of 37.2 years would mean a long averaging. More simply a Water Bank could be used. Start with the average allocation and each year if you have not used your allocation you get a carry over. There could be a high water mark for this – say to a maximum of 100% or 200% of the allocation carried over.

I am very happy to provide any clarification needed to help ensure the legislation is written in a way that is simple and clear and fair.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way.

Regards,

Greg

From: Priscilla Buckley
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 10:17 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Feedback - Managing our Landscapes Discussion Paper

Hi Landscape Reform,

I have read the publicly available discussion paper.
My comments relate specifically to Green Adelaide and its' seven priorities.

- Coastal Management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plants and animals
- Nature education

Whilst I agree the above priorities are important, in my opinion there is one glaring omission.
There is no reference to Urban Agriculture and its' place in a Green Adelaide.

In late 2016 I attended an "Edible Adelaide" workshop coordinated by Natural Resources (Adelaide and Mount Lofty). It was exciting to see the ground swell of support for an integrated city-wide plan for increased food production within Adelaide and a connecting of the many and varied existing initiatives.

For the past decade (or even two), there has been a global movement around Urban Agriculture and the benefits it provides to people, communities and the environment. Many world-leading cities have incorporated Urban Agriculture into their Urban Planning processes and priorities.

I refer you to a scholarly article published on 10 January 2018 titled "A Global Geospatial Ecosystem Services Estimate of Urban Agriculture" by Clinton, Stuhlmacher, Miles, Aragon, Wagner, Georgescu, Herwig and Gong. (https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2017EF000536)

These researchers estimate that urban agriculture could produce as much as 180 million metric tons of food per year, and up to 10% of the global output of vegetable crops. Apart from food production, the study also looked at other "ecosystem services" associated with urban agriculture and identified:

- reduction of urban heat island effect
- avoid stormwater runoff
- nitrogen fixation
- pest control
- energy savings

They value global urban agriculture to be worth as much as USD$160 billion annually.

In addition to the above, I also see the following advantages:

- Micro urban farms would complement our existing peri-urban farms - who face problems of their own with encroaching housing developments.
- Improvement to local food security. Hopefully we will never find ourselves in a crisis of the same magnitude as the Cuban food crisis of the 1990's. However, considering the increasing level of foreign control of our food chain, added to the increasing global food shortage due to climate change, it doesn't take much to imagine the produce from our large farms being exported entirely overseas. We will have

some level of resilience if we have established a network of local people growing food for local communities.

- With rising unemployment / underemployment and the automation of many "blue collar" jobs, there could be a renewed focus on teaching people agriculture, thereby providing meaningful employment in an urban farming network.
- In general terms, reconnecting people with Earth and the source of their food is likely to improve the community's collective wellbeing.

So looking at the broad goals of People (communities, wellbeing, food security) and Planet (reducing our footprint, managing water within concretised cities etc), Urban Agriculture plays a crucial role.

As mentioned, there is already an emerging urban agriculture scene in Adelaide, but its' benefits and influence could be hugely magnified with the support, focus and an enabling regulatory structure provided by the State Government.

The work that has been done by the Urban Sustainability team over the past few years has been of vital importance in bringing this topic into the spotlight. However, it seems to be losing priority based on the Managing our Landscapes discussion paper.

I strongly urge you to consider the importance of including Urban Agriculture within the framework for Green Adelaide.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.
Warm regards,
Priscilla Buckley
(Urban Farmer and founder of Adelaide Urban Food Mosaic)

From: John Read <
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: feedback on Landscape SA reforms

Congratulations on the review of the NRM act and the proposed Landscape SA model

I see value in streamlining natural resources/landscapes bureaucracy and make the following suggestions to your review and proposed reforms

Arguably the greatest manageable threat to the both viability of agricultural enterprises and conservation of biodiversity through much of the State (all the pastoral zone and conservation estate) remains **Total Grazing Pressure**. Historically catastrophic declines in productivity and resilience of our land was caused by naïve high stocking rates of sheep and cattle, then by plagues of rabbit. **Unsustainably high numbers of kangaroos (and in some cases goats, deer and emus) are currently the major threat to biodiversity and production in many areas but management of kangaroos remains inconsistent and uncoordinated across land tenures**. Landscape SA could/should be an ideal vehicle to set target/maximum densities of species that have a propensity to cause large scale environmental degradation – just like maximum and target levels for livestock are set for pastoral lands. Whole of government strategies should then be used to meet these targets in Reserves, private land and pastoral leases – this may need to include:

1) waiver of roo tag fees where reductions are required but are not economically or logistically feasible,
2) capacity building and support in marketing for the kangaroo industry which is likely optimally placed to provide effective ethical control – this could/should include Govts proactively supporting an industry that assists dealing with one of our major challenges – ie serve roo meat at functions!
3) Consistency in approach in national parks (require periodic closures and public education
4) Transparent monitoring of the benefits of TGP management to biodiversity and production

Another valuable initiative that the Landscape Act could consider is **a mechanism to reward and celebrate land managers** (maybe including Govt land!) **for successful and proactive environmental stewardship,** including restoration, that again would benefit both productivity and biodiversity. Such a scheme could use transparent, objective measures (such as remotely sensed vegetation cover compared to regional averages, pest control undertaken, biodiversity improvements recorded) to publically celebrate high achievers and identify other land managers where conditions are not improving. Indicative performances on these metrics could also be used to assess eligibility for grants, compensation schemes etc (ie eligibility for drought subsidies or government grants would be contingent upon or influenced by demonstration of appropriate natural resources management.

I am slightly concerned about the potential for greater autonomy of Landscape Boards to enable priorities to be unduly biased by dominant local players and hence suggest that guidance/limits be placed on the five priority actions selected by each Board to ensure that some of these priorities do not simply reflect personal economic interests. Maybe this could be addressed by stipulating that Boards need to assess each of their priority actions against defined attributes (value for money, sustainability, biodiversity impact) and meet certain generic objectives.

I would be interested in contributing to more discussions on these issues

Regards
John Read

From: Yvonne Varcoe >
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 2:05 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Fw: Have Your Say - Natural Resources Management Act

From: Yvonne Varcoe
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 12:31 PM
To: lndscapereform@sa.gov.au
Subject: Have Your Say - Natural Resources Management Act

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT – SUBMISSION

We list some points below for consideration.

1. We feel very strongly that all Boards involved in managing areas affecting local landholders should be more directly engaged with those most affected by any decisions made by a few. Local people have knowledge that should be respected and be of use in decision making.

2. All Board Meeting Minutes should be made available to the public via the website, including the SE Water Conservation and Drainage Board Act, which presently are not available to the public.

3. A very firm commitment to make Lake George a priority to receive it's full allocation of water each year during high volume winter flows to manage the environmental state of the Lake into the future. During the last 3 years the water flows have been going into Lake George, but doesn't seem to be a priority to achieve the best outcomes for the Lake being restored to it's former state of health as it was many years ago.

Drain M is blocked up at Magery's Lane Weir during the winter months not allowing it to flow freely towards Lake George which therefore causes inundation of properties upstream affecting the production of valuable agricultural land and income losses of crop etc. This is an Illegal Act to cause such issues to landholders.

The objects of the Drainage Act are:

a) the prevention or minimisation of damage to agricultural production and the natural environment caused by flooding within the South East;

b) the improvement of the soil quality and the productiveness generally of rural lands in the South East;

c) the enhancement or development of natural wetlands and the natural environment in the South East.

We request that much more consideration be given to all landholders in the region over winter regarding having the drainage issues addressed, as the Act describes.

We are local people and have watched the Lake being deprived of water flows caused over the years, affected as mentioned above caused by not releasing the Weirs in particular Magery's Lane

Weir. We would also like to see better management of the system going forward to allow the high volumes of water that are discharged through the Drainage system especially Drain M which carries the highest volumes of water from long distances to provide the benefits that the Lake should be receiving in good years. This is a natural wetland that could be managed much better, that needs to be given serious consideration, we watched it almost dry up, the fish nearly all died a few years ago, and that was caused by lack of water flows into it over years of holding water back up stream. What about the birdlife and other species that have been affected due to this. The ecosystem needs to be managed more effectively. Please give Lake George serious consideration for better long term health for our future generations.

4. Drain M also needs to be cleaned out and fenced down stream as it appears to be growing over and livestock are allowed to walk the banks into the drain as there are no fences. If this continues the drain will not be able to function sufficiently enough to carry the water during wet winters to Lake George for it's benefit, therefore creating other issues upstream as well.

5. Organic Farmers do not control noxious weeds – Why is this allowed? How can this be addressed to prevent the weeds coming into neighbouring properties? They do not control the various noxious weeds in our area, including Salvation Jane, Bathurst Burr, Horehound, Variegated Thistle to name a few.

6. We would like to see all annual Land and Water Levies capped because there are too many levies and rates collected against the value of properties, which puts an extra burden on landholders to pay. During tough years some landholders find it hard to pay the fees. After all the value of the land is not converted into instant money. The value could go up or down at any given time.

Thankyou for giving us the opportunity to make our Submission.

Yours sincerely,

Greg & Yvonne Varcoe
ELGIN PASTORAL

From: Crabbe, Clayton (Temporary Relievers) [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 2:37 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Kangaroo hunting tours Australia

Hi Natural Resource Management

My name is Clayton Crabbe and I am the Director of the company ‘Kangaroo Hunting Tours Australia’ (KHTA). The company is currently in its foetal stages but in the future, I hope that the company will be providing and delivering hunting packages to international and local clients. I have started the conversation about its future with Tom Gerschwitz, the Operations manager of kangaroo management at the Department of Environment and Water Natural Resources (DEWNR). I have raised some concerns in regards to my business about the ‘South Australian Fauna Permit; kangaroo field processor Permit-Class 14’ structure that kangaroo harvesters must hold to commercially harvest kangaroos.

I would like to start the conversation with NRM about the development of a new class of permit or an addendum to the current Class 14. What I would like to develop is a permit where my clients only complete the firearms proficiency course for kangaroo field processing or equivalent. The structure of the permit will have a clause to it where they must be in the company of and supervised by a class 14 permit holder during tours. This essentially will allow my clients to engage in the current industry structure of kangaroo harvesting, without having to do the more technical training of carcass field processing making the timeframe viable to conduct hunting tours.

I have personally completed a feasibility study over the last three years and have found strong evidence that the enterprise has the potential for peripheral economic stimulus at both state and national levels and directly for the industry. I have kept this conversation brief as I have only just been informed today of the October 15 deadline for submissions. I look forward to hearing from you and if you wish to discuss in person, my mobile is 0439 948 902.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards

Clayton Crabbe
Sports Academy Teacher
Health and Physical Education Teacher
Cross-Disciplinary Teacher
Port Augusta Secondary School
[redacted]

From:
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:07 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Managing Our landscapes submission

I wish to provide the following as a contribution to the governments implementation of its Landscape SA reforms.

The prerogative of the government of the day to restructure operational arrangements is recognised and respected. In doing so it is recommended that the new arrangements advance universal NRM objectives:

1) Managing the way in which people and natural landscapes interact;
2) Protection and improvement of environmental assets such as soils, water, native flora and fauna, biodiversity, habitats, catchments and ecosystem services;
3) Protecting and improving these resources through the balancing of environmental, social and economic factors to deliver of the sustainable outcomes in the rural (agriculture, fishing), urban (built) and natural domains;
4) Stewardship, maintaining these assets with the aim of improving the quality of life for both present and future generations.

South Australia is acknowledged as a national leader in NRM, providing a useful foundation when implementing government's Landscape SA reform.

The government's "Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change - Discussion paper July 2018 is welcomed; particularly 1) the intent to empower local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for managing the region's natural resources and 2) establishing enduring partnerships with the diverse stakeholder groups passionate about the maintenance and sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

NRM/landscape scale management involves complex bio-physical systems, socio-economic complexes and community sectors and interactions. Effective management requires recognition of this and understanding the dynamics within and between them. Soils, water, pest plant and animals etc can and are ultimately addressed at the "local" scale. However overall the collective investment 1) needs to be system effective (sustainable at landscape scale), 2) equitable (appropriate sharing of resources between all who rely on access or services provided from them, including intergenerational obligations) and 3) at ecological functioning system scale.

I would like to offer the following In response to the questions posed in the discussion paper.

1. What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

The new Landscape Management Act accommodate the complexity and challenges incumbent in NRM. As well incorporating the general objectives listed above, it reflects and balances the right/demands of the individual (eg land holders the "owner" as well as a custodian) and the wider community (eg down-stream impacts) and future generations (sustainability of functioning ecosystems and their utilisation).

This raises the issue of scale. Effective NRM management incorporates strategies that have impact at the natural system (bioregions and catchments) level, with local application..

2. What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?
I would suggest current strengths include:

- The long term (20 year) strategies and planning (meeting the challenge of dealing with complex bio-physical systems with which require time to respond) whilst operating within "nested" timeline targets and KPIs that deliver against This 1) political (3-4s year), financial (7-10 year RoI), biological (3-50 years dependent on the particular species life history) and longer term adaptation and resilience (20-100 years such as adaptation to climate change) timelines;

- Evidence-based decision making informed by science, knowledge and Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI), supported by a Resilience (system) T hinking approach;
- Governance that is strategic, impartial and transparent for outcomes;
- Inclusive community engagement and education, particularly building on the invaluable contribution of the extensive Volunteer and participating Land Owner network, collectively currently delivering the majority of "on ground" activities and works;
- Continued strong relationship building and partnerships with relevant Commonwealth and Local Government agencies for co-investment required to deliver the state's NRM agenda (Landcare).

3. **What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?**

- Each Landscape Board and Green Adelaide have the ability to "brand" and present itself in the community and market place, to remove the current confusion between the Boards and the Department;
- Greater coordination across government (state and LG) where the Landscape approach requires multi-jurisdictional solutions;
- Staff directly responsible and reporting to the relevant Boards (under the Service Level Agreement).

4. **How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?**

- Plan and apply the evidence based, bioregion/catchment approach described above.

5. **How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?**

6. **How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?**

- Effectively engage the communities, including the Adelaide urban community (currently 80% of the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM levy is derived from the Adelaide urban region, 80% of the AMLRNRM expenditure is 1) in the rural/peri-urban regions, 2) with participating landowners and 3) on natural resource conservation programs..
- Strengthen the relationship between the Boards and the communities through clearly defined branding and relationship building.
- These need to be built on:
    - Accommodating regional and local needs within the overall objectives of any Landscape SA Act;
    - Better manage 1) expectation management and 2) appreciation by stakeholders of the need to accommodate the landscape scale and intergeneration timelines, whilst at the same time delivering an evidence based local program portfolio approach. This also requires the ability for the Boards, where overall priority does not justify a proposal to 1) say no and 2) provide clarity on the rationale for any decision.
- There are two challenges resulting from the creation the Plains/Valleys and Hills/Fleurieu regional Landscape Boards:
    - Many of the issues and programs to address them require whole of landscape/catchment responses across Board boundaries, there will need to be an ability (forum) for developing cross jurisdiction programs;
    - Given the levy source demographics highlighted above, 1) if future activities rely on levies from their region alone the quantum will be inadequate to undertake the necessary projects and achieve desired outcomes (need to address "expectation management"), 2) there will be a need consider a mechanism for equitable and adequate distribution of the levies (majority) sourced from urban Adelaide (the Green Adelaide region). This issue also applies if the government wishes to disburse Adelaide sourced levies to the other 7 Landscape Boards.
- As the landscapeSA reform will result in 9 (cf 7) Landscape Boards plus Green Adelaide, it is would be expected the "transaction costs" of the network will increase, although arrangements will be pursued to

jointly share functions such as administrative and business support and financial services. This will need to be offset with savings in other areas and maybe programs.

7. **What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?**

- Transparent open public call with members selected from within the designated Board region, with an independent selection panel.

8. **How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?**

- It is suggested that Green Adelaide, in consultation with stakeholders and the community in general:
  - Develop a 20 year "City Resilience" Plan with clear "headline objectives(s) (eg reduce the Adelaide urban area "heat/thermal signature" by 2-3^{0}C. This will result in a Plan that incorporates a diverse and coordinated range of contributing elements and programs. The include1) urban design and planning, 2) waters sensitive urban design and water conservation, 3) increased greening of Adelaide, 4) industrial and community based adaptation to climate change, increased adverse weather events 5) waste reduction and recycling, 6)population and future demographic footprint policies, 7) community and individual health and wellbeing planning, programs and benefits to name a few;
  - Most of Adelaide use Adelaide's beaches and nearshore marine waters as a "playground" at some time. Any "City Resilience" plan needs to incorporate this area, addressing issues that include 1) discharges and contaminants, point and diffuse source,2) loss of habitat (seagrass, reef) 3) marine pests and diseases 4) coastal landscape (dunes and beaches) maintenance.

- Green Adelaide's role would be to be responsible the development of the "City Resilience" Plan, in consultation with relevant government departments, jurisdictions, institutions and stakeholder groups who would then cooperate to collectively deliver the Plan. The Plan would be in accordance with 1) the resilience (system) thinking approach, and 2) MERI to ensure an "adaptive management approach throughout the life of the Plan.

9. **How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?**

- Consistency, whilst attractive in a policy sense, should be subordinate to equitable and justifiable (based on scale and impact). Water is a community resource that needs to be managed for the benefit of all current and future South Australia.

10. **How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?**

- Green Adelaide is responsible for area from which the vast majority the current levy is sourced. Each of the Landscape SA Boards are expected to develop their region's Strategic and Operational Plans. These could include "state/national impact" programs which would be submitted to Green Adelaide for inclusion a "state wide investment" plan oversighted by Green Adelaide., in partnership with the regions.

11. **How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?**

- As discussed above, this is critical to optimise investment impact, based on bioregion/catchment scale.
- A yet to be clarified detail of the "Managing Our Landscapes" document is the delineation of the boundary between the 2 new (ex AMLRNRM) Board regions. This is a critical if a logical landscape (bioregion,

catchment) approach is to be applied. This translates to boundaries discriminated by biodiversity/vegetation/biological systems or watershed (not river/stream) boundaries. Effectively the bio-physical unit that comprises a logical NR unit is from the head of a catchment to the catchment discharge, subject to meteorological (rainfall, temperature) and geo-physical (soil characteristics) .

12. Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

- The need to ensure water planning and allocation modelling and decisions consider the linkages between surface and aquifer waters, not separately.

13. How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

- Landscape SA Boards should not be responsible for compliance, these functions should be the responsibility of the relevant Department.
- Landscape SA Boards need to focus on the community, volunteer and stakeholder partnership initiatives consistent with the objects of the new Landscape SA Act, not compromised or undermined with compliance distractions and any subsequent ill will from stakeholder groups.

Regards

Rob

Professor Rob Lewis PSM FTSE
Director
Science Without Bounds Pty Ltd
[redacted]

Chair Australian Genome Research Facility Ltd

Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board

Strategic Projects
Flinders University

Honorary Fellow SARDI

Mobile:
Email: [redacted]

Carlsa J. Carter

[redacted]

The Independent Facilitator,

Landscape Reform,

GPO Box 1047,

ADELAIDE, S.A. 5001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: "Managing our Landscapes"

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to provide written feedback on the proposed reforms as I have not been able to attend any of the workshops and forums.

My comments are based on the information provided in the discussion paper "Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change," July 2018 and my own experience. I have been a long-term volunteer working on nature and roadside reserves, a paid professional working for a variety of conservation organisations and have sat on many committees involved in revegetation, native vegetation protection, biodiversity conservation and water allocation planning.

The "central focus" to return more autonomy to regional communities, landowners and managers and local community groups is very welcome. One of the main criticisms of the current system has been the over-bureaucratisation and that has occurred and in many instances undermined the power of local communities, natural resource groups and NGOs to make decisions, target and carry out on-ground works. The demise of the once vibrant Bookmark Biosphere in the Riverland is a good example where a strong partnership, resourced by both private and government funds, was not valued and fostered.

It is good to read of a particular focus on soil, water and pest species control as this is not only practical in terms of meshing with the Federal Government's funding priorities for Landcare but also the challenge of implementing and following through with the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and local Water Allocation Plans.

In regard to **pest species we have the ever-present challenge of identifying and acting promptly to control new outbreaks before they become regional, state and in some cases national problems**. The well-researched, widespread, coordinated and long-term program to control the spread of bridal creeper is a good example of properly funded and supported government and community partnerships. It is needed for other species too as sadly, this is not happening at present with the resurgence of rabbits and African daisy, broom and other weeds in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

However **biodiversity and vulnerable species conservation have been overlooked** here. Successive State of the Environment Reports (SA) document our continuing loss of native species and this will continue inexorably unless government supports biodiversity

conservation as a priority through recovery plans and very strong protection of remnant native vegetation. The role of the fragmentation and degradation of habitat in species loss is well documented as is **the need for connection of remnants, large and small, through corridors if species are to be conserved** in the future. There have been many large scale and grand schemes proposed in the past but very few seem to have come to fruition. Anyone flying out of Adelaide, particularly eastward can see the widespread clearance with dozens of widely spaced isolated patches of native vegetation. As our population grows and has more impact on natural landscapes the need for these escape routes, refuges and channels for gene flow become more urgent.

Growing corridors and improving connectivity is one area where levies will need to be allocated from outside the region. It would be **very inequitable to expect significant improvement in natural resource management and species conservation in sparsely populated areas so the state wide Landscape Priorities Fund will have an important leadership and coordinating role**.

There are many good points made under "Guiding principles for reform" - especially the desire for transparency and "a clear line of sight between funding sources and on-ground action." **What really counts in natural resource management is seeing tangible environmental improvements and this is the best reward for all the hard** work by landowners and managers, volunteers and professionals. I think many of us have seen enough of expensive self-congratulatory publications and presentations.

Finally I want to comment on the last "Guiding principle" which sees "the role of government to work alongside land managers, providing support, advice and a helping hand where needed". **However it is also the role of government to regulate against land degradation. Instances of poor land practices by over-grazing and tree loss can be seen driving along any major rural road.** Driving north of Burra on the Barrier Highway you can see some pastoral properties devoid of any perennial native grasses, infested by onion weed (a proclaimed pest plant), with no native tree recruitment and covered with mainly unpalatable native shrubs. Sometimes the fence line of the neighbouring property shows a dramatic contrast. Similarly in the agricultural areas , for example along the Bull Creek Rd south of Meadows, you can see properties which have steep over-grazed slopes, degraded weedy and grazed creeklines, severe woody weed infestations, tree die-back and little to no revegetation - standing out in stark contrast against their neighbours.

Sometimes it is **very socially difficult for local boards to take action against people they know. I hope the new legislation and regulations provide for the protection of soil and water and vegetation cover in the landscape as well**. These degraded pastoral and farmlands which lack good "stewardship" will not be able to provide for the "prosperous future" envisioned under the objective of a "sustainable economy."

Yours sincerely,

Carlsa J. Carter

SUBMISSION FROM NEVILLE PFEIFFER

[Deputy Mayor of Southern Mallee District Council, Farmer, Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC Member), long term Murray Mallee LAP member]

Introduction

After reading South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board) 2016-2017 Annual Report, it becomes evident that the SA MDB NRM Board is wasting most of its Natural Resources Management (NRM) levies collected in administration and wastage, with very little of the levies used for the purpose it was meant to be used for. Examples include travel and accommodation of $75,000 in 2016, $78,000 in 2017, remuneration for Board Members such as sitting fees and travel allowances and committee member payments of $328,000 in 2016, $195,000 in 2017, rent of premises at Murray Bridge for $300,000 per annum. Funds that were to be given to Local Action Planning (LAP) and Landcare groups were very scarce and low in $ terms. At a Murraylands-Riverland Local Government Meeting the presiding member of SA MDB NRM Board reported that 250,000-300,000 goats were removed from the National Parks in the area. When asked what they did with the goats her answer was 'they were shot and left'. These goats could have been easily rounded up and sold to Thomas Foods International (TFI) for over $40 million. In another instance, bright pink ribbons were tied to hundreds if not thousands of South African Box Thorns along the Mallee Highway for a distance of more than 30km. The ribbons gradually dropped off the Box Thorns over the next year. When the question was asked of the presiding member of SA MDB NRM Board about what the ribbons were for, she said 'to identify all the Box Thorns to be sprayed, but they ran out of funding and so no Box Thorns were sprayed'.

Our farm adjoins Ngarkat Conservation Park and on many occasions there are mobs of goats feeding along our 13km boundary, some fitted with collar tracking devices. On occasions a helicopter with a shooter can be heard in the distance and all these goats head into thick bushes, pine trees and banksias and just stand still until the helicopter can no longer be heard. They then emerge from their hiding places and continue grazing normally. Other times the chopper can be seen travelling up and back in 10km runs for a day at a time no doubt looking for goats but the goats just hide until the threat goes by.

Sticky clay from a Council reserve outside the Park has been carted with a scraper for 12-20km inside the Park to fill in deep wheel tracks when clay was available within 50-100metres away inside the Park. Deep wheel ruts in limestone outcrops were filled with sticky clay when rubble and stones were right there and could have been graded into these wheel tracks.

The latest strain of calici rabbit virus (RHDV1K5) was released in our area by NPWS employees in conjunction with SA MDB NRM Board during the summer of 2017-2018. The weather was extremely hot the day they chose to put this virus on the oat trails with an overnight minimum temperature of more than 36° and day time temperature of over 45°. It did not work in our area as the temperatures were just too hot for the live virus to survive.

The SA MDB NRM Board organized quite a number of trials on agricultural land, many of which were only repeat trials that had previously been done by private and public chemical resellers, PIRSA and GRDC. Many thousands of trees were planted on marginal farming land protected merely by a plastic guard. Stock-proof fencing was not erected to exclude

livestock and most young seedlings were eaten by sheep or cattle and most of the plastic guards blew up against the fence lines along the roadways.

No noxious weeds along the roadways have been controlled since the new NRM scheme was introduced except by some of the 'good' farmers who cared about the environment and future farmers.

There are dozens of other instances of funds being wasted, particularly in the National Parks at the expense of very little monies being spent on weed eradication, vermin control and soil management. Nearly all the Local Action Planning (LAP) and Landcare Groups have gone into recess or shut down due to no monies being passed onto them from the SA MDB NRM Board.

NEVILLE PFEIFFER'S SUBMISSION

My submission is that the present way that the SA MDB NRM Board is run should be split into two (2) separate entities with weeds, vermin control and soil management being run as it was before the current Management Board was set up by the previous State Government. Most of the previous Boards were run by concerned landowner volunteers with a small number of paid employees making sure that lazy landowners did their duty in controlling weeds, vermin and managing their soils. There are 1 or 2 bad farm managers in every district making it harder for genuine farmers to look after their land. We spend all our time keeping the neighbours' weeds, rabbits and drift under control.

The other entity should be combined with the Native Vegetation and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Particular attention should be paid to dividing the large area National Parks into sections with selected sections burned every few years thus preventing a total wipe-out of a National Park, as has happened previously. Adequate fire breaks need to be made between the perimeter of National Parks and private land, especially where stringy-bark trees are growing. Past fires have cost local individual farmers upward of $1.6 million in damages and lost income along with mental stress. It has taken some farmers at least 10 years to get their farms and livelihoods back on track. Most farmers adjoining the northern boundary of Ngarkat Conservation Park have had property burned at least twice and this has forced some farmers out of business by burning out their farms because of the lack of fire breaks and cold burns in the Park which contribute to devastating wild fires. Rare and threatened species of native birds and animals have been total wiped out because of no adequate fire breaks or cold burns having been carried out. National Parks need to be managed properly like any other land. They are running livestock, (native animals and birds) who do not need to be burned or starved to death.

From: North Marola · >
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM reform feedback

To whom it may concern:

As a land manager who has been involved in the management of natural resources, both on our own property and as a past member of a Soil Board and an Interim Natural Resource Management Board, I am generally supportive of the proposed changes to NRM management. To empower local communities to be directly responsible for NRM issues is a very positive step. The most recent iteration of NRM has been the least successful yet, mainly because it was seen as a function of government rather than community, and a return to community management can only be an improvement. All monies should be paid to bank accounts controlled by the Board, with no government agencies involved, and Boards should employ an absolute minimum of staff, working with community groups and NGO's for delivery of on ground works. Partnerships should be encouraged as they can value add and bring other resources to the work.

However, I am not sure that having some elected positions on boards will be successful, as the community generally has so little interest and engagement with NRM that I doubt if suitable people will stand for election. I believe it would be far better to call for applications for the positions, and make appointments from suitably qualified people, than to have expensive and poorly supported elections. As long as the appointment of board members is an open and transparent process, it can work very well.

I am also concerned that native vegetation and climate change hardly rate a mention in the discussion. Pest plants and pest animals and water and soil resources are important, but equally important is the fragmentation and continued clearance of native vegetation and mitigating the effects of climate change as far as we can. If we are to retain our charismatic native fauna, then it is essential to keep our native vegetation, and as the climate changes we will need to rehabilitate the less productive areas of the state with suitable native vegetation to prevent degradation of the scarce soil and water resources, so a much greater emphasis needs to be put on the vegetation issues.

We need to continue to work with educators to inspire the younger generations to be involved with our natural resources. If we fail to do this, then we will fail as a civilization, as we are dependent on our natural resources being healthy and resilient into the future.

I have always failed to see why the levies raised in one area cannot be used in another. The food produced in one area using its natural resources – the Riverland wine, fruit and vegetables, for example - are consumed in all parts of the State, and contribute to the State's economy as a whole – therefore why cannot levies raised by the Adelaide region, where much less is produced by the natural resources, contribute to supporting the resources in the areas where much of the food and export commodities come from?The current idea of only using levies raised in the region for each region has meant those regions with lower levy income are effectively starved of funds for good projects, while the greater city area has money to spend on what are often not very worthwhile projects (from a resource management point of view). It would be a better outcome for the State overall if monies could be used where they are really able to have good outcomes that support our natural resources at a landscape scale.

On the whole, I support the reforms and congratulate the Minister for taking this much needed step so early in his tenure.

Millie Nicholls

From: Helen Lindstrom
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:54 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Save the Gawler Environment Centre

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have been a resident of Gawler for a number of years. I am passionate about conservation and about "acting locally, thinking globally". To this end, I have been and am committed to planting our garden with indigenous and native plants in order to encourage and support insects, birds and other "backyard wildlife".

We have been greatly supported, in this, by the Gawler Environment Centre through its varied activities such as advocacy for the environment, the promotion and distribution of inexpensive indigenous plants - the Gawler Understorey Project - open days which provide education and support to those of us who want to conserve our precious natural environment.

It would take time to list all the advantages that our Gawler Environment Centre provides for individuals and the community. I understand that new Governments want to change things. However, at a perilous time for world ecosystems and natural environments, this is not the time to do this now. I have read about your proposed reforms and feel strongly that they do not have the comprehensive mandate that exists at the moment. Please think wisely and also "act locally, think globally" and save our Gawler Environment Centre.

Kind wishes
Helen Lindstrom

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Helen Lindstrom

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From: kent.martin kent.martin
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:54 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Managing Our Landscapes

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on changes to NRM Management Act 2004. The original concept was to harmonise a number of separate acts (Soil, Water, Pest Plants and Native Vegetation) and to develop an integrated management approach. An extensive consultation process was undertaken and support was given for a tiered process, NRM Council to deal with national and state issues and skill based boards to deal with local issues. Particular thought was given to board membership selection with the option of the combination of government and stakeholder involvement the preferred model. Elected membership was not favoured as it was seen as a continuance of interest based representation, not skill based.
I have read the discussion papers and attended the Mount Gambier workshop (which discussed issues, not processes for improved legislation for NRM management) All the time I hear the same questions and aspirations that were raised in 1994, 2004 and 2014 appearing again and again, and none that can`t be delivered under the current act. The suggested failure of boards to perform is more about its skill base and the ability to make policy backed by support from stakeholder groups.
The weakness in the current system is not in the legislation but in the communities (stakeholders eg farming, conservation, indigenous and local government etc) ability to participate fully in the process. This is an issue I raised in 2004 in my position of Chair of SA Farmers Federations Natural Resources Committee. I believe the outcomes are obvious.
The original 2004 act was a good start and I would respectfully suggest a careful reading and evaluation of the impact of changes made to it. I am always happy to discuss relevant components at length. Kent Martin

[redacted]

From: Harry Seager
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:59 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM reform

Please accept my submission in relation to the proposed reforms and overhaul of the Natural Resources Management.

While in large part these reforms echo an agenda which will increasingly serve the interest of a limited group of landowners at the expense of the interests of other members of society there is clearly a wider desire to overhaul what is commonly seen as an unresponsive and bloated structure. Given this it is surprising that the area which most clearly will be carried forward is that of compliance and enforcement. This has been largely seen as ineffective by many, as the web of, often seemingly contradictory, interlocking procedures and regulations which any action must satisfy is so onerous and complex that often no timely action can be taken, or no action at all results, other than the wasting of time and money.
There seems to be an intent to reduce the scope of interest to local and potentially parochial interest, with limited capacity or intent to promote or deliver wider level programs or actions? There is a clear swing to confine the area of interest to concentrate on production rather than broader ecological concerns. It is also of considerable concern that any number can be given to what should be the issues of business of a Board. Why five, why not four, or seven? Surely the the intended members will be able to hold more of interest than the mere number of digits on one hand. Perhaps a clearer explanation of the rational that informs such seemingly arbitrary choices should be made to the community who are expected to be so restricted.
The suggestion that the franchise for the election of community members to the proposed Boards is limited to levy payers is perhaps an unfortunate echo of the restriction of political right by a property qualification. In the twenty first century the mere thought of such retreat from the universality of adult suffrage should be an embarrassment sufficient to void any further consideration .

The most glaring and obvious issues of concern are the downplaying and almost overwhelming silence on the two most critical elements in the field of natural resources management. The reality of climate change itself and in turn of the likely consequences in terms of impact on and loss of biodiversity is largely ignored . Clearly as a society we will not escape the consequences of such changes and loss, with reduced resilience of the ecological systems upon which we ultimately are dependant. The Landscape Futures Assessment Project, with Professor Wayne Meyers as Project Leader, undertook a study examining the viability of , from memory, 200 endemic plant species in South Australia . Preliminary results, from around 2009- 2010, indicated that at the extremes, at which we are track currently, very few species would remain viable but would decline significantly or potentially become extinct. Declining rainfall and increasing heat would be the prime drivers of this change. This study appears to have not been released publicly.
As is currently evident in the Eastern States, and increasingly within South Australia, the ideological positioning of self-interested parties is not a factor determining the weather or rainfall patterns.
It has been frustrating and worrying for many in this sector that while the evidence mounts of emissions and consequences tracking at the rate of the worst case modelling, Governments , including the South Australian Government, continue to plan and discuss adaptation, rather than mitigation, and at the mid range of modelling. This is short sighted in the extreme and is I believe is a betrayal of the longer term public interest.
As yet another example of the seemingly endless shuffling, rearranging and renaming of structures and departments in which both major political parties excel I am sure this will fit well. It seems an ongoing tragedy that the considerable investment by governments of both persuasion, and by the many doggedly determined community groups who are subject to such changes, along with the considerable number of volunteers and community members are to be subject to further unproductive upheaval.

What the community desperately needs is this domain is consistent funding, coordinated planning and principled, informed leadership.
Unfortunately , based on past performance, I do not see this reform package delivering any of the above.

Harry Seager

Harry Seager
Councillor - North Ward

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Oakland Hills
Prospect Hill
S.A. 5201

22nd August 2018

[redacted]

The Hon. Tim Whetstone

Parliament House

Adelaide. SA

Sir,

In the lead-up to the State elections this year, The Hon David Speirs held an open meeting at Hahndorf late last year to gather ideas from the local electorate on what we would like a Liberal Government to do for us. It was well attended.

From this meeting it was obvious that many, particularly farmers, wanted to see the end of the infamous NRM. In fact, I have a letter signed by David dated 6 Nov 17 which he gave the undertaking to repeal the NRM Act.

At another meeting in Hahndorf hosted by Flag Australia, again in the lead-up, The Hon David Ridgway discussed with me the abolition of the NRM Act (together with most of the 625 odd employees, I hope) and replacing the NRM with the then proposed Landscape SA. My concern with this proposal is that some of the defunct NRM personnel would be re-employed and, in short, nothing changes. I have it on good authority that the several boards would also be raised with seven members, with only three being elected from the farming communities thus rendering useless the concept of giving control of farming practises back to those who know how to manage the resources.

I also fully understand that it was the Labor Government that imposed punitive measures such as the 'Right to take water' levy, (see mine enclosed), water metres, low-flow by-passes, compulsory water sampling...and the list goes on; but I expect that all this will go under your government. How taxing the water that falls from the sky is beyond my comprehension.

I look forward to your positive reply.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsay Gibson. Lindsay Gibson

[redacted]

From: A Bennett
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October, 2018 12:12 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: The landscape has been reformed quite enough... Time to restore it.

To whoever is concerned,

I'm disappointed to see one again the conservatives aren't going to be conserving anything...

I'm outraged that laws are being mooted to change without proper consultation of the community. PR firms be damned, I want a decent public service looking after the public good.

I don't want natural vegetation cleared, I spend time and money replanting it myself and I cannot see sense in changing environmental law unless it sees more diverse greenery and less concrete or aggressive monoculture.

SA leads with renewable energy, with GMO free produce, with clean green tourism.

Full points for creating a national park at Glenthorne... but it's of little use if existing landscapes continue to be developed for the sake of short term returns to shareholders.

Yours cordially

Anthony Bennett

Mrs Karen Spry
[redacted]

To: The Honorable Member for Black,
Mr David Spears,
Minister for Environment and Water
minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

Re: Proposed changes to Natural Resources Management Legislation,
Managing Our Landscapes, Conversations for Change.

Dear Minister Speirs,

I would first like to thank you for sharing your time with us at Port Augusta on 10th August 2018 for the NRM policy workshop. And I must congratulate the facilitator and helpers for making it an enjoyable and informative session.

The following document is my two cents worth with regards to sustainable agriculture and the changes proposed by yourself for the future of South Australia's landscape, food production viability, rural and regional communities and economies, biodiversity and resilience.

I apologise for the length of this document, but it contains a whole lot of info I wish I knew when we first started regenerating our 70 acres. And these are things you might like to know as well.

But first a definition of Sustainable Agriculture versus Regenerative Agriculture:

Sustainable Agriculture means that we keep farming the same way we have for a long time. We keep it up. We don't look to improve what we have, but we tend to tinker round the edges. The land may or may not be able to support generations of farmers. Most landholders don't want to hurt their land, but they often don't know if they actually are or not.

Regenerative Agriculture means we improve what we have. We improve the overall health of the landscape, soils and biology both above and below ground. Increasing them year on year using biological methods that add to, not take away from the fertility. This means that families have certainty that the next generations of farmers (their children and so on) will have a profitable, abundant, resilient and beautiful place to work.

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This leads to the question: What has caused our present situation of collapsing soils, degrading environment, increased climate extremes and decline of rural communities? Usually our management practices that stem from our paradigms.

Our history

My husband (James) and I bought our 70 acre property at Beetaloo Valley 4 years ago with no idea about farming.

Previously, we had lived in Whyalla where I grew fruit and vegetables for sale to friends and family. This garden started out as rock hard clay with pH 9 soils. It was so bad only the toughest weeds could grow. The temperatures fluctuated from extremely hot in summer to very cold in winter, with little rainfall, usually less than 250mm. The conditions were tough.

We remediated the soil by applying thick layers of horse manure (free from the local trotting track), straw and compost. The idea was to keep the soil covered.

In a short time, we had worms in the soil, plus other soil life. The soil was able to not just support a few meagre weeds, but fruit trees, herbs, flowers and vegies, which thrived.

What we did was what all good gardeners do: cover the soil with organic mulch and feed the soil. This protects the soil from UV radiation, helps stop soil moisture from evaporating, provides food and habitat to soil organisms and fungi, improves the carbon content of the soil, changes the soil pH towards neutral and creates humus. What we didn't know when we bought our place in Beetaloo Valley, was how to do this on a landscape scale.

Prior to moving in to our property, James did some research and found a wonderful TED talk by Alan Savory. This explains how ruminant animals can be very successfully used to regenerate landscapes on a grand scale. https://www.ted.com/speakers/allan_savory

This video was inspirational to us. This set us on a course of learning about cattle and all that it entails (eg: government regulations regarding all that is involved with this kind of enterprise, livestock management/health/behavior/etc). It was a steep learning curve to get my head around all the compliance requirements, and I still have a lot to learn.

Holistic Management is the only way to manage nature's complexity. We learned about Holistic Management by doing a course over 4 months. This was also a steep learning curve. We learned about creating our Holistic Context and our Holistic Goal. It is important to understand what they are, and how crucial they are for landscape wide success.

The **Holistic Context** helps to put a problem in perspective and helps the decision making process. *If a decision/solution to a problem doesn't line up with the context, it's a no-go.*

The **Holistic Goal** explains where the people involved want to head towards, what they want to achieve and what they want for the long term future, (as in several generations' time).

See the example below for our property:

Holistic Goal: to create a place that is a haven for animals, birds, butterflies/insects, plants and most importantly, people. *This explains where we want to head towards.* This goal may also change over time as the property changes and we meet this goal.

Holistic Context:

Statement of Purpose: To provide food that is clean, healthy, that enables the animals to express their normal behaviours, build local communities and heal our land.
Quality of Life statement: (this explains how we want to live) To have a profitable and inclusive business that is resilient to climate variation and is healing our land. A peaceful lifestyle that contributes to others' wellbeing when they visit or consume the meat we have produced.
Economic well-being: to pay off debt and invest further into our business. To feel financially secure and to be able to afford a break twice a year.
Relationships: to live in harmony with our neighbours and to excite young people about food production. To care for our customers well-being and the biodiversity on our place.
Challenge and Growth: (What challenges me to think creatively about finding solutions to problems? How do I be the best person I can be?)
Purpose and Contribution: We are about producing fine foods. We want to build and support our local food community. We want to be debt free, with apprentice farmers learning what we do and with people running their own small and profitable enterprises on our farm.
Future Resource Base: we want young people to be involved, we want to have good infrastructure that is safe and easy to use, we want a properly hydrated landscape through natural means, that supports more life and biodiversity including native plant and animal species and therefore supports increased livestock production and more people.

Through our training, we learned how to deal with complexity, and use livestock to regenerate our land. Using the principles that Holistic Management gives we have seen fantastic changes to our soils and biodiversity. Examples include:

- Increase in butterflies with an increase in rare butterflies,
- Increase in native bee species,
- Increase in predatory insect species including native wasps and spiders,
- Increase in corvid bird species for example magpies, choughs, apostle birds and currawongs,
- Increase in small birds for example: variegated wrens and honey eaters of many varieties,
- Increase in parrot species,
- Increase in native grasses, trees and shrubs, and other native plant species,
- Decrease in soil erosion,
- Decrease in soil pugging during wet weather,
- Increase in water holding capacity in soils, moisture retention during summer/hot dry periods,
- Plants growing in summer.

These changes have occurred since we started Holistically Managing our farm. Gradually, the changes are taking place and staying that way. It doesn't regress while we are managing and

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controlling where the livestock are and for how long. This requires planning ahead and monitoring to see how the plants and animals are responding. Monitoring what we are doing is key to keeping on track. We always assume we are wrong so we can catch a problem early should it arise.

We have also attended training offered by NRMs over the past few years which have been invaluable. These forums have included talks by:

- **Dr Christine Jones** – soil microbiologist on how to get more carbon in the soil, the types of carbon (liquid and plant roots) and how it helps soil life, water retention and the creation of humus and humates. http://www.amazingcarbon.com/
- **Colin Seis** – pasture cropper, native grassland seed supplier, cropping and grazing using holistic management, green landscape even through summer. http://www.pasturecropping.com/pasture-cropping
- **Graeme Hand** – Holistic Management trainer – he has a special interest in working with family farms to create profitable, regenerative farm businesses. http://www.handfortheland.com/about-us
- **Walter Jehne** – Healthy Soils Australia microbiologist. A wealth of knowledge with regards to regenerating soils back to health. http://www.healthysoils.com.au/home. The video is very very good but is 2 hours long. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=123y7jDdbfY
- **Dick Richardson** – Grazing Naturally http://www.grazingnaturally.com.au/ Holistic Management grazier and educator. He lives and farms in the Adelaide Hills. He is one of the world's best graziers and is world renowned for his knowledge on Holistic Management and turning dead land into highly fertile, productive and profitable farms. **Dick Richardson is the person you really want to talk to with regards to developing policies and changing the NRM legislation.**
- **Joel Salatin** – called America's most innovative farmer. He is very creative when finding solutions to problems. He also runs an apprenticeship programme on his farm. This family farm started when his father bought the property back in the 60s with soils that were mostly shale or very rocky. It's a masterpiece of regenerative farming and soil carbon sequestration. http://www.polyfacefarms.com/
- **Bruce Maynard** – Situated near Dubbo, he has developed no kill pasture cropping. He is also conducting experiments on using different kinds of saltbush to give livestock green feed during the hot dry months where there is no other green feed available. http://www.thelazyfarmer.com/
- **Charles Massy** – Pasture cropper in NSW high country. He uses many different methods for his farming enterprise. He has friendships with local Aboriginal elders to gain insight into how his part of the country once was. This is helping him to restore the landscape back to prior to European settlement. http://fennerschool.anu.edu.au/about-us/people/charles-massy to get in touch with him if you need advice.
- **Dean Revell** – From WA. He's a scientist that works with farmers to regenerate their properties in areas with low rainfall and sandy acidic soils. http://www.revellscience.com.au/
- **Millie Nicholls** – native pasture walk through the property. Informative with regards to identifying native grass species.
- **NRM people** – Several forums and conferences and a presentation at Spalding on how to deal with Silver Leaf Nightshade (a really valuable training day for me).

The information provided by all of these forums has been most helpful to us. They have shown us where we need to change and where we are doing well and why it's working. They have provided invaluable information on how to store carbon in our soils on a landscape scale.

All of these people are finding ways to store carbon in soils and educate landholders on different methods for achieving this. The storage of carbon in soils is vital in tackling soil fertility, climate change, climate variability and creating resilience in regions and communities.

Australia signed up to the Paris Agreement in December 2015 where the 4 per 1000 initiative was introduced. This is an annual growth rate of 0.4% in the soil carbon stocks, or 4‰ per year, would halt the increase in the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere related to human activities. Watch the video for an explanation as to how this works: https://www.4p1000.org/.

However, is the SA Government trying to implement this policy in trying to help landholders improve soil carbon? When considering just how much carbon can be stored in soils, think on this information: https://thefern.org/ag_insider/carbon-farming-may-figure-in-climate-mitigation/

If you want to feel alarmed and amused at the same time, this illustration shows human history, average global temperatures and the path we are currently on and how urgent the required change really is: https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/2016/09/17/a-timeline-of-earths-average-temperature-in-comic-form/

My husband and I are wanting to continue learning about how we can sequester more carbon into our soils for the following reasons:

- Improves water holding capacity (which means grasses stay greener for longer therefore placing more carbon in the soil through the liquid carbon pathway and through roots feeding the soil microbes, fungi and other animals). This is a self reinforcing cycle.
- Creates resilience to drought.
- Soils stay cooler for longer, this means we are more likely to have rain showers over our place and increased dew fall, even during summer.
- Creates and improves top soil through helping to create humates by feeding the soil biota.
- Reduces soil erosion helping native plants to establish, grass roots grow to greater depths thus reducing soil movement and helps water enter the soil and not evaporate off.
- Improves regrowth and regeneration of native plant species, thus improving habitat for native animals and insects.
- Improves the general aesthetics of the property. It's not a dust bowl in the middle of summer.
- Seeing improvements and increases in biodiversity gives feelings of abundance and joy.
- Reduces costly inputs, thus improving viability and profitability.

- Improves biodiversity which supports more animals both in variety and quantity.
- Gives more options for farming businesses and enterprises which helps to spread risk.

In response to the workshop I attended on Friday 10th August 2018 at Port Augusta on the proposed NRM changes, I would like to tackle each of the Guiding Principles for Reform.

Decentralised Decision Making

Firstly, the decision makers need to be identified for a statewide Holistic Context and for NRM regional Holistic Contexts. The people who will be affected by decisions will need to be considered. How will you bring them all along this Holistic journey?

This will require a colossal change in thinking for SA Government Ministers, their departments and staff, their advisors, public servants and anyone else who has a vested interest in what is taking place.

People think, "I have this problem X. I need a solution to Problem X." Then they turn to linear reductionist thinking and come up with a solution that does not take into consideration the underlying cause. This leads to **unintended consequences** and reactionary thinking/problem solving processes. Which leads to more unintended consequences.

When dealing with complex biological systems, any decision and action that is taken will have multiple effects whether they are wanted or not. Holistic Decision making will take these things into account. This is where the **Holistic Context** and **Holistic Goal** really shine. They enable us to see solutions from multiple perspectives and identify unwanted consequences.

Whole of Landscape Approach

This approach will also require a colossal change in thinking. And this will mean an interdepartmental approach. You can't protect the environment and build an industrial estate without there being consequences for everyone involved. Questions that might need to be asked:

- How do we define "change"? Are we talking climate change or climate variation, or changes to regional populations, or changes to how we think about the landscape, change to this legislation and other Acts that will help achieve what we want on a whole of landscape scale? I can go on…
- How do people interact with the natural systems in the landscape? Do they even think about what they are doing, both on the small scale, for example, buying groceries, to managing thousands of hectares of bush or coastline?
- Are farmers and landholders changing their practices to heal their land?
- Do farmers and landholders even see any need for change?
- How do you change farmers and landholders' paradigms that will mean large scale change and possibly large scale investment?

- Do people know how to make sure the water that does run off from their land is cleaner than when it flowed onto their land? Do they understand this run-off affects creeks, rivers and oceans? Do they even care?
- How do you change the way people who are in government, government departments NGO's, NRM boards and staff, local councils at all levels, school children, volunteers, community groups, decision makers, government workers on the ground, agronomists, the general public think about conservation, protection and regeneration of the whole landscape?

We need to define what we are trying to restore the landscape to. Just keeping it the same is not enough. It must be regenerated back to health.

What is the difference between conservation and regeneration?

Conservation means to preserve something as is. This means if we just want to conserve our present landscape, it will remain the same: dying.

Regeneration means we manage for the health of the whole: keep soil covered, do not turn over soil, encourage and maintain biological diversity and complexity, avoid monocultures, create edges (the edges of forests and grasslands have the greatest biodiversity), preserve genetic diversity within species and use livestock correctly to regenerate soils. See pg 366-371 and pg 375 in Holistic Management Third Edition by Alan Savory for greater detail. Also see this website for more information:
http://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/the-rcs-story/the-rcs-vision-for-agriculture/

When explorers first came to Australia, they noted that this continent was a well hydrated landscape with creeks and rivers all in good health, green grasses all through summer, even when it would be 40 degrees C for weeks and no rain for 3-4 months. Read Charles Massy's book "The Call of the Reed Warbler." **The country was a place of parklands, forests, and most importantly, wetlands and springs. It was a resilient and abundant landscape.**

For many years, farmers and landowners have been encouraged to drain swampy areas and turn it into production. They have also been allowed to remove important habitats that have been beneficial to the landscape as a whole because regulations have allowed it. This has been killing landscapes for a long time. If we keep this up, we will all be living in a desert.

This transcript is from ABC TV's Landline programme from 2006. This man's story on how he turned a dead piece of land into a showpiece for biodiversity and farming is utterly amazing. Very inspirational.
http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/landline/old-site/content/2006/s1674809.htm

This farmer is Peter Andrews. He has done a lot of work on regenerating the water cycle on his and many other properties. The video is one hour long.
https://www.nsfarming.com/andrews.htm

Do we want to restore soil carbon back to pre-European settlement? ***Soil carbon was at around 8-32%*** *prior to Europeans changing the landscape on a whole of landscape scale.* **Today, soil carbon is typically below 2% and often below 1%.**

Do we want to restore wetlands and springs? For example: *In my area, right across the west facing hills near Port Pirie, had springs all the way along. Napperby Creek, Nelshaby Creek, Telowie Creek and Mambray Creek all flowed out to sea. Now the springs are dead and the creeks rarely flow. I would love to see them restored.*

This is where the Holistic Goal and Context will really help in defining the root cause of the problem, defining possible solutions and working out if the possible solutions have unintended consequences. Finding out what is already working well is key to reducing duplicated efforts among all the organisations and people working in the area. Worse than duplicated efforts are those that counteract each other.

Having the efforts just be substantial, visible and long lasting is not enough. To achieve these three goals, the **management effort must be sustained.** This means it is ongoing and cannot revert back to old practices that may have caused problems and unwanted/unintended consequences.

There needs to be a change from linear reductionist thinking, to thinking about the whole. And everyone needs to be educated on what "the whole" actually means. It's no good to bandy about terms like "sustainable" as everyone has their own understanding of what they mean. Whether it's right or wrong doesn't seem to matter.

A Simple and Accessible System

As a wise person once said to me, "You can't legislate for integrity." So, I agree less red tape and greater autonomy is a good idea. Regenerative farming doesn't allow for the attitude of "seeing what you can get away with", but rather getting the best results possible. Therefore, our decisions and actions must be done with integrity at the forefront. And most of us are small producers, so we have to be absolute in this regard.

The Farmers Legal Defence Fund shows a few good examples of how "well meaning" legislation, combined with bureaucratic departments/public servants can really harm small regenerative farmers.
https://afsa.org.au/legal-defence-fund/

This leads to the questions of "How will landholders prove they are meeting the criteria set by the Act or the local NRM Board?" Do they need to prove this now?

Will it be a simpler process to access grants and other assistance for regenerating their patch of land, no matter how big or small?

How will the NRM legislation enable partnerships between:

- Individuals
- Local community groups
- Regional groups/government departments
- Local councils
- Local industry?

How will the NRM levy be spent? How will this be more transparent? When I receive an invitation to a forum run by NRM there is a note at the end of the email saying where the money to fund the event has come from. This is great, but not nearly enough to get the message out there.

Is there scope to loosen regulations to enable creative solutions to weed and pest problems? For example: *Blackberries are a problem in the Adelaide Hills. Goats love blackberries and can completely smash up an area of them if properly managed. A person can begin farming goats with this solution in mind and make a good living out of being paid to remove the blackberries down to ground level, milking the goats and selling the meat and kids. This is one creative solution to the blackberry problem that is financially viable. But what is the cause of this problem? And, is this a viable solution according to the Act(s)?*

Is there a way that National Parks, Conservation Parks and Public Landholders can work together with their neighbouring private landholders to achieve outcomes that help people stay on the land for generations? I know that what happens on a property can have a direct effect on the neighbours. An example where co-operation would have been great: *The Bangor Fires in January 2014 destroyed large areas of bushland. Telowie Gorge was completely burned out. This Park was given about 2 years to recover and regenerate. I walked through there and saw plant species I had never seen before. I walked through there about a year later and found those species had disappeared due to being grazed out by feral animals (rabbits, goats and deer). If the NRM, Parks and Wildlife (do they even exist now?), local landowners, licensed feral pest shooters and any other interested group got together, these rare plant species might still be there today. But what if our management strategies helped to prevent the fire, or caused it to be a cooler fire, thus causing much less damage to the ecology?*

How can a culture of goodwill be fostered?

- Excellent and exciting communications between the Environment Department and NRM and the general public, industry, local councils and community groups
- More forums, conferences, training days, field days, pasture walks, workshops
- Web newsletters, paper newsletters, links to websites for regenerating landscapes, newspaper articles, radio articles, TV news (showcase a landholder regenerating their place and what they are doing), TV and radio ads for workshops, ABC TV and radio to get the message out there
- Use networks of local groups to get the word out there about educational opportunities and to also show what NRM is doing locally
- Showcase NRM partnerships with local groups and industry using the above mentioned means
- Educating agronomists on soil biology and how their advice to apply copious amounts of chemicals is killing the planet. For example: *At a field day a farmer asked a question about how his agronomist advised him to put on so much nitrogen fertilizer it would be toxic to emerging plants, thus ruining his crop. He also said his soil was once pH 7-8 and was now pH 4.5. He was told by his agronomist it was because of adding fertilizer. What was he to do? How could he get a good crop with using less chemicals? The agronomist had no answers, but the presenters at this field day did.* ***This means changing university and TAFE Agriculture courses to move away from chemical land management to a holistic biological approach.***

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- Changing the paradigm of one size fits all for problem solving. What caused the problem in the first place? Usually our management strategies… Thus what will solve them is a change in management direction.
- Encouraging creative solutions to problems.
- Changing education of young people, children in primary and high school, so they can see exciting, new and affordable/accessible ways of getting into farming and land management. *The current system is too cost prohibitive for young farmers to buy into and too costly for old farmers to get out.*
- Please can we stop all these "woe is me" farming stories. I would love to see more amazing stories of people doing amazing things on their farms. And get the message out there that local groups and NRM people are doing great things. The stories about people wrestling with Mother Nature are doing damage. How about trying to work with Mother Nature, because no matter what happens, She wins every time. There are farmers out there who are doing amazing things even in the face of so-called drought. See Landline Sunday 12th August 2018 http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-11/defying-the-drought:-the-farmers-who-seem-to-be/10109792 The first couple are seriously overgrazing their property and turning it into desert, but the rest are great.

Community and Landowners at the Centre

I welcome assistance from the government. However, will this assistance put more onus on landholders to comply with yet more regulations?

The legislation must be people driven, not a top down approach. Perhaps the legislation should be more "results driven" and less "rules driven".

Within each NRM region, there are very different landscapes that will regenerate differently, both in the time it takes and how it's done. So, that means the results will be different depending upon the type of landscape and what the landholder can realistically achieve. This means that a "one size fits all" approach just will not work. Neither will a mandated set of rules or conditions for landowners to follow.

I think it would be better to reward those who engage in regenerating their landscape and are getting good results, rather than forcing people to comply with an arbitrary set of rules.

Also, because the cost of compliance can be prohibitive I feel it will deter people from even trying. The legal jargon will also stop people from trying to do the right thing. It must be easier for the average person to read any rules that are in place, as well as to understand the rules, and afford to implement the rules.

Regulation has a tendency to stifle innovation. So how do we encourage creative ways of solving our current problems? How will landowners and farmers be encouraged to creatively problem solve?

How will NRMs educate landholders and the community on how to regenerate land on a small scale and also on a whole of landscape scale?

Back to Basics

Holistic Management training is a great start, but there is so much more to know.

Also how do we define resilience? Who and/or what is the object here?

Pests, weeds, disease, drought, floods, small towns dying due to lack of people are all related to soils. The more we abuse our soils, the worse it becomes. If we change our current management practices we can expect some real benefits.

But what is driving those management practices? The commodities market and legislation.

Farmers are encouraged to grow produce for quantity. The market doesn't care whether or not they are stewarding their land well. Just keep producing more and more. If it's really good quality, we send the produce overseas. There is no impetus for big producers to improve soil carbon and soil biology.

Current legislation is designed to keep the big guys going (whoever they are) but excludes the small guys and young people due to the high capital investment required to get started. Therefore, it maintains the status quo. But the status quo is the problem. There needs to be a change in the market that rewards farmers and land managers who do a better job. This means a shift away from commodity food production.

Currently there is no immediate financial benefit for commodity producers in increasing soil carbon. However, if soil carbon levels are improved, you can expect these effects:

- Increased soil biology which increases the soils' ability to store more carbon.
- Decreased use of expensive and damaging chemical inputs.
- Improvements in how water moves through the landscape. This means less flooding when there is heavy rain and increased soil moisture retention. This means plants and trees live better and can survive low rainfall times. This means fewer droughts, or less severe droughts.
- Increased soil fertility which means that soils can support more life. This increase in biodiversity helps soils remain healthy and provides feed for more organisms.
- More people in local communities as there are greater employment and business opportunities, thus stopping small town and regional decline in population.
- Creation of stronger local economies.
- Increased biodiversity both above and below ground. Does this mean "vibrant biodiversity"?
- Increased ability for soils to store more water. This means less irrigation needed to keep plants alive. More plants growing through summer/dry months.
- Reduced bush fire risk as soils are moister for longer.
- Greater food security
- Beautiful landscapes that give the general population feelings of abundance, safety, joy, peace, all is well

When dealing with changing landscapes on a whole of landscape level, this will mean colossal changes to everything and everyone's thinking. It's not impossible, in fact these changes while very challenging can be very rewarding. This will also require inter-departmental changes, good communications and education as well.

What would I like to see for the landscape of South Australia?

- Everyone who has a piece of land, no matter how big or small stewards it well
- School children in every year level are educated on how food is produced and how it can be produced in a regenerative manner that enhances soils and biodiversity.
- Soils that are storing carbon and increasing in natural fertility.
- Every creek, river and spring restored back to health.
- A properly hydrated landscape.
- Grasslands restored.
- Families managing their farms in a Holistic manner thereby keeping generations on the land stewarding it well.
- Increase in young people in different farming enterprises, not grain cropping and other farming businesses requiring enormous amounts of money.
- Young people apprenticed to farmers who are farming holistically/biologically/sequestering carbon with courses available to augment their training, like a normal apprenticeship.
- Vibrant and diverse communities in every sense of the word, from people to plants, to animals, to native birds, to insects, to soil life. The more the better!
- A joyful outlook towards the future. Not all this doom and gloom that is incessantly reported.
- An abundant state that is the clean, biologically producing food bowl of local towns, regions and the whole state.
- Vibrant local food economies.
- A change in legislation and government department direction that supports these changes and works with smaller scale producers.
- We need to change legislation regarding the sale of land to international conglomerates who don't care about local people, local economies and the local environment.

In closing, this should be viewed as an opportunity, not a problem. There are people wanting to buy ethically raised, environmentally sound produce from regenerative farmers and are willing to pay some premium for it. They want to help stop global warming, land desertification, and to save the planet. There are NRM people who are learning about this and are starting to get this information out to people who have the capacity and will to enact it. What we need NRM to do is to connect the information about this and the opportunities to take advantage of it with people who have the capacity and ability to do something about it.

Thank you for reading this very long letter. I hope you and your staff get a lot of info out of this and I hope it helps everyone involved.

If I can contribute further, please contact me.

Cheerio,

Karen Spry

I'll leave you with this thought:

"If governments won't solve the climate, hunger, health and democracy crises, **then the people will**. Regenerative agriculture provides answers to the soil crisis, the food crisis, the health crisis, the climate crisis and the crisis of democracy."

Dr Vandana Shiva

Some more resources that may be helpful:

Three farms funded by Queensland Government to holistically manage their properties and to see the change in chemical run off from their land into the ocean. This was designed to show how chemical and manure run-off was damaging the Great Barrier Reef and what could be done about it. And yes it can be fixed.
https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/3573829/graziers-prepare-to-heal-the-earth/

Indigenous knowledge on Mosaic Burning. The local NRM is currently conducting experiments on mosaic burning in the Telowie region.
http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-05/traditional-knowledge-a-pathway-to-safer-healthier-country/7814628

These people are repairing the damage done by uncontrolled grazing.
http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/landline/old-site/stories/s148500.htm

Yoemans Plow which shows how landscapes can be altered to capture more water.
http://yeomansplow.com.au/

Yoemans Keyline which is pretty good for land planning, and if you are going to do any cropping, then this is the way it has to be done. Combined with Pasture Cropping, I think it would be a big winner.
http://www.keyline.com.au/

Resource Consultancy Service (RCS). They are probably the only large scale (ie. cattle/sheep station size) Holistic Management trainers in Australia. Much better suited to the more arid areas of South Australia.
http://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/

They run the Grazing For Profit schools:
http://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/products/family-business/farming-grazingforprofit/

Grazing For Profit Schools case studies:
http://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/the-rcs-story/stories-from-clients/case-studies/

They also have a very good definition/holistic goal of what sustainable agriculture is:
http://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/the-rcs-story/the-rcs-vision-for-agriculture/

Soils for Life, which also has a lot of information in it:
http://www.soilsforlife.org.au/home/index.html

Here are their case studies:
http://www.soilsforlife.org.au/program/case-studies-round-1

And this is a really good one:
http://www.soilsforlife.org.au/case-studies/milgadara

YLAD living soils, and YLAD compost. Both are pretty good, for agricultural based soils and composts, rather than backyard gardening types.
http://www.yladlivingsoils.com.au/index.html
http://www.yladlivingcompost.com.au/Default.htm

Hugo and Helen Disler, who run farming secrets. Their website is a fountain of information on organic/regenerative farming.
https://www.farmingsecrets.com/

And they have a lot of info in their shop:
https://www.farmingsecrets.com/store/

Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance
https://afsa.org.au/
Good stuff for small farmers doing direct marketing

These contacts may be helpful in getting the word out to more people about the proposed changes to NRM legislation, or even to just seek opinions.

Mid North Grassland Working Group http://www.nativegrass.org.au/

Mid North Young Guns http://agcommunicators.com.au/events/mnyg/

AUSTRALIAN Regenerative Farmers https://regenfarmers.com.au/

Fleurieu Forward farming https://fleurieufarming.systems/

From: Bulling, Annette (Education)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 July, 2018 1:07 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Feedback on NRM reforms

Landscape Reform: feedback on discussion paper

- The reforms appear to offer additional opportunities for schools to be involved in engaging with and redressing local environmental issues
- The grant system proposed would be beneficial to schools interested in projects to increase knowledge of environmental science and engagement in hands-on activity that helps them protect local environments
- The partnership approach links with our Schools as Community Hubs initiative which guides school and community leaders in a process of working together for mutual benefit. The reform provides an opportunity to promote a focus on environmental management at the local level
- Simplified reporting strategies that include accessible measurement tools would promote greater engagement from schools who have limited administrative resources and many competing demands
- Extending opportunities to engage Aboriginal communities, including young people, in land management provides opportunities to strengthen:
    - the way Aboriginal histories and cultures are taught to all students as part of the Australian Curriculum
    - Aboriginal student wellbeing and identity
- Any opportunities to provide work experience, traineeships and post school options for Aboriginal students should be encouraged as part of the reform process
- Student volunteer programs should also be encouraged at the local level to provide opportunities for student learning, community connection and lifelong environmental protection

Annette Bulling
Senior Project Manager, Engagement and Wellbeing Directorate
Early Years & Child Development Division
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Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn



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From: David Watkins <
Sent: Saturday, 4 August, 2018 7:45 AM
To: YourSay
Cc: MP Stephen Marshall
Subject: NRMA

Folks, re-jigging this organisation is a waste of time unless the people who are effected by this group actually and really have a say, which we all know will not happen because such organisations are dominated by city dwellers, biased public servants and radicals.
Most believe community consultation is just a PR stunt.

David Watkins
landowner
Adelaide Hills

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/am6PCK1qxKf24DEBfM--M3?domain=mailtrack.io> Sender notified by Mailtrack <https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/am6PCK1qxKf24DEBfM--M3?domain=mailtrack.io> 08/04/18, 7:40:02 AM

From: Greg Badcoe
Sent: Monday, 30 July, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: YourSay Feedback on NRM

I'd like to provide feedback on the NRM reform for consideration:

1. Improved engagement with Volunteer Vertebrate Pest Controller workforce:
    a. Deer Management: There is a lot to be learned from the Victorian Hunting Model for recreational game hunting, they have turned an expensive problem into a revenue raiser in which the money is directed into other vital conservation projects and a decent tourism income for the rural regions. As Victoria has done, declare Deer a Game Species, introduce a Deer hunting Licence system and open up selected parks for the recreational hunting of game (deer) only. This is the most likely way that the lofty target of 70% stated in the SA Deer management Plan recently released will be reached, while creating an income stream rather than a financial burden. This method should achieve active and ongoing deer control at a profit to the department, for which the profit can produce increased positive environmental outcomes. As the Department is typically extremely risk adverse and would unlikely embrace firearm use, please consider archery as an alternative as this would likely mitigate most perceived risks.
    b. Compliance Management: Significantly increase the penalties available to the new NRM Authorised Officers for any shooter/hunter/poacher caught doing the wrong thing. The constant "pigeon holing" the greater hunting community for sins of a few needs to stop, and those few need to severely punished to the point they are removed from the hunting community for good, law abiding hunters don't want them either. (Severe such as, no longer fit to hold a Firearms Licence or Hunting permit in SA, confiscation of all equipment at the time of offence 4WD, boat, etc).
    c. Kangaroo Management: Switch the way you do it now on its head. Do your surveys and understand the numbers that need to controlled in what regions, but rather than wait for landowners to come to you to apply for permits, you go to the new NRM regions with pre-approved permit numbers. Then allow new NRM regions to actively engage with the volunteer workforce to fill the tickets in the time and location specified.

Cheers,

Greg Badcoe
ILS Engineer

Saab Australia Pty Ltd
21 Third Avenue
Mawson Lakes SA 5095
www.saabgroup.com/au



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From: natashacelestemorgan
Sent: Tuesday, 18 September, 2018 1:28 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: GROW MORE TREES

WE NEED WATER GROW MORE TREES SO IT BRINGS RAIN. GROW MORE PLANTS FLOWERS FOR BEES AND BIRDS

Sent on the go with Vodafone

From: Patsy Johnsor
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October, 2018 6:53 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: FW: Possible repeal of the SA Native Vegetation Act

Importance: High

Dear Minister Speirs,

Please note that the message below is not to be taken as anything but my own personal views, even though shared by others, and is not a submission from Friends of Para Wirra.

Sincerely,

Patsy Johnson.

From: Patsy Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 6:28 PM
To: 'landscapereform@sa.gov.au' <landscapereform@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Possible repeal of the SA Native Vegetation Act

To Minister Speirs,

I am greatly concerned that apparently it is proposed to repeal the SA Native Vegetation Act, which could mean permission to clear native vegetation would become easier, and even that some Heritage Agreements (one of which is on our property) could be void, and that clearance of native vegetation in some parks, roadsides, farms etc would be made easier to gain approval for.

I would also like to know what protection if any has been put in place for the coastal area of Kangaroo Island near a golf course, which was, until the State election, protected, and is apparently now open to the proposed golf club extensions which are such a threat to the coastal native vegetation and wildlife survival.

You may already know that our group (Friends of Para Wirra) were and still are of the opinion that mountain bikes have no place in Conservation Parks - the designated areas in Para Wirra for that activity are not always adhered to, and we have observed these bikes in banned areas, both now and in the past when they were not allowed at all.

I am one of many in our group and other experienced park volunteer groups who also believe that camping grounds in Para Wirra are a mistake, especially when campfires are allowed - there only needs to be one careless use of the much vaunted fire pits, and even in winter a major conflagration could happen, threatening the park and surrounding areas, to devastating effect, particularly possible in another dry winter such as we have just had.

Campers whom I know, being responsible people themselves, have observed often in various camping areas in the state and elsewhere that some irresponsible campers pack up and drive away without putting out their fires, get drunk and have accidents with fire, and cause problems for the campers who obey the safety rules and are considerate of both the bushland and other campers. People who love Para Wirra and are not members of our group have been shocked that camping and mountain bikes have been allowed there.

I hope that the campfire permission will be permanently cancelled, and the fire pits removed, with stringent monitoring of campers to ensure this is not abused by lighting fires without permission and that the park and surrounds are safe. It may be that camping will need to be totally prohibited in the future, should a conflagration occur - but that would be tragically too late.

As I mentioned to you on 4th October at Para Wirra, I personally feel extremely disappointed that Para Wirra is still being treated as a Recreation Park, and add that, because the visitor pressure on the park was never properly calculated before the currently completed "upgrades" of the park facilities (despite the request during planning stages to do this), the installation of these new facilities and greater promotion of Para Wirra, as part of the current push to greatly increase visitor numbers, is putting unknown levels of current pressure on the park, particularly the walking trails and native fauna and vegetation.

It would only be sensible to have calculated the current visitor pressure before increasing the visitor numbers, and it would still be extremely important to have the current pressure calculated for overall visitor numbers, even if just extrapolating from the two most popular, and allowing the other 8 trails say half to three-quarters the number of visitors each. For instance, the September PED counts for Devil's Nose and Goldfields walks totalled over 1,750 people using those two trails. If you use those figures to estimate the total numbers for all 10 walks, plus the picnic areas, bike trails etc., you would come up with a large number. Other parks have great numbers, but this is obvious by the loss of native vegetation and wildlife in these parks near the city.

I am sure I am not the only person who would not like to see Para Wirra unique quality of native vegetation and native fauna "loved to death" as Belair was described during the public consultation planning process of which I was a participant.

I hope sincerely that you can stop this happening - our National Parks and Reserves are a sacred trust for future supplies of unpolluted air, water and soil, not a commercial business.

Patsy Johnson

From: Robyn Palmer
Sent: Thursday, 26 July, 2018 3:00 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: Louise Kometer; Damian Basso
Subject: Changes to NRM

Hello

I am writing to you on behalf of our school St Michaels College Primary. We are concerned about the proposed changes to the current NRM, as there is no indication of there being any education unit with the new proposal. The NRM Education team have been an integral part of our School Environmental Management Plan.

They not only assisted us with creating our school plan, providing the necessary documents to get us started, but have continued to support us along our journey. They have facilitated staff professional development sessions, assisted with our staff sustainability meetings and have ran numerous sessions with our environmental students. We would not be where we are today without their guidance and are worried about moving forward without their support.

Our school and many others are very committed to education in sustainability and we are concerned that the new format will focus on other areas of the environment, such as soil and water, missing the key education of our future leaders and change makers.

Please ensure that the NRM Education team continue in their critical role of supporting schools with environmental education into the future.

Regards

Robyn Palmer
Sustainability Support Officer
St Michael's College | 78 East Avenue | Beverley SA 5009
T (08) 8346 6548 | F (08) 8346 9449 | www.smc.sa.edu.au

[redacted]

From: Andrew Lothian [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 6 August, 2018 4:07 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Submission - A Lothian

Categories: Transferred to SharePoint
SharePointLocationUrl: [redacted]

SharePointAbsoluteFileU [redacted]

To the Independent Facilitator, Landscape Reform,
I am a consultant specialising in the measurement and mapping of landscape quality. My website, www.scenicsolutions.world provides information about the consultancy and access to the many projects I have undertaken for clients in South Australia.
My brief submission covers two issues: the need to include landscape aesthetics within the ambit of the Landscape SA Act, and the definition and boundaries of the Landscape Boards.

Landscape SA

It is amazing to me that an Act and authorities defined as Landscape SA has no reference to the aesthetic component of landscape, i.e. landscape quality or scenery. This is particularly surprising given the emphasis in both native vegetation and planning legislation of amenity and of assessing the visual impacts of developments. I propose that the Act include the aesthetic component in its scope and empower authorities to consider amenity and visual impacts in their consideration of policies and action programs.
To demonstrate the significance of the aesthetic quality of the landscape and the visual impact of developments upon it, the following lists projects that I have conducted in South Australia. It is apparent from the range of contracting clients that this issue is of significant relevance to many authorities in South Australia.

Landscape quality assessment projects

1. *Landscape quality assessment of South Australia*, 2000, PhD Thesis, University of Adelaide.
2. *Amenity Value of Scattered and Isolated Trees.* Report to the SA Native Vegetation Council. 2004
3. C*oastal Viewscapes of South Australia*, Report for the Coast Protection Branch, SA Department for Environment and Heritage, 2005.
4. *Barossa and Light Region Landscape Assessment Study*, Report for Planning SA, Barossa Council, Light Regional Council, and the Barossa Light Regional Development Board. 2005
5. *Victor Harbor Landscape Amenity.* Consultancy Report for the City of Victor Harbor, 2006.
6. *South Australian River Murray Landscape Assessment Project.* Report for the SA Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation and the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, 2007.
7. *Flinders Ranges Landscape Quality Assessment Project.* Report for the SA Department for Environment and Heritage, 2009.
8. *Generic Landscape Survey,* 2013.
9. *Mount Lofty Ranges Landscape Quality Assessment Project*, 2015. Pro bono project with cooperation of the World Heritage Project Committee.

Visual impact assessment projects

1. *Visual Impact Assessment of Wind Farms in South Australia.* Private research project, Oct 2003.
2. *Assessing the Impact on Scenic Quality of Coastal Developments*, as part of Coastal Viewscapes Project, 2005.

3. *Assessing Visual Effects of Development along the River Murray*, as part of River Murray Project, 2007.
4. *Community survey of the visual impact & acceptability of wind farms in Australia*, 2018. Private research project.

Consultant reports for private clients

1. *Wind turbine colour.* Consultancy report for TrustPower Ltd, June 2003.
2. *Yankalilla Wind Farm Visual Impact Assessment*, Consultancy Report for Origin Energy, 2003.
3. *Wind Farms Scenic Impact Report.* Consultancy report for ETSA Utilities, 2005.
4. *Visual Impact Assessment of Adelaide Interconnection Water System Works, Consultancy report for SA Water.* 2010.
5. *Clare Region Landscape Quality and Potential Visual Impact of Wind Farms*, Consultancy report for the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council, 2011.
6. *Crystal Brook Region Landscape Quality Assessment*, Consultancy report for Origin Energy, Feb, 2012.
7. *Visual Amenity Assessment, Proposed Smith Bay Wharf Kangaroo Island.* Consultancy report for LBW Environmental Projects Pty Ltd. 2016.

Please note that I am not advocating the inclusion of landscape aesthetics within the Landscape SA Act out of self interest as it is evident that I have already undertaken many projects in this regard. Rather it is because landscape quality is much prized by the community, as evident by its importance in tourism, both nationally and internationally, and for outdoor recreational pursuits such as photography, painting, bushwalking, orienteering etc. It needs to be considered alongside the other practical issues of soil, pest plants and animals, water, sustainable land management and natural resource management. A whole-of-landscape approach as advocated by the Discussion Paper is deficient if it excludes the aesthetic component of the landscape.

Landscape Board boundaries

Currently the boundary between the Mt Lofty NRM Board and the SA MDB Board is the watershed between east and west flowing rivers. This is artificial, splitting the Mt Lofty Ranges down the middle, and bears no relationship to the social, economic and cultural integrity of the Mt Lofty Ranges as a unit. It also reduces the focus of the MDB Board on the issues of the River Murray and associated lands.

I suggest that a single Board encompass the entire Mt Lofty Ranges. Its boundaries should be defined as lying between the foot of the Hills Face Zone in the west and the Bremer River and the Palmer Scarp in the east, encompassing the Fleurieu Peninsula and extending north to Truro, the Barossa Ranges and the Barossa Valley west to the Kapunda Road.

I oppose splitting off the proposed Hills and Fleurieu section from the Mt Lofty Ranges. The proposed Plains and Hills section should be incorporated into the suggested Mid North and Yorke Board. The proposed Hills and Fleurieu section and the Plains and Hills section are both too small to be viable units.

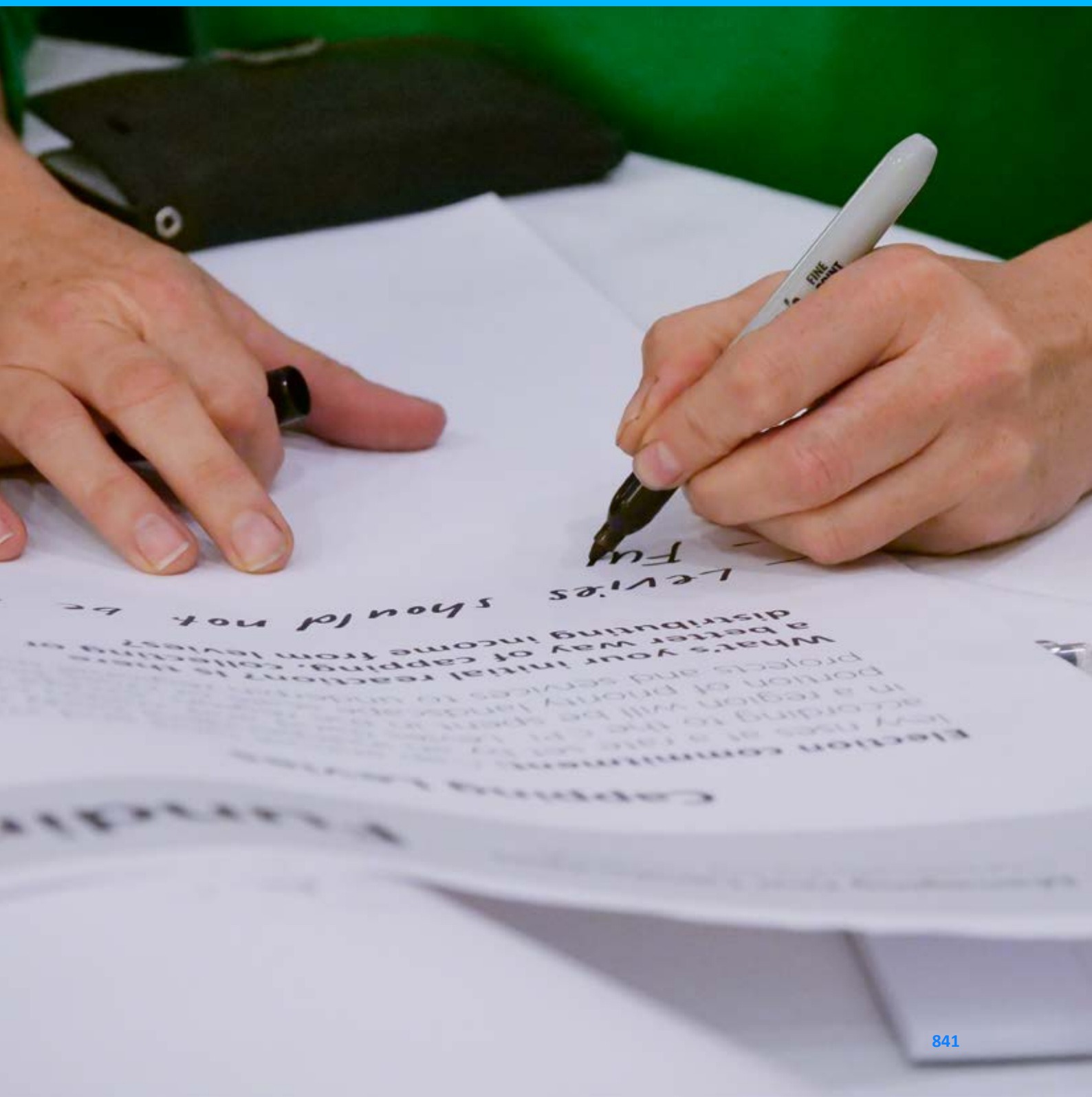
The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board should be renamed the Mid North and Yorke Landscape Board.

Dr Andrew Lothian

[redacted]

www.scenicsolutions.world

8.8 | Written Submissions From NRM Boards



Register of written submissions from NRM boards

Date Received	Given name	Family name	Organisation
27-Jun-18	Eric	Sommerville	Northern & Yorke NRM Board
05-Jul-18	Mark	Whitfield	Eyre Peninsula NRM Board
10-Jul-18	Sharon	Starick	SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board
09-Aug-18	Parry	Agius	Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
25-Sep-18	Eric	Sommerville	Northern & Yorke NRM Board
29-Aug-18	Felicity-ann	Lewis	Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
27-Sep-18	Richard	Trethewey	Kangaroo Island NRM Board
10-Oct-18	Parry	Agius	Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
15-Oct-18	Janet	Brook	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
15-Oct-18	Sharon	Starick	SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board
17-Oct-18	Fiona	Rasheed	South East NRM Board

Natural Resources
Northern and Yorke

Natural Resources Centre

155 Main North Road
Clare SA 5453

Tel 08 8841 3400
Fax 08 8841 3411

ABN 52 523 451 613

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke

27 June 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2018, regarding reform of NRM and the development of a new Landscape South Australia Act. You requested that the Northern and Yorke NRM Board provide you with subjects that we believe need to be considered in any legislative reform. The Board conducted a workshop prior to the Board meeting on 25 June 2018, and I will attempt to summarise the discussions.

The Board have a pre-existing position of 'Back to Basics' and which is obviously aligned to your views on:

- Pest Plant and Animal control
- Soils (acidity, salinity, erosion, soil biota and carbon farming). The Board considers there is an obvious link between soils and sustainable agriculture although the respective responsibilities of PIRSA and NRM in sustainable agriculture needs clarification.
- Water The Board considers that ground and surface water management should be included in landscape legislation.

Further, the Board endorse your views on:

A whole of landscape approach and believe that collaboration and partnerships are essential to achieve meaningful and lasting work on the ground. To this end, the Board's Regional NRM Plan also recognises our unique Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Zones as being part of the 'whole of landscape' and believes they require active management which should be articulated in legislation.

Coast and Marine. The Board's Regional NRM Plan recognises that our unique Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Zones require active management which should be articulated in legislation.

The Board have a strong belief that Biodiversity / Nature Conservation should be integral to landscapes legislation and is fundamental in the wise and sustainable use of our natural resources. The Board welcomes the opportunity to have ongoing responsibility for biodiversity in our region, and believes that biodiversity is core in holistic landscape management and should not be separated.

The Board are heartened to read your guiding principle 'community and landholders at the centre' for new legislation, however, the Board's Regional NRM Plan identifies that Aboriginal Communities in particular have and can continue to make a significant contribution to the management of our landscapes. The Board encourages you to support the expansion of Aboriginal capacity building and participation, in all aspects of landscape management.

While acknowledging the many aspects of community engagement, the Board feels strongly that education of our future leaders provides a worthwhile return on investment and needs to continue. The Board are proud of our Young Environmental Leaders program and are unhappy about the likely cessation of that program. Further, evaluation reports from participating schools in the N&Y NRM YEL program indicates the positive contribution instilled in students to landscape environmental awareness, management and sustainability.

The Board looks forward to continuing the conversation with you regarding the Landscape legislation, but notes with some concern that you are not attending consultation sessions in Clare. I can assure you that the Board takes its responsibilities seriously and we welcome your review and reform of the sector, while at the same time, urging you to retain the many elements of NRM that have worked well. The Board also believe that new legislation will provide an opportunity for a more balanced arrangement with the disbursement of NRM levies in order that all regions can make considered wise and considered investments with our partners and communities to ensure our unique landscapes can be sustainably used in perpetuity.

Yours sincerely



Eric Sommerville
PRESIDING MEMBER
NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Ref: N02 13

Government of South Australia
Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board

The Hon. David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment & Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

PO Box 22
Port Lincoln SA 5606

86 Tasman Tce
Port Lincoln SA 5606

Tel 08 8688 3111
Fax 08 8688 3110

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/eyrepeninsula

Dear Mr Speirs,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2018 outlining your plans for the NRM reform process and the development of the new Landscapes SA legislation.

The Board have given thorough consideration to your request to identify three key areas to be addressed in the new legislation.

The Board identified over 36 issues that fit broadly into the following themes:

- General comments
- Effective management of pest plants and animals including overabundant natives
- Integrated landscape management
- Aboriginal representation on regional Boards
- Streamlined planning and reporting
- Soil and land management
- Biosecurity
- Simple, flexible and efficient water resources management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Community engagement
- NRM Boundary

The comments provided by board members under these themes are included as **Attachment 1.**

The top three themes we'd like to bring to your attention at this stage are; Integrated landscape management, streamlined planning and reporting and simple, flexible and efficient water resources management. Further context for each of these themes is outlined below.

Integrated Landscape Management

The Landscape Act should be providing for responsible and sustainable use of our natural resources (water, land and sea) to the benefit of the community, with conservation and protection being evidence based with clear community benefit (and agreement) in doing so.

Consideration should be given to including all natural resources management matters into one Act and governance arrangement, including native vegetation, park management and coastal management to provide for local decision making in relation to all matters pertaining management of the landscape. This should consider the value that integration for public and private land management has had in terms of service to the regional communities and outcomes on ground over the last 5 years and facilitate large scale integrated projects to improve soil condition, pollination reserves, water retention to improve productivity (e.g. "Wild Eyre" type projects).

Streamlined Planning and Reporting

The current legislation requires significant resources to be allocated across the state to the development of NRM Plans (Strategic and Business) and water allocation plans.

A large amount of effort has been undertaken in recent years in engaging the community to develop the current generation NRM plans. Consideration needs to be given to the significant efforts already undertaken.

Significant streamlining of all planning requirements under the Act is required, considering modern and tailored engagement methods and freeing up resources for projects and on-ground works. Consideration of a single overarching strategic planning document for the state (preferably one that dovetails in to other state-wide planning strategies and a single 3 year document to describe Board and regional priorities).

The new Act should allow for a reduction in the time and expense of compliance & reporting to make better use of our limited funds. A state based, centralised task force, could streamline the process, freeing up time and money, which could boost environmental outcomes in the regions.

Simple, flexible and efficient water resources management.

The Board consider it is important to keep water planning and management in the new Landscapes Act and manage the administration of water resources regionally.

There is currently a big gap in fit-for-purpose water resources management ranging from the permitting of water affecting activities (e.g. farm dams and water course crossing construction) through to the other extreme of prescription of water resources and the development of comprehensive water allocation plans.

The Board consider that the new Landscapes Act provides an opportunity to allow for regulation of groundwater and surface water take without the need for prescription and complex water allocation plans. Where, or if prescription is required it is proposed that the act enables for simple water allocations plans to be developed faster and cheaper.

We thank you once again for your letter and look forward to the opportunity to work with you in shaping the new Landscapes SA legislation and sharing our thoughts regarding the matters outlined in this letter.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please contact myself on 0402713392 or mark.whitfield17@bigpond.com or Regional Director Jonathan Clark on 0429676870 or jonathan.clark@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Mark Whitfield

Presiding Member

5 July 2018

Attachment: 1 Feedback from Board members

Attachment 1 – Feedback from Board members

Theme	Responses
General Comments	I am concerned that over time, the application of the current NRM Act has focused too much on the minutiae, to the detriment of the big picture in terms of the overall amenity value of the environment in which we live (the "Landscape"). The Landscape Act should be providing for responsible and sustainable use (exploitation) of our natural assets to the benefit of the community, and only conserving / protecting / prohibiting where there is undeniable science behind the action and clear community benefit (and agreement) in doing so. To provide for sustainable use of Water, Land and Sea resources. The bigger issue I see is that we are going to continue to have smaller amounts of money coming from both state and federal govs. I think it needs to be clearly defined what is money for public lands and what is for parks. The board needs to make sure the money is going to areas that need it and have land holder support. the 2 need to split again. If there is to be election of some members of the Boards (presuming that the Boards continue) the process of election needs to be designed so as to capture required skill sets. Perhaps something along the lines of a call for expressions of interest which are then assessed against a skills register for each Board - those that align with the identified needs then become the candidates for election - rather than a simple "popularity contest between one issue wonders".
Effective management of pest plants and animals including overabundant natives	Proactive Pest Animal and Plant Control. Recognition and Effective Control of overabundant native animals and plants. Roadside weeds has always been a confusing one for landholders. Consider changing wording to make it easier for the community to understand their roadside weed obligations. Pest Management (plant and animal)
Integrated landscape management	Local or Regional decision basis in relation to all matters pertaining management of Landscape matters. Consolidation of ALL Natural Resource Management matters into one Act and Governance arrangement – including native vegetation and coastal management. Repeating a proposal from the District Council of Ceduna and the EPLGA 2 years ago, the responsibilities of the current Native Vegetation Council and the Coast Protection Board should be consolidated with the responsibilities of the NRM Board (s), on a Regional Basis, in any Governance arrangement under the Landscape Act. Need to maintain the connection between biodiversity / ecosystem health and 'back to basics'. Need modern legislation that is underpinned by ecosystem / landscape health. The current NPW Act and NRM Act do not have this capacity. Very important to keep a regional focus. Worth discussing the value integration has had in terms of service to the regional communities and outcomes on ground over the last 5 years. It might also be a chance to have a look at native vegetation act and bring that in, with may be relaxation of the roadside veg management as this is both a road safety issue and a huge cost to councils for ongoing edge clearance and to rural community with damage to machinery/trucks. Large scale integrated projects to improve soil condition, pollination reserve, water retention etc to improve productivity ("Wild Eyre" type projects). Simplification of cross jurisdictional issues e.g. coastal access, native vegetation etc.. Landscape approach - improve land productivity (i.e. soil improvement and weed control) balanced with recreational and protected areas. Potentially incorporate national parks into the equation to ensure landscape approach. Coastal management - evaluate land/sea interactions, provide for recreational/conservation areas.
Aboriginal representation on regional Boards	Have 2 Aboriginal positions on the boards. It has been difficult to maintain one position but it was suggested by previous Aboriginal board members that we would be more likely to retain Aboriginal members if they had a second Aboriginal board member to work with.
Streamlined planning and reporting	Streamlined planning – both regional planning and water allocation planning. Both need to enabling adaptive, clear and contextual plans to be developed to drive the Board's mission. Water plans need to be faster and cheaper to produce as well as being fit for purpose. Need to consider that a number of NRM plans have been developed recently and adapt a landscape / community at the forefront approach, important to keep these in terms of good work completed (and aligned) and efficiency of $$$. Keep water planning and management in the new Landscapes Act and manage regionally. Reduce the time and expense of compliance & reporting, both state & federal, to make better use of our limited funds. Risks & audits are needed, but are costly, with limited, if any, benefit. A state based, centralised task force, could streamline the process, freeing up time and money, which could boost environmental outcomes in the regions. If, as is mooted, NRM is to become more autonomous, we need to streamline our expenditure to deliver better & more outcomes on ground. That's not to say we don't now, just that we can always aim to do better. Significant streamlining of planning requirements. Suggestions; • Single overarching Strategic Planning document for the state (preferably one that dovetails in to other statewide planning strategies.) • Single 3 yr document to describe Board priorities • Options for water management planning. Integrated planning - contribution to planning in the region and state.
Soil and land management	Focus on soil management – improving productivity, protecting/improving quality. General comment in relation to chapter 6 Management and Protection of Land. I'm haven't had a lot of experience with this section of the Act, however my understanding is that it is cumbersome and unnecessarily difficult to use to achieve compliance when voluntary compliance fails. This section would benefit from review. Someone like Tim Herrmann would be better placed to comment on if/what would benefit from change in the new Act.

Theme	Responses
Biosecurity	Biosecurity - Protecting our industries from pests and disease; this doesn't have to be as part of the NRM Act, maybe it is time to put the biosecurity components in a separate piece of legislation, but the decision should come from this process.
Simple, flexible and efficient water resources management	For purposes of section 127 (5)(a) in the current NRM act, 2004; address the ambiguity of what constitutes a "structure". Provide a definition of "structure" in the new Act. Include in new Act a provision to allow for improved management of surface water without the requirement for prescription. For example, review section 127(5)(2) to allow for a local NRM plan to have a better ability to manage non-prescribed surface water. Water Management The management of ground water resources to remain with Boards, along with a capacity to "manage" non-prescribed resources.
Sustainable Agriculture	Sustainable Ag
Community engagement	Re-introduce sub-regional NRM groups / advisory committees, to better enable communities to be involved in local project delivery, and setting priorities. To re-invigorate public interest / respect / involvement with, the EPNRM board and it's projects. Unless you live in a vacuum, you would be only too aware of the average consumer's view of our operation, and their support & interest in what we do. I recognise the effort being put in to re-connecting with local government, and that is an admirable effort. If we can extend that to the general community, that would be commendable! The almost complete loss of landcare groups is but one failing of the NRM system. Local soil boards, and pest plant and animal boards are glaring examples of how a centralised system lets the community down. For example, I have watched the skeleton weed issue in our area at Lock go from virtually no plants in 2004, to district wide problems now. We shouldn't have let that happen. Community Landscape Citizens Science. Outcomes would include education at the community level, plus strong involvement in community monitoring of our environment to continue building our knowledge base. (Interested to hear Min Speirs' view of the role the wider community has in Landscapes SA.)
NRM Boundary	I think places such as Whyalla have been sadly lacking in community involvement. They pay a lot of levy money, to what end? I well recall those halcyon days leading up to the formation of NRM boards, when, against better judgements, Whyalla was put into the EP region, purely because of the levy money which would flow. I consider Whyalla has always been a part of the arid lands area, and has been poorly served by being a part of the EPNRM. Perhaps a group to purely represent the needs of that area could see more attention paid to the local environment? (for example).

Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Natural Resources Centre
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

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Reference: 18INV0153

10 July 2018

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister Speirs,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2018 regarding your vision for reforming natural resources management in South Australia.

The Board recognise the opportunity to improve the way in which our natural resources are managed within SA as a result of the reform process and are keen to contribute to and make the most of the opportunities that will arise.

As such the Board held an informal session on 27 June to consider your request to provide you with three areas we would like to see addressed in the new legislation.

From the discussion, the Board has identified the following three areas for consideration in the reform.

1. Reduce the complexity:
   - The Board believe that the focus of the new legislation should be on the principles and frameworks that support positive outcomes for our natural resources, including empowering the community and supporting behaviour change, recognizing that most of the land in the State is privately managed.
   - The reform process should explore other options for the detail required to manage the State's natural resources including regulations and policy. This would enable greater flexibility and the ability to more readily develop innovative approaches to complex problems.
2. Regional governance:
   - Strengthening the opportunities and frameworks for regional decision making is essential to the success of the Landscape SA Act
   - It has been the experience of the Board that when regional communities are empowered to make decisions enduring, innovative solutions can be found.
   - The Board would like to see the new legislation focus on engagement rather than consultation, which would strengthen regional decision making.
   - The levies (land based and water) raised in regions are a key foundation to providing the community with the resources and capacity to address issues impacting on natural resources.
3. Integrated landscape approach:
   - The Board believe that the new legislation should maintain the approach to integrated landscape management which considers both the social and ecological systems, based on catchments.
   - It is essential that the management of water resources is maintained within the Act to enable a whole of landscape or whole of catchment approach
   - The Board would encourage the strengthening of biodiversity aspects in the new legislation.

The Board believes there are significant opportunities in your proposal for legislative reform and we look forward to working with you throughout the process.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Starick
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Government of South Australia
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board

Your ref: 18INV0153

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9 August 2018

The Hon. David Speirs MLC
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Re: NRM Reform – development of Landscape SA Act and engagement process

Dear Minister,

In response to your letter of 12 June 2018, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the development of the new Landscape SA Act.

As requested, please find following three key areas the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board would like to see addressed in the new legislation, as fits with your vision and guiding principles:

1. Recognition of traditional owners and their authority, including an ongoing commitment to co-management

2. Adequate representation on the new boards, of the Land Holding Authorities represented in the region – not via an election, but through nomination from the LHAs as currently occurs

3. Longer term funding security relative to the legislative delivery requirements, to enable staff security/tenure

The Board will continue to support your vision for the development of the Landscape SA Act, and work with Becky Hirst Consulting throughout the engagement process, to ensure there is appropriate consultation with regional communities in the Alinytjara Wilurara Region.

In addition to this, the Board and I look forward to meeting with you for dinner at Parliament House on 19 September 2018 for further discussion.

If you would like any further information, please contact me through the Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara Regional Director, Mary-Anne Healy on 8463 4807 or via email Mary-Anne.Healy@sa.gov.au

I thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to our continued involvement.

Yours sincerely,

Parry Agius
Presiding Member
Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board

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Northern and Yorke

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25 September 2018

The Hon David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
PO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister Speirs,

The Northern and Yorke NRM Board have asked that I write directly to you regarding the Landscapes SA reform process, particularly in regard to a revision of regional boundaries.

As you know, the Board supports your intent with the Landscape reform and accepts that a review of regional boundaries may be a part of that process, but we ask that you consider the following.

The Board considers that in many respects, we are an exemplar region very much aligned with the Landscape SA reforms. We have utilised the Community Action Planning process to ensure we capture the priorities of our local communities, we adopted a 'back to basics' approach in May 2017 to focus on pest control, soil and water management. We are a lean region that has minimised our administrative overheads and we have longstanding partnerships with environmental NGO's and producer groups that are second to none. The Natural Resources Centre in Clare that features co-working arrangements with PIRSA, RDA, Legatus, the State Emergency Service, Rural Business Support, and the Hart Agricultural Research Group is a source of great pride to the Board.

Historically, before the establishment of Whole of Government regional boundaries, the districts that form up the current Northern and Yorke Region were poorly serviced. The Yorke Peninsula and the Mid North were on the periphery of the then Adelaide Region. Likewise, the Southern Flinders and the Upper North were poorly serviced by the then Outback Region. I understand the Northern and Yorke Region was established to ensure that all State government agencies provided adequate representation and service over an agreed and common footprint.

The Board considers there are distinct benefits from largely maintaining the current regional boundaries relating to Northern and Yorke including the strong partnership that the NRM Board has with Regional Development Australia, Yorke and Mid North and the Legatus group (Central Local Government Region – comprising of 15 Councils). The three organisations form up the Northern and Yorke Regional Alliance, and we have recently produced a Regional Roadmap that highlight our shared position on strategic priorities. The Alliance also hosts an Annual Forum to bring together key industries and business interests to consider emerging issues and chart a way forward. The Alliance

jointly developed the first Climate Change Adaption Plan for South Australia.

The Board is extremely concerned about the potential move of the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council to a proposed new region created by the re distribution of the current AMLR Region. The Board considers the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council integral to and at the heart of the Northern and Yorke Region. The identity of the Clare and Gilbert Valleys is wholly associated the Northern and Yorke region with strong social, sporting and cultural attachments to the area.

The Board considers that the current arrangement with the Regional Council of Goyder and the Eastern Rangelands being managed by Northern and Yorke Region works well and should be continued through the current arrangement or formal transfer to Northern and Yorke from SAMDB.

While the Board can see some benefit in transferring Port Augusta to SAAL Region, the Council areas of Flinders Ranges, Orroroo-Carrieton and Peterborough should all remain with Northern and Yorke given that the mixed farming land use in those areas occurs across the remainder of the region and the Board have worthwhile NRM programs and projects in those areas.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on Landscape SA Reform, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the concerns of the Board with you.

Yours sincerely

Eric Sommerville
PRESIDING MEMBER
NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Government of South Australia
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Natural Resources Management Board

Our Ref: AMLR F0001331701

29 August 2018

Rec'd 30 AUG 2018
Reg. No. 18EW0001844
File No.
Ack.
Action Officers
Response due
match up

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Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

RE: Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board's 3 Key Areas

I write in response to your letter of 14 June 2018 regarding reform of the natural resource management system and your request for the AMLR NRM Board's three key areas of focus for the government's Landscape SA legislative reform.

The intent of the Landscape SA Act will be codified in the Objects and relevant principles contained in the Act. The Board suggests that the following elements be included in the Objects to ensure achievement of long-term ecologically sustainable development:

- maintenance and restoration of healthy ecological, agricultural and urban systems:
- prioritisation of intergenerational stewardship and equity;
- incorporation of a resilience approach to the regeneration of natural systems, and the
- foundational requirement for community involvement.

As the NRM reform process progresses, the Board also suggests that the following principles guide the development of new arrangements:

- Landscape Boards exist to facilitate stakeholder and community planning processes and then regularly deliver outcomes through the activities of others;
- governance and funding arrangements are to maximise effectiveness of on-ground investment;
- conserving, enhancing and connecting with nature are at the heart of what we do;
- effective landscape projects are to improve the connectivity and resilience of natural systems and deliver multiple outcomes with multiple partners over multiple years;
- reforms should be future-focused; adapting to climate change and incorporating evidence-based knowledge to adaptive management;
- statutory planning reforms have potential to enhance the performance of the system;
- the arrangements should ensure the unique role, knowledge and relationship to Country inherent in South Australia's first peoples; and
- landscapes are best managed by considering all their natural components; water, soil, biodiversity are inextricably linked within their respective catchments.

Three Key Areas

1. Resilience (systems) thinking should be applied at **landscape** scale for better environmental stewardship by both producers and consumers of natural resources. Catchments, encompassing from mountains to the sea, are the fundamental units for effective integrated natural resource management and should be a critical consideration when developing Board boundaries, landscape scale policies and programs.
2. The well-being and prosperity of South Australia is inextricably linked to its natural estate. A **balanced approach** that accommodates intergenerational equity, urban and peri-urban issues and communities capable of adaptive decision-making based on evidence will promote a thriving society, state and environment.

3. There are considerable challenges for delivering the Objects of the Landscape SA Act within the current proposed model. The proposed transformation of the AMLR Region into two Landscapes Boards and Green Adelaide should be **shaped** by the following **attributes**:
   - Green Adelaide has a foot-print for on-ground works and levy collection that encompasses all councils with an urban identity;
   - Where possible, Board boundaries should take catchments and zones for water allocation plans into account. Where this is not possible, mechanisms need to be developed to ensure that policies, programs and projects are delivered at the landscape/catchment scale co-operatively and seamlessly across Board and water allocation planning zone boundaries;
   - the levy from Green Adelaide is able to be shared with the two new Landscape Boards to improve their financial viability relevant to functional responsibilities;
   - Green Adelaide and Boards retain substantial independence in decision-making and resource allocation, reporting to the Minister;
   - shared administrative services with codified delivery standards be considered for increased efficiency, and
   - a mechanism exists for Green Adelaide to re-distribute a portion of its levy to state-wide projects.

Building adaptive communities, taking a landscape scale approach to natural resources management and delivering NRM in urban, rural and marine landscapes has been the focus of the AMLR NRM Board. Its innovative trials in the field of consumer (urban) NRM lead the nation.

The Board welcomes the government's commitment to "*putting people at the heart of managing our natural resources, recognising that those who work and live on the land on the land are well placed to manage and sustain it*". In this context, the Board highlights the invaluable contribution to NRM from its current and growing network of volunteers, who during 2017-18 have contributed 274,832 hours or the equivalent of $11,078,477 of effort within the AMLR Region. The volunteer community is truly "grass roots", drawn from both the urban and rural regions delivering the majority of "on ground" projects, where appropriate in collaboration with land owners. The Board recommends the volunteer network continue to be supported in the Landscape SA reforms.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a presentation to you, on some of the work being delivered in Adelaide that you might choose to use as flagship programs for Green Adelaide. These programs range from piloting urban sustainability, Water Sensitive Urban Design and education projects.

On behalf of the AMLR NRM Board, we trust that you find our key areas of focus for your reform to be complementary to both your and the broader community's insights for change. We also look forward to working with you through this transformation of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region. We are proud of our community's work, of the collaborations they have achieved and of the environmental integrity to which they jointly aspire.

Yours sincerely

Felicity-ann Lewis
PRESIDING MEMBER

Government of South Australia
Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board

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27 September 2018

Hon David Speirs, MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister Speirs,

Re: Landscape SA Reform

On behalf of the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) I ask that you consider the Board's additional feedback in regard to the Landscape SA reform.

Although board members were provided an opportunity to provide feedback through a consultation sessions facilitated by Becky Hirst, we also undertook a separate workshop to explore the questions associated with the new Landscapes SA Act and reflect our particular concerns.

Please find enclosed a copy of the notes taken at the workshop. I asked that they be considered in conjunction with the record of the discussion taken at the session facilitated by Becky Hirst Consulting on 21 August. In particular, Board members ask:

1. That you consider that the *Kangaroo Island NRM Plan 2017-2027* remain valid for as long as possible as too much was invested by the Kangaroo Island community and the Board in the development of this plan.
2. In developing any new legislation, consideration be given to empowering Boards to develop, implement and enforce local regulations, guidelines and/or policy in a similar way to local government's ability to develop and enforce local regulation/policy through by-laws.
3. That you note the current selection process works extremely well for Kangaroo Island.

For further information please contact Richard Trethewey on 0427 594 208 or email: reskt@westnet.com.au or Damian Miley, Regional Director, Natural Resources Kangaroo Island and Executive Officer of the Board on 8553 4414 or email: damian.miley@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Richard Trethewey
PRESIDING MEMBER

Enclosed: Notes of the KI NRM Board workshop held 6 July 2018.

Cc: Becky Hirst Consulting via email

Notes from KI NRM Board Workshop held on 6 July 2018 at 1 pm
KI NRM Board Room, 35 Dauncey Street, Kingscote

Present: R Trethewey, K Stove, P Rismiller, J Taylor, D Welford and P Clements.
In attendance: R Evans (Communications and Media Coordinator) and R Mussared (NRM Support Officer).
Apologies: J Stanton, C Wickham and A Florance.

1. Opportunities for the Board to give input into the reform process:

There will be three opportunities for the Board:

1. At a Stakeholder Forum on KI on 21 August
   - tickets will need to be sourced on-line for the event
   - only a limited number of participants able to attend.
2. Focussed conversations with key groups
   - Presiding Members will be invited to attend these events with other representatives from key interest groups
3. On-line discussion/submissions through Have YourSA

Concern was expressed that under the proposed consultation the:

- consultation may be railroaded by a strong element of the community
- Board is not being personally consulted and it could potentially be very difficult for them to attend and be heard at the Stakeholder Forum.

2. Aspects of the current Act/processes/policy that need to be kept

- The KI NRM Plan 2017–2027 – too much invested by the community and the Board for the plan to be discarded. Careful consideration needs to be given to the cost of developing the current regional NRM Plans before investing in new regional Landscape Plans.
- The current definition of natural resources:

  Chapter 1—Preliminary
  3—Interpretation
  (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—
  natural resources includes—
  (a) soil;
  (b) water resources;
  (c) geological features and landscapes;
  (d) native vegetation, native animals and other native organisms;
  (e) ecosystems;

  The proposed legislation appears to just be focussed on soil quality, pest control, and water management which will not give a whole of landscapes approach and misses the complexity of ecosystems.
- The ability for the Board to make decisions for KI e.g. the recent water policy, permitting for goats, deer and ferrets etc.
- Need to have access to scientific expertise to underpin on-ground actions and for the community and other institutions to use.
- Need to retain our regional identity.

- The new Boards need to be regionally focussed and based on community participation.

3. Aspects of the current Act/processes/policy that need to be changed

- The community currently perceives the Board to be part of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). The Landscapes Board may be viewed more favourably by the community if it is seen to be separate from DEW.
- The new Landscapes Board needs to be adequately resourced to meet KI's needs. This would require more funding than the current KI NRM Board has access to.
- The NRM Levy needs to be distributed across all regions, rather than just within the region it was generated from:
  - » it has been proposed that each region keeps 75-80% of their levy and the remainder goes into a pool for re-distribution across the state.
- Current branding has caused an issue with community perception as until recently the environment department had 'natural resources' within their title too. The name of the Landscape Boards needs to be different from the department so there is a clear delineation between the boards and department from a community perspective.

4. Five principles:

General comments:

- These principles are already occurring on KI.
- None of the principles mention economic growth.

1. Decentralised decision making (more responsibility to regional communities)

- The current KI NRM Board has a good cross-section of the community on it with a diverse range of skills/knowledge. It would be good to retain this in the new Landscapes Board.

Division 3—Membership

25—Composition of boards

(1) A regional NRM board consists of up to 9 members appointed by the Minister being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the Minister, knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enable the board to carry out its functions effectively…

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister must (as far as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances)—

(a) give consideration to appointing persons so as to provide a range of knowledge, skills and experience across the following areas:

(i) community affairs at the regional level;
(ii) primary production or pastoral land management;
(iii) soil conservation and land management;
(iv) conservation and biodiversity management;
(v) water resources management;
(vi) business management;
(vii) local government or local government administration;
(viii) urban or regional planning;
(ix) Aboriginal interest in the land and water, and Aboriginal heritage;
(x) pest animal and plant control;
(xi) natural and social science;
(xii) if relevant—coast, estuarine and marine management, fisheries or aquaculture; and

(b) appoint persons who are able to demonstrate an interest in ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and an awareness of natural resource issues across the relevant region; and

(c) ensure—

(i) that a majority of the members of the board reside within the relevant region; and
(ii) that a majority of the members of the board are engaged in an activity related to the management of land.

- There needs to be recognition that one size does not fit all – being an island KI has different needs/opportunities to mainland groups which need to be supported.
- Each region needs to have the capacity to make decisions for their region – e.g. native vegetation management, overabundant species management.
  - » If the legislation was broad and centralised the regulations could be used to give each region the autonomy they require to manage their own natural resources.
  - » Each region could have the opportunity to define their own regulations, guidelines and/or policy in a similar way to local government's ability to develop and enforce local regulation/policy through by-laws.
- Presiding Members forums need to continue for cross-collaboration and efficiencies and this should extend to regional staff with similar roles in different regions.
- The new boards should be able to make decisions for KI and/or influence decisions made by the Minister which impact on KI e.g. the proposed golf course. Under the new legislation Landscape Boards should have an advisory role for the Minister.

2. A simple and accessible system (cutting red tape)

- Landscape Boards should be able to release communiques that go straight to the public without ministerial endorsement. Board publicity is currently too scrutinised by the Minister.
- Landscape Boards need to have simple permitting and authorisation systems that are simply and clearly explained and supported by a compliance system.
- Red tape needs to cut to simplify messages and administrative processes, however, the processes protecting the environment need to remain intact and strong.
- Messages and information needs to be clear and simple to enable easy understanding by all and have no jargon.
- If red tape is reduced a strong compliance and auditing system is required.
- Processes to expedite permitting must ensure understanding by the applicant e.g. the on-line system used by Meat Livestock Australia which requires questions to be answered before permits are issued.

3. Community and land owners at the centre (stronger partnerships with land users)

- The Landcare group system had a suite of problems but easily accessible funding. Once the funding finished most Landcare groups dissolved. They only worked when there was funding available. Many of the works were not maintained. The recent failure of the local landscape action plans reinforced this.
  - » The Landscape Boards should be supported by the new act to support, advise and sponsor community groups.

  - » The new act needs to give insurance cover to volunteers and local community groups.
- Landscape Boards should have the ability to form priorities in their area.
- Coordinators are needed to work with the community to drive landscape change. Adequate resources are required for this. People need to believe in what they are doing and this will encourage people to volunteer.
- Changes need to bring environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- Land owners need to be at the centre of decision making
- Landscape Boards should have the capacity to give scientific advice and guidance to local landholders, regional decision making and decisions made by government about their regions. Research officers are needed to assist local groups to trial new technologies and practises.
- Landscape Boards should consist of KI community members and landowners similar to the current composition of NRM boards (see *1. Decentralised decision making*).
- Landscapes Boards should appoint their own staff, rather than the department.

P Clements left the meeting at 3:05

4. Back to basics (re-focus onto what people care about: soil, water and pests)

- Concern was expressed that the proposed Landscapes SA Act is diluting the current NRM Act and is underpinned by economic principles rather than the triple bottom line.
  - » A sustainable economic model is based on a sustainable environmental model.
- Need to ensure science is considered.
- The new act needs clear criteria for the election cycle and election process for board members.
- Landscape Boards need to have a holistic oversight over all environmental factors not just soil, water and pests i.e. native plants, endangered species (see 2. *Aspects of the current Act/processes/policy that need to be kept*).
- Landscapes Boards should continue to have access to Australian Government funding streams i.e. continue to be the main delivery agents for regional NRM for the Australian Government.

5. A whole of landscape approach (individuals and organisations combined and resilience to change)

- The new Landscapes Act needs to preserve/govern the whole of NRM interests, as the current NRM Act does (see *2. Aspects of the current Act/processes/policy that need to be kept*).
- Relationships between Federal, State and other funding streams must be maintained and managed by new board.

5. Closure

The workshop closed at 3.30 pm.

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10 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
Email: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Hirst,

Re: Landscapes South Australia Reform

The members of the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Natural Resources Management Board welcome the opportunity to provide comment on proposed reform of natural resource management and the discussion paper *Managing our Landscapes*. We thank you for the opportunity to participate in a facilitated session in Adelaide on October 3rd and provide these comments and attachments in addition to our feedback as part of that discussion.

We have done some thinking about what this reform means for the AW region, and have prepared a paper describing the many landscapes of Alinytjara Wilurara (attachment 1). A brief outline follows here:

The Alinytjara Wilurara (North West in Pitjantjatjara) region is one of the 8 regions established under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The region has the only all-Aboriginal NRM board in Australia, comprised of an independent Presiding Member and 8 members nominated by the various land holding authorities across the region (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, Maralinga Tjarutja (MT) Lands, Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Yalata (Aboriginal Lands Trust), and Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC)). We also have MOUs with each of the land holding authorities, outlining our partnership, our joint priorities and how we will work together.

The board works with the AW staff to identify and implement priorities as well as administer the requirements of the NRM Act. To do that we work across many **different landscapes**, with **science and traditional knowledge** underpinning all that we do.

Cultural Landscape: The AW region is ancient and alive. There is an unbroken legacy of cultural transmission for hundreds of centuries, shaping social norms and behaviour and responsibilities. People have a cultural obligation to care for their country.

Environmental Landscape: The region has unique, pristine, connected and intricate natural landscapes and contains 87% of the area of South Australia's protected area system. There are almost 100 (known) threatened plant and animal species.

Aboriginal Land: The region is over 250,000 km^2, approximately a quarter of SA's land mass and over 80% of the region is freehold owned. The parks in the region are co-managed.

Social Landscape: Unique complex webs of ecological and social interdependence exist across the region - people live as part of the landscape. We have formal and informal partnerships with organisations to deliver shared outcomes. We have developed strong working relationships with scientists and other experts to share knowledge, build credibility and integrity.

Agricultural Landscape: Land is cultivated and managed to sustain its people - providing food, medicine and shelter. Pastoral production is supported in the northern part of the region. The ecological integrity and size of the region provides biosecurity and resilience for neighbouring agricultural regions.

Economic Landscape: AW region has investment in economic partnerships from a range of partners. We are exploring the concept of social return on investment and developing more innovative and unconventional partnerships with broad benefits. There are many potential opportunities for social and individual enterprises including tourism, carbon, bushfoods, arts and more.

Community-driven Landscapes: AW uses international standards for participatory planning with communities - subregional Healthy Country Plans outline community priorities for looking after country and inform regional AW NRM Plan.

Healthy Landscapes: AW staff work with community members to monitor and maintain the landscapes to keep them healthy. We are actively engaged in strategies such as: *Healthy Parks Healthy People* in partnership with the Department of Health and Wellbeing to support healthy people, and *Nature of SA* – 5 paths to wellbeing.

Actively-managed Landscapes: Healthy Country Plans, community involvement and trusted AW staff achieve results across the region. The various AW landscapes are resilient, flexible and adaptable – able to support changing South Australian and Commonwealth government policy aims including:

- education,
- employment,
- environmental management,
- economic development, and
- tourism.

Described above (and illustrated at Attachment 1) is how the region, the board and the community are already working in partnership at a landscape scale, while focussing on the essential components (the basics) of those landscapes.

We have some additional comments about the Landscapes reform as we understand it is currently proposed:

- **Limited funding and funding uncertainty are the biggest challenges we face in AW.** With such a big geographic area to cover, we need to be able to train and employ local people to implement land management actions. Without confidence in long term funding of an adequate amount, we sometimes find ourselves working in a more adhoc manner than is ideal and losing the trained people in the community as they move away to find more permanent work.

  We propose that part of the Landscapes reform should include **a mechanism for a more equitable distribution of the levy funds.** An example of how this could be achieved: create a single fund that all levies are paid into and then distribute funds according to priorities. The priorities could be set at a regional and/or State level, with a State-wide body

deciding the priorities. The State-wide body could comprise of the Presiding Members and General Managers with an independent Chair. Or it could be an independent body.

- We are concerned that some **elements of the reform are going to be costly** or create more expense, while not achieving any tangible benefits. This includes the addition of more regions and the election process for members.

    - Rather than rationalisation, the division of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region would seem to be creating more bureaucracy and require more funding to support. We discussed whether rather than splitting regions there should be amalgamations of regions – for example KI and AMLR; N&Y and AMLR; SE and SAMDB; AW & EP. While we are not advocating for an amalgamation approach, we are concerned at the additional costs of creating new regions and supporting them adequately.

    - It is unclear what level of services the future Landscapes Boards will be required to purchase from DEW/government and this may contribute to the overall costs of having more regions.

    - We would encourage the Minister to **retain the current model of Board member nomination and appointment in AW**. The AW NRM Board proposes that in the Alinytjara Wilurara region (at least) the current model of 8 members nominated by the various landholding authorities, and an independent Aboriginal Chair, is retained. It is our advice that running an additional election process will be counterproductive – the current process ensures board members are leaders from within their communities, nominated by, or members of, the boards of each of the landholding authorities. This model ensures all areas and communities feel that they are represented and helps ensure the whole region is covered. We also advise that it is important to keep the board at 9 members as, because of distance and the requirements of cultural business, it can be difficult at times to make a quorum. Having a smaller board would mean a smaller quorum and the current members believe that a meeting of 3-4 people cannot be deemed a meaningful discussion of issues across the region.

- We would also like to **ensure that there is some continuity between the current board and the new Landscapes board.** We have worked hard to build and maintain relationships with the landholding authorities as well as with other external stakeholders. We have MOUs either in draft or finalised with all the landholding authorities and have met with our regional neighbours as well. It is these relationships and partnerships that enable us to deliver across the region and represent regional issues at state and federal level.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this process. We look forward to continuing discussions with the Minister and DEW as the reform progresses.

Yours sincerely,



Parry Agius
Presiding Member
Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board

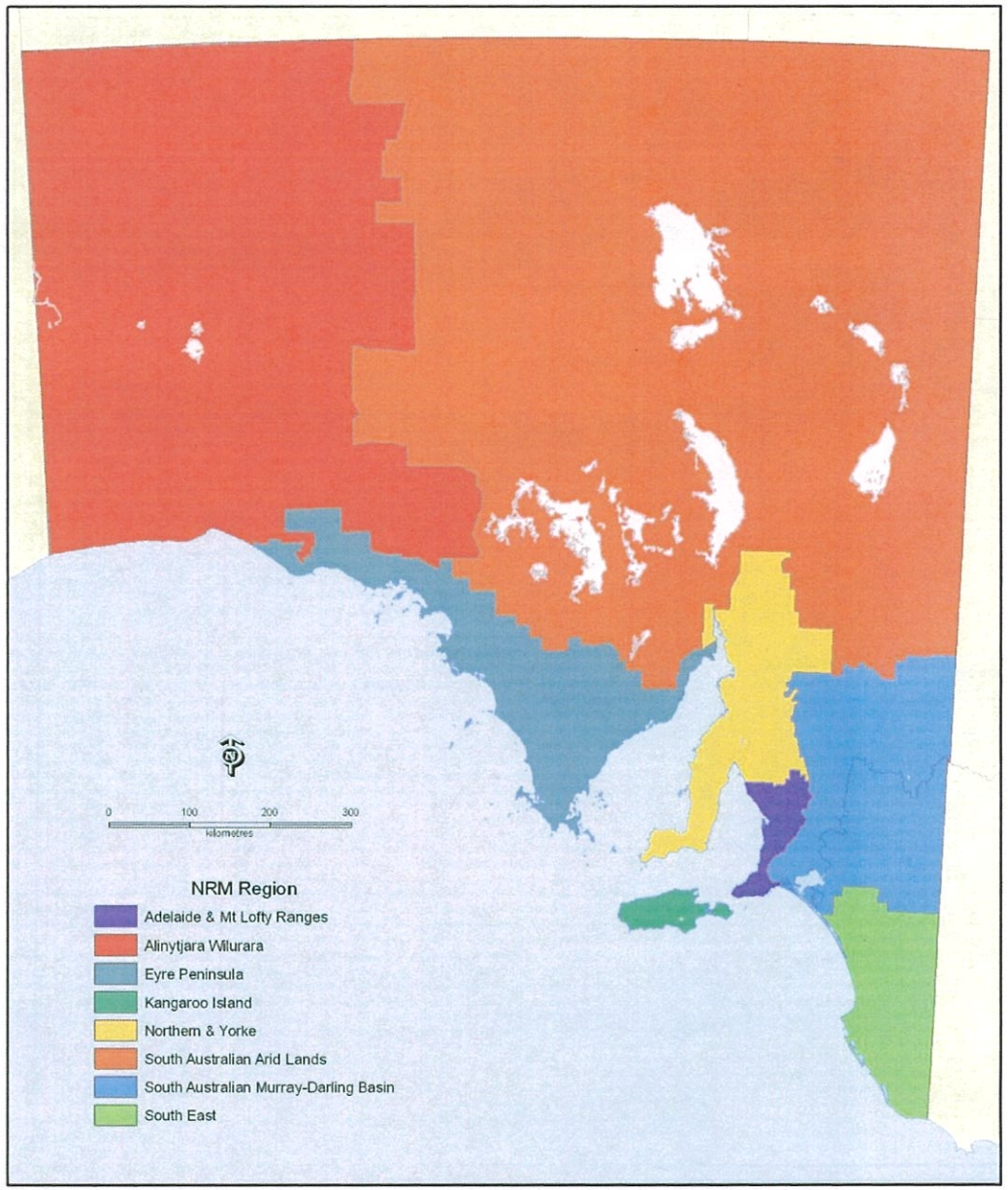
The Landscapes of the Alinytjara Wilurara region

AW NRM Board
October 2018

Government of South Australia
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board

Landscapes South Australia – the reform of natural resources management

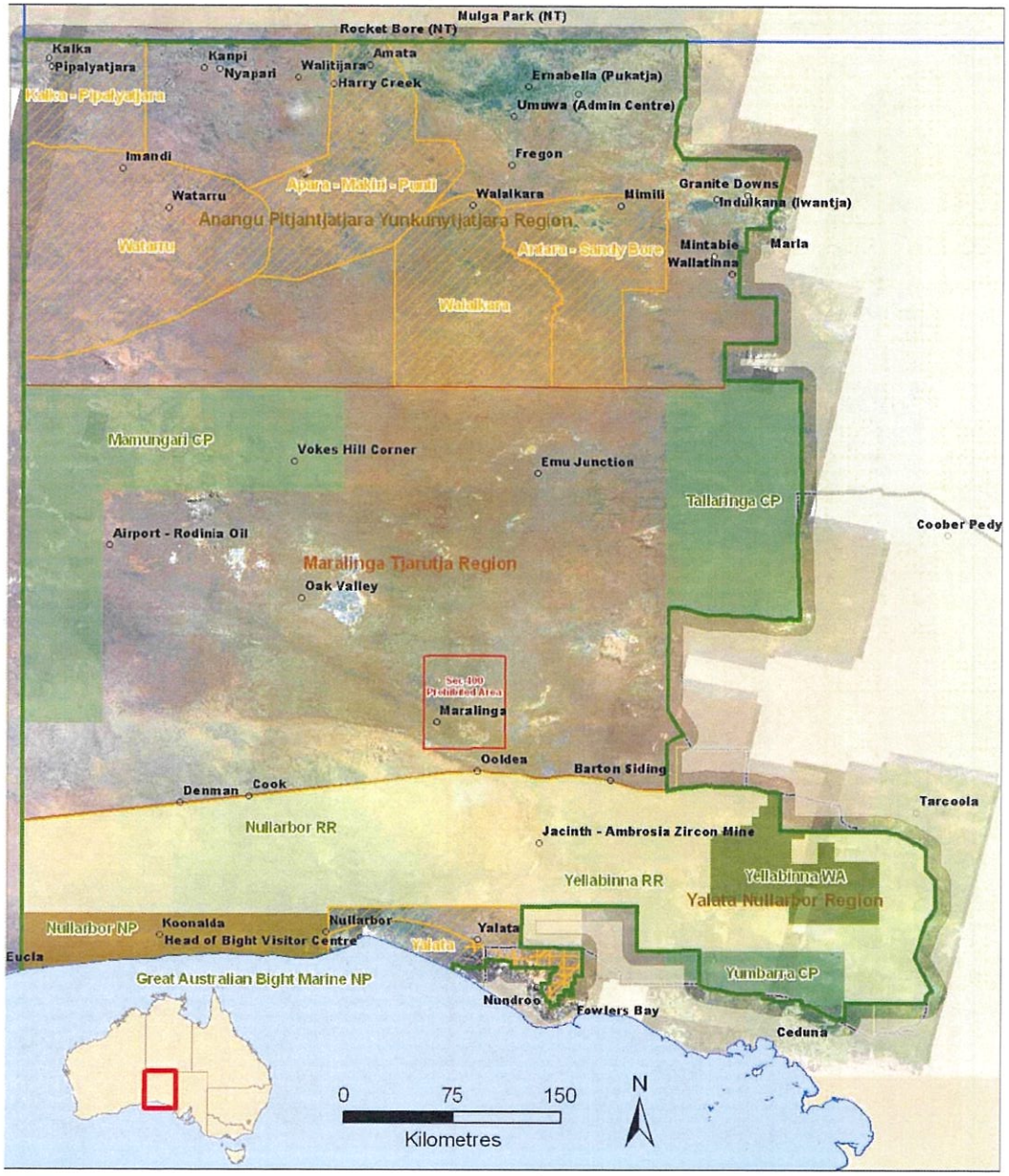
- Currently 8 NRM regions in SA
- Each region has a statutory board that prepares a strategic regional plan and a three year business plan.
- One of those regions is the Alinytjara Wilurara (north west)



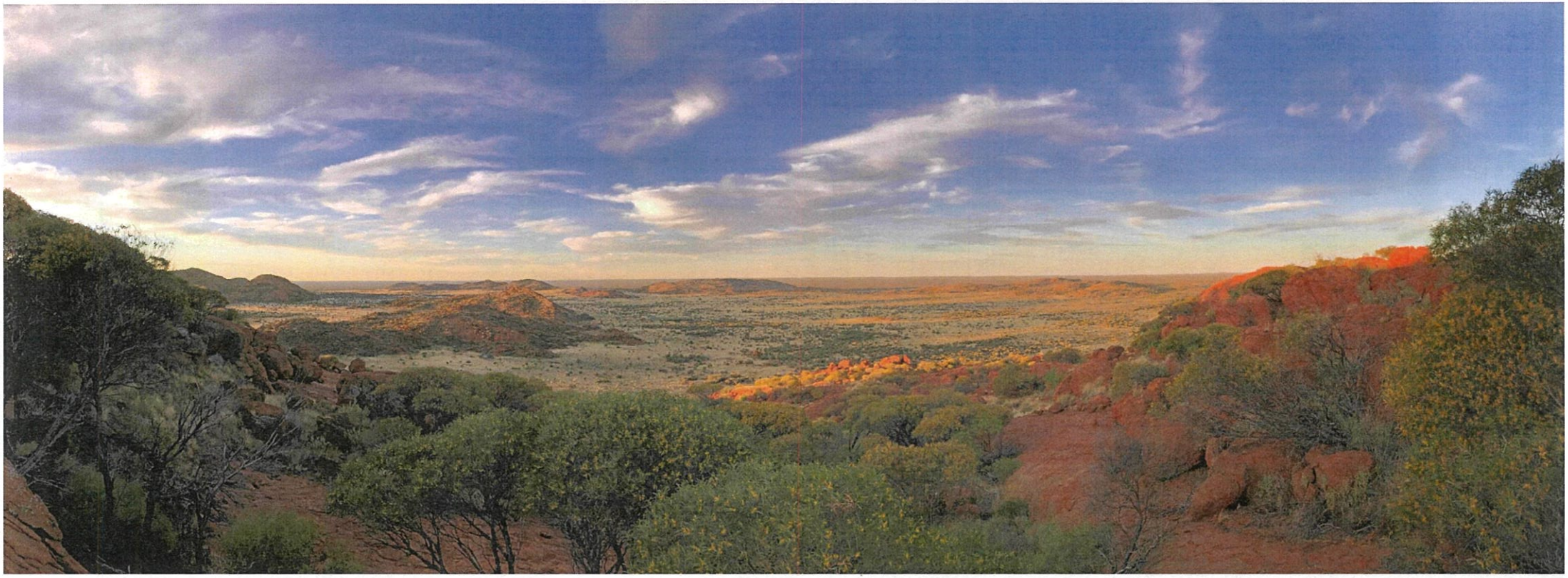
Alinytjara Wilurara Region

- AW NRM Board has 8 members representing the people of the region and an independent chair
- Strategic regional plan with three goals:
  - Healthy people and communities working together to care for country
  - Strong and healthy country, looking after itself with a helping hand
  - Healthy water, used wisely and sustainably for the future
- Funding from SA and Australian governments to deliver projects across the region
- Regular governance training
- Risk and Audit committee

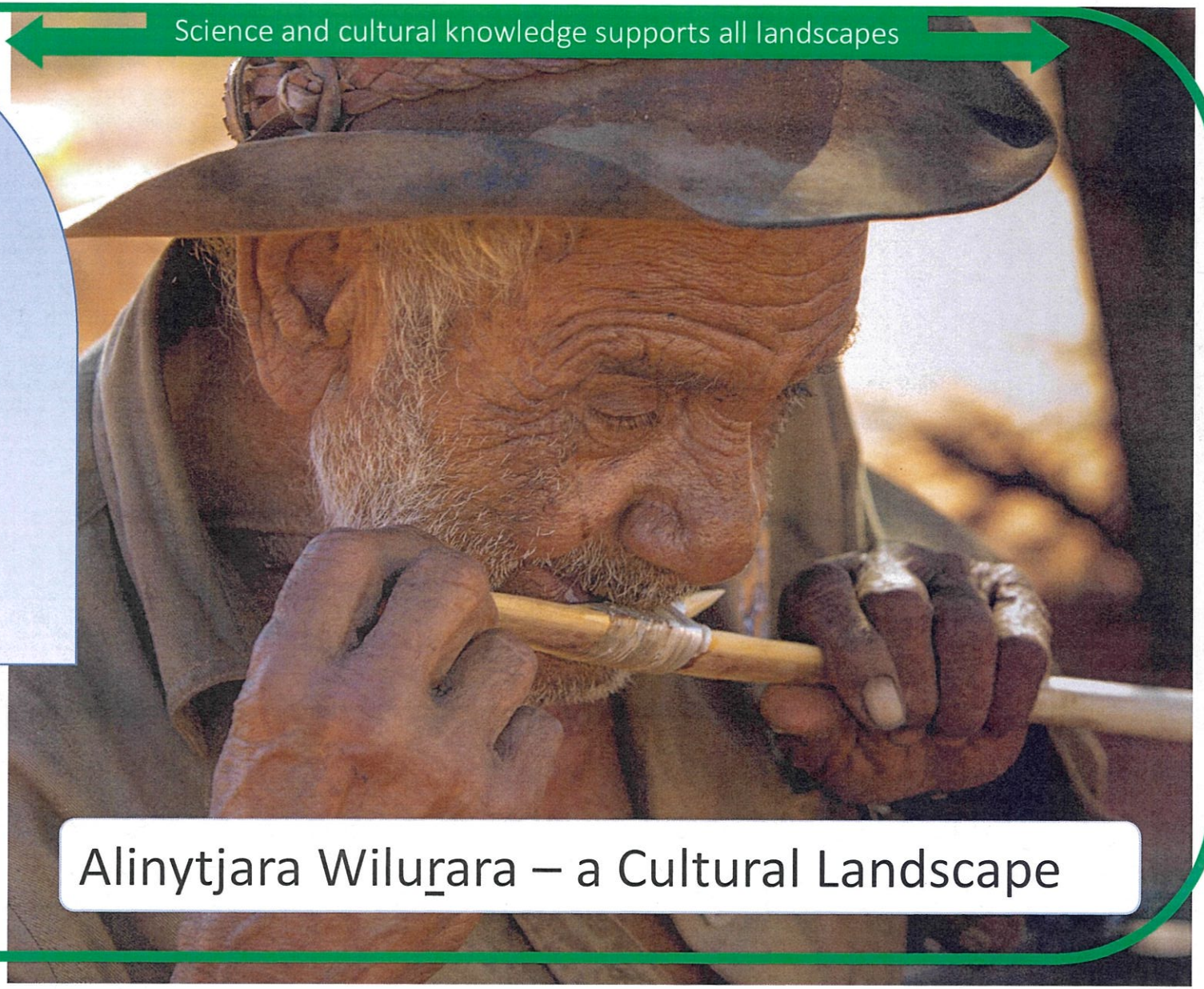
A region of many landscapes.....

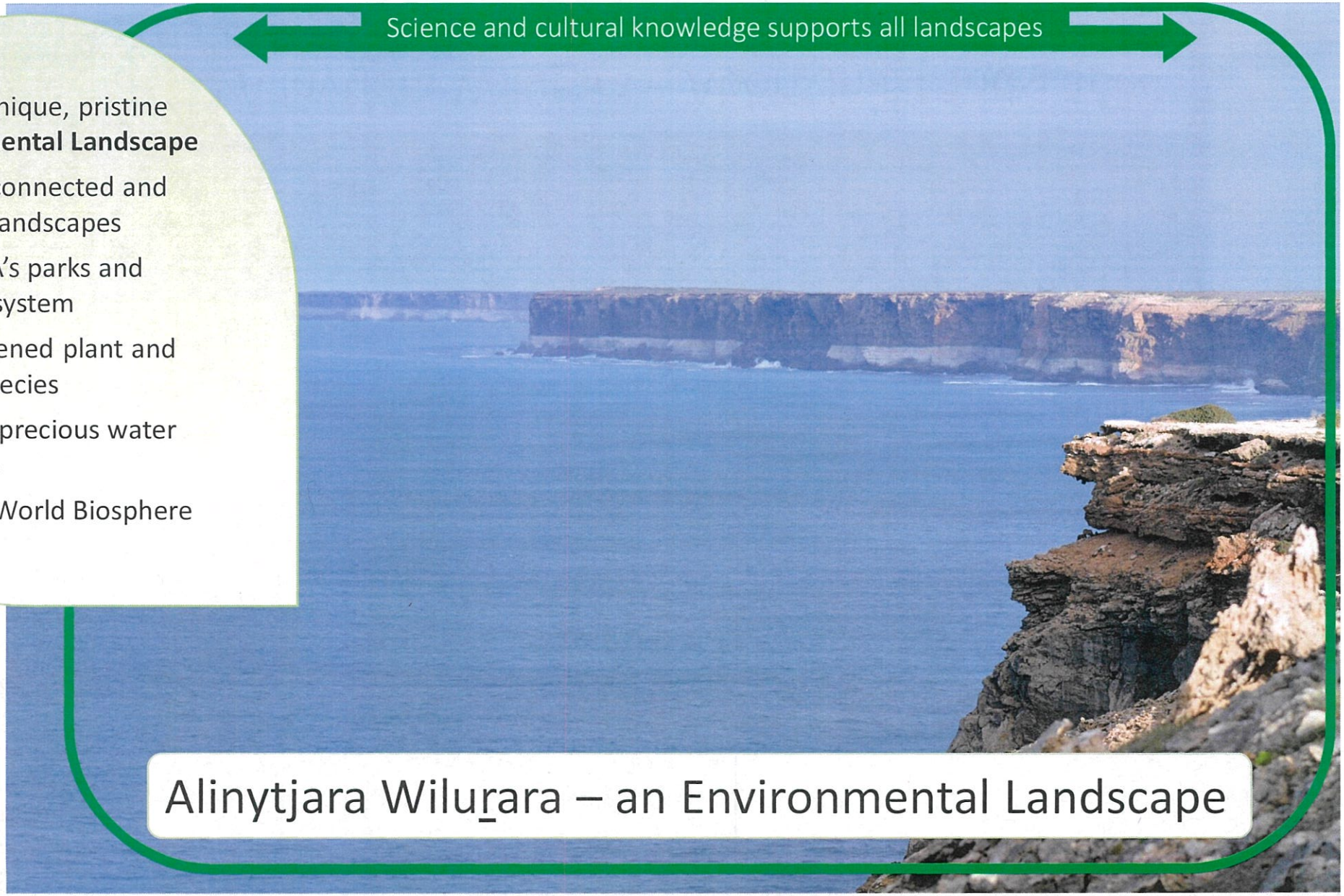


Let us take you on a journey through the diverse and expansive **Alinytjara Wilurara region,** and its many and varied landscapes.

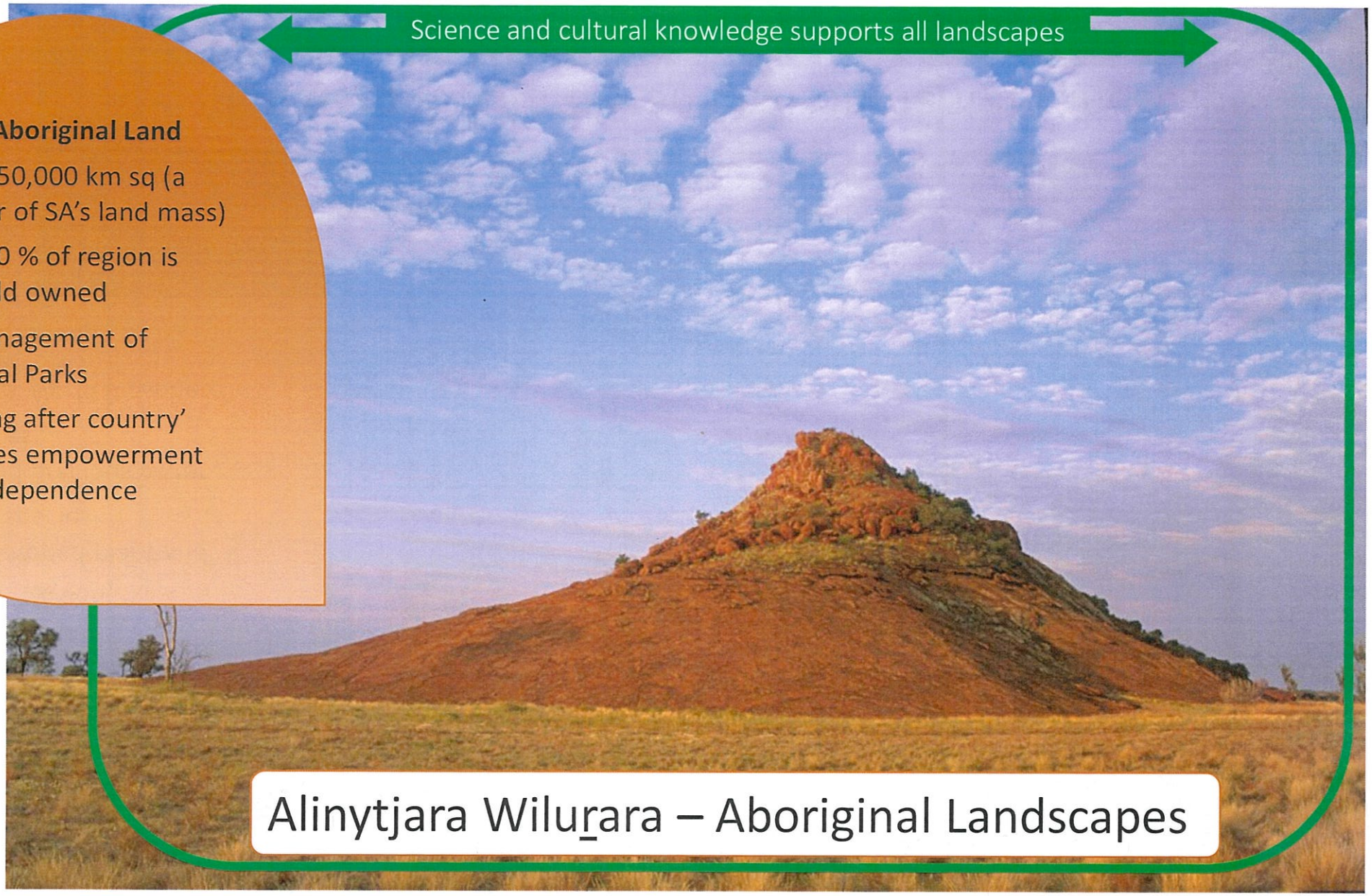


- AW is a **Cultural Landscape** – ancient and alive
- The landscape is the very essence of who we are
- People have lived on this landscape for a long time
- There is an unbroken legacy of cultural transmission for hundreds of centuries
- Landscapes shape social norms and behaviour and responsibilities





- AW is a unique, pristine **Environmental Landscape**
- Pristine, connected and intricate landscapes
- 87% of SA's parks and reserves system
- 98 threatened plant and animal species
- Rare and precious water resources
- UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve



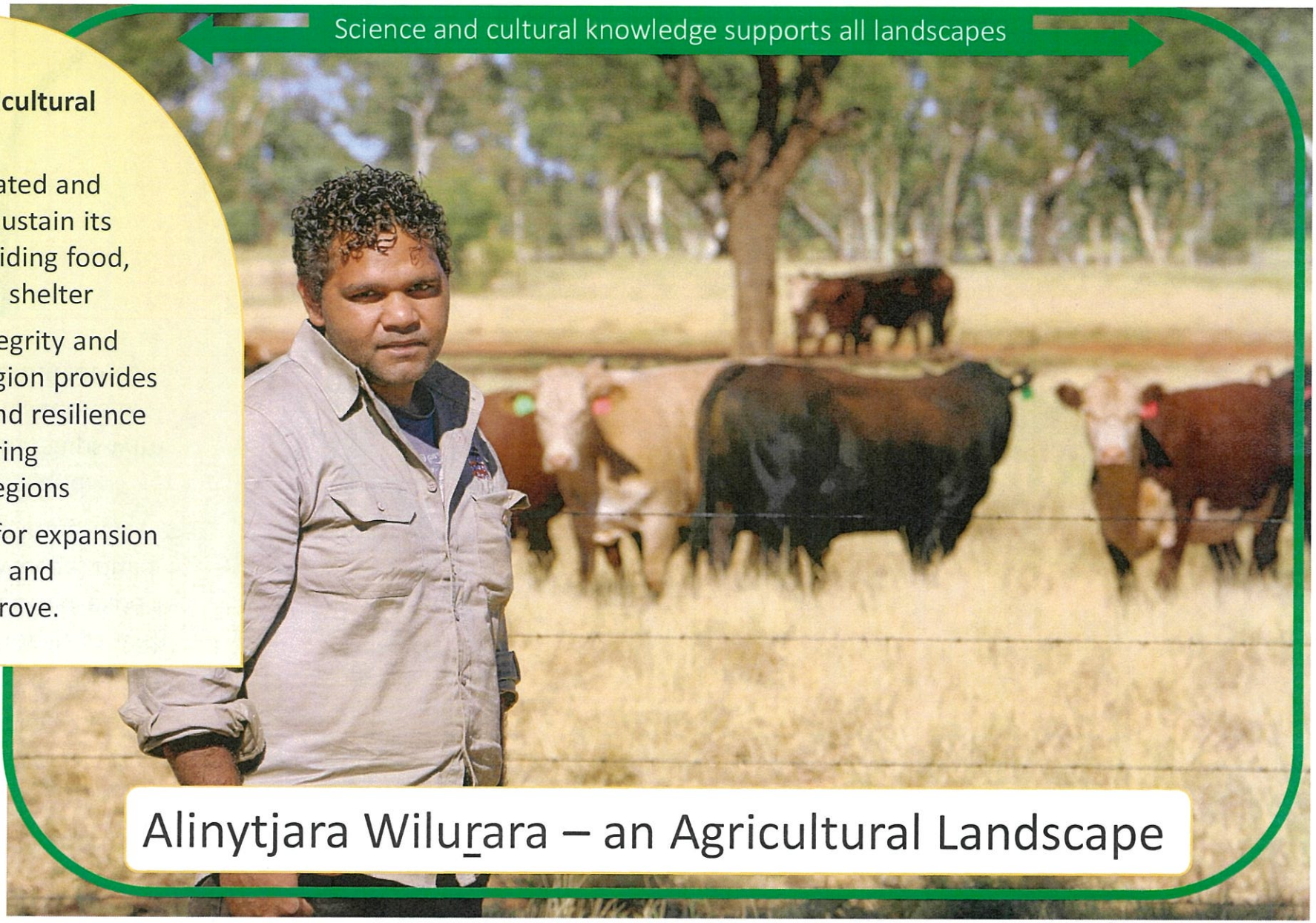
- AW is **Aboriginal Land**
- Over 250,000 km sq (a quarter of SA's land mass)
- Over 80 % of region is freehold owned
- Co-management of National Parks
- 'Looking after country' provides empowerment and independence

- AW is a **Social Landscape**
- Unique complex webs of ecological and social interdependence - people live as part of the landscape
- Working relationships with scientists and other experts to share knowledge, build credibility and integrity
- We have formal and informal partnerships with external organisations to deliver shared outcomes

Science and cultural knowledge supports all landscapes



Alinytjara Wilurara – Social Landscapes



- AW is an **Agricultural Landscape**
- Land is cultivated and managed to sustain its people - providing food, medicine and shelter
- Ecological integrity and size of the region provides biosecurity and resilience for neighbouring agricultural regions
- Opportunity for expansion as knowledge and practices improve.

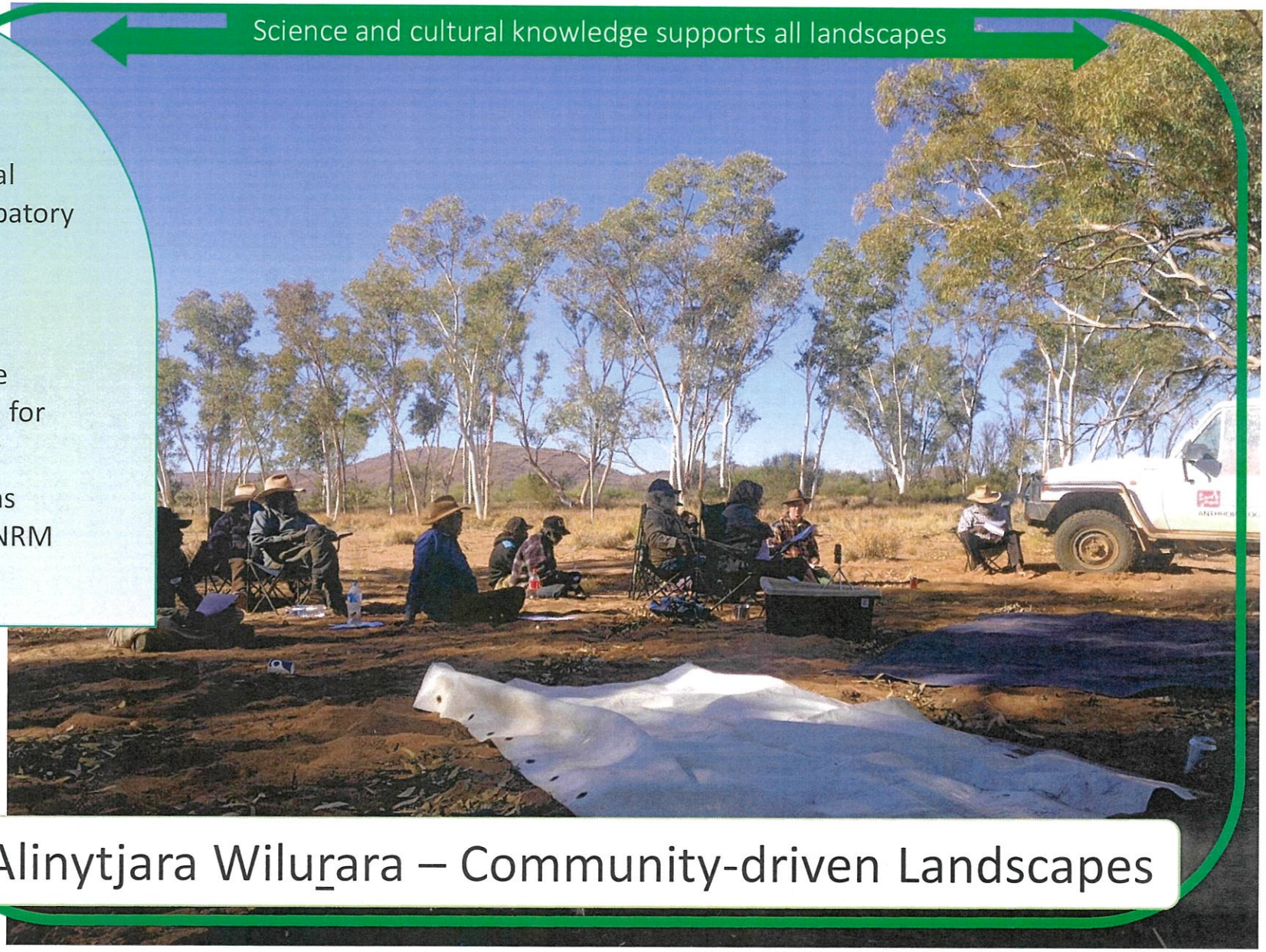
Science and cultural knowledge supports all landscapes

- AW is a **Landscape of innovative, Economic Partnerships**
- The region has investment from a range of partners
- AW supports Social return on investment
- There are many potential opportunities for social and individual enterprises including tourism, carbon, bushfoods, arts and more.



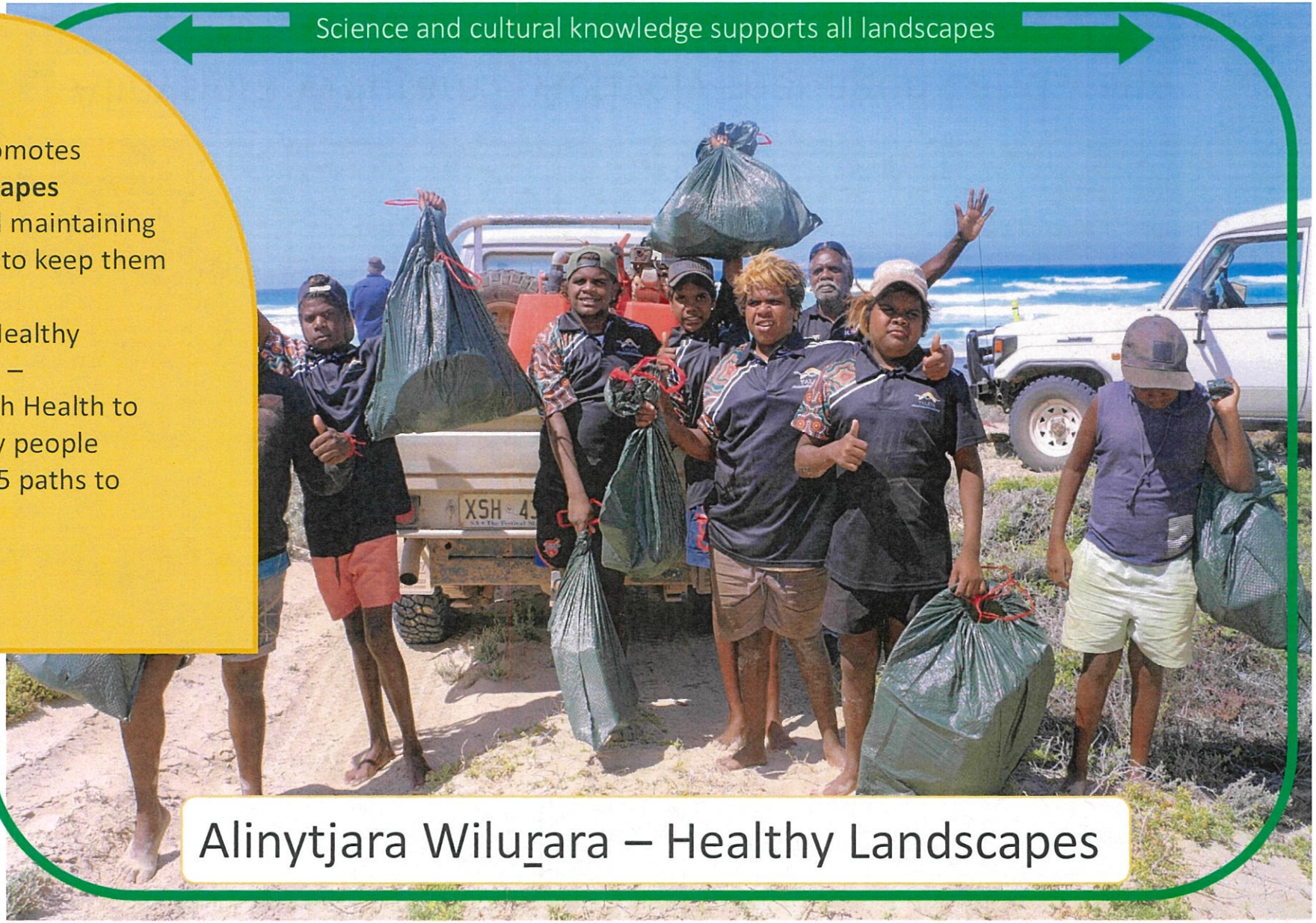
Alinytjara Wilurara – Economic Landscapes

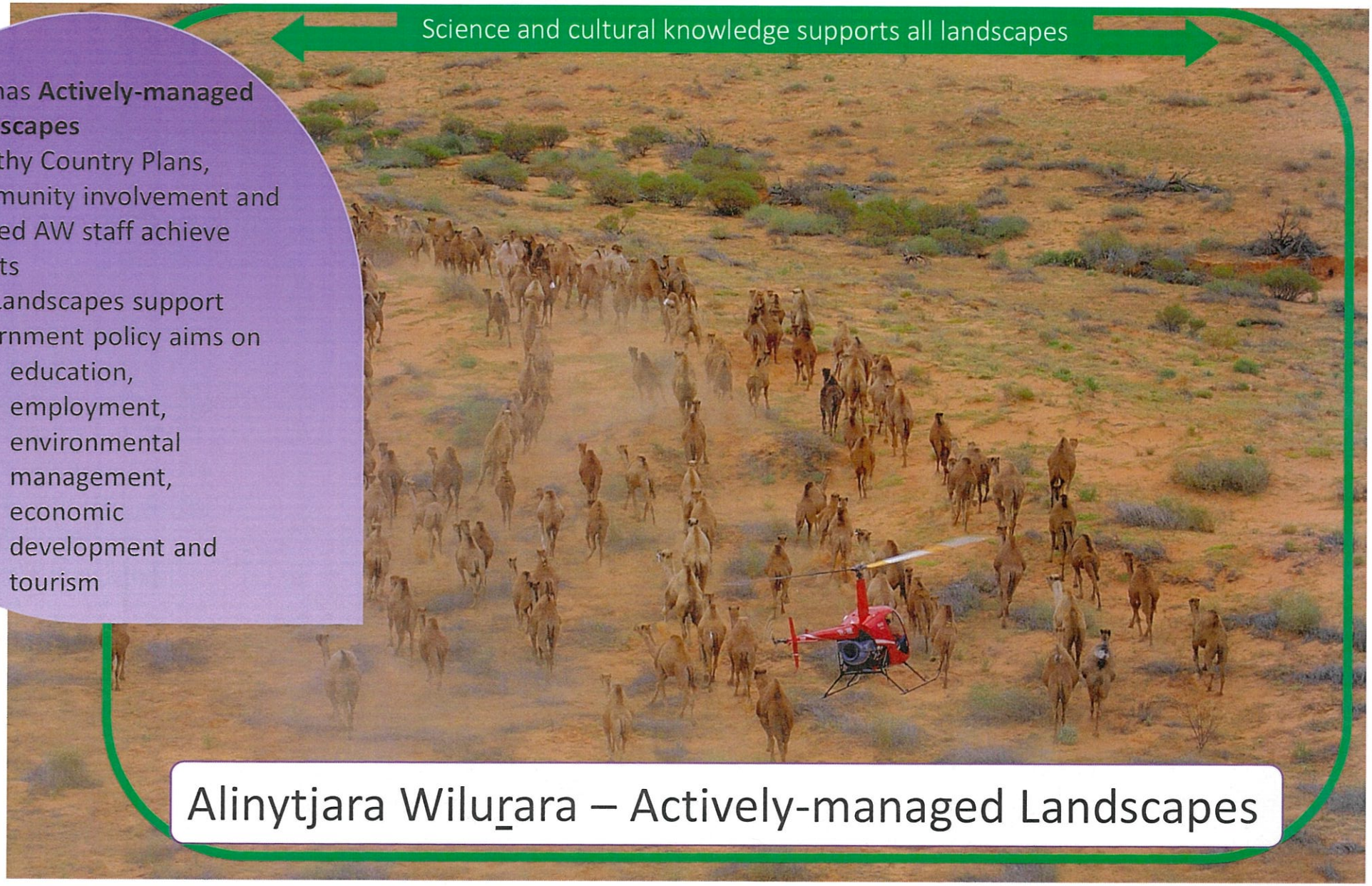
- AW has **Community-driven Landscapes**
- AW uses international standards for participatory planning with communities
- Subregional Healthy Country Plans outline community priorities for looking after country
- Healthy Country Plans inform regional AW NRM Plan



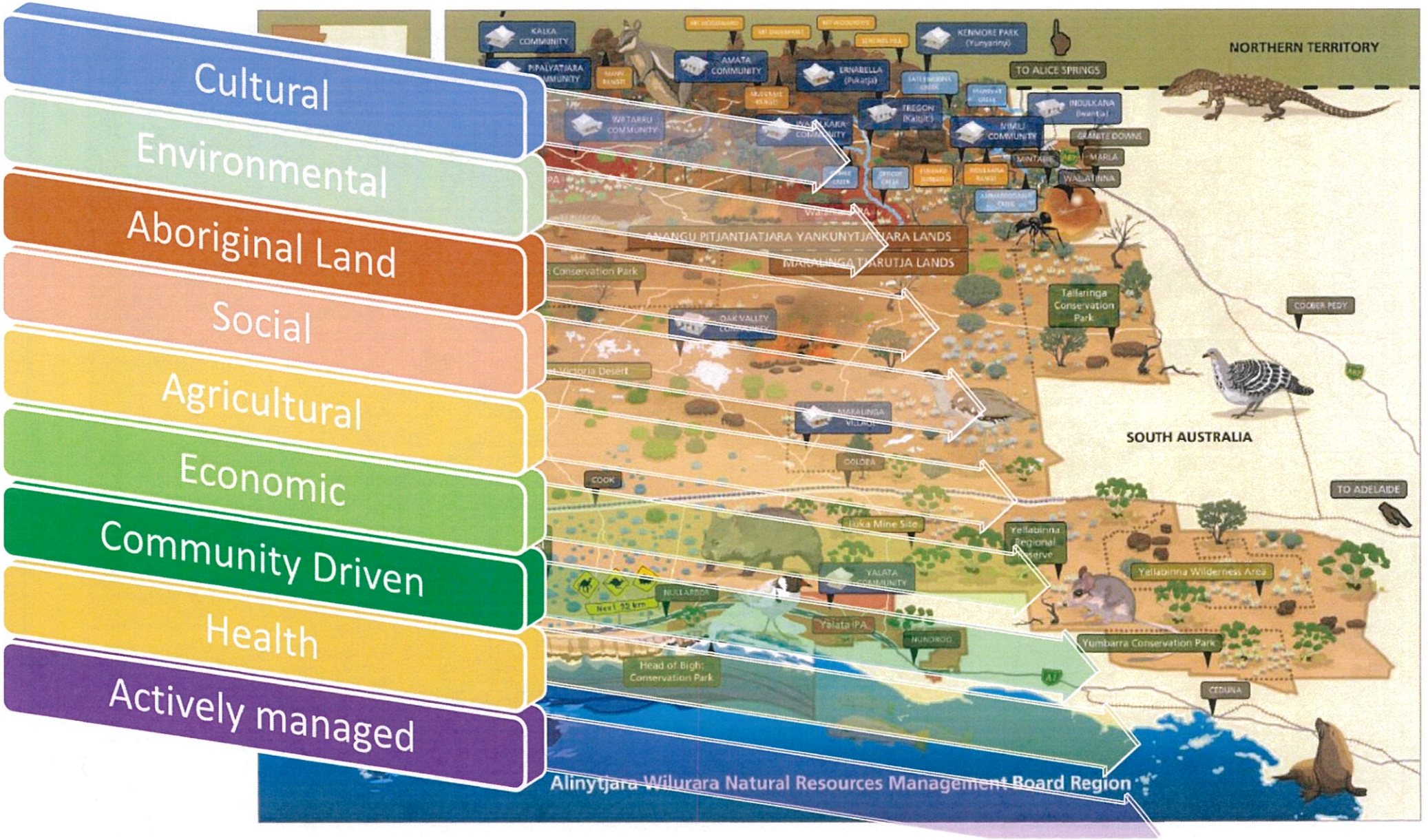
Alinytjara Wilurara – Community-driven Landscapes

- AW actively promotes **Healthy Landscapes**
- Monitoring and maintaining the landscapes to keep them healthy
- Healthy Parks Healthy People strategy – partnership with Health to support healthy people
- Nature of SA – 5 paths to wellbeing





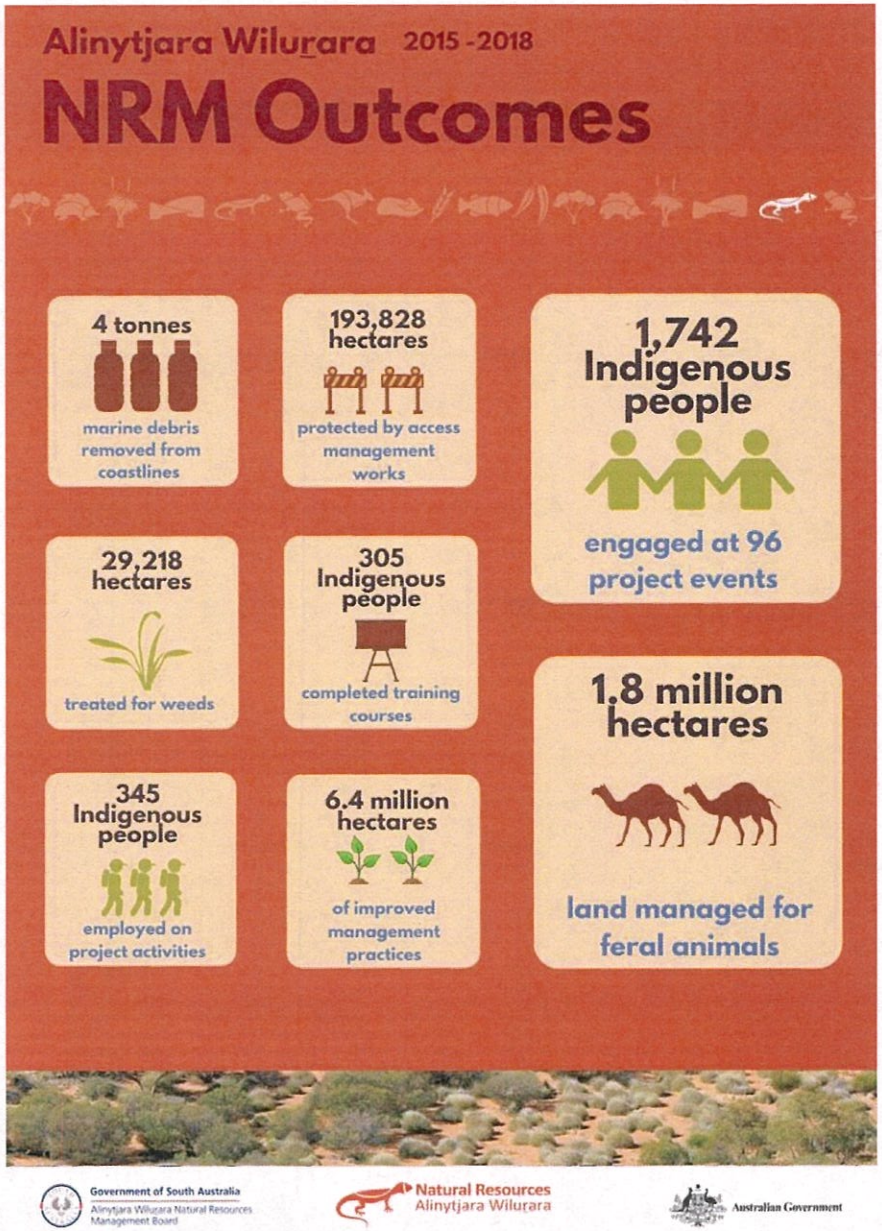
- AW has **Actively-managed Landscapes**
- Healthy Country Plans, community involvement and trusted AW staff achieve results
- AW Landscapes support government policy aims on
  - ✓ education,
  - ✓ employment,
  - ✓ environmental management,
  - ✓ economic development and
  - ✓ tourism

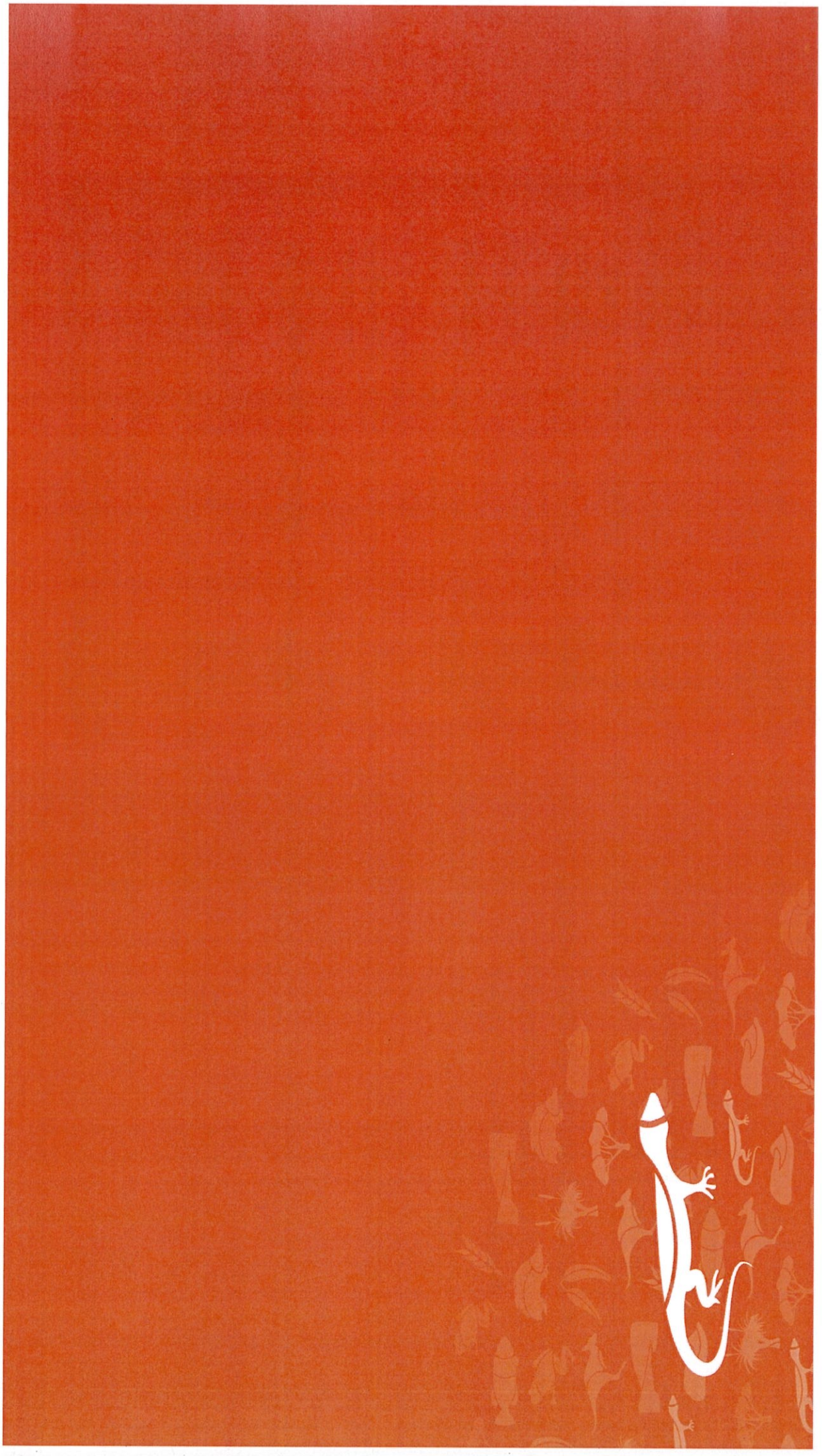

Cultural
Environmental
Aboriginal Land
Social
Agricultural
Economic
Community Driven
Health
Actively managed
NORTHERN TERRITORY
TO ALICE SPRINGS
KALKA COMMUNITY
AMATA COMMUNITY
ERNABELLA (Pukatja)
KENMORE PARK (Yunyarinyi)
WATARRU COMMUNITY
FREGON (Kaltjiti)
NYMU COMMUNITY
INDULKANA (Iwantja)
GRANITE DOWNS
MARLA
WALATINNA
ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LANDS
MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS
Tallaringa Conservation Park
COOBER PEDY
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
TO ADELAIDE
COOK
COLOEA
Yellabinna Regional Reserve
Yellabinna Wilderness Area
YALATA COMMUNITY
Yalata IPA
NUNDROO
Yumbarra Conservation Park
Head of Bight Conservation Park
CEDUNA
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board Region


N
KALKA COMMUNITY
PIPALYATJARA COMMUNITY
AMATA COMMUNITY
ERNABELLA (Pukatja)
KENNORE PARK (Yunyarinyi)
NORTHERN TERRITORY
TO ALICE SPRINGS
WATARRU COMMUNITY
WALALKARA COMMUNITY
FREGON (Kaltjiti)
MIMILI COMMUNITY
INDULKANA (Iwantja)
GRANITE DOWNS
MARLA
MINTABIE
WALATINNA
Watarru IPA
Walalkara IPA
ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LANDS
MARALINGA TJARUTJA LANDS
Mamungari Conservation Park
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
OAK VALLEY COMMUNITY
Tallaringa Conservation Park
COOBER PEDY
Great Victoria Desert
MARALINGA VILLAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
OLDEA
COOK
TO ADELAIDE
TO PERTH
Iluka Mine Site
Yellabinna Regional Reserve
Nullarbor National Park
Nullarbor Regional Reserve
YALATA COMMUNITY
Yellabinna Wilderness Area
NULLARBOR
Next 92 km
Yalata IPA
NUNDROO
Yumbarra Conservation Park
Head of Bight Conservation Park
Merdeyerrah Sandpatch
CEDUNA
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board Region

- Examples of outcomes delivered in the Alinytjara Wilurara region over the past 5 years

- Funding from State allocation and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program





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South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

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DEW-D0001115

15 October 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister Speirs

Submission to Landscape SA Consultation

The SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the recent discussion paper proposing how the new system for managing natural resources may be configured under new Landscape SA legislation.

The Board have met with the independent consultant and contributed through this process, which will be submitted to the overall report separately from this submission. The Board appreciates the opportunity the SA Arid Lands community, as vast and sparsely populated as it is, has had during this process to be involved. There have been a total of six community forums, which have provided excellent opportunity for our NRM levy paying constituents to be involved in the region.

Beyond the specific information we have submitted as a result of the session we held with the consultant, the following matters are of significance to the Board and as such important inclusions in our overall feedback.

<u>The model – not one size fits all</u>

The Board feel strongly about the *flexibility* that will need to apply to the principles you have outlined in the discussion paper. The SA Arid Lands is unique in every way due to its more arid environment and the approaches adopted in the past, as well as the potential for new systems and processes for administering NRM, the need to be flexible enough to cater for this geographically large region that covers more than half of the State. The SAAL region has a much smaller population than most other regions, but requires stewardship beyond that which many other levy payers have responsibility for, from a pastoral, natural, social, cultural and environmental capital perspective.

Where the new legislation permits, the Board would very much like to see a model that is not so prescriptive such that the influences of more built up and populated regions do not predetermine the way in which the legislation is applied in a remote and isolated context. The SA Arid Lands region does not have the same local government framework nor the level of services that other regions are accustomed to. To that end, the community centred, partnership approach is considered important and favourable in the adoption of the new legislation.

The Board heavily invests in staff to support community involvement and participation and this keeps the Board relevant, engaged in local issues and influential.

NRM Groups should be an option for Landscapes Boards

One of the most critical success factors for the SA Arid Lands has been the district NRM Group model. This model provides an excellent conduit between the Board and the community and allows for a level of engagement with the region that would otherwise be impossible given its vast size. It promotes succession in leadership where future Board members can be identified and enables timely and appropriate information, issues, challenges and opportunities for the Board to be raised in a timely manner. The model has proven to be highly successful. The transition to a new Landscape Act would best occur if minimal disruption to the groups occurred for seamlessness and some succession in the many years of successful work at both the NRM Group and Board level. We would like you to consider retaining the mechanism.

A less administratively complex procedure in recruitment of group members would be beneficial in the simplification process of the new Act. It would be beneficial if the NRM Groups in the region can continue to do their great work and support an incoming Landscape SA Board.

NRM Plan has local ownership

The Board has invested heavily in collaboration with an engaged community in the development of its latest Regional NRM Plan. While it is understood the planning process and plans per se will vary, a slow transition so as to not dismiss the significant investment and effort put in to the latest plan, and its' very recent adoption would be important from the Board and communities' perspective. The community contributed significantly to the latest rewrite of the NRM Plan, much of which will remain relevant in the new legislation. It is hoped that the plans fundamental principles are regarded in the transition to avoid undoing the level of trust and shared ownership of the plan and the work that is really just beginning to get traction at a local and regional level in its implementation.

Partnerships matter

The reflection on the critical nature of partnerships in the new world is considered critical and as such the Board welcomes the opportunity to continue developing and fostering partnerships as a part of its core business. Keeping community central to the new legislation is something, through partnerships, both formal and informal, that the Board encourages you to consider keeping in the objects of the Act as opposed to buried within it. As is the case with most regional and remote areas, it is only through the partnerships and shared responsibility these generate, that sustained effort and outcomes can be achieved.

The Board has a partnerships framework and continues to work toward strengthening how it interfaces with others to share the load at a time when resources for service delivery become scarcer. We appreciate your views on partnerships and think we are well aligned with them.

Biodiversity

Recent discussions on the top 20 priorities that have been raised throughout the consultation have been shared with the Board through the Council of NRM Presiding Members. Both in the consultation process directly with the Board and through the broader sessions held in our region, the Board and its constituency have identified that Biodiversity does not seem prevalent enough in the intent of the Act or through the consultation process. It has been identified more so as a by-product of the management of soils, water and pest plants and animals. While this is indeed a natural outcome of the 'back to basics' natural resources management approaches through the proposed legislation, the Board would like to see a more visible commitment, not dissimilar to that which is in the current *NRM Act 2004*, toward Biodiversity being a clear object of the Act and which in and of itself is a goal, rather than the result of other goals.

Biodiversity outcomes, including stewardship of threatened flora and fauna and ecological communities in our region, are a core focus for Commonwealth funding that currently represents around 45% of the Board's revenue. It is important to be able to show that maintaining and improving the region's biodiversity is a key role of the Board and that this is reinforced in the Act.

The recent development of the SA Arid Lands NRM Plan saw similar sentiments echoed by community and stakeholders on the value they place on biodiversity as an appropriate priority of the Boards investment and effort and was incorporated into the plan as a result.

Compliance

Compliance is another issue that has been raised widely throughout the SA Arid Lands region and is equally important to the Board. Ensuring the legislation provides for a scaled approach to how it manages breaches of the legislation needs to be balanced with education and awareness raising on key issues associated with managing natural resources. Affirmative action by the Board is also critical, supported well from a policy perspective and which aligns with other legislation and authorities.

The Board seeks a simplified approach and model under which it can take compliance action, with support to do so through appropriate policy and legal guidance. While the Board acknowledges that the preferred way to promote behavioural change is through awareness raising, extension work and education, it also acknowledges there are times when this is not adequate and a process with more 'teeth' is required.

Incentivising or acknowledging best practice could be an element worth considering in the new legislation to promote behavioural change.

Policy influence of Landscape SA Boards

From a policy perspective, the new Landscape SA Boards should be positioned to influence upwardly and outwardly. It is important that the Government remains briefed and connected to local and regional issues relating to Landscapes through these Boards, who have the trust and representation of their local communities. However it is also important that the Boards retain a level of autonomy and independence to operate. This will ensure the retention of a high level of trust of community which can sometimes be eroded if Boards are considered to be bureaucratically influenced. The Boards respect and agree with the need to get back to basics in their respective regions, but often activities and regional policies can become constrained by State policy.

It would be beneficial to include Boards in policy development so that there is flexibility and appropriateness of State policy.

Equitable Funding Model

Funding distribution and access to a more equitable stream of funding is a critical consideration for the SA Arid Lands NRM Board. With over 50% of the State's landmass and with a multitude of resource bases critical to the State and National economy, the levy resource drawn from within the region, a mere 2% of the State population, amounts to $10 per sq/km that the Board can generate through its levy model. As such the Board applauds your intent to open up opportunities to share the levy resources more broadly. Concern however is felt among the members that a percentage of the overall levy raised being sent to central funds for redistribution will render the new Landscape SA Arid Lands Board vulnerable and too cash poor to operate at times.

With critical resources such as the Lake Eyre Basin, the Great Artesian Basin, over 200 Pastoral properties, vast landscapes and ecosystems, a RAMSAR site and most of the State's mining and oil/gas sector enterprises, managing the SA Arid Lands is complex, ever changing and requires a stable and realistic funding base to service it.

Board membership and election process

Board membership has been topical given the smaller regional population. The Board does have some trepidation on the election/selection proposal and would like to see greater discussion as to how this could be applied in the areas of remote South Australia. To ensure a true reflection of community sentiments in Board appointments, this will need to be underpinned by a rigorous and transparent process. It is also hoped that the selection of Board members made by yourself are still skills based with a deep knowledge, skill set and commitment to the region and cognisant of the majority of land use and natural resource issues, rather than those few areas within the region that have a greater population base but are not as dependent on NRM outcomes. The SA Arid Lands NRM Board has benefitted from having a skills based selection process that has allowed people who reside outside of the region as well as within the region to be eligible.

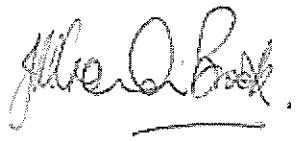
Due to the sparse population of our region, potential boundary changes could lead to unintended consequences for Board membership. It will be important that members living in the more remote parts of our region have the opportunity to sit on the Board.

Boundaries

The discussion of boundary changes to date has been of a casual nature. The Board would like to see more information and consideration of what effect boundary changes would have. The Board is open to changes but considers that before these boundary changes are finalised that a separate and deeper process should occur involving community, local government partners and neighbouring regions so that the outcome is truly in the best interests of all concerned. The Board would like to see the small part of the region that abuts our region and has been serviced by the SA Arid Lands Board, but which is technically part of SA Murray Darling Basin (SAMDB) returned to the SAMDB region (or equivalent) in the reform process to ensure it is managed in line with other parts of that catchment and the Murray Darling Basin Plan, but that community are consulted beforehand.

Thank you Minister for the opportunity to contribute to this process and we look forward to continuing to work with you to see the Landscape SA model enacted.

Yours faithfully



Janet Crommelin Brook
Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board

Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Natural Resources Centre
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

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15 October 2018

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister Speirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your natural resources management reform for South Australia.

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) recognises the opportunity to improve the way our natural resources are managed within SA and are keen to contribute to and make the most of the opportunities that will arise.

The Board has put considerable effort into reviewing the "Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change" discussion paper that was released. The Board has also drawn on many years of experience working with our regional community and stakeholders to provide feedback for consideration as the new legislation is developed.

The Board believes there are significant opportunities in your proposal for legislative reform and we look forward to working with you throughout the process.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Starick
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Submission to the Landscape SA Reform Process

Prepared by the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board

Presiding Member: Sharon Starick

October 2018

1 Introduction and Background

The State Government is proposing to establish a new Landscape South Australia Act to replace the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

To help establish the new Landscape SA Act the State Government has been encouraging discussion and supporting engagement with stakeholders and the broader community.

This document outlines the position of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board (the Board) in response to the Minister's "Managing Our Landscape – Conversations for Change" discussion paper released in July 2018.

This document has three parts: a set of objectives that new legislation should deliver, key priorities for the Board for the reform and feedback on specific elements in the Minister's discussion paper.

2 Objectives for the Reform

The Board believes the Reform process must deliver the following:

- The new Act should *enable* the Minister and regional communities to achieve *positive outcomes* for our natural resources.
- The new Act should *enable* the *care* of natural resources, whilst supporting sustainable development.
- The new Act should *empower regional communities* through a strong framework of regional governance, decision making, investment and accountability.
- The new Act should *integrate* all aspects of the *landscapes* (land, water, flora and fauna) allowing the management of systems as a whole.
- The new Act should *modernize* the way we look after our natural resources through making the *legislation contemporary*.

3 The SA MDB NRM Board's views on the priorities for reform

The Board strongly supports the need to **reduce the complexity.**

- The new Act must clearly set out what we are collectively trying to achieve. The current legislation places too much emphasis on the specifics of processes and administrative arrangements.
- The Board believes the new legislation should focus on describing the principles and frameworks that support positive outcomes for our natural resources. These principles and frameworks must include empowering the community and supporting behaviour change, recognizing that most of the land in the State is privately managed.
- The reform process should explore other options for the detail required to manage the State's natural resources including regulations and policy. Removing this detail from the Act and placing it elsewhere would enable greater flexibility and the ability to more readily develop innovative approaches to complex problems than possible in the current Act.
- However, the reform process must be mindful about focusing only on reducing complexity. Complexity exists because issues such as water management are complex in their nature. Water is so fundamentally connected to people's lifestyles, livelihoods and to the landscape and therefore it is valued in many different ways. The Board think it is important to note that, issues can be complex and often in NRM they are, but it doesn't mean the processes used to manage them needs to be complicated.

The Board believe that having strong **Regional governance** is essential for success.

- Strengthening the value of regional decision making, by focusing the new Act on engagement rather than consultation, is crucial to the success of the Landscape SA Act.
- It has been the experience of the Board that when regional communities are empowered to make decisions enduring, innovative solutions are found. An example of where this has worked well in the SA MDB region is in the co-design of the River Murray water allocation plan.
- The new Act must allow regional decision making to be based on multiple lines of evidence. This will ensure a balanced approach to decision making, leading to lasting outcomes.
- There have been recent examples where decisions have not been made locally and imposed on Regions. These examples have had a profound impact leaving a negative legacy within the NRM system. The most obvious example is the introduction of previous State Government water planning and management costs (which are $2.2m in SAMDB region). Because the Regions were not involved in the decision making related to the introduction of water planning management charges, and were directed to introduce the charge on their local communities, the Boards have struggled to explain this decision to their regional communities. The legacy of this decision (unless removed) will impact the new Landscape Boards. The Board is concerned that proposals for the new Landscape SA Boards to contribute to initiatives such as the priority landscape fund and grassroots fund may also appear to local communities as centralized decision making.

- The levies (land and water) raised in regions are a key foundation to providing the community with the resources and capacity to address issues impacting on natural resources. Through a strong regional governance framework, it is essential that regional communities continue to make decisions about how much levy is raised in regions and where it is invested.

The Board supports maintaining an **integrated landscape approach**.

- The Board believe that the new legislation should maintain the approach to integrated landscape management which considers both the social and ecological systems, based on catchments and/or bioregions.
- It is essential that the management of water resources is maintained within the new Act to enable a whole of landscape/catchment approach, and that regional NRM Boards continue to be responsible for the development of water allocation plans in partnership with the affected regional community.
- The new Act should strengthen the local communities and Government's ability to manage biodiversity as part of an integrated landscape approach.
- The Board has concerns about the contrast between the intent of a whole of landscape approach and the intent of back to basics. A landscape approach is about identifying and treating the causes (i.e. total grazing pressure) while back to basics could be interpreted as treating the symptoms (pest animals). Focusing on the whole landscape and what is driving change within that landscape will ensure that investment is directed to action that will lead to lasting change.

The Board encourages an emphasis on the **importance of partnerships.**

- People are the key to success of any natural resources management program. The skills, knowledge, and motivation of individuals and groups are critical to the effectiveness of natural resources management in the region.
- By working together, improving community capacity, and focusing on priority issues, we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of actions and have a greater collective impact.
- The Board's goal has been to build a community that is well informed, empowered to take action and has the ability to adapt to change.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with key partners in the region is the most effective way to undertake natural resource management. The Board has successfully employed a philosophy of engaging early and co designing solutions with its partners.
- The River Murray Advisory Committee (RMAC) is a prime example of partnerships working well in the SA MDB region. RMAC is the only truly community representative group in the state with a sole River Murray focus and it has had the ability to bring polarized communities together. The Board have found their contribution and advice extremely valuable on River Murray matters for almost a decade.

The Board believes the outcome of reforms must **strengthen the financial viability** of all regions.

- It is imperative that the reform ensures no region is financially worse-off than under the current arrangements.
- A key element to the financial viability of regions is the NRM Levy. Control over decision making related to the NRM Levies must remain with the new regional Boards.
- The Board firmly believes that the new legislation should recognise that both components of the NRM Levy (water and land) form one "pool" of funds which the Board invests in the highest priority NRM issues for the region.
- The importance of the levy in attracting substantial Australian Government funding is also essential for the financial viability of all regions. If the future Board's levy base was decreased then this would diminish the Boards' capacity to leverage matching external funding to the region.

4 Feedback on the proposed reforms from the discussion paper

4.1 Establishing Landscape Boards

- The Board supports the proposal to maintain a regional board model and that the new Boards have more autonomy than under the current arrangements.
- Enhancing regional Boards' responsibility for setting strategic direction, budgets and staffing requirements will provide more autonomy. At the same time, the new model must make the most of the positive aspects gained through the close working relationship between Boards and the State Government.
- In the current Board's experience a regional board plays many important roles, including being a facilitator of information, empowering community decision making, and enabling community-driven on-ground action. It is essential these roles are maintained through the reform.
- Operating as a regional board since 2005, the Board have learnt that there are several elements of a Board's make up that influence their effectiveness:
    - Membership that reflects the diverse range of skills and knowledge required for strong regional leadership.
    - Consensus in decision making, working with a Boards diverse membership ensures robust discussions leading to lasting decisions.
    - Strong connections back to State agencies is invaluable for regional boards. The partnerships and collaboration these connections create benefits the needs of the region.
    - A clear understanding of powers, roles and responsibilities for members and the Board as a whole.

- Being clear up front on how performance will be measured
- Transparency and accountability of decision making

4.2 Membership of Landscape Boards

- The Board believes there are a number of risks arising from a formal election process. Risks include:
  - A voluntary election process may result in the appointment of members who will focus on specific, narrow issues and/or parts of the region. There is concern that members appointed in this way could result in a gaps in the required skills across the Board membership. The Board is concerned that this will compromise the Board's ability to work towards consensus decision making, which has been a strength of current Board memberships.
  - Potential for large costs and lengthy timeframes for an election process that would ensure quality applicants nominate. Often voluntary voting process result in low voting rates. There are concerns that the costs of running an election process outweighs its benefits.
  - The perception of different status between community elected members and ministerial appointed members is also of concern to the Board. This has the potential to create disunity within the Board membership and compromise consensus decision making, resulting is complicated and lengthy processes.
  - There is also concern that this type of election process would risk the diversity of the Board members. The resources required to "campaign" in a voluntary election processes may reduce the number of people willing to 'put their hand up', and this may be a deterrent for people who are often under-represented on Boards (i.e. women, young people, indigenous people).
- The Board recommends an alternative proposal. The proposal would use relevant peak bodies (i.e. Local Government, Primary Producer SA, Conservation Council etc.) to nominate regional representatives to be on a 'board membership' selection panel. This selection panel would recommend board members to the Minister from an open call for nominations. The Board believe that this approach would ensure the appropriate level of diversity, skills and experience at the Board member level, while being a more cost effective option. An added benefit would be the enhanced partnerships with peak bodies.
- The Board believes that it would be valuable to continue an arrangement where relevant government agencies have non-voting representatives on Boards. However Boards need greater say in how agency representatives are selected to ensure they are the right fit.

4.3 Boundaries

- The Board believes strongly that boundaries for Boards must be based on catchments and bioregions
- Of particular relevance for the SA Murray-Darling Basin region is the boundary that runs along the top of the Mount Lofty Ranges. This boundary has followed catchments boundaries and this has been essential for the integrated management of the land and water resources of that region. The Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges is distinctly different to the Western Mount Lofty Ranges, in terms of rainfall, land-types, watercourses and groundwater resources. There are also differences in the social systems between the

two regions. Importantly the water resources of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges form part of the Murray-Darling Basin, and as such the development of water allocation plans and other water policy, must be done in the broader context of the Basin Plan. The management of the natural resources in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges must be done with the downstream impacts in mind. The Board is deeply concerned with the possibility that the Landscape boundaries might split the catchment. There are a number of negative outcomes that would arise should this occur: inefficient planning effort; inefficient delivery of landscape scale action; confusion for the community who understand which catchment they are connected to; confusion for relevant authorities when issues arise (for example with the increased development in Mt Barker there are emerging issues related to increased storm-water run-off impacting downstream landholders, in an arrangement where the catchment is split, the impacts will be managed in a different region from where the issue cause is).

- The Board also believes that a community's relationship to a region and landscape is vital to meaningful engagement with natural resources management. In the past few years the Board has spent considerable time talking with local communities about how and why they connect to their local landscapes and what they value in this connection. Opportunities such as this have demonstrated to the Board that the existing boundaries reflect the right balance between the physical aspects of the landscape (catchments or bioregions) and the social aspects of the landscape. The Board also believes that maintaining boundaries that support current good working relationships should be considered as a secondary principle once the landscape principle is addressed.
- The Board believes that boundaries should not be the tool for improving financial viability of Boards. The Board agrees that financial security for Boards should be achieved either through direct State government funding or Green Adelaide helping to support smaller regional Boards but not by changing boundaries
- The Board also advocates for the sharing of resources across Boards (scales of economy) for efficiencies and to save and better utilise funds

4.4 Raising levies

- The NRM levies (land based and water based) raised in regions provide local communities with the resources and capacity to address priority issues impacting on natural resources.
- The Board agrees more work can be done to increase the transparency for the community regarding the investment of the NRM levy.
- In the current legislation the land and water levies are described in two different sections of the NRM Act and written in different ways. This means the philosophy that underpins the NRM Levies can be interpreted quite differently. This is a legacy of combining previous legislation. The differences in the way the current legislation covers water and land levies has created challenges for the Boards to clearly articulate the purpose of the NRM Levy.
- It should be noted that every region has different needs and priorities and therefore, it is important that the new legislations allows for the levies to be raised based on community and regional needs.
- The Board believes that consistency of philosophical approach for the NRM Levy is important. However it will be important for regions to be able to make decisions about the levy rates and the quantum raised. Having the right policy settings and principles in place will lead to consistency. The community generally

understand the need for the levy, however areas of contention sometimes arise at the boundaries where there are differences in approaches. The community understand the need for different rates but can get confused by differences in approaches i.e. minimum water levy fee in some regions but not others.

- The Board supports the Government's direction to minimise the impacts on the general cost of living for people in the region, and as such the Board understands the desire to cap the annual increases to the levy. However the Board is concerned about the costs related to introducing an independent regulator, particularly the use of an ESCOSA model. The Board would recommend an alternative process where the Minister maintains the power to approve levy proposals with the discretion to refer increases greater than CPI increase to an independent body.

4.5 Spending Levies

- The Board supports the principle that levies raised in the region are spent in the region. It will be important that the legislation is drafted to allow partnerships and arrangements that cross regional boundaries where these arrangements provide efficiencies and greater impact.
- The Board firmly believes that the new legislation should recognise that both components of the NRM Levy (water and land) form one "pool" of funds which the Board invests in the highest priority NRM issues for the region. The Board is concerned with rhetoric that may result in the land levy only being invested towards "land" priorities and the water levy being directed at "water" priorities.
- The Board also wants to reiterate the importance of the levy in attracting substantial Australian Government funding. If the future Board's levy base was decreased due to contributions to funds such as Landscape priority fund this would diminish the Board's capacity to leverage matching external funding to the region.
- While the Board supports the concept of a State Landscape Priority fund there are questions around the establishment and implementation of such a fund. Some of the question include how the distribution of funds will work, how will contributions to the fund be determined (i.e. a fixed amount, or a scaled percentage of contribution from regions depending on their capacity to contribute), will the distribution of funds be on planned and agreed priority issues across the state or will it be application based. Clear messaging around the purpose of the fund will be important to levy payers as on the surface this fund seems to be at odds with empowering communities and decentralisation.
- In regards to the proposal for a Grassroots program, it is important that the Boards and communities have ownership of the grassroots process in their region. Like the Landscape Priority fund, the Board has questions around how the contributions to the fund and distribution of the fund will work. Again it seems at odds with empowering regional decision making.
- The Board already have a community grants program and the funding principles that the Board currently use include:
    - ***Supporting delivery of the Regional NRM Plan*** *- We seek projects that will contribute to the strategic directions and focus areas within the region.*
    - ***Potential for leverage*** *- Our grants have greater impact when combined with support from other sources or build on our existing programs/ activities.*
    - ***Long-term thinking*** *- We try to fund projects that will continue to have an impact well beyond the period of our grant.*

- ***Working together***- *We encourage collaborations and partnerships that facilitate combining knowledge and resources to achieve a shared goal.*
- ***Effective delivery*** - *We support organisations, programs and individuals who can demonstrate their ability to achieve outcomes*

4.6 Regional Planning

- The Board strongly believes that the regional Landscape Plans should be owned by the region (not just the Board) recognising that NRM is everyone's responsibility.
- The Landscape Plan needs to:
    - Have community ownership by being developed with local communities to capture local knowledge and to suit local landscapes and communities.
    - Have priorities that are easily communicated and at the appropriate scale
    - Have simple language, clear linkages to other relevant plans i.e. state-wide plan (if developed)
    - Maintain focus on integrated landscape management and a systems approach
    - Have a long term vision and targets, the expected change in the condition of the natural resources is the long term
- The Board supports the concept of a 5 year plan, and believe that it is important that the 5 year plan highlights both the long-term vision and targets for the region, as well as outlining the 5 year implementation program.
- The Board agrees that there are opportunities for streamlining of planning. It is recommended that the reform process considers what has worked well in the past across the state, and consider opportunities for consistency in the planning approach used (i.e. CAP, Resilience planning). However it would be important that this is regionally led, and it is recognised that the uniqueness of regional communities means a one size fits all may not be achievable.
- In terms of cross regional and state-wide coordination the Board supports the coordinated cross-regional efforts for specific purposes (and these currently already occur) These should occur through:
    - a state wide plan/framework that links to all of the regional plans (which are developed by the community outlining priorities as linked to social, economic and environmental).
    - Agreements between Boards and other stakeholders i.e. MOUs, which are currently used successfully
    - The appropriate engagement with relevant peoples and agencies to established and maintain partnerships as are currently enjoyed (i.e.: relevant peak bodies, aboriginal nations, other boards and government agencies).
- A one size fits all reporting framework may not be appropriate as regional funding is complex and the investors have different requirements (i.e. Australian Government). Although it is recognised that being able to roll up achievements at the state level is worthwhile.

4.7 Soil quality

- The Board believes that soil quality is a priority natural resource asset that must be looked after. It is the Board's experience that a focus on Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management is the best way to have meaningful conversations with landholders. This approach recognises that looking after our soils is achieved through a broad range of land management and sustainable practices.
- The majority of land is privately managed and therefore partnerships are essential in sustainable agriculture. It's critical that there are clear roles and responsibilities for partners i.e. PIRSA, industry bodies and landholders
- The Board supports the approach to enhance adaptation of farming systems to be more resilient against weather variability and climatic change.
- There is a need to develop principles for the custodianship of land and frameworks that support positive NRM outcomes, including changing behaviour (recognizing most of the land is privately managed).
- The new legislation should retain reference to soil conservation activities causing no harm to the natural environment and strengthen the wording to ensure that opportunities which have both soil conservation and positive native conservation outcomes are sought.

4.8 Water Management

- The Board believes it is essential that the management of water resources is maintained within the Act to enable a whole of landscape or catchment approach.
- Water is such an essential component of any landscape and community that to separate managing water resources from all other aspects of landscape management would be counter-intuitive to good natural resources outcomes.
- The Board strongly advises that the Landscape Boards must continue to take the lead role in the development and decision making related to Water Allocation Plans (WAP). Because water is such a deeply held value for all local communities, regional leadership is essential to ensure successful outcomes for water management.
- The SA MDB NRM Board has long and comprehensive history in developing WAPs. In the Board's experience it is essential to recognise the difference in developing WAPs for the first time for a water resource (and community) and the subsequent review and amendment of WAPs. The initial WAP development is always a complex and time consuming process. Where WAPs are developed for the first time there is significant effort required to tap into a range of knowledge (local water users, future developers, scientific evidence, citizens' science etc.). The communities connected to the water resources are often new to the water allocation planning process and building an understanding of a complex issue that is often based on complex science. Equally as important is that water will always have a diverse number of stakeholders involved, often with very different, and at times diametrically opposed, values. This has meant that first time WAP development processes have required a high degree of transparency of decision making for all those involved. This may have led to the perception that the WAP process was complicated. In fact the process is straightforward but the context is complex. Once the WAP is developed the review process is much simpler and less

consuming as the ground work has been done, and if done right the first time the trust with the community is there. The recent review and amendment of the River Murray WAP process is example of how much has been learnt and how much more efficient regions have become at the process of developing, reviewing and amending WAPs.

- It is also the Board's experience that the streamlining of water allocation planning processes can be achieved when the Board and the supporting agencies work in partnership with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Recent changes, such as the development of strong governance frameworks for water allocation plans, have seen dramatic improvements in the timeliness of WAP processes. This demonstrates to some degree that the time taken to develop WAPs has less to do with the current legislation and more to do with the processes external to the legislation.
- The Board would support changes to the legislation that increase the flexibility for the management of water resources. Specifically, the Board would support the inclusion of principles in the Landscapes SA legislation that enable a WAP to be either unbundled (such as the River Murray WAP) or bundled as are the region's remaining four WAPs. This would reduce the requirement for significant investment in amending WAPs that are currently working effectively.
- The Board are also mindful that any amendment of the current legislation to the Landscapes Act needs to be carefully considered against the backdrop of time and resources input to current WAPs. Significant changes to the legislation may mean all of the regions 5 WAPs need to be redrafted to be consistent with any legislated changes when they are already adequately managing the water resources in a sustainable manner.

4.9 Pest animal and plants control

- The Board agrees that managing pest animal and plants is an important aspect of managing our natural resources. In the Board's experience, pest animal and plant actions are most effective when:
    - Action is based on a risk assessment
    - Action is focussed on early intervention
    - Action is focussed on managing the impact of pest animal and plants rather than aiming for eradication (unless that is feasible)
- The Board believes it is unrealistic to return to "back to basics" (if this means a return to the approaches of the previous Animal and Plan Control Boards) when it comes to pest animal and plant management. It is financially unrealistic to remove all pest and weed species and over the last few years a much more strategic management approach has been embraced by regions and communities. It is the Board's experience that, in local conversations, landholders generally agree that the focus of pest and weed management should be around early detection and eradication of new pests and the management of those that are having the greatest impact.
- The Board encourages the following in the review of the legislation around the management of pest animals and plants:
    - An emphasis that partnerships are essential in the management of pest animals and plants, however it is critical that there are clear roles and responsibilities for partners.
    - Education and awareness is still very important - Landscape Boards need to work with local landholders to continue to increase education and awareness.

- There is an opportunity to reframe the issues of pest management as biosecurity. This is about changing community mindsets.
- There needs to be real consideration of the costs in terms of public and private benefit.
- Absentee owners need to be held to account as well
- Declaration of condition of natural assets as part of property sale
- Better clarity on roles for roadside management – need to work to strengthen landholders responsibility.

- The new legislation should retain any reference to pest plant and animal control causing no harm to the natural environment and strengthen the wording to ensure that opportunities which have both pest plant and animal control outcomes as well as positive native conservation outcomes are sought.

4.10 Other Stewardship priorities

- The Board believes that the new legislation must incorporate the management of biodiversity to ensure a truly integrated approach to managing landscapes as whole systems.
- The Board feels that overarching principles such as PROTECT, ENHANCE, CONSERVE and ADAPT are essential for biodiversity conservation and these could be underpinned more specifically by;
  - Priority being given to areas with a higher feasibility of achieving landscape scale ecological change.
  - Effort being focused on areas in the best condition with the largest potential for positive impact in line with the prevention before cure principle, also including areas neighbouring these sites
  - Working in areas of fair condition that have the greatest feasibility of the investment making a considerable impact
  - Considering that while taking a landscape scale approach it is also critical to include an emphasis on the commitment to protection and enhancement of threatened species and threatened ecological communities.
- In the discussion paper the term Stewardship is used. Under this term a broad range of works should be included. For example weir pool manipulation, fire management and management of total grazing pressure are other examples of stewardship actions.
- The Board see that through biodiversity there are many opportunities for communities to connect to nature and this is important for peoples wellbeing
- Engagement, Education and Research - these three attributes of citizen science make it ideally suited to natural resource management in the SAMDB and citizen science it is highly valued by the SA MDB Board.
- The Board recommends including a link or principle in the new legislation around management of over abundant native species would be beneficial. While management of over abundant native species in not currently a role for Boards, communities often expect that Boards play a role. Boards tend to have a role with over abundant native species when they are impacting on natural resources and/or by helping to facilitate the conversations with communities. This could provide some clarity around the issue for the community and lead to better outcomes for native biodiversity.

4.11 Compliance

- The Board's experience with the current Act is that it does not support a process of voluntary compliance. The Board recommends that the new legislation explores ways of enabling voluntary compliance programs.
- The Board supports a simplified compliance processes which combines voluntary compliance with a more traditional compliance approach.
- While the Board firmly believes that voluntary compliance activities will deliver a better outcome, there are times when formal compliance processes are required. The Board's experience is that, due to the Act, the current process takes too long and is expensive. The Act needs to be streamlined to enable timely and efficient compliance process commensurate with the risk posed to the natural resources.
- The Board recognise that most people want to do the right thing so enforcement is always a last resort. The new Act should be drafted to support this view.
- Compliance processes and penalties need to be of a scale that they act as a deterrent (either reputational and/or financial) to reflect the seriousness of the offences. There have been examples in the past where larger businesses have seen current penalties as a cost of doing business rather than a deterrent to unwanted behaviours.
- It is important that all landholders are held to the same standards, for example there should be no difference in the approach taken to absentee owners.

Government of South Australia
South East Natural Resources Management Board

17 October 2018

ABN 93 209 459 406

11 Helen Street
PO Box 1046
Mount Gambier SA 5290

Email: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
YourSAy Engagements
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Independent Facilitators,

Thank you for facilitating a workshop with the South East Natural Resources Management Board (Board) about the Landscape SA reform. The Board valued the opportunity to provide feedback on the reform and it was a well facilitated session.

The Board is comfortable that its feedback has been captured from the session. Therefore, it is not submitting a separate comprehensive submission to the Landscape SA consultation. However, the Board would like to submit a submission to provide feedback on a specific issue for consideration in the drafting of the new act.

The NRM Act requires water licences to be unbundled when Water Allocation Plans (WAP) are revised. The Board, through its Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group, has been revising the Tatiara Water Allocation Plan and currently faces problems with how to unbundle licences but still manage overuse of groundwater in specific areas (see Attachment 1). In summary, the current requirements to unbundle licenses will lead to much more complex and cumbersome Water Allocation Plans, which does not align with the Minister's aim of simplifying planning for the community. The benefits of unbundling for a groundwater resources appear to be limited.

We understand that comprehensive reform of the water planning and management elements of the Act will be a second phase of reform. However, we ask that consideration is given in the initial drafting phase of the new Landscape SA Act to amend the unbundling requirements so that Boards can choose whether bundled or unbundling licensing regimes are implemented through Water Allocation Plans.

If you would like to discuss these comments further, please contact Wendy Telfer, Manager Planning and Evaluation, Natural Resources South East on 8735 1352 or Wendy.Telfer@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

FRasheed

Fiona Rasheed
Presiding Member
South East Natural Resources Management Board

Encl:

1. Attachment 1 – Letter from Tatiara Stakeholder Advisory Group re: Consultation on Landscapes SA Bill

C/- PO Box 1046
Mount Gambier SA 5290

18 June 2018

Fiona Rasheed
Presiding Member
South East Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 1046
MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

RE: Consultation on Landscapes SA Bill

Dear Fiona

I am writing to you on behalf of the Tatiara Water Allocation Plan Review Stakeholder Advisory Group established by the South East (SE) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board.

At the group's last meeting on 14 June 2019 the group was informed of the upcoming community consultation concerning the Landscapes SA Bill which will replace the NRM Act. The group thought that this offered a good opportunity to raise an issue that has been of concern to the group regarding water allocation planning under the current NRM Act.

Under the current NRM Act it is a requirement that when water allocation plans are reviewed and amended that they change water licences from a bundled system to an unbundled system.

Over a number of meetings the group has been receiving and reviewing information on the unbundling of water licences in relation to the Tatiara Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) and has formed the following conclusions:

1. The unbundling of water licences for prescribed underground water resources is a complex issue and it has been difficult for the group to understand how an unbundled system could be successfully applied to underground water resources and in particular the Tatiara PWA.
2. The benefits of an unbundled systems for prescribed underground water resources over the current bundled system for both licensees and the management of the resource are hard to identify and are not clear.
3. Given the groups difficulty in understanding the complexity of unbundling under the current provisions of the NRM Act and the lack of clearly identifiable benefits, there is a real risk that the community will find it even harder to understand and also to appreciate any benefits of an unbundled system.

Whilst the group is not opposed to unbundling water licences it is felt that the current legislation could be improved upon to make unbundling easier to implement and administer in groundwater systems, or it could be made optional to retain a bundled system if there was no significant benefits in unbundling. The upcoming Landscapes SA Bill consultation offers an opportunity to propose amendments or new provisions relating to unbundling that could help simplify the licencing system.

The Tatiara WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group recommends that the SE NRM Board take the opportunity during the Landscapes SA Bill public consultation period to make a submission that includes the following proposals:

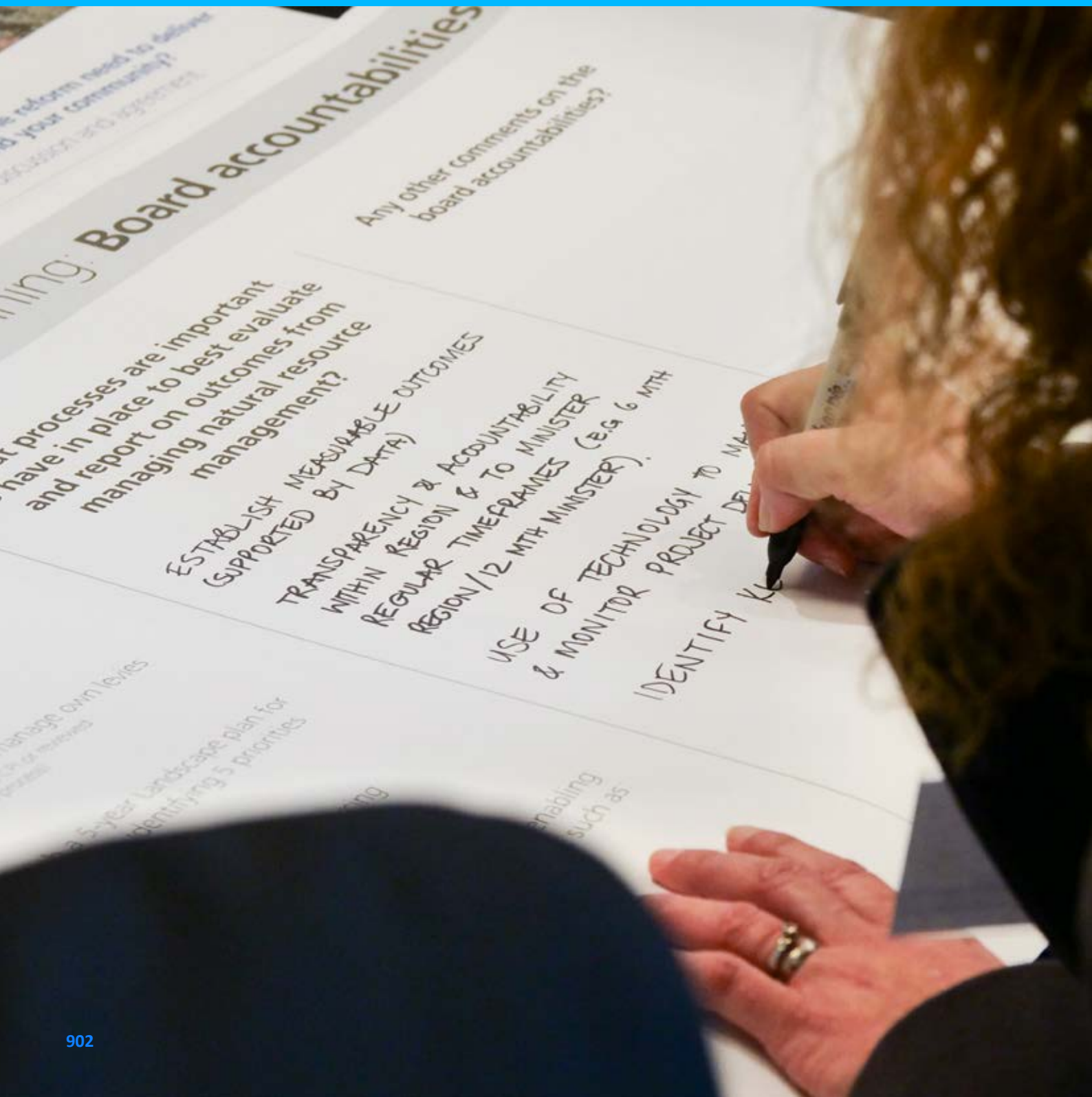
- That the provisions relating to the unbundling of water licences be made more flexible, make allowance for groundwater systems and not as restrictive as the current NRM Act provisions.
- That where unbundling of water licences offers no significant benefits, or would make management of the water resource more difficult to achieve, that there should be an option to retain a bundled system.

Yours sincerely

Kerry DeGaris
Chair Tatiara WAP Review Stakeholder Advisory Group
SE NRM Board Member

Group Members/Observers
Scott Campbell – Lucerne Australia
Robert Mock – Tatiara District Council
Michelle Irvine –SA Water (proxy for Glyn Ashman)
Richard Halliday – Livestock SA
Paul Leadbeter – Conservation Council SA
Wayne Dodd – Upper South East NRM Group/Community Representative
David Edwards – Mundulla Vignerons Assoc. Inc.
Scott Manser – Lucerne Australia
Jodie Carey – SA Water
Trent Reilly - Mundulla Vignerons Assoc. Inc.
Graham Gates – SE NRM Board

8.9 | Written Submissions From Local Government



Register of written submissions from local government

Date Received	Given name	Family name	Organisation
2-Aug-18	Susan	Clearihan	Local Government Association
14-Sep-18	Maggie	Hine	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
27-Sep-18	Sabine	Koolen	City of Tea Tree Gully
2-Oct-18	Myles	Faucer	Renmark Paringa Council
3-Oct-18	Mal	Hemmerling	City of Playford
11-Oct-18	Steven	Brooks	Adelaide Hills Council
3-Aug-18	Justin	Lynch	City of Holdfast Bay
5-Oct-18	Trevor	Smart	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
11-Oct-18	Jake	McVicar	Mid-Murray Council
11-Oct-18	Jacob	Kochergan	City of Mitcham
12-Oct-18	Rachael	Hamilton	City of Campbelltown
12-Oct-18	Rocco	Callisto	Tatiara District Council
12-Oct-18	Dana	Bartlett	City of Marion
12-Oct-18	Jen	St Jack	Resilient Hills and Coasts
15-Oct-18	David	Singe	District Council of Grant
12-Oct-18	Jason	Taylor	Southern Mallee District Council
15-Oct-18	Stephen	Smith	Local Government Association
15-Oct-18	Peter	Tsokas	City of Unley
10-Oct-18	Andrew	Stuart	Mount Barker District Council
15-Oct-18	Carlos	Buzzetti	City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters
12-Oct-18	Mark	Hannan	City of Charles Sturt
15-Oct-18	Tim	Kelly	Resilient East Project Steering Committee
16-Oct-18	Glenn	Rappensberg	Alexandrina Council
15-Oct-18	Victoria	MacKirdy	City of Victor Harbor
17-Oct-18	Jenni	McGlennon	City of Onkaparinga
17-Oct-18	Terry	Buss	City of West Torrens
17-Oct-18	James	Miller	Adelaide Plains Council
19-Oct-18	Dominic	Testoni	Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Office of the President
Local Government Association
of South Australia

In reply please quote our reference: ECM 663537 SPS/JF
Your Reference: 18INV0153

2 August 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Emailed: Minister.Speirs@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

NRM Reform

I refer to your letter of 12 June 2018 in which you outline the Government's proposed approach to reforming natural resources management in South Australia through the repealing of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 and its replacement with a new Landscape South Australia Act.

In your letter you have asked the LGASA to provide three key areas our members would like to see addressed in the new legislation.

The LGASA has consulted with its members and the three key areas that councils would like to see addressed include the following.

1. **Management and Collaboration**

   Local government is a significant land owner/manager within the State and acknowledges its responsibilities in managing the natural landscape. As a significant land owner/manager it is considered that local government must be more involved in setting objectives and outcomes at a statewide level. It is therefore recommended that:

   a. a State-based management body be established, which includes local government membership, to provide greater direction as to where investment should occur at a State and local level. The State-based council should be responsible for administering a State-based fund to support the management of key landscape assets across the State; and.

   b. to improve efficiencies and outcomes, the coast protection responsibilities under the Coast Protection Act and native vegetation responsibilities under the Native Vegetation Act should be incorporated into the Landscape SA Act and managed through regional boards rather than the multiples boards that currently exist.

   Local Government is the level of government closest to the community, it is recommended that:

   a. there should be greater engagement and collaboration at the regional level with local government on the delivery of local outcomes. State government agencies and regional boards need to work more closely with local government to achieve sustainable outcomes;

b. local government and local communities need to be involved in developing and implementing regional and state deliverables;

c. the Landscapes SA Act should include clear provisions requiring regional boards to work closely with local government and local communities. This could include requirements for regional boards to establish committees or groups with local government members to advise the board; and

d. a revised decentralised model of implementing the state and regional plans, with more autonomy and decision making provided at a regional level, and regional organisations and state agencies working more closely with local government to achieve outcomes.

2. Resourcing and Funding

Local government recognises that priorities in respect to managing the landscape are not spread evenly across the State and a rethink of the investment approach is needed. It is recommended that:

a. the new approach include the development of a statewide annual business plan with priorities, actions and statewide investment. This approach provides the impetus for a broader statewide levy collection method rather than the current regional approach, which requires local government to collect the levy on behalf of the regional boards;

b. if a regionally based funding model is to be retained, the State Government must take responsibility for collecting the levy rather than this being a responsibility of local government;

c. a State-based fund be established, similar to the current State NRM fund, but managed by the State Landscape Council and not a state agency;

d. the State Government provide a minimum 'dollar for dollar' contribution to support regional management of the state's landscapes, with these funds administered through a State Landscapes Fund; and

e. the new legislation incorporate provisions for greater transparency and accountability of regional boards, with boards being required to clearly identify the amount of the funds they direct to State agencies and spend on administration.

3. Increased Inclusivity

The Landscapes Act should be more inclusive legislation and it is recommended that the legislation includes provisions addressing:

a. the management and control of abundant native species at a regional level by regional boards;

b. an increased focus on the management and control of pest animal and weeds; and

c. the roles and responsibilities of organisations with responsibilities in the areas of stormwater and flood management.

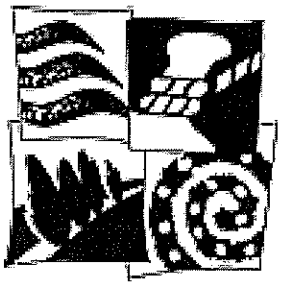
The LGASA looks forward to working with you and State agencies on this important piece of legislation and we welcome every opportunity for our members to be engaged in the development of a new Landscape South Australia Act.

Should you require further information on the issues identified please feel free to contact Stephen Smith, Director Policy at stephen.smith@lga.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

SClearihan

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CITY OF
Port Adelaide Enfield

Natural Resource Management Reform

Submission on the
Discussion Paper: Managing Our Landscapes, Conversations for Change

September 2018

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Introduction

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield welcomes the opportunity to provide initial feedback on the reform of the state's natural resource management (NRM) system and issues raised in the *Discussion Paper: Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change*.

The comments made in the submission are consistent with Council's existing policy positions and strategic commitments and address issues most relevant to the City of Port Adelaide Enfield context. The feedback forms Council's preliminary input into the natural resource management reform, noting that there will be further opportunities to engage in the reform process including the review of the yet to be released Green Adelaide discussion paper and the subsequent draft legislation.

Council's current policy commitments and strategic directions relevant to the reform of the natural resource management system (including identified partnerships with the existing Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board) are articulated in the following strategic plans:

- City Plan 2030
- http://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Plan_CityPlan.pdf

- Living Environment Strategy 2022
- http://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Plan_EnvironmentalStrategy.pdf

- Biodiversity Management Plan
- http://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Plan_BiodiversityManagement2016-2020.pdf

- AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- https://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=2291

Council also gives in principle support to the Local Government Association of South Australia's (LGA) initial feedback on the reform of the natural resource management system, which identified the following three priorities for the local government sector generally:

- management and collaboration;
- resourcing and funding; and,
- increased inclusivity.

Further details on these sector wide considerations are contained in attachment one to this submission.

The following feedback expands on aspects of these sector wide considerations and addresses other considerations.

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Intersects with other legislation

The discussion paper notes (on page 28) a number of statutes that the new Landscape Act will need to intersect with and, that further engagement will occur on this matter. The following statutes need to be added to the existing list:

- Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007
- Linear Parks Act 2006.

The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 is listed in the discussion paper, however there is no discussion of this critically important intersect and how this interdependency will be managed in the reform process and transitional arrangements.

In August 2018, as part of the planning reform, the State Government released the Natural Resources and Environment Policy Discussion Paper. https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/483885/Natural_Resources_and_Environment_Policy_Discussion_Paper.pdf.

The planning reform discussion paper explores what role planning will play in:

- sustainable and liveable urban environments;
- water security and quality;
- biodiversity;
- coastal environments;
- natural hazards; and,
- environment protection and environmental health.

The planning reform paper also includes a proposed set of planning policies for green infrastructure (GI) and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and discusses how an offset scheme could support delivery of WSUD and GI. There is a clear alignment of these priorities and land use planning considerations with the seven priorities that are currently identified for the new Green Adelaide Board (as detailed on page 17 of the NRM discussion paper).

Furthermore, the guiding principles for the NRM reform as outlined in the discussion paper speak of a totally different approach to that of the planning reforms. The NRM reforms are statedly structured around decentralisation, local control and local influence whereas the planning reforms are more about centralisation and top down control. When the two systems interact, the strikingly different approaches may create conflicts in decision-making and community expectations about the ability to shape outcomes.

Given this critically important interdependency and opportunity, Council recommends that the current concurrent timing of the reform of state planning system and natural resource management system be used as an opportunity to better integrate land use planning and NRM planning at the local, regional, state and local scale. Specifically

this includes consideration of the following in each reform process and transitional arrangements:

- Identifying whether Green Adelaide and the other regional Landscape Boards would have a referral role in providing advice and/or statutory direction in land use planning matters – or whether this is best handled by the Department for Environment and Water.

- Ensuring policy consistency in the Planning Design Code and Regional Plans and the new Landscape SA Act and the 5 Year Plans prepared by the Green Adelaide Board (and the other Landscape Boards).

- Identifying whether the new Boards should undertake a Planning Design Code Amendment Process on a periodic basis eg. as part of the 5 Year Landscape planning process.

- Ensuring that the new planning system includes relevant natural resource management and landscape scale spatial overlays eg water catchments, strategic biodiversity corridors and areas of high conservation value.

- Identifying a clearer linkage between natural resource and landscape planning and South Australia's Multiple Land Use Framework (see here).

- Ensuring the interface between urban planning and Green Adelaide be given high priority with a regulatory and compliance framework to support integrated approaches between land use, natural resource and landscape planning.

Management of State Natural Resources

The governance and planning model articulated in the discussion paper does not include an equivalent of the existing overarching State NRM Plan, which provides the strategic alignment between relevant state-wide strategies and regional NRM plans. Instead it is proposed to devolve all planning to the regional Landscape Boards, including Green Adelaide. With greater responsibilities given to individual Boards, the question is how will SA strategic direction be driven and measured?

While Council is supportive of regional scale planning informed by local priorities, it also recognises the importance of having a consistent approach across regions to ensure that cross boundary issues and/or state significant priorities are adequately factored into relevant regional plans and programs.

In the City of Port Adelaide Enfield context this would be relevant to the management of coastal and estuarine environments, including the landscapes of the Barker Inlet wetlands and the internationally significant Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary. These ecosystems and landscapes could fall within two regional Landscape Board regions i.e. Green Adelaide and the Plains and Valley (noting that the final boundaries are not yet determined).

Council therefore supports the following mechanisms being used to ensure that cross regional and state-wide planning occurs:

- Development of a state-wide landscape restoration plan (similar in scope to the existing State NRM plan).

- Establishment of an agreed funding mechanism to allow for Board resources to be equitably allocated towards cross regional and/or state-wide priorities, noting that the key policy direction for the new Act should be that funding raised in a region should be principally spent in that region.

- Clearer linkages between the five-year Landscape Plans and the *State of Environment* reports by the State and Commonwealth Governments. The role of the State SOE in setting performance measures could be prescribed in the new Landscape Act.

Currently, there are three separate state level bodies with responsibility for managing natural resources in the state: regional NRM boards, the Coast Protection Board and the Native Vegetation Council. Additionally licensing issues relevant to natural resource management are dealt with three separate State Government agencies: Department for Environment and Water, Primary Industries and Regions SA and Department for Planning Transport and Infrastructure. As noted in the LGA's initial feedback on the NRM reform, these current arrangements create inefficiencies for local government and communities that are seeking advice or approvals for natural resource management matters. The LGA has suggested (see attachment one) that these inefficiencies could be resolved by incorporating the Coast Protection Board and Native Vegetation Council responsibilities into the Landscape Act and managed through the regional boards.

While Council agrees that these inefficiencies be addressed in the NRM reform process, it cautions against any model that further reduces the already inadequate levels of funding available for coastal protection and coastal management.

Funding – accountability and transparency

Council has effectively and co-operatively administered the collection of the NRM Levy for several years on the State Government's behalf, but considers it is now a timely opportunity to review the method for collection and transfer, particularly given the changes that have occurred regarding the position of the NRM Boards within the State Government structure.

When the levy collection arrangements were originally established, the AMLR NRM Board was an independent authority who's budget and operations were driven primarily by the program and planning needs of the natural environment and the community it supports. Given that the NRM Boards are now embedded within the State Government departmental structure, the levy funds are now partially directed to supporting the administration of the department generally, which has led to a decrease in funding flow to on ground delivery. It is therefore becoming increasingly difficult to justify Local Government's role in collecting the Levy.

Critical to Council's and the community's ongoing support of the contribution is that there is transparency and accountability in the revenue raising and application of those funds locally and regionally.

Council considers that it would provide greater transparency and accountability for our ratepayers if the State Government investigated an alternative means to collect the Levy, including consideration of collecting the levy through a state mechanism (similar to the emergency services levy).

If the levy continues to be collected by councils the reimbursement payed to councils needs to reflect the costs incurred by councils to collect the levy, which is currently not the case. A LGA survey of councils identified that costs that councils consider are not covered by the collection fee are:

- losses as a result of valuation objections
- enquiries and complaint handling,
- cost of forecasting and modelling,
- accounting and reporting,
- debt recovery costs,
- cost of applying rebates, and
- costs to configure financial systems.

Climate change adaptation

The discussion paper makes one reference to climate change and adaptation (on page 20). It is critical that sound climate change science and adaptation planning underpins landscape planning and management. The need for this integration is highlighted in the regional climate change adaptation plans that have been developed as part of the implementation of the South Australian Climate Change Adaptation Framework. This includes the AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan that was developed by the Cities of Port Adelaide Enfield, Charles Sturt and West Torrens. The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR NRM) Board has been a key partner in the development and delivery of the Adapt West Plan. This has included direct funding support for the AdaptWest urban heat mapping and water sensitive urban design projects.

Furthermore, the South Australian Government's Climate Change Action Plan includes a priority action to 'ensure all regional NRM plans are climate change ready'. https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/programs-and-initiatives/adapting-to-climate-change.

The NRM reform process is an opportunity to strengthen consideration of climate change adaptation in the natural resource management system. This is particularly relevant to coastal management and water resource management in the built environment for metropolitan councils and ensuring green spaces in the urban areas support the adaptive needs of fauna and flora.

Given these existing strategic commitments at a state, regional and level, Council recommends that:

- The new Landscape South Australia Act needs to include climate change adaptation in its objectives and relevant provisions.

- Climate change adaptation needs to be included as a priority cross cutting issue for all Landscape Boards, alongside soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control.

- The Landscape Boards' strategic planning and programs need to consider the impacts of climate change on our natural resources and landscapes at a state, regional and local level.

- The new Landscape and Green Adelaide Boards provide program and grant funding support for on ground action focused on improving the climate resilience of natural resources and landscapes at the state, regional and local level. This includes maintaining the AMLR NRM Board's existing climate change initiatives eg the Water Sustainability Grants support for urban greening and water sensitive urban design and retention of technical staff with climate change expertise.

Stormwater and flood management

The current South Australian legislation relevant to stormwater and flood management lacks clarity in terms of the respective roles and responsibilities of state and local government. The NRM Boards, particularly the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board has played a key role in supporting local government with managing stormwater and flooding through funding support for planning, mapping and infrastructure schemes (including water sensitive urban design).

The reform of the NRM system presents an opportunity to clarify these roles and to ensure the appropriate level of funding is available.

Protection of biodiversity and ecological restoration and rehabilitation

The objectives of the existing NRM Act include reference to the need for natural resource management to protect biodiversity and achieve ecological restoration and rehabilitation outcomes. It is important that these objectives are retained in the new legislation to ensure that natural resources are managed sustainably and the protection of habitats is considered in relevant contexts. This is particularly relevant to landscapes of high conservation value and/or of strategic importance to the preservation of fauna and flora.

Council therefore recommends that:

- The new Landscape Act include objectives and provisions that support the protection and restoration of ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity at a local, regional and state level.

Abundant Native Species, Pest Animal and Weed Management

Council agrees that the management of pest plants and animals needs to be a core activity of the new Boards, as under the existing NRM system there has been a reduced focus on this area of natural resource management.

In the City of Port Adelaide Enfield context there is a growing need to manage pests such as foxes and feral cats in coastal, estuarine and wetlands systems. There has also been an increasing problem with corellas damaging industrial infrastructure on the Lefevre Peninsula.

Council also currently receives approximately $10,000 per annum from AMLR NRM to undertake weed control activities along River Torrens Linear Park. This amount includes project management costs. However, no funding is currently provided to undertake ongoing ground works in critical environments such as the samphire flats, Barker Wetlands and coastal areas.

Council therefore recommends that the new Green Adelaide Board needs to address these pest, abundant species and weed management issues in partnership with Council, other service providers, local communities and industry.

Maintaining collaboration

In recent years Council and the AMLR NRM have collaborated in a number of successful initiatives including:

- The Adapt West regional climate change adaptation planning and projects.
- The delivery of stormwater management plans and on ground works.
- The delivery the NRM Education and Urban Sustainability programs in local schools and communities.
- The Collective Impact process for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.
- Investigations into and scoping of the establishment of a community led Natural Resource Centre (NRC) in Port Adelaide.

Each of these collaborations has been very successful in delivering on ground outcomes for local communities and environments. The AMLR NRM Coastal Unit has also provided valuable expertise, advice and research in the coastal environment functions and issues.

Council therefore recommends that:

- The new Green Adelaide Board maintains:
    - adequate funding and program support for stormwater management including WSUD;

- the NRM Education and Urban Sustainability Programs or equivalent initiatives that are focused on building community capacity in natural resource, environmental and landscape management;

- the NRM Coastal Unit and dedicated funding for coastal conservation programs as distinct from coastal protection funding;

- support for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Collective Impact process;

- a funding commitment to and program support for community led NRCs, including ongoing funding for the soon to be established NRC in Port Adelaide, which has attracted substantial community interest.

Local Government Association of South Australia

The voice of local government.

Reforming Natural Resources Management

Three Key Areas

Management and Collaboration

Local government is a significant landholder/manager within the state and acknowledges its responsibilities in managing the natural landscape. As a significant landholder/manager it is considered that local government must be more involved in setting objectives and outcomes at a statewide level. It is therefore recommended that:

1. A state based management body be established which includes local government membership to provide greater direction as to where investment should occur at a state and local level. The state based council should be responsible for administering a state based fund to support the management of key landscape assets across the State, and.
2. to improve efficiencies and outcomes, the coast protection responsibilities under the Coast Protection Act and native vegetation responsibilities under the Native Vegetation Act should be incorporated into the Landscape SA Act and managed through regional boards rather than the multiples boards as currently exist.

Local Government is the level of government closest to the community, therefore it is recommended that:

1. there should be greater engagement and collaboration at the regional level.with local government on the delivery of local outcomes. State government agencies and regional boards need to work more closely with local government to achieve sustainable outcomes.
2. local government and local communities need to be involved in developing and implementing regional and state deliverables.
3. The Landscapes SA Act should include clear provisions requiring regional boards to work closely with local government and local communities. This could include requirements for regional boards to establish committees or groups with local government members to advise the board.
4. a revised decentralised model of implementing the state and regional plans, with more autonomy and decision making provided at a regional level and regional organisations and state agencies working more closely with local government to achieve outcomes.

Resourcing and Funding

Local government recognises that priorities in respect to managing the landscape are not spread evenly across the state and a rethink of investment approach is needed. It is recommended that:

1. the development of a statewide annual business plan with priorities, actions and statewide investment. This approach provides the impetus for a broader statewide levy collection method rather than the current regional approach, which requires local government to collect the levy on behalf of the regional boards;
2. should a regionally based funding model be retained, the State Government must take responsibility for collecting the levy rather than this being a responsibility of local government.
3. a state based fund be established, similar to the current State NRM fund but managed by the State Landscape Council and not a state agency;

4. the State Government provide a minimum $1:1 contribution to support regional management of the state's landscapes, with these funds administered through a State Landscapes Fund; and
5. the new legislation incorporates provisions for greater transparency and accountability of regional boards, with boards being required to clearly identify the amount of the funds they receive directed to state agencies and spent on administration.

Increased Inclusivity

The Landscapes Act should be more inclusive legislation and it is recommended that the legislation includes provisions addressing:

1. the management and control of abundant native species at a regional level by regional boards;
2. an increased focus on the management and control of pest animal and weeds; and
3. the roles and responsibilities of organisations with responsibilities in the areas of stormwater and flood management

Discussion Paper – Managing our landscapes – NRM Act reform – City Tea Tree Gully response

This is not a Council endorsed perspective. This feedback is a collection of comments from sustainability, biodiversity, pest management, water management and civil assets staff at the City Tea Tree Gully.

Q1. What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Protecting and enhancing natural systems and ecological functions that are responsive and resilient to climate change and that provide for the health of our community.

Clear objectives and commitment to objectives. Previous policies such as the No Species Loss policy is an example were good policy was abandoned.

Move away from year by year funding and approval process – need longer timeframes and programs eg, Dry Creek 5 year Plan – allows effective forward planning and gives flexibility.

Cross boundary management of open spaces eg. River Torrens Recovery Project. On ground staff should be seen as key to delivering programs.

Advocate and enforce best practice preservation of our Natural Resources. Furthermore, to educate and lead the way for Natural Resource Management in the forms of online material, training and ongoing technical support to Council and the private sector.

Empowering everyone in the community to care for and value natural resources.

Prioritising 'biodiversity' alongside soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control. Bushland and biodiversity have requirements over and above the outcomes of pest plants and animal control, soil and water management. eg buffering, connecting, monitoring. It is also important that pest, soil and water management is tailored to biodiversity conservation. Without setting biodiversity as a priority this may fall by the wayside where there are other preferred priority outcomes eg. Agricultural production benefits.

Back to basics approach pushed by Minister doesn't resolve some of the more significant systems problems in the landscape and how issues inter relate.

Reducing the impact of human activity such as development, urban growth, commercial and industrial impacts are part of managing natural resources. Protecting the quality of water and appropriate volume of environmental flows dependent on the season are important in maintaining a healthy water course. There are extractive industries which are given approvals to divert surface water flows and keep water on site. The volume of water that is lost as environmental flows is significant. The regulator for the environment in SA do not seem to have the penalties exercised in the other states to discourage pollution and contamination of water courses. The build-up of silt and sludge over time will require attention in the future at the expense of the next generation of South Australians.

Q2. What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

Current partnership programs and across boundary activities. Eg. River Torrens Recovery Project and Dry Creek 5 Year Plan.

NRM education with schools where schools are proactive.

Support for water projects such as WSUD and Watercourse rehabilitation projects.

Q3.What do you think should be changed about the way we manage natural resources?

Consecutive funding of programs to realise outcomes. Too often funding is cut or discontinued before tangible outcomes are realised resulting in a waste of funding to get a program to that stage. There also seems to be funding for projects but not for continuous management.

Greater collaboration between councils, boards and other potential partners. More proactive engagement with schools, Councils.

Regional master plan required that guides where projects and partnerships would be most effective. Catchment based approach.

Whole landscapes require management. Some stakeholders in a landscape not removing weeds for example. This compromises the work done by others.

Offset schemes do not replace better approaches to managing landscapes. Development needs to be created that is more accommodating for wildlife, and provides for the movement of wildlife.

Re-connecting islanded parks and native vegetation land parcels across the state should be a key part of the principle for landscape scale restoration.

Climate change must be incorporated in to all of the strategic objectives and decision making.

A mapping system so that everyone understands what everyone else is doing.

Increase partnership programs, create buffer zones between board zones and council boundaries, with each Landscape Board boundary set a buffer zone for example 500m in metro area and 5km in rural areas. This should be co-funded by each adjoining board and should be a priority area recognised as a **must protect** area. Offer incentives to private land holders rather than pursue compliance which usually proves counterproductive.

More advocacy and support for Councils when it comes to educating and enforcing Natural Resource Best Practice across the industry (private and government). More power to enforce non-complying works from developers when natural resources are at threat.

There is a lack of a holistic approach to managing natural resources in the way Council's and state government undertake development and infrastructure planning. There are elements in design, functionality, construction, operating and maintenance that are not adequately considered which all of which would have an impact on protecting natural resources.

There is a lack of processes in place that ensure that the State government will reach its long term strategies. Having a future vision is a start, but how are we measuring against achieving those goals. What are Councils doing to meet the long term vision?

The NRM Act 2004 places obligations relating to the management and protection of water courses, but it cannot be used effectively in restricting the type of developments in metropolitan areas. Areas with high growth are seeing an increase in surface water run-off due to an increase in hard impermeable surfaces. Natural water courses are often not designed to deal with the increase in flows, which potentially lead to increase erosion in some parts of the natural water course. There is no system in place whereby developers pay a contribution to pay for future infrastructure that will need to be put in place to manage water flows. This is applied in other areas such as in the management of wastewater and drinking water.

Q4. How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

Creation of project scopes with input from multiple stakeholders backed by scientific advice and evidence. Clear and agreed upon objectives with long time frames and budget commitments to ensure results are realised.

Partnerships and incentives for private land holders, Share knowledge, methodology and possible equipment. Create a pool of education staff that can be accessed by all board areas to provide high level education, training and environmental stewardship.

Mapping and recording system that everyone can plug into in real time. Web based system. Include potential future projects.

Streets, water sensitive urban design is missing. Require details on Green Adelaide.

Consider the strategic purchasing of land to strengthen corridors within Green Adelaide.

Q5. How do you think we can better recognise and promote aboriginal peoples land, water, economic and cultural interests?

Build into the narrative of programs not just as an afterthought.

Q6. How can landscape board's best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Ensure that the 5 year plans are set in a more strategic way to consider the long-term. Eg. 20 year vision. (Budgets need to match). Previously targets changed to align with the new priority and funding consequently cut.

Identifying strategic regional and cross regional projects that prioritise improving habitat and biodiversity

As Landscape Boards will have more autonomy than the current NRM Boards there is a greater need for clearly defined tangible objectives that are consistent with achieving the outcomes that are sought.

Monitor projects to ensure they are not in opposition to each other eg. decentralised vs. landscape scale projects.

Ensuring science is embedded into decision making. Decisions made on scientific evidence not popular opinion or other pressures.

More online presence – website, Facebook etc to engage with the community on a regular basis. Provide more online resources and interactive tools on website.

Involve stakeholders at quarterly meetings offering planning and direction and what and when information on weed species control. Offer on line mapping of whole of state for proposed work and completed projects enabling estimates for follow up requirements. Offer community groups and individuals the ability to propose initiative programs within the mapping frame work. In each board one of the minister appointed members should be qualified and responsible for maintaining and updating mapping within the zone enabling anyone to have access on prior and proposed projects

Q7. What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the landscape boards in each region?

Have set criteria for candidates that includes experience and credentials in Environmental Management particularly given the likelihood that there are likely to be a number of nominees with strong primary industry based interests. Choose community members who have functioned on similar boards before. Screen candidates thoroughly.

Q8. How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

To see the Green Adelaide landscape managed as a cohesive unit.

Joining hills to sea, managing water courses that go through private properties and including them in the connection. Including backyards and other open spaces. Mosaic of open spaces for resilience all which contribute to urban ecology.

Recognise pest issues and likely new issues based on climate change eg. tree decline and insect attack and be ready to respond (this needs science). How to protect ecology with likelihood of change eg new provenance introductions, different species.

Important that there is a strong relationship with councils as this is where the work on the ground happens.

Protect and care for significant and regulated and hollow trees wherever possible.

Acknowledge the role of established private gardens in supporting and connecting urban biodiversity.

Ensuring that there is a canopy and biodiversity hierarchy approach towards urban consolidation, new building developments and building extensions.

Supporting and incentivising new building designs to support and be integrated with an urban landscape that supports tree canopy cover and biodiversity habitat.

Mainstreaming water sensitive urban design.

Incorporate green initiatives into asset replacement and upgrades. Promote the impacts of Urban Heat Island and look into mandating WSUD by Councils and Private

Many aspirations have the potential of being derailed by the urban consolidation. Planning Act and Landscape SA Act must complement each other.

The understanding that healthy biodiversity is dependent on maintaining adequate areas of connected habitat. Where suburbs are transformed to high density forms without viable habitat, healthy biodiversity will be extinguished. This cannot be offset by enhancing disconnected pocket parks.

Create training centres that evolve with progress. Involve apprentices and training providers with current issue, technology and project updates. Utilise expertise from current government and local government sectors to for fill any short falls and build a wealth of local knowledge for our future guardian and stewards.

Q9. How can regional planning be streamlined?

The proposal for 5 year landscape plans envisaged must be framed within longer term landscape scale objectives and goals.

Via a state-wide mapping system that includes Bio control, weed spread or reduction, pest animal sightings and densities, re-vegetation projects, future proposed projects, ongoing partnership programs and a where are we working now live map.

Requires integration between the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and the Landscapes SA Act. This hasn't always worked well in the past. The high aspirations of Green Adelaide may not be realised if the Minister for Environment and Water is unable to influence planning legislation.

Q10. How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

Each board zone have an appointed member from the minister that is trained and has the relevant expertise and training to be responsible for updating and maintain a live mapping system that anyone can view and submit their comments and views. If something is added within a certain distance from landholders or if it is a state issue all organisations or individual property holders can be notified via text or email

message as the CFS do with bush fire updates. This would alert them to any issues within their zones.

Regional plans can be more accessible where there is a clear long term vision for the region, in accordance with high level principles, together with the long term objectives and spatial plans.

Better planning means that less jargon is required. Rather than create program names that tend to change and confuse people emphasise the outcomes sought.

Q11. How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Initially the mapping with a quarterly report from each zone to qualify work completed or project outcomes. Reports to include lessons learnt and highlights of projects. Information regarding with community involvement and engagement with feedback from the general public.

Q12. How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

It is important to have open and transparent methods relating to the way that levies are collected and where it is spent.

Do not allow levies to be put into general revenue and maintain any unspent $ to be used within the next financial year. If a large surplus of levies is collected offer a one off discount to rural areas or increase co funded works with private land holders.

Q13. How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Have a % contingency amount that is collected from each zone allocated to high priority projects. Projects of high priority should be voted on their merits by members of the 7 state wide zones. These high priority projects would be submitted quarterly by the GM's each zone or agreed after an abnormal event such as fire flood algae bloom ETC.

It is essential that the ongoing management of the project is funded. In some situations, the benefits of a project could be completely undone if there is no ongoing land management support.

Q14. How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

This is very important. To achieve specific and well defined spatial landscape scale outcomes in accordance with Statewide outcome based principles. Coordinated efforts are essential. Systems don't stop at region borders.

Activities undertaken within a boundary have an impact outside of the boundary. This can relate to water resource allocation planning, development planning, the construction of stormwater infrastructure, increasing the size of an existing dam etc.

Create a designated buffer area between each zone and council area. These areas would be considered the highest priority areas for the adjoining zones / councils and would be defined on the state wide mapping system.

Q15. How could grassroots grants program best work?

The grass roots Grant programs can be a call to arms to support the outcome and will be best supported if these outcomes sought are defined locally by the Landscape Boards, in accordance with Statewide outcome based principles.

Grass root projects would need to be applied for quarterly to an appointed member from each board. The board members would then vote and approve such projects. Merits on community engagements and zone benefits would need to be an essential component. If additional funds were available during a financial year from the partnership type projects additional grass root projects or education programs could be funded.

Q16. What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Control needs to be done with the consideration of biodiversity as a priority. Wholescale removal of woody weeds can decimate the habitat for certain wildlife for instance. Careful pest management with the ecology of the local areas is essential.

Simplify management plans and create an online information sharing platform. Create a live up kept mapping system for all to use. Create across board zone four times a year to target specific weed issues and pest animals. Expand forums to include community groups and alike including individuals with vested interests so as they can learn from the way we do projects and how we undertake programmed approaches to issues. Offer assistance to private landholders via a % of the levy withheld in each board area which will compliment efforts by both local government and community groups. Create buffer zones within greener Adelaide that require commitments from all stake holders to maintain these areas as the highest priority zones. Share proposed projects and programs 12 and 6 monthly before implemented. Enable Local government to direct other state government dept. such as DPTI, SA Water and National Parks to gain conformity and continuity in control programs. Give power to boards to direct stakeholders to fund combined projects within a time period. Enable stake holders to apply for individual project funding from board levies. Start projects where seed source begins and carry out follow up programs to ensure minimal re infestation and get the best bang for the buck. Sometimes this will be across board areas and will require contributions to be combined to achieve the common goal.

Animal control in metro regions should be done at the same time to have the greatest impact and enable statistics to create data that will either support or prove our limited efforts are not working effectively. This may stimulate new and innovations methods and technology for pests like foxes where we currently have little armoury to control them.

Q17. Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this bill to current water management processes?

A stronger focus on protection of watercourses and floodplains and their importance to communities in the forms of flood protection, water quality, open space and natural ecosystems.

Q18. What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

The WIA 2012 addresses the protection of water infrastructure and the penalties can be applied for contaminating water supplies through water infrastructure. However, natural water courses are not classified as water infrastructure. When contaminants and pollutants enter the water course, Council is the organisation responsible for maintaining the water course. Council do not have any control as to what enters the water course but have to deal with the result of environmental pollution.

Require a way to ensuring that development does not go unchecked. Developers need to consider the impact of their development on the receiving waters. The current processes are not robust and not taken seriously.

Mandating WSUD for all new developments including detailed requirements for water quality improvement criteria.

Q19. What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

5 year planning horizons with a longer tern 2050 goals for each region and major natural asset system.

Strategic planning that is defined spatially in regional plans in accordance with the outcome focussed principles.

To enable funding for private property holders to undertake projects to remove pest plants that deliver seed to already protected downstream areas. Enable bank stabilisation works, creek line alignment and traditional indigenous plantings. When work is conducted on private land the plans, photos and outcomes to be included within the mapping program to enable all stake holders to be aware of completed work and ongoing commitments to create the Greener Adelaide.

Q20. What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

In the urban landscape, particularly for the Green Adelaide Outcomes to be realised, the development sector needs to be legally incentivised to be part of the solution. The vast majority of urban development currently being undertaken would not past simple tests for:

- Preserving, protecting and maintaining natural assets, significant trees and urban gardens essential to habitat and biodiversity connectivity
- Planning biodiversity connections on a precinct and suburb scale

- Integrating new habitat that is able to support healthy urban biodiversity including suitable shrub habitat to support macro invertebrates, small birds, lizards, and mammals.
- Achieving 20% increased canopy cover by 2020.

Renmark Paringa Council

Renmark Paringa Council SA NRM Reform Discussion Paper Question Responses

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

- Educating future generations on environmental issues and how effective natural resource management can address them and lead to a more sustainable outcomes in our community.
- Community based and driven natural resource management that ensures efficiency in project delivery.
- Achieving social and economic benefits through the delivery of environmental projects and initiatives. When the wider community understands that effective natural resource management leads to positive social and economic outcomes, they are more likely to support and become involved in conservation efforts, projects and initiatives. So it is important that these benefits are more overt, and that environmental projects and initiatives aim to educate and enhance community understanding and physical interaction with sites. This contributes to communities developing an understanding that environmental, social and economic elements within our society are interdependent.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

- Salt interception and drainage diversion schemes.
- Private groups and organisations that run very well and efficiently despite the fact that they are underfunded, and who's successes are often accredited to inefficient bureaucracies.

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

- The South Australian Government should financially contribute to natural resource management, and not rely on federal government funding. Furthermore, the South Australian Government should build capacity within local government to effectively and efficiently manage natural resources with its communities.
- Better management and planning across all groups and organisations involved in natural resource management.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

- By looking at the landscape as a whole system and integrating projects and people across a region. This cooperation should be facilitated by the reduction of red tape that allows these organisations to effectively collaborate.
- Integrate elements of innovation into landscape scale projects that leverage social and economic benefits from the environmental. For example, a walking trail could accompany a corridor connecting two wetlands in an environmental project and provide social and economic benefits to the region.

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

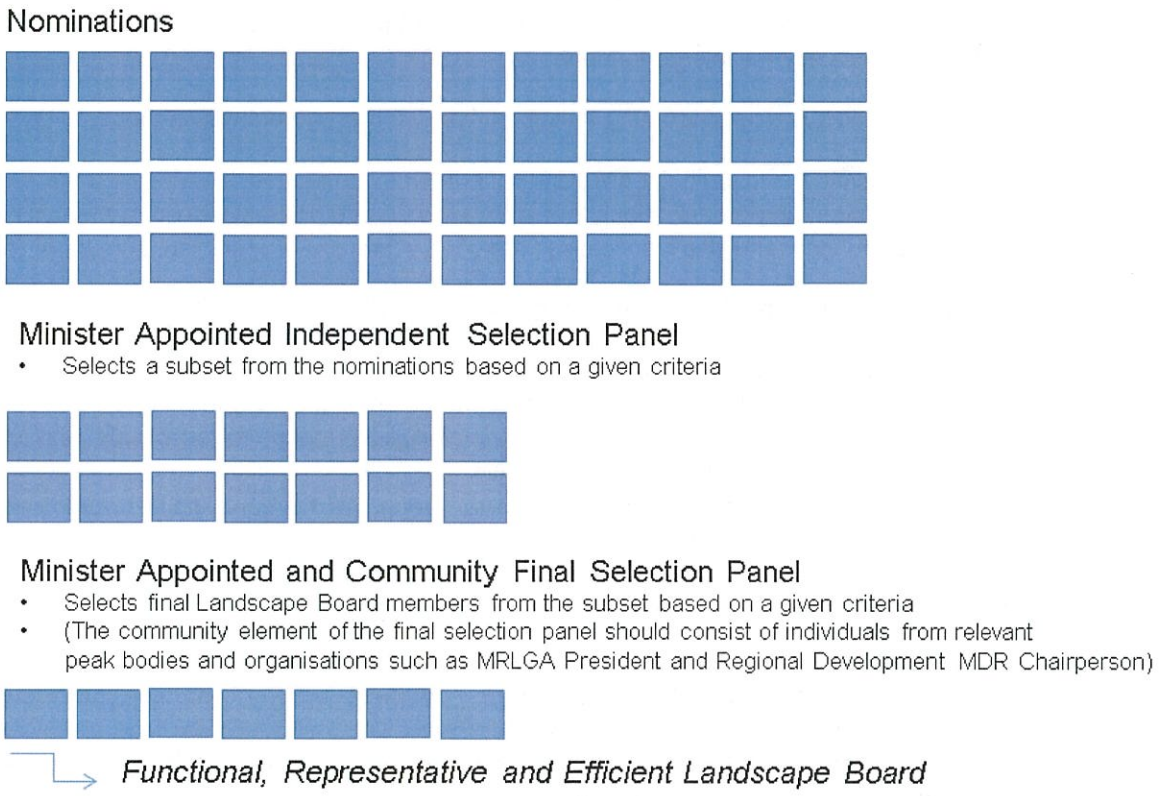
- Aboriginal people should be encouraged to partner and collaborate on projects and be supported to join community driven NRM organisations.

Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

- Ensure that the Landscape Board members are directly connected to a diverse range of groups, communities and organisations so that they can effectively supporting community planning and coordinated efforts.

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

- Skills and regional representation should be the key criteria for selecting the community members, with skills higher weighted.
- Potentially an independent selection panel is appointed by the Minister that selects a pool of suitable candidates based on skills and secondarily, regional representation. All 7 board members are then chosen from this pool through some mechanism which could include a selection panel consisting of Minister appointed and community representatives.



Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

- All relevant stakeholders with existing NRM plans and strategies should be central in and contribute towards the priorities over life of the plan ensuring there is a shared vision which paves the way for collaboration and cooperation.
- A review of existing plans should be conducted before creating something new following political cycles.

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Question 10 How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

- If regional groups and organisations contribute to the regional plan, and it is widely supported, disseminated and available through their websites and physical establishments it is likely to be far more accessible

Question 11 How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

- By having plans that are succinct and enabled identification of clear outcomes and achievements.

Question 12 How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

- The full costs of collecting the Levy are not recovered through the payments received from the State Government to provide this service. This cost shifting has been imposed since 2004 and it has now become untenable for councils to continue to act as the NRM Levy collection agent – especially since the State Government could now include the NRM Levy with the notice that is sent to every property for the Emergency Services Levy

Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

- State Government should be funding these high priority projects through partnerships with local groups and organisations.
- Commonwealth, state and local government partnerships should be utilised to achieve high priority landscape projects.

Question 14 How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

- It is particularly important in regions with interconnected systems, such as the Murray River. A cross regional and sector advisory body with representatives could function to share insights and collaborate, and areas such as Chowilla can be used as a model for how we can manage a complex system across organisations and borders.

Question 15 How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

- The grants can be aimed at supporting the community in delivering projects that assist in delivering regional plans and strategy, administered by Landscape boards. This strategy would ideally be aimed achieving commonly shared goals that enable effective cooperation.

Question 16 What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

- The highest priority way we could improve pest and plant animal control would be through a multi stage project that tackles the problem at a regional level with regional cooperation and partnership. This program would ideally begin with an educational element, with the design, production and dissemination of a pest plant and animal control handbook, avoiding duplication. The educational element could incorporate a series of workshops or webinars open to the community. Following this educational element, a citizen science initiative driven by collaboration between NRM organisations and groups should be rolled out, aimed at generating pest plant and animal data to inform effective control strategy and action.

Question 18 What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

- Look at other key historical water strategy documents that can inform the reform.

Question 19 What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

- Policies should be adopted that specify that regional collaborative approaches must be utilised to address pest plant and animals.

Question 20 What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

- The State NRM Plan (therefore Regional Plans) must support community connectedness to the environment through citizen science, the development of nature based tourism, and NRM strategy that enables strong engagement and consultation with the individuals and groups who live in the landscape.
- Incorporate social environmental and economic aspects of natural resource management into landscape wide projects that have multiple benefits.

CITY OF Playford

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03 October 2018

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
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By email: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam,

Draft Submission on *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* Repeal

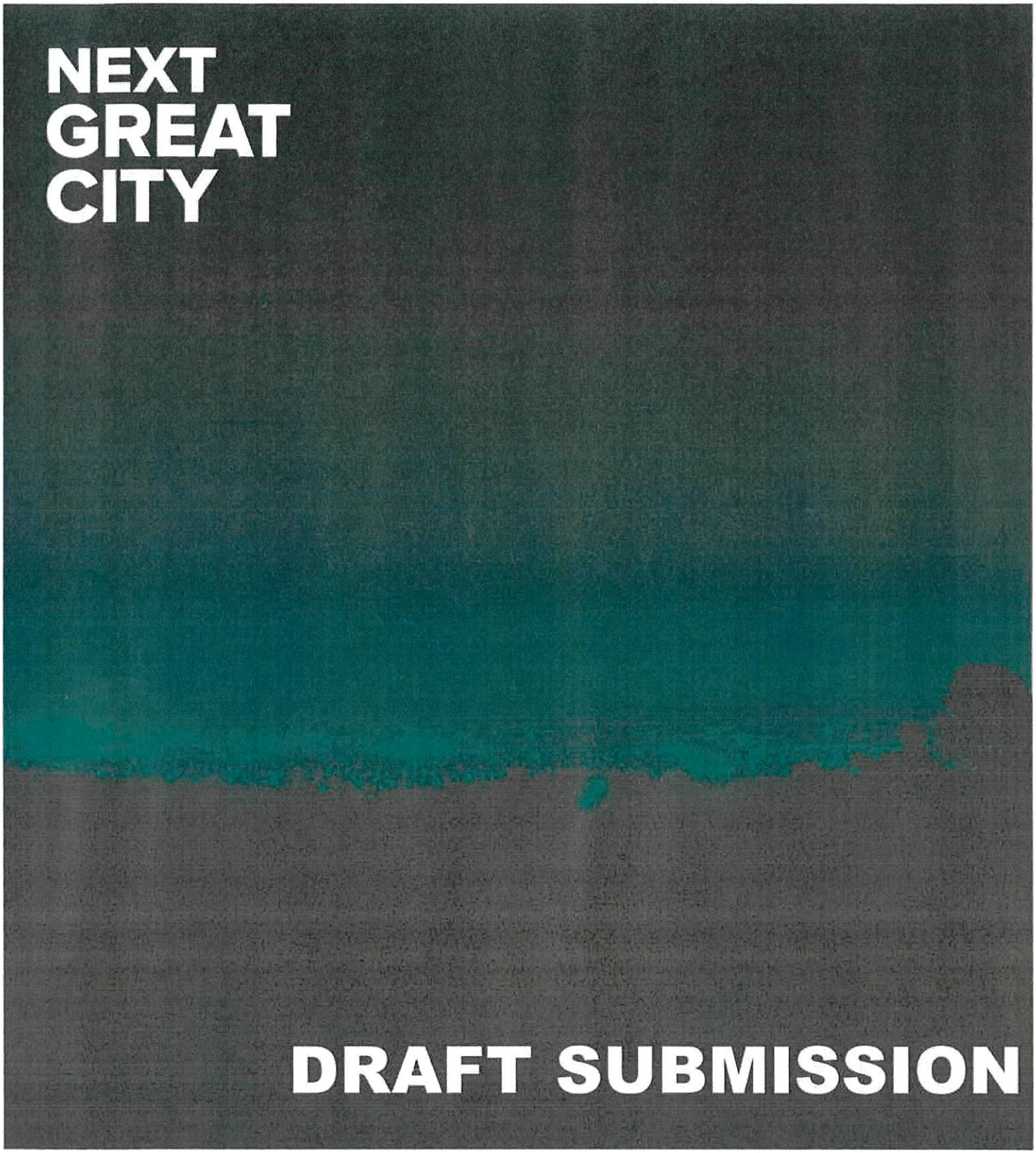
Please find enclosed the City of Playford's comments on the State Government's discussion paper on reforming the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* as part of the State Government reform in preparation to establish Landscapes SA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this discussion paper.

Yours faithfully,

Mal Hemmerling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NEXT GREAT CITY



DRAFT SUBMISSION

Natural Resources Management Act Repeal

CITY OF Playford

03.10.2018

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Government's discussion paper on reforming the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Act as part of the State Government reform and in preparation to establish Landscapes SA.

Overall, Council values State Government oversight of the natural environment and views close partnership between the State Government, Councils and the community as fundamentally important to delivery of positive on-ground action. The Discussion Paper raises a number of considerations and questions, with Council providing feedback on key areas as follows:

1. Recommendations on Priorities of the Landscapes SA Act and Boards
2. Views on the manner in which outcomes can be achieved (what works, what could be improved)
3. Comment on the structure of the proposed Boards
4. Comment on Board boundaries and on Green Adelaide
5. Comment on collection and distribution of levies

In this document, the terms *"Board"* and *"Boards"* refer to the current NRM Boards and their proposed replacement Landscape SA Boards. The term "Act" refers to the NRM Act and/or the Landscapes SA Act which is to replace it.

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3 October 2018

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Davoren Park SA 5113

Priorities of the Landscapes SA Act and Boards

1.1 Council supports the State setting overall priorities which are operationally actioned by the Boards. For example, the State should identify the key biodiversity issues and pest threats to South Australia, with each region determining the extent of relevance for its area and how best to address it.

1.2 Council recommends a focus on supporting and fostering good land management practices and custodianship approaches. While compliance needs to play a role in protection of natural resources, it should be a supportive (rather than leading) measure.

1.3 Reducing 'red-tape' is supported, though the protections that the current NRM Act provides should continue in place. Increased procedural efficiencies should not come at the expense of leniency on protections.

1.4 Council is supportive of a strong on-ground approach to the work of the proposed Boards and sees high value in continuing to work in partnership with the relevant Board(s).

1.5 Council encourages a stronger focus on Biodiversity protection and enhancement in addition to the proposed on-ground work on soil, water and pest control activities.

1.6 The Act should provide the ability for Boards or Local Governments to undertake work which results in public benefit on water courses regardless of tenure. For example, the Gawler River is primarily privately owned. However work to reduce flood risk is best managed through a single authority.

1.7 Further to above, Council recommends clarity of responsibility for work along and within waterways – e.g. clear responsibility for development and maintenance of levees as well as regular maintenance to clear fallen trees, rubbish and other impediments.

The manner in which outcomes can be achieved (what works, what could be improved)

2.1 The State Government should identify priorities based on science and national and/or state wide importance, while allowing Boards flexibility to determine appropriate actions for their regions based on data and understanding of local conditions.

2.2 Clear short- and long-term targets should be set by the State. Each Board should determine how it meets the targets relevant to its area and report on those. These targets should be focussed on outcomes and reporting should be primarily quantitative and brief.

2.3 Council supports a continuation of partnership approaches with Local Government where NRM Officers funded by Boards may be placed at Councils and/or establish financial partnership and on-ground work plans.

2.4 Council recommends a focus on communication, engagement and education as well as financial support for on-ground work.

2.5 Council recommends a simplified compliance process that works to support an engagement approach similar to the manner in which Bushfire Risk Mitigation is carried out. Compliance should be reserved for instances of recalcitrance and should not be a primary role of Officers.

2.6 For clarity, Council does not support models which shift the burden of service delivery nor compliance activities to Local Government.

The Structure of the Proposed Boards

3.1 Council recommends that Board Membership be based on skills, knowledge and experience e.g. scientific knowledge, primary production, environmental protection, governance, communications and marketing, financial management, etc.

3.2 Further to above, Council recommends avoiding a duplication of existing election processes or elected functions.

3.3 Council acknowledges the Ministers' intent to involve Local Government in a suitable manner on Boards. Council recommends that local government bodies be encouraged to put forth suitably experienced people for Board representation but Boards should not be required to have Local Government representation if adequate interest is not expressed.

Board and Green Adelaide Boundaries

4.1 The City of Playford recommends that its urban growth areas are included in the Green Adelaide region while its agricultural areas are within the Plains and Valleys Landscape Board.

4.2 Green Adelaide should be a program of works which focusses on urban-related issues as outlined on page 17 of the Discussion Paper, but otherwise should be structured the same as the other Landscape Boards.

4.3 Council recommends that Board boundaries be based on landscapes and land use rather than Local Government boundaries.

4.4 Consideration for placing EFPAs (Environment and Food Protection Areas) identified in the Planning, Development & Infrastructure Act (PDIA) into appropriate Landscape Boards should occur so that agricultural areas are covered by Boards while urban areas are more aligned to the metropolitan interests of the Green Adelaide region.

Comment on Collection and Distribution of Levies

5.1 While Council understands that discussion on the collection mechanism is not invited, Council stands firm on its view that Local Government should not be the vehicle for collection of State Government taxes.

5.2 Council recommends that a common levy is applied across the State rather than individual levy amounts being set by Boards. This will facilitate the ability for Boards to work across government boundaries.

5.3 A State-wide levy should be determined based on resourcing requirements for natural resource management and the strategic outcomes the State aims to achieve.

5.4 While Council appreciates the State Government intent to increase transparency of expenditure within regions where the Levy is collected, it recommends that prioritisation of work is based on State and/or National needs. For example, resources to stop weed spread from one region to another may be the most cost effective to manage an issue regardless of the region in which the levy is raised.

5.5 Council recommends that the Levy follow Principles of Taxation. Therefore Council supports the suggestion that a portion of funding be allocated to State-wide priorities rather than allocation by Board boundaries.

5.6 In relation to pragmatic expenditure, the majority of funds should be expended on on-ground works, whether undertaken by the Boards or by landholders working with the Boards.

5.7 Council supports the Grassroots funding allocation proposed. This will support the excellent work carried out by many local and community based groups across the State.

Council looks forward to a continued discussion on Landscapes SA and the ability to continue its positive relationship with the State Government on achieving natural resource outcomes. For further information or clarification please contact Dr Greg Pattinson, Senior Manager Strategy and Policy on gpattinson@playford.sa.gov.au or phone 8256 0333.

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File Ref: IC18/19099

11 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
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landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Adelaide Hills Council Submission on the - proposed NRM Reforms - Managing our Landscapes Conservations for Change

Adelaide Hills Council is grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on the NRM reform and changes, specifically the repeal of the NRM Act 2004 and replacement with the proposed Landscapes South Australia Act.

A response is provided to the individual questions within the 'Managing Our Landscapes - Conservations for Change' - Discussion Paper of July 2018. Comment has been provided from Council employees with professional expertise in Biodiversity and Planning, in addition a comprehensive response (swot analysis) from the Rural Land Management Advisory Group.

Adelaide Hills Council looks forward to reviewing the community forum and workshop summary and is willing to expand on any response or provide further engagement if required.

If you have any queries regarding the above comments then please do not hesitate to contact me on 8408-0547.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Brooks
Biodiversity Officer

Managing Our Landscapes - Conversations for Change - Collated Feedback
Adelaide Hills Council Submission

Question 1

What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

- Conservation and protection of existing high value natural areas (habitat protection)
- Greater focus on restoration and enhancement of degraded natural areas
- Greater focus on connectivity and linking remnants (wildlife corridors)
- Sustainable use of natural responses
- Acknowledging the role of biodiversity in supporting all ecosystem services that support good soil and water quality, which in turn support agriculture. Adelaide Hills region has high quality biodiversity as well as high level of agricultural production and is responsible for 80% of the SA's apple & pear production. Orchard productivity is reliant on pollination by bees, who in return rely on healthy habitats and high quality biodiversity to sustain bee populations
- Acknowledging and understanding the interconnectedness between biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Using scientific facts and knowledge for truly understanding cause and effect of degradation of soil and water decision making
- Acknowledging the correlation between healthy natural environments and healthy humans
- Continuity of funding and a cultural recognition that the biodiversity management of Natural Resources and the environment has a tangible implication outside of the political arena. Projects should have a longer vision toward commitment and our shared landscape. i.e. The Green Army ... what is the current replacement? It is **requested a similar environmental program for the youth be established as part of the proposed reforms.**

Question 2

What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

- The use of District Officers across the NRM regions has been an effective way of reaching and supporting the community and collaborating with local government and non-government organisations regarding management of biodiversity within SA. There is though a concern that the number of District Officers is proposed to be reduced in our region and that would significantly reduce the current level of environmental outcomes being achieved in collaboration with Council's NRM officers.
- The Community NRM Action Grants have assisted many small community groups fund on-ground works and associated management plans/strategies
- The Volunteer Support Officer providers excellent support to volunteers across the region and helps bridge the gap with other organisations and cross tenure projects
- Interagency collaboration and vision is working well, shared vision and intent is generally understood.
- Our Biodiversity Officers have a strong working relationship with the current District Officers, don't want to lose this
- Training and awareness sessions on Water Affecting Activities and other regulated issues aimed at local government are really good - would like to see these continue, they help build relationships between State and Local Govt staff
- Training and info sessions for general public - would like to see these continued.

Question 3

What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

- Increase funding for District Officers for management of roadside vegetation. Funding has been reduced significantly so that their ability to collaborate with Councils on management activities has been severely eroded.
- Increase funding for District Officers for management of remnant vegetation across the region. Much of the funding for smaller projects has been removed which is jeopardising the future management of these sites and increasing the risk of their biodiversity values deteriorating.

- Water allocations and localised water collection and storage on properties, needs to be better regulated across the regions. Better Catchment management.
- Greater penalties and compliance for those in breach of the legislation.
- Greater regulation and management of pest plants. Including management across private and public lands and sale of species in the nursery industry.
- Incorporate measurable climate change adaptation goals, in particular adoption of the RMIT's "Where Should All the Trees Go" report, vison 202020.

Question 4

How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

- Collaborate with other regions if project extends boundaries.
- Seek Federal funding for larger 'landscape scale' projects - funding for these types of projects should not be at the expense of smaller, more 'community based' projects.
- Collaborate with local govt and community groups to expand existing projects that have merit/meet strategic goals and harness existing momentum.
- Utilise reports such as the RMIT's "Where Should All the Trees Go" report, vison 202020.

Question 5

How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

- Aboriginal representation should be provided for on each of the nine regional 'Landscape' boards.
- Through similar engagement and consultation protocols as per other states in Australia. In NSW for example there are approximately 120 Local Aboriginal Land Councils which report to a governing Aboriginal Council (Board). In addition a number of Aboriginal Consultative Engagement Groups are in effect. Through extensive consultation programs with Aboriginal people the interests and culture is well represented.
- Provide avenue for expert advice on how to incorporate Aboriginal interests into interpretation/information produced by local government.

Question 6

How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

- Retain the use of District Officers and Volunteer Support Officers across the regions by way of reaching and supporting the community and collaborating with local government and non-government organisations on management of biodiversity within SA
- Increase funding for District Officers for management of roadside vegetation and remnant vegetation across the region. Funding has been reduced significantly so that their ability to collaborate with local government and non-government organisations on management activities has been severely eroded. Much of the funding for smaller projects has been removed which is jeopardising the future management of these sites and increasing the risk of their biodiversity values deteriorating
- Identify existing community projects with good momentum that meet State Gov. Strategic Goals to invest in and expand on - Paddock Trees program, Olibel cluster run by the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group.

Question 7

What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

- Each of the three members should be appointed based on their knowledge and experience from a range of backgrounds which will assist in coming up with holistic and comprehensive NRM strategies and policies (ie Conservation and biodiversity management, Primary production, Aboriginal representative etc). The appointment should follow an adequate application and interview process.

Question 8

How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

- By encouraging residents, particularly within the inner city to investigate/explore opportunities for roof top planting, green walls and paved courtyards where landscaping could be accommodated
- By offering residents who engage in ecological improvement incentives to undertake such initiatives e.g. rate relief or the provision of plants and other necessary materials
- By retaining watercourses as public spaces with linear parks, to act as habitat linkages/ corridors – and utilise flood modelling data to ensure adequate floodplain is allowed
- By promoting the use of native plants in city gardens to support urban biodiversity – with demonstration gardens with interpretative signage or information to show how native plants can be used in urban landscaping
- Encourage bee and insect hotels in schools and natural spaces.

Question 9

How can regional planning be streamlined?

- Many of the State's Regional NRM Plans are already operational and have many years until they need to be reviewed. Extensive information has been gathered from surveys, meetings and forums and community workshops to determine the natural resource management values for each region and what drives and threatens these landscapes. It is hoped that by 'streamlining' the regional planning process that it is not the intention to circumvent the processes associated with collecting this valuable information from across the region
- It is considered that the current Regional Plans which have already been adopted after an extensive consultation process should be maintained. This would significantly save time and resources recreating new plans with little or no added benefit.

Question 10

How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

- Create standardised templates for Regional Plans to be used when the current plans come up for review
- Provision of an online portal where the community can provide interactive input with regard to the preparation of a regional plan and receive updates and reports during the plan preparation and implementation process. This approach could also be used when preparing and implementing work plans and undertaking audits.

Question 11

How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

- Utilisation of current and new datasets
- Commit funding to update a number of datasets which are now outdated, particularly regional remnancy figures
- Regularly monitoring habitat and water quality using standardised methods and hosting 'snapshot' data publicly online so that trends are transparent and be easily found and interpreted rather than having such information buried in large technical reports.

Question 12

How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

- No comment provided.

Question 13

How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

- Collaborate with other regions if a project crosses regional boundaries
- Seek Federal funding for larger 'landscape scale' projects. However, funding for these types of projects should not be at the expense of smaller, more 'community based' projects
- Co-funding with other large land managers, such as local government.

Question 14

How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

- This is considered extremely important. Partnerships and collaboration is key to maximising the outcomes from on-ground activities, for example
- The use of District Officers and Volunteer Support Officers across the regions has been an effective way of reaching and supporting the community and fostering collaboration with local government and non-government organisations on management of biodiversity within the State
- Regular meetings and strong working relationships between Council's Biodiversity Officers and District/Volunteer Support Officers has been vital in getting maximum efficiency and value from budgets and work plans. It is considered that learning from each other in such a scenario has been extremely valuable.

Question 15

How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

- It is considered that a sufficient annual grant funding pool should be provided to support grass roots NRM projects and programs. This will need to be supported with appropriate grant funding guidelines and setting a maximum grant amount per project to ensure an equitable distribution of these funds across the State
- The assessment of projects seeking grant funding support needs to be based on individual merit, as well as their regional context. Consideration should also be given to projects that have been previously funded by NRM to avoid jeopardising the future management of these sites and increasing the risk of their biodiversity values deteriorating over time
- Consideration must also be given to a region's ability to apply for grant funding (i.e. the proposed Plains and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu will likely have many more applications than Northern and Yorke or AW regions). It is considered that guidelines on how these grants will be equitably distributed will be required
- By providing simple online application forms with explanations and technical officer support available to answer questions and provide support to applicants will assist in supporting grass roots grants program.

Question 16

What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

- Support for landholders in managing declared pest plant, insect and animal species
- Support for local councils in managing declared species on roadsides and reserves
- Tighter compliance with regard to nursery sales, not only restricted to declared plants but also for those species known to possess high weed potential (i.e. emerging weeds). This list needs to be reviewed regularly
- **Clarify responsibilities** with regard to pest species control on roadsides, private lands, crown lands etc?
- Increase funding for pest plant and animal control investigate the possibility of providing grants to landholders struggling with declared pest management.

Question 17

Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

- No comment provided.

Question 18

What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

- Dam construction application processes need to be simplified and streamlined
- Provide clarity in the proposed legislation or other guidelines with regard to the roles and responsibilities for watercourse management
- Clarification on differences between NRM Water Affecting Activity legislation and EPA legislation/EPA Dredging Guidelines and as to which applies in such instances
- Provide either more support or stricter compliance for watercourse management on private properties in order to reduce erosion, weeds (such as willow trees) and improving habitat quality. It is pointed out that watercourses serve as vital connections/linkages between habitats and that all of life depends on water. Hence the need for stricter compliance in this regard.

Question 19

What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

- More funding support for feral animal and pest plant control programs on private lands
- Clarity on the fact that land owners should be taking action to destroy or control pest animals or plants requires and clarity on the legalities and responsibilities in relation to Section 182 - Chapter 7 should be provided.
- Stricter compliance for watercourse management on private properties to reduce erosion, pest weeds (such as willow trees) and maintaining habitat quality should be undertaken. It is pointed out that watercourses serve as vital connections/linkages between habitats and that all of life depends on water. Hence the need for stricter compliance in this regard.

Question 20

What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

- The use of District Officers and Volunteer Support Officers across the NRM regions has been an effective way of reaching and supporting the community and collaborating with local government and non-government organisations on management of biodiversity within SA. The retention of these roles with better funding is considered paramount for the success of any NRM management plans and programs
- Clarity on who is responsible and liable for weed control on road reserves is considered crucial in this instance. It is considered that the current NRM Act, 2004, is unclear on where this legal responsibility rests. The general situation has been that the Council or an authority gives permission to enter the land and that the NRM directs the landholder to engage in the work or will initiate a cost recovery process. In the event of an unfortunate incident, it is unclear who would be accountable for such an incident.

Question 21

How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

- Provide stricter controls regarding managing feral animal and pest plants on private properties with significantly provide for better enforcement and higher penalties to ensure compliance with such controls
- The legislation can enable effective compliance but only when accountability is enforced and proportional to the level of the offence. At present the penalties imposed through prosecution are considered to not be a sufficient deterrent for recalcitrant offenders. Although education has a place in this regard, it is considered that it needs to be backed up with strong enforcement regime and higher penalties to ensure compliance with the legislation and any supporting plans and programs.

Additional Comments -

1) It is not clear how the 5 year operational plan sits within a more strategic, long term framework and this needs to be clarified

2) It is also not clear from the Discussion Paper what the high level principles and outcomes being sought are. These need to be identified at a spatial and regional level. Further, high level guidance is needed as well as clarification regarding the relationship between the state and regions. It is also not clear if there is a state level NRM Plan to provide overarching high level goals and objectives to be achieved by regional and local NRM plans. This should be considered as part of the roll out of these reforms

3) It is unclear from the proposed changes as to how the new Landscape SA and Planning reforms correlate. It is considered there is an opportunity for integration between both Acts. For example Regional Planning Boards could offer opportunity for more efficient service delivery when it comes to NRM outcomes. In addition, Biodiversity and Climate Change are covered in the draft State Planning Policies under the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act. These have NRM outcomes and it is considered that the potential synergies between the two Acts should be explored to ensure these objectives are supported in the new Landscapes Act.

4) The Greening Adelaide agenda is commended but there are also opportunities to green regional areas, particularly townships where such measures would assist environmental and economic outcomes. Therefore it is considered that all NRM Boards should have a 'greening' programme.

5) European wasps are an introduced pest species in Australia and pose major risks to the horticultural, tourism and business sectors, and residents, of the Adelaide Hills and other areas. As a Council area with significant horticultural and viticultural operations, it is considered that the proposed changes to the NRM system must incorporate policies and funding to address this pest. It is noted that in the past, the State Government (the then Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)) provided the LGA with funding to subsidise the wasp eradication activities of councils. Councils would then submit claims to the LGA based on the number of nests that they had removed in a given year and then be reimbursed for this to the tune of $25 per nest. In essence the funds were divided up proportionately between the councils who lodged subsidy claims with the LGA.

   In 2014 DEWNR (now DEW) advised the LGA that the funding for the program beyond the 2013/14 financial year would be removed. These funds were exhausted during the 2014/15 FY and since then councils have either fully funded the wasp eradication service or cancelled it altogether leaving residents with the only option to then engage private pest control contractors to do this. The private contractors charge between $100 to $175 per nest. Our Council destroyed over 900 wasp nests since 1 January to date. This was one of the worst years on record for wasps with the worst being in 2014/15 with 1151 nests destroyed.

In summary, it is considered that the NRM review should include support by way of appropriate policies and funding to councils to continue to provide a wasp eradication service, especially those with large horticultural and tourism interests and operations. Doing so will have environmental, economic and community outcomes. If left unchecked, the wasps could have a significant impact on the agricultural (mainly horticultural) and tourism sectors within the Adelaide Hills region.

6) It is considered that the proposed NRM reforms should acknowledge the biodiversity value of our district by continuing to support the diverse NRM activities currently undertaken in the Adelaide Hills. Further, clarification needs to be provided regarding whether or not the proposed reforms focus on natural resources or landscapes or both as there may be confusion regarding interpretation of the desired outcomes in this instance.

7) Lastly, with regard to the proposed regional plans, it is considered that there is a need for regular reviews of these to ensure they are responsive to and accommodate the rapidly changing circumstances in the environment which will drive or threaten natural resources and landscapes. Further, a key outcome of these reforms should be to ensure better stewardship of land by all land holders large and small, farmers, lifestylers etc., through good engagement by personal and public means.

Appendix - Rural Land Management Advisory Group - SWOT Analysis

Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Future of Farming in the Hills – SWOT Analysis – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Strengths:	
• LOCATION - The role of Landscape Ambience: It is considered that the Adelaide Hills (AH) landscape has improved over the last 40 years due to generally good land management practices, more trees, although it has lost some of its original character due to the changes in types of agricultural pursuits e.g. market gardening to viticulture. However, vines may be considered to be more scenically attractive than potatoes and dairies	
• VISUAL - Tourism has made a positive and valuable visual impact in the AH. Higher expectations have led locals and tourists to expect more visually. Further, planning policies have focused on minimizing the visual impact of new developments (e.g. horticultural netting) on the scenic landscapes	
• PLANNING POLICY - The Planning zoning in the rural areas of the Hills is oriented to keeping land available for food production rather than for non-agricultural uses. Such policies should ensure that productive land is maintained for primary production purposes into the future	
• RIGHT AND DUTY TO FARM – It is considered that the State government should put in place Right to Farm legislation or policies to ensure such land remains productive and is not negatively impacted on by neighbouring rural living or other non-agricultural land uses (i.e. leading to land use conflict issues). Further, exploration of the topic of duty to farm when owning prime agricultural land should also be undertaken	
• WATER QUALITY – 89% of the Adelaide Hills Council area is covered by the Mt Lofty Ranges Watershed. Maintaining water quality within the catchment has been consistent and steady over the last 40 years – the catchments aren't much different and the chemicals used aren't much different. Planning policy has been oriented to protecting the watershed from urbanisation	
Weaknesses:	
• FIRE RISK – Legislative obligations and practical necessity to minimize bushfire fire risk are and should be part of normal operating procedures for rural land holders	

• FIRE RISK – The ever-present potential for a large fire to cause loss of life, significant property damage, and catastrophic damage to agricultural industries exists	
• FIRE RISK – Emergency management risks need to be addressed and mitigation measures need to be appropriately funded	
• FIRE RISK –Misinformation is a major problem both before and after a bushfire. New residents don't understand the reality of a bushfire, and often set up their holdings with locked gates and planting vegetation in wrong places, and with little chance to rectify problems and issues before the an emergency arises	
• GOVERNMENT – It is considered that farmers have little respect for the NRM or EPA. How can this situation be resolved to benefit farmers and government programs for assistance and sensible regulation?	
• GOVERNMENT – Misconceptions about the role of the EPA in rural land development and management. This needs community education by the EPA in order to address this	
• GOVERNMENT – There seems to be little political appetite in support of regulatory actions – 'nobody lets us slap notices on people to deal with weeds, goats, etc. – we can do education but not compliance – how can we protect the people doing the right thing if we can't prosecute those doing the wrong thing?'	
• GOVERNMENT – PIRSA is good with management responses, but often resources aren't in the right place, e.g. workforce development is now in DSD, and research is limited to SARDI without the benefit of extension officers. Much agronomical research is now left to perceived less-than-independent commercial R&D programs oriented to boosting sales rather than on-farm knowledge	
• GOVERNMENT – PIRSA no longer has soil scientists which is a concern	
• GOVERNMENT – PIRSA extension officers often moved into agricultural consulting to provide agronomical advice to farmers. As these people retire there is no one left to challenge corporate agronomists working for global chemical suppliers whose recommendations reflect corporate interests	
• LAND MANAGEMENT – Forever Weeds – a constant battle for rural land owners is managing the weeds on their properties. More government assistance and education is required in this instance	
• LAND MANAGEMENT – Pest and feral animals become a problem if not dealt with quickly - e.g. deer, goats, bats, feral cats and dogs roam into new areas as their habitats change. Further, pest birds are fed in the suburbs and roam the hills, and white cockatoos are forcing out the black cockatoos	
• LAND MANAGEMENT –The diversity of agricultural and non-agricultural activities leads to conflicts and impacts between production types and with non-agricultural activities. For example thistles can't be sprayed next to vineyards which leads to fire and environmental risks as the thistles proliferate in certain areas	

• LAND MANAGEMENT – It is considered that there is higher disease pressures for vines and vegetable within the AH region due to high rainfall levels. This tends to be a cost of doing business in the region but does need to be addressed	
• LAND MANAGEMENT – Abandoned orchards result in lots of uncontrolled blackberries and gorse leading proliferation of pests such as codling moths. This then has a negative knock-on impact for neighbouring commercial growers at a great cost to them in some instances. This needs a State government response in order to have abandoned orchards and vineyards removed by landowners	
Opportunities:	
• LAND MANAGEMENT – The use of dung beetles in the AH are having a positive impact on both the environment (improved quality of water runoff, improved soil and pasture quality, no flies) and herd quality (due to improved pasture and feed) as dung pats disappear quickly. There is a need for a study the actual impacts on downstream water quality as a result of the use of dung beetles	
• VALUE ADDING - Value adding activities are important to broaden income streams for farmers and enable survival of the AH agricultural sector through changing agricultural markets	
• VALUE ADDING – A big opportunity for grape growers is to make their own wine (often off site) and sell it through local outlets or from their own property	
• VALUE ADDING – Farmers can either get money for value adding activities through grants, etc. or do it for themselves. In each case farmers need assistance understanding their potential markets and how to meet the needs/desires of those markets	
Threats:	
• FIRE RISK – Main bushfire threats come from National/Conservation Parks and State Forest areas and management of these needs improvement	
• FIRE RISK –NRM is putting together a course for anticipating, preparing for and managing bushfire risks for less experienced rural land owners	
Observations:	
• WATER QUALITY - Watercourse Management has improved	
• WATER QUALITY – The attractiveness of moving into the Hills leads to increasing property prices where such properties have potential to be developed with a residence. This is less so for large agricultural titles with no potential for a new dwelling. It is considered that the EPA would rather see good farmers than more residences within the watershed or new non-farm residents, as this would improve water quality into the reservoirs	

CITY OF
HOLDFAST BAY

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30 August 2018

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

VIA EMAIL: Minister.Speirs@sa.gov.au

Dear David,

Thank you for extending the invitation to the local councils to participate in the State's Natural Resources reform process.

We agree with you that natural resources underpin our communities, our economy, our wellbeing and our way of life. The management of natural resources is critically important to our local community. This is reflected in our Councils strategic plan also. One of the five pillars of our Council's strategic plan is the Environment which aims to connect our community to its natural world. Our strategic plan was constructed after a significant public consultation. Natural resource management is critically important to the City of Holdfast Bay.

NRM Levies

The discussion paper indicates that the levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes. We would also suggest this be aligned to Council / Region i.e. we are Southern.

In relation to the NRM levies collection, we suggest the current collection method and collecting agency be reviewed. Local Council may not be the appropriate agency, and rate notices may not be the appropriate means of collecting NRM levies as this arrangement makes ratepayers mistakenly think that it is a Council charge.

Working with Local Councils

As you know, local councils undertake works on the ground in relation to natural resource management. Although there are a number of state government institutions tasked with managing various aspects of the natural environment, in general, it would be fair to say that we often struggle to understand the roles and responsibilities of various State and regional institutions.

I understand that one of the focuses for reform will be the forging of strong, enduring and productive partnerships with land managers, volunteer groups, industry experts, Aboriginal nations, other tiers of government and advocacy organisations to deliver practical, on-ground works that address local priorities.

We suggest the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between individual Councils and the Landscape Board (between the City of Holdfast Bay and Green Adelaide in our case) about the priorities and activities in a Council area. This should be reviewed on a three yearly basis.

Most local councils have their own NRM / Environmental management programs in place. Our programs and activities are targeted and often managed by staff who are passionate about local issues. We urge you to take advantage of the Local Council's expertise and passion for NRM and use that as the spearhead for the NRM processes in our State. In that regard you might aim to achieve the following:

1. Collaborate with the Local Councils when developing NRM plans and programs;
2. Make use of the Local Councils ability to undertake works on the ground and its ability to connect with the local communities when implementing NRM programs; and
3. Take advantage of the local council's ability to monitor the local issues and progress of actions.

Stormwater and Coastal Management

I understand that Water Sensitive Urban Design activities are proposed to be a priority for Green Adelaide. However, stormwater management is not included in this priority. We would like to see:

- stormwater management; and
- coastal management (including coastal protection)

included in the Natural Resource Management reform scope.

These two issues (stormwater management and coastal management) are vitaly important to us. You would be personally aware of the natural resource management issues in our area:

- We have the valued Patawalonga Lake, Glenelg Harbour and the marinas on the northern end of our council area. They are natural resource assets for the local areas as well as economic assets for the State. The Sturt River and the Brownhill Creek brings the stormwater to form the Patawalonga Lake, the Barcoo Outlet and then to St Vincent Gulf. History tells us that unless managed well, stormwater from the Hills and the storm surges from the gulf will damage the livelihoods and threaten public safety.
- We have our 9km of character forming beaches on the western side. These beaches are also home for the four Surf Life Saving Clubs (Glenelg, Somerton, Brighton and Seacliff). They provide a social and recreational platform for local and state-wide communities. However, heavy discharge of stormwater into the gulf after a rain event in the Hills destroys the marine environment and the sea becomes unusable for a number of days. Upstream stormwater caused by impermeable development needs addressing as does the need to slow the flow of water and capture of debris and nutrients. This stormwater pollution need to be reduced to protect the marine environment. Storm surges wipe out sand dunes. They need to be protected from storm surges and excessive human interactions.
- We have our natural areas which are highly recognised biological hotspots on the southern side. They are also places of cultural significance, in particular for our indigenous people. These natural areas need on-going protection from weeds and pests. In addition they need to be connected to a broader catchment and corridor to ensure survival of the species. On the eastern side we have the connecting corridors to Adelaide Hills and O'Halloran Hill. In the middle we have what used to be a low lying floodplain. Education processes around the natural areas would benefit from better programs.

We wish you all the best with the NRM reform process.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Lynch
Chief Executive Officer



Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Better by Nature

NRM Reforms & Proposed Landscape SA Act

Background

The State Government, through the Minister for Environment & Water, has commenced a process of consultation on a key component of their reform agenda – the proposed Landscape SA Act that will replace the Natural Resources Management Act 2004.

Naracoorte Lucindale Council welcomes this approach, and provides our views on the proposed approach, and what our priorities are.

Naracoorte Lucindale Profile

Naracoorte Lucindale Council is located at the heart of the Limestone Coast region. The council is approximately 330 kilometres from Adelaide and 450 kilometres from Melbourne and encompasses an area of approximately 452,990 hectares in area.

Naracoorte is the main service centre for the Council district, which also contains the smaller towns and communities of Lucindale, Hynam, Kybybolite and Frances.

The Council area contains prime agriculture land characterised by reliable rainfall and accessible underground water. The district is home to a thriving and vibrant rural economy and the Naracoorte Lucindale Council is central to some of Australia's most famous wine producing areas.

The district contains breathtaking scenery and natural wonders, abundant wildlife, wetlands of international importance, South Australia's only World Heritage Listed Area and is home to the famous Lucindale Field Days, Taste the Limestone Coast Festival and the Frances Folk Gathering.

There is a strong tourism industry in the Council supported by the Visitor Information Centre in Naracoorte. The district is home to the World Heritage Listed Naracoorte Caves, located some 15 minutes' drive south of the Naracoorte township. Other attractions in the area include the Sheep's Back Museum, Mini Jumbuck Centre, Bool Lagoon, Limestone Coast Cheese Factory, Lucindale Country Club and the Naracoorte Swimming Lake.

Submission

Our comments are provided within the context of:

- Assessment of the Managing Our Landscapes Conversations for Change Discussion Paper July 2018; and
- Attendance at a regional Community Forum at Bordertown on 19 September 2018.

Overall, Council is supportive of NRM Reform with an acknowledgement that the NRM Act 2004 was bought into being to enable efficiency of effort across a number of existing Boards and resources at that time. It is our opinion that the initial reforms in 2004 were required, but over a period of time the initial intent and purposes of the NRM Act 2004 has become untenable, inefficient, lacks transparency and accountability, and appears to be a vehicle for a State Government department to operate.

Guiding Principles for Reform

The guiding principles for reform as set out in the Discussion Paper are generally supported:

- Decentralised decision making – a structure provides for community based and community owned outcomes
- A simple & accessible system – removal of red tape and bureaucracy, and a higher level of transparency of where and how funds are spent.
- Whole of landscape approach – whole of community approach, and recognition that private sector already plays an important role in landscape protection
- Back to basics – as outlined below, a return to the intent and purposes of the NRM Act 2004 is required. A greater focus on on-ground works rather than the ridiculous extent of consultation and engagement that currently occurs.

Landscape Boards

The creation of Landscape Boards is supported, but with the following comments:

- The Boards need to be representative of the regions and communities;
- Boards need to be at arm's length to the State Government
- They need to be separated from any government department ie DEW.
- Membership should see a majority elected/nominated by the community rather than the suggested majority being appointed by the Minister. Any reform and establishment of a new Board structure requires a high level of integrity, and the appointment of a majority of members by the Minister will most likely see a continuation of the thought that the Board could be 'controlled' by the Minister through these appointments.
- The Board has to have the power to criticise the Government, so requires a level of independence. The existing NRM Boards are seen largely as a 'mouthpiece' for the State Government, or more specifically, Department for Environment & Water (DEW).
- We suggest a membership of 7 – with 5 elected by community, and 2 (including Chair) to be appointed by the Minister. We also need to consider how best to achieve adequate representation; geographic spread, knowledge, and skills based membership, etc.
- The membership needs to be skill based
- We agree that the Board should be able to appoint staff to deliver the Boards programs

Levies

- Providing a framework that would see levies that are raised within a region; spent within that region is supported. The current setting of levies, financial accountability and lack of transparency, provide for a perception that much of funds raised are

used in a cost-shifting exercise to pay for departmental staffing and a centralised based NRM structure.

- We fully support the continuation of levies being collected by local government, as this would appear the most cost efficient system.
- Grassroots Grants Program – we are generally supportive of such a program that can then assist various projects of groups within our region, but we do not support these funds being administered by Green Adelaide. These funds could be administered by the Regional Managers. Green Adelaide could have a representative but not controlling hand. This approach could also drive collaboration between regions

Service Delivery

- The ability of a regional Landscape Board to have financial and decision making powers as to service delivery is critical to effective outcomes.
- The current NRM approach of having to contract to a state government department is inefficient, bureaucratic, and provides for cost shifting through utilisation of NRM levies paid.
- There are many community groups, not for profit organisations, or private sector operators who could undertake various projects or functions on behalf of Landscape Boards, and this adds to the local economy and local ownership of outcomes.
- State government departments may still be best placed to deliver some outcomes, but this should remain the choice of the Board as to what is the most effective service delivery mechanism.

Green Adelaide

- There is no issue with the creation of Green Adelaide to deliver natural resource management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, but the responsibility of this entity should remain restricted to metropolitan Adelaide matters.
- As this entity would be appointed by the Minister, any control of a Grassroots Grants Program would be viewed as being part of a centralised or Ministerial imposed model – and it is our understanding that the reforms suggest a decentralised model.

Summary

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our viewpoints on NRM reform, and we welcome future involvement once further detail and draft legislation is provided.

Overall, this reform agenda is almost a 'back to the future' moment, as many of the suggested reforms provide for a similar model and approach that was intended (and initially delivered) in the original reforms through the creation of the NRM Act 2004. The intent, process, accountability, and any level of transparency appeared significantly lost following the integration of the Department for Environment and Heritage with NRM, leading to the loss of decision making of regional Boards. This was further eroded when service delivery was transferred to Department for Environment and Water.

We need to be able to positively explore the various opportunities that are provided through management of our natural resources, including the significant nature based tourism opportunities (existing and new) that exist in our Region. Currently there are

significant personnel barriers through departmental interference or influence (or lack of can do attitude) to realising such opportunities – and the value of such developments are then lost to the region and State.

At Board level, and within service delivery mechanisms, there needs to be a shared and balanced focus on the social, economic, and environmental aspects of our landscapes – and this balance and shared approach is not overly evident within the current NRM Management structures.

The questions posed within the Discussion Paper have hopefully been covered within our submission, but a snapshot of our views on these questions are:

Q1 *What is most important to you in managing natural resources?*
Realising the benefits of our natural resources through locally based and empowered decision making and service delivery.

Q2 *What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?*
Not much – hence our support for this significant reform of management of our natural resources. No confidence, no transparency, no voice, and no accountability within current structures. Some programs run effectively, but are largely driven by motivated staff supported by NGOs. These would not be lost but further enhanced with the proposed new model.

Q3 *What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?*
Removal of influence of government department in the decision making, and service delivery aspects. If DEW continues to be involved, they need to be more accountable to the shared aspects of social, economic and environmental values. DEW should be a vehicle for providing quality information upon which decisions can be made.

Q4 *How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?*
Collaboration, and fact based decisions. Through locally based decision making, wider partnerships to deliver a regional vision are critical. Less ideology, and more fact based decision making that is based across a balanced criteria of social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss the above.



Trevor Smart
Chief Executive Officer
Naracoorte Lucindale Council
27 September 2018

Ref: 5/LIA/1/AB

26 September 2018

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email - LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Managing Our Landscapes – Discussion Paper

Following receipt of correspondence from the State Government as part of the reform of natural resources management in South Australia, and attendance at one of the workshops, Council staff have reviewed the documentation surrounding the reform and provides the following comments –

1. Fundamentally Council is supportive of a new system that focuses on:

    a. Decentralisation;
    b. Streamlining process; and
    c. Accessibility and transparency

2. It is noted that the intent is that levies collected in the region will be spent in the region (except for cross-boundary projects or services that underpin regional outcomes). How will this be administered and what accountability/reporting criteria will each board be subject to, to ensure this is the case.

3. The grants program should be independently assesses/reviewed. It is questioned why 'Green Adelaide' would co-administer a board for the regions. Suggestion could be that the chair of each Landscape Board forms a committee to review funding submissions to ensure parity of funding.

4. Biodiversity is considered to be a key theme of the reform yet it is not mentioned as of the 'key' priorities.

5. When Natural Resource Management (NRM) Boards were established there was State funding provided for the Boards and projects. This State funding has been withdrawn. How will the new Landscape Boards be funded?

6. There is a perception that the NRM and DEW (previously DEWNR) were combined and that there was a lack of service delivery.

7. It is questioned whether Councils are still best placed to collect the levy for another level of Government. Importantly, Council pays the total NRM levy irrespective of whether they receive it. Therefore, Council bears the brunt of having to chase up unpaid levy's.

8. It is considered that there has previously been a lack of engagement with Councils and that there could be a better community partnership with Local Government. It is suggested consideration be given to a Project Officer for NRM with the Regional Local Government Associations. This Project Officer could then engage and work with each of the Councils on joint projects.

Council appreciates the opportunity afforded to it to provide comments on the reform. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on telephone 8564 6020 or via email jmcvicar@mid-murray.sa.gov.au should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,



Jake McVicar
Director – Development & Environmental Services

cc Director Policy, Stephen Smith
stephen.smith@lga.sa.gov.au

Landscape Reform

Submission by the City of Mitcham

11 October 2018

The City of Mitcham values its strong working relationship with the current Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM (A&MLR NRM) Board on a number of partnership projects such as pest plant control and water sensitive urban design (WSUD).

The City of Mitcham has a sound history in natural resources management (NRM) with long term investments in pest plant control focused along the southern Mt Lofty Ranges. Council has made significant advances in restoring large areas of the threatened Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodland and other vegetation associations.

The A&MLR NRM Board has supported Council in developing and applying smart water management practices including water sensitive urban design (WSUD). Financial support of the Board and in-kind support by staff of the Department for Environment and Water has been instrumental in Council's award winning collaborative WSUD research, innovation and practice.

Council looks forward to continuing to work with the Government of South Australia to enhance our environment by partnering with the new landscape Board, to be formed under the proposed *Landscape South Australia Act*.

This submission supports much of the 'Reforming Natural Resource Management' paper by the Local Government Association.

This has been prepared by Council staff and **has not been endorsed by Council's elected members.** Contributing staff are listed at the end of this paper, along with the topics where their comment has been included.

Please note that feedback has been kept brief under specific headings.

Management and Collaboration

- Local government is well placed to continue delivering landscape and environmental outcomes as it performs many related functions in its daily operations.

- Need greater collaboration with local government at all levels of planning and delivery of natural resource management programs.

Contributors: JK, TJ

Resourcing and Funding

- There is a massive variation in the share of the NRM levy amongst the eight NRM Boards, despite the large geographical areas of some Boards.

  It appears from each of the Boards' business plans, that **$67,379,78** will be collected in NRM and water levies across South Australia in 2018/19. These funds are then distributed amongst the Boards to fund their operations (Table 1.)

NRM Board	*NRM & Water Levies allocated 2018/19 (to fund business plan)*	*Share (%) of total State NRM & Water levies allocated*
A&MLR	$32,612,303	48.4%
Alinytjara Wilurara	$1,143,000	1.7%
Eyre	$3,269,000	4.9%
Kangaroo Island	$1,503,625	2.2%
Northern & Yorke	$4,220,645	6.3%
SA Arid Lands	$2,579,000	3.8%
SA Murray Darling Basin	$13,737,505	20.4%
South East	$8,314,000	12.3%

Table 1. NRM and Water Levy allocation amongst eight NRM Boards for 2018/19.

The principle of spending the NRM levy within the Board area it's collected may have serious consequences for those Boards outside the current A&MLR, or proposed Green Adelaide Board (Table 1.).

There is a concern that EPBC listed communities in the proposed Plains and Valleys and Hills, and Fleurieu Landscape Board areas may not receive adequate funding to adequately protect and maintain them. Similarly, there may be less funds available for sustainable agricultural projects/programs.

There should be a fair and equitable process to determine resource distribution across the state for landscape and environmental priorities.

The processes for setting and funding priorities must be subject to public consultation and scrutiny.

The principle of spending the NRM levy within the Board area it's collected has problems.

Contributors: JK, TJ, AH

Landscape Boundaries

- Consider only minor boundary changes to avoid confusion amongst the community and associated costs with boundary changes.
- No justification has been given to create an additional Board (Green Adelaide) over the existing eight NRM Boards.
- When considering current share arrangements of the NRM and water levies, would Green Adelaide retain the majority of funds in a largely urban environment? Is this really where the Sates NRM priorities are for soils, pest plants, pest animals and water?

Contributors: JK, BL

Board Membership

- Green Adelaide – opposed to a Board being fully appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water, when all other Boards have three community representatives.
- To increase regional representation, consider four community elected representatives and three appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water.
- Community representatives should have a minimum level of knowledge and experience in key areas to ensure that each Board has the right mixture of skills.

Contributors: JK, BL

Landscape Scale Restoration

- Large, landscape scale projects are supported but leadership is needed to prioritise works and bring all parties together to collaborate.
- Focus on projects that include sustainable agriculture, remnant vegetation, native fauna, healthy creeks, rivers and seas.

Contributors: JK, TJ

NRM Levy Collection

- **Levy collection costs by Councils are not being met.**

- **Our preferred option is for Revenue SA to collect the NRM levy.**

  Revenue SA already have the knowledge, processes and functionality for collection of monies from property owners based on capital value.

- Our second, least preferred option is for Council to only pass on the amount they receive and increase recovery costs to Councils.

  There are significant administration costs in determining the correct amount of NRM levy to collect each quarter. We then perform necessary checks required for auditing purposes before approving and processing the payment run.

  Reimbursement to Council under the current legislation is $2,439 plus $0.24 per assessment (based on the 2018/19 financial year, both figures are indexed annually). The total reimbursement for the City of Mitcham was $10,299.83 (incl. GST) which equates to $0.32 per assessment. This does not reflect the significant administration time associated with modelling the levy, applying rebates, losses from valuation changes and responding to queries.

  Under the current legislation, the City of Mitcham pays the required amount to the NRM Board each quarter. Subsequently, losses from changes in valuations, rebates or non-payment of rates puts Council under tremendous strain each quarter to maintain cash flow. Combined with the increase in rate-payers who require long term payment arrangements, debt increases the transactional cost to Council without suitable offsets from reimbursement.

- The NRM levy is an often misunderstood item within Council rates.

  Residents and rate-payers do not understand the need or the application of the levy. The confusion felt by rate-payers often places extra pressure on Council staff to respond to these enquiries and most rate-payers are often reticent to contact the NRM Board themselves for further information.

- Will property owners in the proposed 'Green Adelaide' region pay a Green Adelaide Levy or a Landscape SA Levy? Renaming of the NRM Levy provides an opportunity to clarify understanding of the government's role in each region. The choice of name for this levy should be well considered.

- Any changes to Board boundaries that results in a split across the City of Mitcham, will required additional work – mapping, exporting to a loadable format, changes to Council's rates system and checking affected properties.

Contributors: BG, BL, TJ

Transparency and Accountability

- NRM Board business plans are inconsistent in their format, making it difficult and even impossible to identify administration costs for some Boards.

- Governance costs for NRM Boards appear to be high as a percentage of total expenditure, e.g. 40% for SA Arid Lands and 45% for Kangaroo Island

- Administration costs could not be identified for the A&MLR NRM Board - lack of transparency.

- A consistent reporting format must be established for each of the new NRM Boards. The reporting format must clearly distinguish between capital and operating costs, and between administration and on-ground delivery.

Contributors: JK, TJ

Stormwater and Flood Management

- Council acknowledges the support of the A&MLR NRM Board in past and current WSUD projects and investigations within the City of Mitcham.

- There is considerable scope to integrate stormwater management outcomes with green infrastructure initiatives across Adelaide, particularly in the proposed area of operation of Green Adelaide.

- The Stormwater Management Authority's (SMA) charter extends to WSUD and water harvesting and reuse. There is potential to increase the SMAs work in WSUD, including direction of available funds to research, demonstration projects and roll-out of works in appropriate locations.

Author: TJ

Abundant Native species

- Council would appreciate guidance in responding to community complaints about large numbers of native species such as little corellas and kangaroos in urban and peri-urban areas.

  Abundant native species may be damaging property or viewed as a nuisance by the community. Invariably they turn to Council to fix the problem and we have limited options available.

Pest Animal and Plant Control

Pest animal and plant control is a key environmental issue which requires a greater level of on-ground effort due to the scale of the problem.

Apart from the NRM levy, the State Government should lead by example in looking after its National Parks by dramatically ramping up weed control efforts. Relying on volunteers and some follow-up weed control in prescribed burn sites is grossly inadequate.

Suggested future directions include:

- Increased funding to local Councils for Urban Animal and Plant Control Grants.

  The City of Mitcham is currently awarded $40,000 ex GST per annum (formerly $50,000) under the Urban Animal and Plant Control Grant program. The City of Mitcham is able to match grant funding upwards of $300,000 per annum.

- Consistent approach to mapping pest plants across the region for use between Councils and other land managers. This was recently discussed at a Metropolitan Urban Animal and Plant Control meeting.

- Landscape SA Boards to help plan and coordinate regional control programs for priority pest plants and animals across all land tenures (private, Council, SA Water, Railway ARTC, DPTI, National Parks and National Trust).

- Funding to restore urban creeks in the City of Mitcham through weed control, revegetation and creek bank stabilization works. A good example is the City of Onkaparinga's 'Urban Creek Recovery Project.'

- Maintain the valued assistance and support by the A&MLR NRM Board's Urban Animal and Plant Control Officer. For Councils, this Officer is our first point of contact for compliance issues, questions of animal control and technical information.

Contributors: JK, BL, TJ

Volunteers

- The existing NRM Board volunteer program (i.e. formerly Our Patch) requires ongoing funding support, supervision and management of safe work practices.

- It is important to maintain NRM levy funding for volunteer programs run by Trees For Life such as 'Bush For Life (BFL)', 'Bush Action Teams' and' Bushcare Workshops.

Trees For Life currently receive NRM levy funding to off-set around 35% of BFL site costs ($700/site) for the City of Mitcham's 31 sites - plus support for other related programs.

Council highly values the BFL program which consists of 75 dedicated volunteers, engaging in bushland restoration and complimenting similar project works by Council.

Trees For Life estimate a three-fold return in volunteer effort, considering the investment in the BFL program by Council and A&MLR NRM Board.

Contributors: JK, BL

Other Aspects

- The City of Mitcham welcomes ongoing support for grass root sustainability initiatives such as 'Living Smart.' This has been quite effective within Mitcham and neighboring Councils to engage residents in mainstream sustainability within their homes.

- Ongoing support is welcomed for monitoring of airborne thermal heat and tree canopy cover across Mitcham under the Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement.

- The A&MLR NRM Board is signatory to the Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement. Through this partnership and via representation on the Steering Committee, the City of Mitcham maintains a link to State Government, vital for the effectiveness of the regional partnership.

- Continue hosting NRM Education Officers within Councils as a cost-neutral arrangement. The City of Mitcham would consider hosting an Officer to promote environmental stewardship in local schools and the wider community.

- The proposed *Landscape South Australia Act* needs to integrate with planning and development legislation to enable referrals for developments that need a permit for water affecting activities, and water allocations. The City of Mitcham has found this to be an efficient process and needed to alleviate impacts to water courses.

Author: BL

Contributing Staff

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(AH) Andrew Hall Team Leader Operations Support	8374 7769 ahall@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au	– Resourcing and Funding
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(BL) Ben Leonello, Project Officer Natural Environments	8372 8853 bleonello@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au	– Landscape Boundaries – Board Membership – NRM Levy Collection – Pest Animal and Plant Control – Volunteers

Staff name	Contact	Particular section
		– Other Aspects - Climate Change, Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement, NRM Education Support Officer
(TJ) Tim Johnson, Sustainable Infrastructure Engineer	8374 7790 tjohnson@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au	– Resourcing and Funding – Landscape Boundaries – Board Membership – Landscape Scale Restoration – NRM Levy Collection – Transparency and Accountability – Stormwater and Flood Management
(JK) Jacob Kochergen, Natural Resources Officer	8374 7762 jkochergen@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au	– Management and Collaboration – Resourcing and Funding – Landscape Boundaries – Board Membership – Landscape Scale Restoration – Transparency and Accountability – Abundant Native Species – Pest Animal and Plant Control – Volunteers

Further information

Please contact Jacob Kochergen, Natural Resources Officer on 8374 7762 or by email jkochergen@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au.

Campbelltown Council Draft submission
NRM Reform Consultation October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform,

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Landscape Reform Team

RE: Landscape Reform Discussion Paper

This submission is in response to the *Managing our Landscapes - Conversations for Change* Discussion Paper July 2018.

The submission is provided in two parts: 1) Specific comments on the discussion paper content and 2) Response to questions in the discussion paper.

1) Specific comments on the discussion paper content

Section	Page Ref	Comment
Summary of reform	3	Support new board being at arms length from government operations with own budget.
Make up of Board		Question proposed makeup of new Landcare Boards? Currently some representation from various levels of government and suitable community representatives. Are the government appointed members community representatives also, or from government departments? This is not clear. There should be representation from all levels including community, local and state government to enable informed strategic decision making.
Grass Roots Grant Program		Will school programs and educational resources still be included? It is not clear from this description.
Levies		Support the overall concept of spending what is collected with a region however perhaps there could be a minimum amount allocated per region to be spent to enable resources to be applied to larger or statewide priority issues as required as these may not be in areas with sufficient funding. It is not clear what the type of priority issues that a 'portion' of the resources are, how they will be determined or by who. Is resourcing of issues such as upstream weed management going to be balanced enough under this

Legislation/Green Adelaide		scenario as treating the upstream issues will to some extent lessen the resources required downstream. Conservation of existing biodiversity areas/vegetation do not seem to feature in the priorities listed in the new Act nor in the focus of Green Adelaide, yet 'vibrant biodiversity' is stated as one of the key aims of the reform on page 6. Suggest replacing the use of the word 'vibrant biodiversity' with 'healthy biodiversity'. It is vital that Green Adelaide is supported by other policy reforms in sustainable development to achieve it's objectives as this is currently one of the main barriers to loss of canopy cover, habitat which deliver key outcomes to several of the priorities outlined for Green Adelaide including fauna in the city, green streets, water sensitive urban design etc.
Community led landscape management	6	Localised action and on ground works is supported however the volunteers or land owners need to be skilled and knowledgeable or have access to resources to enable a level of success. Will the grants be aimed at upskilling and building on this capacity and what about areas that may not have the volunteer groups, community organisations or land managers able to contribute towards these objectives but are important? Council has many areas that are a priority but do not have active volunteer or community groups.
Landscape Boards	14	How and who would oversee the state wide or large scale projects?
Green Adelaide	17	Support the concept of Green Adelaide although important to keep regional upstream catchments together as part of the establishment of boundaries or enable easy mechanisms to enable this to occur as a minimum.

Question 1)
What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Commitment from the government to implement the existing actions already prioritised and address existing issues using the information and data that already exists.

Having access to human resources that are skilled and knowledgeable in this area (e.g. contractors, staff, volunteers) weed control etc.

Monitoring progress, improvements or otherwise to prioritise works.

Conserving and protecting the areas we do have from further degradation. I.e existing National Parks as well as local creeks, parks in areas such as weed management, pest control etc.

Funds to implement creek restoration improvement works.

Question 2)

Campbelltown Council Draft submission
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What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

Existing volunteer arrangements with groups such as Landcare who receive joint funding from Council and NRM have provided some excellent on ground improvements in key areas of Council. Other areas of Council don't have this volunteer capacity or resourcing and therefore these areas have not seen the same level of improvement (i.e creeks).

The nature education resources that are available.

Delivery of Natural Resource Management as a region based approach. Localising issues and tailoring to each region is key to understanding their value and uniqueness.

Question 3)
What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

Creek management (improvements such as erosion control, weed control etc. could be better coordinated to enable a more holistic approach (similar to that done on River Torrens) particularly for tributary creeks that cross several Council boundaries. This would also ensure works undertaken by addressing issues upstream.

Investing resources into maintaining and conserving National Parks and existing action plans in regions to further enhance the appreciation, ownership and enjoyment of them by the community.

Question 4) How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

Utilising the results from the comprehensive work undertaken over the past decade including the Regional Species Conservation Assessment Project and the Conservation Action Planning undertaken by Greening Australia which has been done for the Adelaide region, Eyre Peninsular and Northern and Yorke regions. Also the Regional recovery plan for threatened species and ecological communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia - 2009–2014, contains excellent information for the development of strategies for species conservation at the landscape scale.

Developing action plans from these documents and engaging local communities to become involved in implementing those plans would provide good opportunities for large scale restoration actions.

Question 5) How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

1) Know your local history. I.e. important areas of significance
2) acknowledgement and recognition of important areas through signage, naming or co-naming. Education of this within the local area.

Question 6) How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Through funding ongoing works on priority issues and areas via the following means:

- supporting and upskilling local volunteers, communities and land managers in conjunction with provision of resources to aid implementation.
- Providing clear guidelines about what the priorities are for each region but also open to solutions and opportunities that are best solved across multiple regions.

- Providing direct funding for works that will provide both short to long term improvements and requirements for best practice management techniques for all contractors, workers, staff and volunteers involved. Improvements sometimes take time to be realised and there needs to be a way to account for this.
- Facilitate the use of contractors or contractor training to ensure quality and appropriate workers are used for the type of work proposed.

Question 7) What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Agree that members need to have suitable experience and skills to manage the region. Not sure a community election process will do this or may enable the most popular or well positioned as opposed to most qualified? Need to have a Natural Resource or similar focus or understanding.

The introduction of Regulations is supported to enable membership and ease of modification if required.

Question 8) How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

- Facilitation of tree management and retention strategies to increase canopy cover in urban areas.
- Facilitate the normalisation of WSUD in operational activities and help to make this more common place as well as support for other agencies working in this space such as Water Sensitive SA.
- Facilitate ways of increasing open space in urban areas and greening opportunities for Councils to access resources and funding that can embed this into their operations and thinking.
- Facilitating habitat corridors for wildlife to encourage a wider diversity in flora and fauna.
- Educating urban residents about the importance of nature and engaging with nature and providing opportunities for that engagement
- Facilitating more sustainable development options and mechanisms to help meet these objectives current development practices are one of the major barriers to achieving this. The associated Planning Reform needs to be consistent with this reform to enable joint outcomes ultimately.
- School education resources and assistance for Councils undertaking educational programs.
- Centralised citizen science programs that Council can tap into.

Question 9) How can regional planning be streamlined?

By utilising work that has already been done. There are some excellent plans that have been written over the past decade (e.g. see Q4) and implementing the actions from these plans would reduce the need to re-invent the wheel.

Question 10) How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology.

It is not clear what is meant by more accessible but perhaps a simplified summary of priorities and actions would help people engage and communicating this through existing, and possibly new, platforms and community groups would help. An online portal (see below) could help facilitate this.

Question 11) How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Outcomes for natural resource management can take time therefore it is important to measure periodically and consistently. Effective methods for biodiversity monitoring in regional areas exist however having adequate resources to implement this is a challenge.

Measuring natural resource outcomes for urban areas provides different challenges and several councils have developed methods that could potentially be adapted and replicated to enable more consistent and replicable monitoring of areas.

These can be core outcomes such as level of species diversity, weed levels, changes to condition rating over time. This component might only need to be done intermittently to demonstrate improvements over time. Mapping this data along with the actions that are being undertaken on the ground and using technology to maintain it as a dynamic and interactive platform would provide some really meaningful and useful data on where areas are improving or declining and help determine the resources required to manage areas better.

Providing online access to this mapping would enable communities and land managers to stay up to date with what is happening in their area potentially reducing the frequency required for official reporting.

Question 12) How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

To achieve a consistent levy, its allocation across property owners should move away from a valuation-based calculation. To allocate the NRM Levy, Campbelltown uses a rate in the dollar, which is applied to each rateable property's capital value to determine their contribution.

A property's capital value does not increase in a linear manner on an annual basis, nor when compared to other property in the Council area, meaning that a property's contribution will not be relatively consistent from year to year. Unless a fixed charge is set for each rateable property, the NRM Levy charged to an individual property may exceed the proposed cap, depending on the property's valuation movement compared to other rateable properties in the respective financial year.

The capping of the levy will only work when determining the total revenue to be raised from a region, as individual property valuations compared to total valuations influence how much they pay from year to year.

The discussion paper indicates that the levy should continue to be collected by Local Government, as it is seen to be the most cost effective collection method. Council strongly believes that any levy should not be collected by Local Government through its rates notices. Campbelltown suggest that any levy should be collected through Revenue SA (ie Emergency Services Levy notice) or SA Water, as their bills are also based on land values and provides better alignment with the proposed purpose of the levy and the tier of government requiring and spending these funds.

The discussion paper discusses a reduction in administrative costs. Should the new levy continue to be collected through Local Government, the reimbursement of collection costs should be retained and reviewed to better reflect the cost of Councils administering the collection and reimbursement to the Board.

Question 13) How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

An agreed portion of the levies should be put aside in a dedicated account that is legislated to be used only for the purpose of high priority Natural Resource projects in accordance with improving outcomes for natural resource management in South Australia. There needs to be a process worked out as to what qualifies as a high priority project and who decides this and whether all boards CEO/Presiding members can come together to provide input into how this would be allocated and managed.

Question 14) How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

It is vital to coordinate efforts as every action that is taken will have impacts beyond its immediate area. Maintaining an online portal/mapping tool (see Q11) that records past, present and future activities, the contact details of the people involved, as well as the underlying species and habitat data that is updated when monitoring is undertaken, could be a central point of contact for all land managers. This way if someone is proposing work they can easily find others working in the region than could support/inform/participate in the proposed project.

Question 16) What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?
By appropriate resourcing and building community capacity as appropriate.
Educating the wider community about common pest plants and their impacts would also be beneficial.

No response was provided for the following questions as this was considered outside the response capacity of staff.

Question 17)
Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

Question 18) What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

Question 19) What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

Question 20) What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscape?

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File 5/3/5
rc

10th October 2018

Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5000

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Dear Minister Speirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Council's views on the Discussion Paper highlighting the reform priorities that will change the way natural resources are managed in South Australia. We acknowledge that parts of the current NRM Act have worked well but other parts have become over complicated which has ultimately impeded on-ground management and therefore should be simplified.

It is unfortunate that the current system has placed the primary emphasis on high level planning rather than on-ground outcomes which has been detrimental to the management of natural resources. The notion to reduce red tape and be more flexible by placing the procedural requirements in policy rather than in legislation is positive.

The Objects of the current NRM Act provide a sound base for the management of natural resources and should not be lost by introducing new legislation. We therefore encourage the Government to retain these in the new Landscape South Australia Act.

The current linkage between land use planning and natural resource management is poor so we would support the opportunity to establish a new integrated system. This would provide a simple accessible framework to manage the state's natural resources to support primary production, regional communities and the natural environment.

A "one stop" approach to natural resource management would be welcomed particularly in relation to the interconnection with the planning system. The decision making process needs to integrate economic, environmental, social and equity considerations.

The principles guiding the reform are certainly supported especially:

- Decentralised decision making
- A simple and accessible system
- Community and land owners at the centre
- Whole of landscape approach.

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Decentralised Decision Making

The proposal to create Landscape Boards to replace the existing NRM Boards is an excellent initiative but the Board and the Department must have separate roles which are clearly defined. This will provide the community with some autonomy and shared ownership of the decision making process.

If the Board is going to be at an arm's length from Government you would question why the Minister is proposing to appoint 4 of the members and only 3 elected by the community. Council supports a membership of 7 with 5 being elected by the community and 2, including the Chair, being appointed by the Minister.

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As the landscape within the Limestone Coast is quite diverse Council is advocating for geographical representation with at least one community representative being from the upper, mid and lower south east areas. There needs to be some clear guidelines especially with the skill set required for members to nominate and be elected to the Board. There is also the question of how the election process will be undertaken. It is assumed the voting will be voluntary and only 1 vote per landowner.

It is envisaged the Board will be responsible for funding community programs similar to methods currently used in the Murray Darling Basin area, whereby levy based and external funding is regularly devolved to community based groups to achieve strategic environmental and sustainable agriculture based outcomes.

Council currently contributes substantial funds to the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan (CTLAP) which is used to leverage other funding opportunities from both the State and Commonwealth Government to address local environmental and land management issues and opportunities. CTLAP also host many NRM programs so hopefully this may still be undertaken through the Board administration. The proposal to have the Grassroots Grants program is supported as this will provide another avenue to source funding for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups.

Council was recently involved in the Green Army project which provided unemployed youth an opportunity to work on environmental projects. This program was very successful with some of the participants still involved in local biodiversity projects.

Perhaps there should be an opportunity for youth involvement on the Board. An Expression of Interest process could be undertaken to attract representatives from each of the upper, mid and lower south east regions and they could be appointed after the Board has been established. The Board could set the criteria for selection with the term being 12 months.

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A simple and accessible system

Having a simple, straight forward system that has clear tangible outcomes, engages and fosters relationships with the community is something that would be beneficial if it can be achieved.

Experience has shown that communities and landholders are very keen to participate in programs that contribute to the future sustainability of the environment. This is evident where there is support for people who rely on the land for their business. An example has been the relationship CTLAP staff had with landowners when delivering on-ground environmental programs.

Unfortunately, at times Council has encountered barriers when trying to achieve a balanced outcome that addresses both the community and the Department's expectations. The Mundulla Common and Swamp area is an example where the process to achieve a balanced outcome has been cumbersome and the compliance requirements quite excessive.

Members of the Mundulla community, Council and Government staff have formed a working group to deliver local projects. This is an example of how all stakeholders can work together, where there is trust, transparency and goodwill especially where there is a common goal. Achieving this will require a change in culture and practice at the state agency and regional Board level.

It is imperative that the system:

- engages and empowers community at the local level;
- is accountable to the community;
- supports robust regional decision making, balanced with centralised input; and
- contributes to the viability and vitality of regional communities.

Whole of landscape approach

Tatiara District Council supports the proposal to have an integrated approach that supports grassroots programs. This will achieve a balance that provides for economic, environmental and community benefits.

It is noted that there is a strong focus on soil quality, water management, pest plant and animal control which is excellent but to be successful it will also need to consider biodiversity conservation and management.

A whole of landscape approach and vision needs to include biodiversity conservation and management from the outset, not as a secondary or incidental outcome.

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Compliance

This is an area where there needs to be a change in focus, as the education process has not achieved the desired outcomes therefore an alternative approach must be considered. Authorised Officers need to take appropriate action if landholders are directed to undertake control activities and these are not completed.

The current process does not seem to place enough emphasis on managing pest plants and animal control.

Authorised Officers must have the ability to directly undertake control activities and recover costs where there is a high risk. The current system is not getting the right outcomes and is certainly an inequitable way of managing compliance.

Perhaps the introduction of expiation notices may be an option that should be considered for non-compliance.

Council has in the past provided funds for the control of pest plants e.g. African Lovegrass but if compliance is addressed at an early stage additional funding and resources should not be required.

Biosecurity impact is a major issue in our region therefore it is imperative that the compliance issue is addressed and a mechanism implemented which makes landholders responsible for non-compliance.

State Government expenditure on SA's environment

It is interesting to note that investment by the State Government in SA's environment has declined significantly over the years therefore an increase in expenditure separate to the NRM levies will be beneficial.

The proposal to establish the Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million state-wide annual fund (in addition to existing NRM grants programs), administered at a Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access is an excellent initiative.

It is unfortunate that the grants program is to be funded from the land and water levies raised in each region as we believe it should be funded directly by the State Government, as it has with the past NRM Community Grants scheme.

Council is certainly supportive of the reforms and your vision but these can only be achieved by engaging with local communities and developing partnerships with key stakeholders so programs that address local priorities can be delivered. We all acknowledge the current system is over complicated so it does need to get back to the basics which will produce improved outcomes at the operational level.

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Hopefully the above comments are taken into consideration when summarising the extensive consultation process.

If any additional clarification is required, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Council office.

Yours faithfully

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Rocco Callisto
Director Development and Environmental Services

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City of Marion Submission – NRM Reform

The following submission has been prepared by the City of Marion administration in response to the Discussion Paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversation for Change* . This response is subject to approval at the Council meeting on the 9 October 2018.

For enquires about this submission, please contact Rebecca Neumann, Senior Environmental Planner rebecca.neumann@marion.sa.gov.au

Overview

The City of Marion has had a strong history of collaborating with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (the NRM Board) and the antecedent Catchment Water Management Boards over many years. A number of major projects and significant environmental outcomes have been achieved through this positive relationship including:

- Establishment of Oaklands and Warriparinga Wetlands
- Stormwater Management Plans across the majority of the Council area
- Ongoing watercourse monitoring and restoration projects for Waterfall Creek, Field River and Sturt River.
- Collaboration on community engagement programs including, support for on-ground action groups (Friends groups), sustainability programs such as Living Smart, NRM school education programs
- Technical and on-ground support for pest plant and animal control activities (particularly olive and ash control)
- Advocacy for broader protection and restoration of Field River valley (including support with the development of concepts around Great Southern Urban Forest – now known as Glenthorne National Park)
- Technical advice and support in a range of NRM activities including coastal and biodiversity, climate change adaptation, community engagement, urban sustainability and water sensitive urban design.

These partnerships equate to many millions of dollars of investment for our community and have enabled Council to leverage significant funding from other partners, particularly the federal government.

Underpinning these projects has been a very positive and ongoing mutual commitment between the City of Marion and the NRM Board to seek strategic alignment of policy in response to the ever-changing needs of the community and our environment. The Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement is an important recent example.

City of Marion Submission – NRM Reform

The City of Marion's response to the State Government's Discussion Paper and planned NRM Reform highlights where things are currently working well and emerging issues that are important to us and our community in the future.

Creating a climate resilient city where people value and connect to the natural world is a strong focus for the City of Marion. Trends in development and changes to urban environment are presenting significant challenges that will require major shifts in policy and funding in the future.

In this regard, the City of Marion welcomes the proposed NRM reform as an opportunity to reassess the future needs of our community and work together to meet these challenges head on.

As part of this reform process, major opportunities we would like to explore further include:

- Improved alignment between **urban development policy** and natural resources management policy– particularly in relation to urban water, biodiversity, greening and climate resilience. The current state government planning reform presents significant opportunities here.
- Ensuring **biodiversity** is core element of the 'back to basics' approach
- A focus on sustainable living, through increased resourcing to **urban sustainability education and engagement** to meeting the rapidly changing need for **climate change** mitigation and adaptation and sustainable living.
- Increased resourcing for water sensitive urban design to support the transition of Adelaide to a **water sensitive city**.
- The development of **Glenthorne National Park** as an outer-ring parklands and a centre for urban sustainability engagement and awareness.
- Reforming of the current **NRM funding** arrangements to place the management of natural resources as a core state government service that is not reliant on local government collection of a levy.
- Ensuring the decentralisation of NRM still allows for **regional coordination** and does not place additional funding burdens on landowners or reduced efficiency in monitoring and reporting.

Biodiversity, pest plants & animals



The City of Marion considers the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in our Council area as a core aspect of environmental management. Through programs such as our Remnant Native Vegetation Plan (2018), we are aiming to create a city with diverse and connected ecosystems and provide opportunities for our community to meaningfully connect and develop value with the natural world.

Whilst we note that biodiversity is mentioned in parts of the Discussion Paper, the "back to basics" mantra places a stronger focus on the management of soil, water and pest plants and animals in regional areas with biodiversity being an ancillary outcome.

- **Our position**: We believe that protection and restoration of biodiversity must form a key component of the 'back to basics' approach for both urban and regional environments and we would welcome the opportunity to work further with Green Adelaide in this area. Council recommends that all future diagrams with reference to priorities identify biodiversity as a key priority (pg 7 of discussion paper).

Fragmentation and clearance of habitat is the most significant cause of species decline in urban areas – particularly for animal species. This decline is notable in the City of Marion, with animals such as shingleback lizards and several woodland birds now uncommon or locally extinct. There are currently no strategies to halt this decline in metropolitan Adelaide and regional coordination and funding support is required to enable Councils and other landowners to overcome this issue.

- **Our position**: Green Adelaide is an important opportunity to provide specific guidance on urban design to enhance biodiversity through defining strategic corridors and priority sites for conservation and restoration. In particular, the plan for Green Adelaide needs to have close connections to the Planning and Design Code as well as for local Council open space plans.

As a metropolitan Council, the Native Vegetation Act does not apply to the majority of our Council area – most notably remnant vegetation on private land within the suburbs of

Hallett Cove and Marino. Classification of conservation ratings for species and 'priority sites' for management in the metropolitan area is often confusing.

- **Our position**: Priority remnant vegetation within the metropolitan area should be mapped and protected from clearance with regional boards providing improved clarity and consistency around conservation ratings for species and communities.

Management of pest plants and animals on Council land requires significant Council resources. It is regularly noted that major infestations of olive, ash, artichoke and other pest plants occur within the State Parks located within the City of Marion. Weed infestations along Government maintained road reserves and verges is an issue with olives, Aleppo pines and *Casuarina glauca* being particularly prevalent along South Road and Lonsdale Road.

- **Our position**: State Parks should be a demonstration of best practice land management with significantly greater resources placed on restoration of biodiversity and the control of pest plants and animals.

Council receives regular support from the NRM Board around pest plant control (particularly for olive and caltrop control).

- **Our position:** We value the technical and funding support that we receive for pest plant and animal control and would like to see this continue under Green Adelaide.

Water management



Water management is a major area where the City of Marion has collaborated with the NRM Board and antecedent catchment boards.

The NRM Board's urban water team have provided significant technical support as well collaborating with Council on the delivery of projects for urban constructed wetlands, investigation and delivery of stormwater capture and reuse schemes, water sensitive urban design projects and various water course restoration projects.

Council is continuing to invest in creation of a water sensitive city and will continue to look at ways of optimising the capture and delivery of Oaklands water to offset consumption of mains water and provide a cool, green environment for our community.

- **Our position**:
  - the inclusion of water sensitive design as a priority for the Green Adelaide Board is strongly supported.
  - funding for onground works in this area is not mentioned in the discussion paper. Whilst Council does funds some WSUD from our capital works budget, to effectively transition Adelaide to a water sensitive city, significant additional funding and technical support will be required e.g. through the Urban Water Grants and support from the Water Sensitive SA partnership.
  - Further connection between stormwater planning and urban development planning is needed. The current state government Planning Reform is a good opportunity.

The current requirements for approvals of "water affecting activities" (*Natural Resources Management Act 2004* - SECT 127) is clunky. City of Marion has been granted an exemption through use of *best practice operating procedures* however, this section could be improved to provide more consistency and clarity across sectors.

- **Our position**: There is a need for review of the approval process for "water affecting activities".

Coasts and marine



The City of Marion's coastal suburbs of Hallett Cove and Marino contain two State Parks, significant remnant coastal vegetation and habitats and a range of locally, regionally, state and nationally threatened species. The NRM Board's "*Metropolitan and Northern Coastal Action Plan*" describes these natural assets well and is an important resource for working with the NRM Board on priority issues.

- **Our position**: the proposed Green Adelaide Board should take a lead on the review and ongoing implementation of a coastal action plan for the metropolitan area including being specific around roles and responsibilities.

The Adelaide's Living Beaches strategy is implemented largely by the NRM Board to manage sand replenishment along the metropolitan beaches. As the rocky cliffs start at the northern coastal border of the City of Marion, this strategy stops and is silent on issues around sand management in our Council region. In addition to this, the strategy does not address the ever-increasing need for further direction from the State Government around coastal climate change adaptation.

- **Our position:** Whilst the sand replenishment programs on the metropolitan beaches are supported, funding of this program via Green Adelaide is not supported as it directs significant funding away from core natural resources management function. This function should sit with the Coastal Protection Board and should also address the need for region-wide coastal climate change adaptation planning.

Sustainability education & engagement



The City of Marion has a very strong history of collaborating with the NRM Board and the antecedent Catchment Boards on community education and engagement programs. Strong relationships with local Friends groups have been fostered through this work as well as significant outcomes around improved environmental education and awareness.

Council currently works closely with the NRM Board on the delivery of community-focussed **sustainability** initiatives aimed to support groups and individuals make a difference to their own lives and those of their networks.

There is a current focus in our region on the delivery of champion-based sustainability programs such as Living Smart (a partnership with the NRM Board) and Climate Ready Communities. Council also delivers monthly workshops through our Common Thread program as well as a range of specialised activities focussing on sustainability, nature engagement and waste education. These programs prove to be popular and are often over-subscribed. Feedback from participants highlights their growing interest in practical sustainable living programs over just environmental awareness and engagement.

The needs of the community and the environment are continuously changing in this area with current areas of focus being more around the development of communities that can meaningfully engage with their environment and move towards more sustainable patterns of living.

Through our community engagement programs, City of Marion has also noted a significant trend in interest around sustainable food production both through sourcing of food from nearby traditional agricultural zones, as well as also through urban food production, including market gardening, school gardens, community gardens and urban orchards.

The Discussion Paper very notably does not make mention of 'sustainability'.

- **Our position:** The current NRM education and engagement programs including school based and broad community based programs, are highly valued and should be retained and expanded to include broader connection to sustainable living.

Council recognises the special relationship of Kaurna and other first-nations people living in Adelaide have with Country. We are increasingly seeking opportunities for cultural and cross-cultural involvement in managing the environment.

- **Our position:** City of Marion would welcome the opportunity work with Green Adelaide to engage further with Aboriginal people in our natural resources management activities. Several opportunities may exist in particular through Council's Living Kaurna Cultural Centre.

The City of Marion hosts a project officer for the NRM Board's school **NRM Education Program**. This arrangement is positive and provides Council with more frequent access to specialist skills, as well as improved connection staff within the NRM Board.

Some particular strengths of the NRM Education Program include:

- A schools-based approach working with sustainability champions; teachers, students, and community members.
- Holistic sustainability action in schools encompassing biodiversity, waste reduction, food gardens, youth mentoring, climate adaptation, and STEM based learning.

- Provision of one-on-one expert support in schools and the fostering of long-term productive relationships.
- Resources on local environments and issues connected to learning and the Australian Curriculum.
- Professional Development sessions for staff to increase their skills and knowledge on environmental projects.
- The Youth Environment Leaders Program, targeted to Primary School aged students, and the Youth Environment Council, targeted to High School students, as ways for young people to meaningfully engage in learning about, and taking action for the environment.

The school-based NRM program achieves impressive results for community awareness and engagement in NRM. This program compliments Council's community education and engagement directions with resources often being shared.

- **Our position:** Council has a long history of hosting NRM education and engagement positions and would welcome the opportunity to consider further hosting arrangements into the future.

Community environment hubs form an important focus to join like-minded people together and help to broaden and deepen understanding and opportunities to move towards a sustainable future. The closest community environmental sustainability centre for the Marion community is the Adelaide Sustainability Centre (The Joinery) in the City. We see that an opportunity exists to develop an urban sustainability centre closer to people in the inner south. Given the levels of interest in our current sustainability programs we expect that demand for such a centre would be high. We also see Glenthorne Farm (and Glenthorne National Park as a whole) as a key opportunity in this area.

- **Our position:** An opportunity exists to shape Glenthorne Farm into a valuable resource for the community as a demonstration site and hub for learning and sharing about the environment and sustainable living – something similar to the CERES Community Environment Park in Melbourne. (see more on Glenthorne National Park below)

State Parks – Glenthorne National Park

The Discussion Paper does not provide a lot of detail around how decentralisation will work within the context of management of State Parks, one of the functions that moved towards the responsibility of NRM Boards in recent years.

Within the City of Marion, there are currently three State parks: O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, Hallett Cove Conservation Park and Marino Conservation Park.

As part of the new State Government election commitments, these State parks will be combined with Glenthorne Farm, Happy Valley Reservoir, Field River Valley and several Council reserves to form Glenthorne National Park.

Council welcomes this move and we will continue to work closely with key partners to maximise benefits for the community in the establishment of Glenthorne National Park. Particularly we will continue to advocate for:

- Retention of open space character;
- Revegetation and protection of existing biodiversity and waterways;
- Restoration and interpretation of heritage;
- Open community access through trails and recreation;
- Economic development through, research, education, innovation and tourism.

Consistent with the *Glenthorne Community Vision* developed by the Friends and local community, some of the activities Council would like to see at this site include:

- Restoration of grey box woodland
- Heritage interpretation
- Volunteering and community involvement
- Community events and function centre (through restoration of heritage buildings)
- Outdoor sport and recreation: walking tracks, bike trails, horse riding, orienteering, camping, nature play, bird watching
- A community farm and education centre
- Farmers' and makers' markets
- Native plant nursery and native grass production
- Wildlife recovery centre and refuge
- Environmentally sensitive renewable energy generation/storage
- Natural burial.

- **Our Position:** Council looks forward to engaging with the State further on specific detail around the proposed development of Glenthorne National Park, including roles and responsibilities for ongoing management and maintenance. Council is seeking to ensure State Government will continue to maintain Glenthorne Farm as a State Government asset through the Department for Environment and Water.

Volunteering

The nature of volunteering is changing and while the community is continuing to express a desire to contribute to improving our natural resources, they are more likely to do so on a more casual basis or on their own terms.

The numbers of volunteers in the traditional environmental "Friends" groups in Marion are continuing to stay approximately the same however there is an increasing interest in volunteering coming from different sectors including young people, new migrant groups and volunteering at single events e.g. community planting days

Work Health and Safety of volunteers as well as volunteer insurance continues to be a focus for Council. To ensure volunteering opportunities are not limited by these factors City of Marion is moving towards seeking specialist services in management of environmental volunteers working in Council open space (e.g. through Trees for Life).

City of Marion has recently developed a new volunteering strategy and we would welcome the opportunity to work further with Green Adelaide to support volunteering with our community.

- **Our position:** Green Adelaide should assist with providing insurance, training and coordination for volunteer environmental groups – particularly those working on state government land.

All of the State Parks in the City of Marion have dedicated Friends groups. These groups are instrumental in the ongoing management of these parks. Council often receives feedback that the groups would benefit from further resourcing and coordination from the state government to support their efforts.

- **Our position:** There is an over-reliance on volunteer effort to manage State Parks in the City of Marion. Additional funding needs to be allocated to core maintenance activities at these sites with guidance and support from Friends Groups.

The Grass Roots Grants program proposed in the discussion paper will be an important resource to support volunteering, however this fund will be rapidly diminished if it represents the total budget for all Friends Groups and other interest groups working across the State. Council occasionally supports these groups already through our Community

Grants Program; however this fund is usually over-subscribed and is not aimed at funding activities that may be an existing responsibility for a landowner (e.g. control of declared weeds on state government's parks land).

- **Our position:** The Grass Roots Grants program is supported in principle; however the State should not be using this to fund core maintenance activities by volunteers on state government land.

NRM levy

Funding for the activities of the current NRM Board in our region comes largely from the collection of the NRM levy. Under the Natural Resource Management Act 2004, Council is required to collect this levy. It does so by imposing a separate rate for all rateable properties within the Council area. For each financial year, the levy for each property is determined by the total capital valuation within the City of Marion. See Figure 1 for a chart of the annual levy collection and reimbursement received within the City of Marion.

The state government controls the basis of how the levy is collected and is able to set increases on the levy separate from Council's rating policy.

The City of Marion has been collecting a form of regional environment levy for over 20 years. Council originally supported the LGA's position to collect the levy because it was considered that it provided a greater capacity for Local Government to influence policy, funding and administration. Economic modelling also indicated that collection from Councils was the most cost efficient option.

Over time however the City of Marion has formally raised a number of questions regarding the ongoing role of local government in collecting of the NRM levy. In particular

- While Council strongly supports the NRM Board's role in regional prioritisation of NRM funding, Council considers that utilising Council rates notices to collect local funding is not appropriate when this funding is being allocated to priorities outside of Council boundaries.
- Council would like to see further investigation to understand how collecting the NRM levy might be impacting on our rate-payers expectations of services being provided by Council.
- Annual increases in the NRM Levy are set at rates determined outside of Council's rating policy – this is seen as inequitable by Council.

- Council was supportive of the Emery[1] and Connor Holmes[2] recommendations for the NRM levy to be collected via a State-wide property tax or the augmentation of the Emergency Services Levy and that the LGA work collaboratively with the State Government on an overall reform of NRM funding.

Councils across South Australia are regularly echoing these concerns with the LGA investing heavily into campaigns to help to investigate and resolve the issues. Discussions on the NRM levy have historically become a major distraction for local government. There are also concerns regarding the 'bad debt' occurring when ratepayers do not pay their rates but Council is still required to pay the full Levy.

Since the collection of regional environment levies was introduced, the scope of environmental activities provided by the State Government, NRM Boards and Councils has increased significantly. Many of the activities that once would have been considered as discretionary are now very much Council's core business (e.g. stormwater management). Similarly, there are many environmental activities now led by the Boards / state government that the community expect (e.g. fair allocation of water resources).

This establishment of natural resources management as a core public service raises questions around the method for funding of environmental services. The use of a levy implies that the need for funding is new or temporary – this is no longer the case for management of natural resources.

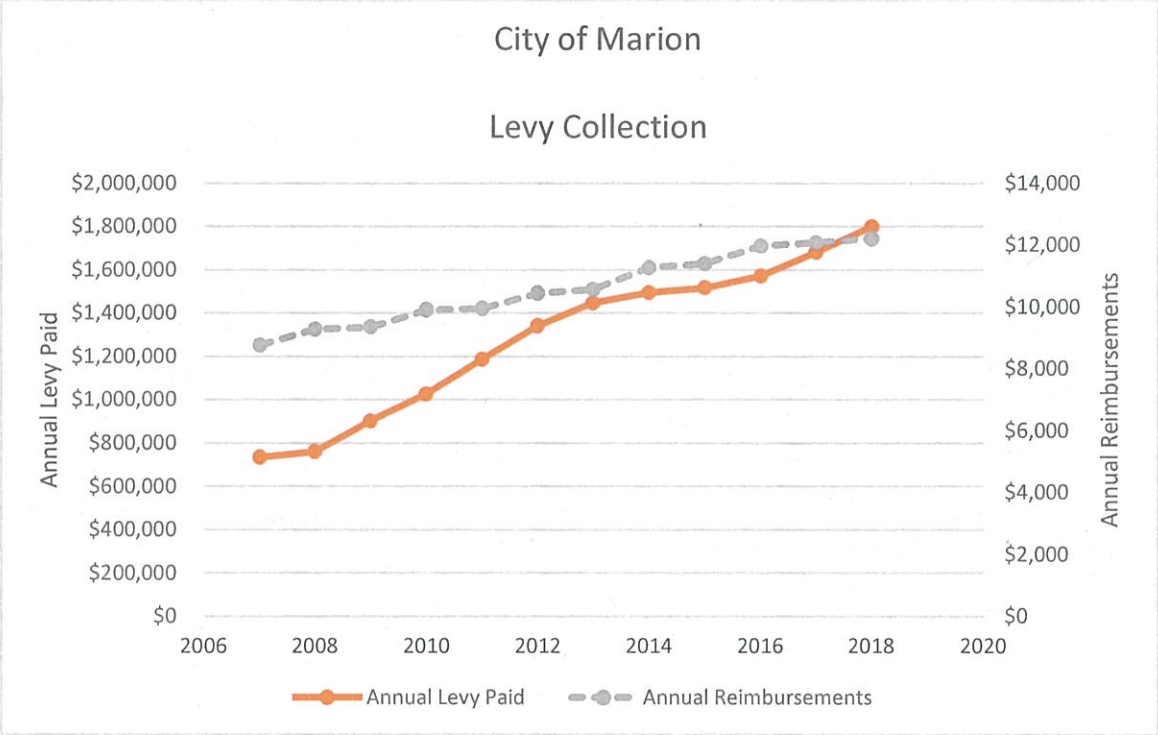
One of the biggest challenges with environmental management in the future is the integration of environmental policy into other services. The ongoing use of a levy for funding these activities may in fact be limiting discussion of natural resources priorities in a whole-of-government context. The principle of decentralised decision making in the Discussion Paper may further contribute to this problem.

Whilst we note that the Discussion Paper proposes that a levy continue to be collected via Council rates, Council strongly urges the Minister to reconsider this arrangement.

- **Our position:** City of Marion strongly believes that Councils should not be responsible for collection of the levy and that the current NRM reform process should include an overall review of NRM funding arrangements including options for collection of the NRM Levy via the Emergency Services billing system. This would also address the current situation whereby councils are liable to pay the NRM Levy in circumstances where ratepayers do not pay their rates.

[1] Emery, P. (2009) Review of Natural Resources Management Levy Arrangements – Report to the Local Government Association of South Australia.
[2] Connor Holmes, (2009). Proposal for NRM Funding Reform – Prepared for the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Figure 1: Collection of NRM Levy (known as Catchment Levy prior to 2010) within the City of Marion along with the reimbursement Council has received for collection.



Green Adelaide

The delivery of natural resources management within the metropolitan area is a specialised service. The physical environment is different, as is its ecology and the needs of the people that reside, work and visit. In this regard, the separation of this area into Green Adelaide is welcomed.

- **Our Position:** With Green Adelaide focussing on the metropolitan area, we believe that the City of Marion should be wholly included within Green Adelaide.

Some of the considerations relevant to the City of Marion that we as important when setting this boundary for Green Adelaide include:

  - The need for inclusion of the whole Hills Face Zone and the Metropolitan Open Space System
  - Inclusion of all parts of the proposed Glenthorne National Park

- Inclusion of all urbanised areas of the metropolitan coastline – consistent with the metropolitan Adelaide and northern coastal action.
- The boundaries for application of the Native Vegetation Act in the City of Marion are confusing and need to be reviewed to provide better alignment with the objectives of Green Adelaide.

A significant opportunity for Green Adelaide will be providing stronger direction and alignment for urban development policy, particularly through the current planning reform. We acknowledge that there may be challenges given the concurrent timeframes for these processes. Important considerations include:

- Regional coordination of measurement and monitoring of greening initiatives.
- Regional modelling of climate resilience under different urban development scenarios.
- Identification of strategic urban biodiversity corridors.

Council looks further to discussing to priorities and structure of Green Adelaide Board particularly the need for local government and community representation.

- **Our position:** The City of Marion requests further engagement around the development of the Green Adelaide Board and looks forward to commenting on the Green Adelaide discussion paper when it is released.

Coordinating natural resources management

The concepts of **decentralisation** and putting **landowners at the centre** of management of natural resources are clear priorities of the discussion paper. Whilst we support the principles of efficiency in governance and ensuring meaningful community involvement in decision-making, we see that the state government and regional authorities play an essential role in setting strategic goals, measurement, monitoring and providing technical support. Whilst autonomy for local decision-making can occur, we believe that it should only occur within this context. We also believe that regional and state priorities should not only rely on local funding or volunteer efforts for individual landowners.

- **Our position:** decentralisation of natural resources management must only occur within the context of clear state and regional planning and evaluation frameworks and the State must be responsible for funding of regional and state priorities. Resilient South, a climate change adaptation project delivered through a partnership

between the SA Government and the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga, provides an example of how a regional arrangement might work to address regional and state priorities that have been identified through local area planning with the community.

The Discussion Paper also highlights that the Grassroots Community Fund and the Regional Priorities Fund are likely to be collected within Green Adelaide, however directed outside of the region to state-wide priorities.

- **Our position:** We feel that direction of money collected within Green Adelaide to priorities outside of this regional will only further fuel the debate around the role of local government in collection of a Landscapes Levy (see section on Levy in this response).

Resilient Hills & Coasts

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12 October 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Climate Change
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001
minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

CC: Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform, landscapereform@sa.gov.au
CC: Climate Change team, diane.favier@sa.gov.au & rhiannon.niven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Resilient Hills & Coasts Submission on the Landscape Reforms, and Annual Report

Resilient Hills & Coasts – covering the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island – is one of eleven climate adaptation regions across the State, established in 2014 as part of the South Australian Government's push to prepare our communities for a changing climate.

Our goal is to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and landscapes in a changing climate. This is strongly aligned to the proposed outcomes of the NRM Reform – vibrant biodiversity, sustainable economy, and resilient communities. We support these outcomes, and we strongly support a continued focus of Landscape Boards on climate resilience.

Of course, communities cannot become resilient when stakeholders act in isolation. As the CEOs of the six Resilient Hills & Coasts partner Councils, we greatly value the partnership of the South Australian Government, the Southern & Hills LGA, and the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island NRM Boards in supporting action on local priorities within the statewide framework.

In particular, we have benefited from the ongoing contributions of Zafi Bachar (Natural Resources Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges), Phillipa Holden (Natural Resources Kangaroo Island) and Rhiannon Niven and Chris Wright (Climate Change, Department of Environment and Water) on our Steering Committee. These valued members of our team have connected us with state and regional priorities and programs, connected us with people, ideas and successful approaches across regions, and connected us with funding opportunities to progress state, regional and local goals. For the viability of our regional efforts, we would like to see this continue.

Resilient Hills & Coasts partners – including the NRM Boards – have already invested substantial resources and goodwill into completing the knowledge gathering and planning stages of our adaptation project. Together, we have engaged our communities to hear their priorities for climate adaptation, developed and endorsed (in late 2016) a regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and signed up to keep working together until at least 30 June 2020 under our Regional Sector Agreement.

Proudly supported by the Natural Resource Management Boards of Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island.

Note: This submission has not been considered by NRM partners and does not replace individual partner submissions.

We are now in the implementation stage of our adaptation project, and have had a very busy 18 months progressing some exciting on-ground, tangible projects to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making (see Attachment 1). These strategic projects rely on support from our State Government and NRM Board partners – without that support, many would be difficult to progress.

Our strategic projects are incredibly important, but equally important is ensuring the ongoing commitment of all partners to take climate action beyond the environment portfolio and into business as usual across the board.

Great progress has been made on this front already. At the state government level, it has been encouraging to see Climate Change as one of five legislated State Planning Policies to overcome gaps in the current planning system. In the private sector, banks and insurers are changing the way they operate, and APRA and ASIC are revising their advice to corporations – climate change is now officially acknowledged as a foreseeable financial risk that must be disclosed and mitigated for Board Directors to meet their fiduciary duties.

In our own Councils, we are at the frontline of responding to a changing climate. We are now seeing weather events with the potential to damage council assets and infrastructure, cause serious disruptions to the delivery of council services, generate unbudgeted financial impacts, and affect the wellbeing of the community, particularly those vulnerable to weather extremes. Our communities are calling out for us to act, and to support them to do the same. We are changing the way we factor climate risks in across our business, for example by budgeting to upgrade stormwater infrastructure so it can handle more intense flow events, while delivering other Green Infrastructure outcomes.

But the change process is far from over – we still need to actively push towards climate resilience being business as usual across the board.

We acknowledge the critical role that State Government, led by you as the Minister for Climate Change, plays in leading the push to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making. We are encouraged by your recent comments that the South Australian Government is focused on continuing the transition to renewable energy, and investing in practical measures to protect our environment against the changing climate. We strongly support continued investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation, by both State Government and Landscape Boards.

There are a number of priorities in our Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan that require action beyond the scope of Council influence. We would like to see continued State Government and Landscape Board action on these priorities:

- Improved native vegetation management on private properties
- Adaptive management of protected areas on public lands
- Diversified and adaptive farming practices, learning from hotter and drier parts of the state and innovative practices here and elsewhere
- Water quality and supply improvement measures, including through greater adoption of Water Sensitive Urban Design and other Green Infrastructure.

At the end of the reform process, we want to see a landscape management system that supports climate-ready, resilient communities, economies and landscapes. To enable this, the key outcomes we are seeking from these reforms are:

CONTINUITY	Continuity of effort, attention and funding is needed to sustain the outcomes of successful projects, including the regional climate adaptation work that State Government started in 2014. We support continued Landscape Board focus and investment in climate change adaptation, including through representation on the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee.

EMBEDDING	We support climate resilience being embedded in everyday decision-making by Landscape Boards, in the context that more work is needed for climate resilience to become 'business as usual'. To support this, the Landscape Act should include an Object to support climate change adaptation, and Landscape Boards should be required to embed climate resilience in their everyday decision-making.
PARTNERSHIPS	In active partnership with NRM Boards, Councils play a critical role in managing natural resources and supporting our communities to do the same. The Resilient Hills & Coasts partner Councils value our existing partnerships with the AMLR and Kangaroo Island NRM Boards, and seek opportunities to extend and enhance them. The Landscape Act should continue to recognise the key role of Councils in managing landscapes. The reforms should support enhanced partnerships between Councils and Landscape Boards, including Councils hosting outposted Landscape Board staff and/or delivering contracted, levy-funded climate resilience services on a cost-neutral basis.
COORDINATION	Landscapes, communities and economies cannot become resilient when stakeholders act in isolation. The task is massive, and none of us has the resources to devise and implement solutions alone. We have greatly benefited from the DEW and NRM-led coordination to date. To ensure we keep efficiently moving in the same direction and addressing all critical priorities, state-level coordination, advocacy and incentives are still required. This should include some equalisation of funding across regions to ensure that every region can afford climate resilience action.

On behalf of Resilient Hills & Coasts, thank you for considering this submission and for keeping us engaged in the future of landscape management.

We are also pleased to provide you with our Resilient Hills & Coasts Annual Progress Report, as required under the Resilient Hills & Coasts Regional Sector Agreement, at Attachment 1. This report outlines some of our key achievements since the agreement was signed, and our plans for the future.

Warm Regards,

Andrew Aitken
CEO, Adelaide Hills Council

Andrew Stuart
CEO, Mount Barker Council

Glenn Rappensberg
CEO, Alexandrina Council

Victoria MacKirdy
CEO, City of Victor Harbor

Greg Georgopoulos
Deputy CEO, Kangaroo Island Council

Nigel Morris
CEO, Yankalilla Council cc Andy Baker

Annual Progress Report

October 2018

resilient hills & coasts

Government of South Australia

Southern & Hills LGA

MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Adelaide Hills COUNCIL

KANGAROO ISLAND COUNCIL

ALEXANDRINA

City of Victor Harbor

DISTRICT COUNCIL YANKALILLA

Proudly supported by the Natural Resource Management Boards of Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island.

This report is presented to the Minister for Climate Change to meet the reporting requirements of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Sector Agreement, pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

Submitted on behalf of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee by

Jen St Jack, Resilient Hills & Coasts Regional Coordinator



Signature 12/10/18 Date

Who we are

Resilient Hills & Coasts is a collaborative project to promote and facilitate climate change adaptation across the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island region.

Resilient Hills & Coasts is one of eleven climate adaptation regions across South Australia that were established in 2014 as part of the South Australian Government's push to prepare our communities for a changing climate.

We are a regional, intergovernmental partnership between:

- Six Councils – Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla
- The Southern & Hills Local Government Association
- Two Natural Resources Management Boards – Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, and
- The South Australian Government.

The partners work together through a Steering Committee to progress priority actions laid out in our Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), which was developed in consultation with our communities and adopted by our partner Councils in late 2016. In June 2017, the partners signed a Regional Sector Agreement, committing to continue working together until at least 30 June 2020 to implement the priorities in the CCAP.

During the reporting period, members of our Steering Committee were:

PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE
	Kathy Hayter / Shen Mann	Regional Coordinator
Adelaide Hills Council	Sharon Leith	Strategic and Sustainability Officer
Alexandrina Council	Shen Mann	Senior Governance and Strategy Officer
Kangaroo Island Council	Pip Masters	Elected Member
Mount Barker Council	Greg Sarre	Manager Economic Development and Sustainable Futures
City of Victor Harbor	Brian Doman	Manager Environment & Recreation
Yankalilla Council	Matt Robertson	Manager Strategy, Environment and Development
Southern and Hills LGA	Graeme Martin	Executive Officer
Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board	Zafi Bachar	Climate Applications Coordinator
Kangaroo Island NRM Board	Phillipa Holden	Community Engagement Manager
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (now DEW)	Rhiannon Niven	Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change
	Chris Wright	Manager, Adaptation

Our priorities

Our goal is to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and natural and built environments to respond and adapt to our changing climate.

As laid out in our Climate Change Adaptation Plan, our eight regional adaptation priorities are to:

- incorporate infrastructure design allowances for increases in extreme events
- develop climate-ready guidelines for public realm and streetscape management
- improve management of native vegetation on private properties
- undertake adaptive management of protected areas on public lands
- develop more energy efficient inputs for housing
- support diversification of agricultural activities
- restrict development in hazard prone areas
- deliver water quality improvement measures.

Focusing our efforts on the priorities we can best influence within available resources, the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee is dedicated to advocacy and action to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making under two strategic themes:

- WHAT WE BUILD – provide leadership in climate-ready development
- WHERE WE BUILD – improve development planning and management in high risk areas.

Our progress

PROJECT STAGE	KEY ACTIVITIES	STATUS
1. Establishment and Knowledge Gathering	• Establish Steering Committee • Knowledge Audit & Regional Profile • Community Engagement – 13 workshops	ALL COMPLETE
2. Planning	• Regional Vulnerability Assessment • Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Dec 2016) • Regional Sector Agreement (Jun 2017) • Engaged on State Adaptation Strategy (Dec 2017)	ALL COMPLETE & ENDORSED
3. Implementation	• Local Action Plans for all partner Councils • Energy & Emissions Reporting for all project partners	COMPLETE
See below for more details	• Strategic projects to promote and facilitate climate change adaptation across the region ○ Coastal Hazard Mapping ○ Community Energy Program ○ Urban Greening ○ WSUD Capability Raising & Investment ○ What We Build, Where We Build	In progress
	• Advocacy and engagement to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making ○ Community Education ○ Climate Risk for Council Briefings ○ Cities Power Partnership ○ Engagement in State Planning Reforms ○ Engagement in Landscape Reforms	In progress
	• Secure project funding beyond 2018-19	In progress

Our local action plans

Since our Regional Sector Agreement was signed in June 2017, each of our six partner Councils has developed a Local Action Plan to plan for, record and monitor local action. Line of sight is drawn from each local action to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan priorities and Council-specific strategies. Councils use the plans to document their existing climate-related initiatives, as well as identify new and emerging actions or initiatives against regional priorities.

Our strategic projects

COASTAL HAZARD MAPPING

We are informing Kangaroo Island communities about coastal hazards, using LiDAR spatial sensing to create inundation, storm surge and erosion maps. We have run five community workshops to support locals to understand the hazards and take part in planning their own communities' response.

This $70K project is the first of its kind in South Australia, and we intend to refine and extend the pilot to other coastal Councils in future.

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM

We are exploring how local government can support a regional Community Energy Program that will keep a proportion of retail energy spending within the region and aid the transition to renewable energy.

We have invested in designing the preferred delivery model, with nation-leading Moreland Energy Foundation partnering with local company Tandem Energy to devise the optimal model for regional South Australia.

We recently secured $45k of LGA R&D funding to develop legally and financially sound procurement and governance processes. When this process is complete in March 2019, we will have a toolkit to enable other South Australian communities to adopt our model.

Our partner Councils will assess whether to invest in the proposed model in 2019.

URBAN GREENING

We attracted a $40k grant from the Department of Environment and Water to undertake an Urban Greening project in Strathalbyn, which will see a highly visible parking overflow space transformed into a key piece of green infrastructure for the town.

WSUD CAPABILITY RAISING & INVESTMENT

Following a WSUD Asset Audit across all partner Councils, we identified a need to raise our collective capability and confidence in planning for, approving, accepting construction standards, and maintaining WSUD assets.

In AMLR NRM Board's Water Sensitive 2018-19 competitive funding round, we collectively submitted six proposals – four have been offered funding.

The first successful project is a $58k partnership between the cities of Mount Barker and Onkaparinga to develop new guidelines on retrofitting outdated stormwater detention basins into WSUD assets, and to test them on two pilot sites. The second is to raise the capability of regional asset and infrastructure planning, construction and maintenance staff.

The remaining four were for on-ground works. The two successful projects will see planned streetscape upgrades incorporate green infrastructure, which would not have happened without the NRM funding.

WHAT WE BUILD WHERE WE BUILD

We secured a strategic partnership with the Insurance Council of Australia to attract matched Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding (decision expected in October 2018) for our $169K Where We Build, What We Build project. The project aims to provide evidence for, and encourage the development of, disaster resilient and climate-ready homes in our region.

Our advocacy and engagement

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

We have hosted and promoted a range of climate change adaptation community workshops, speakers, seminars, exhibitions, site tours and webinars. For example, In October 2017, we brought energy efficiency expert John Dee to the region for a workshop series.

CLIMATE RISK BRIEFINGS

Our six partner Councils have co-invested with Resilient South partner Councils to bring leading climate risk experts to McLaren Vale for a briefing and workshop on 16 October 2018. These events will help Council executives and officers in governance, risk and audit, planning, infrastructure and finance understand and respond to the legal and financial liabilities posed to local governments by climate change.

STATE PLANNING REFORMS

We consider these reforms the most significant lever in decades to encourage a shift to climate-ready and resilient development in our region. Such development will minimise community vulnerability during extreme events, while providing improved liveability, affordability and health and wellbeing for households every day.

Our submission on the State Planning Policies focused on integrating climate-readiness and disaster resilience into all aspects of what we build and where we build. We emphasised the need to foster a culture of shared responsibility in homeowners, builders, developers and planners – helping everyone to understand, disclose, mitigate and adapt to climate risk.

CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Four of our Councils have joined the Cities Power Partnership – the Climate Council's national program which exists to celebrate and accelerate the emissions reduction and clean energy successes of Australian towns and cities.

LANDSCAPE REFORMS

NRM efforts to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate have been critical to the success of Resilient Hills & Coasts. Our submission on the Landscape Reforms focused on four points.

First, we support continued investment in climate change adaptation, including via representation on Resilient Hills and Coasts.

Second, we want the reforms to embed climate resilience into everyday decision-making by Landscape Boards, and to acknowledge that there is more work to do to get us there.

Third, our partner Councils seek opportunities to enhance our partnerships with Landscape Boards, including by hosting outposted staff or delivering contracted, levy-funded services.

Fourth, resilient communities, economies and landscapes cannot be achieved when stakeholders act in isolation – to ensure we are efficiently moving in the same direction, state-level coordination, advocacy and incentives are still required.

Our funding

We operate on a lean budget, enabled by significant in-kind contributions from all our Steering Committee representatives. Our budget funds an RH&C Regional Coordinator to support the Steering Committee, identify and pursue funding opportunities, support strategic projects, and undertake advocacy and engagement. Funding to deliver strategic projects is raised separately via partnerships, grants and Council budget bids.

The total budget for 2017-18 was $134,000, comprising $60,000 from Council partners and $60,000 in matched funding from the AMLR NRM Board, plus a rolled over saving of $14,000 from 2016-17.

The total budget for 2018-19 is $80,000, which comprises $40,000 from Council partners and a rolled over saving of $40,000 from 2017-18. Project funding is secured only until 30 June 2019 – ***a lack of ongoing funding presents a significant risk to our ability to continue this project***.

Our future plans

Over the next year, we will focus on progressing our five strategic projects:

- Complete the Coastal Hazard Mapping pilot on Kangaroo Island and evaluate it for potential enhancement and extension to other coastal Councils in our region and around the State.
- Undertake an LGA-funded project to ensure that risk-mitigated legal, governance and community engagement models are in place for our proposed Community Energy Program, including creating a toolkit for broad adoption, and seeking support from our partner Councils to invest in delivering the project.
- Implement WSUD capability raising and on-ground works projects for which we have been offered AMLR NRM Board funding.
- Complete the South Australian Government funded urban greening project in Strathalbyn.
- If we are successful in securing National Disaster Resilience Program funding, we will progress our $168K What We Build Where We Build project.

And the following advocacy and engagement initiatives:

- Following the 2018 Council elections, raise newly Elected Members' awareness about climate risk and the imperative to embed climate-readiness and disaster resilience into all aspects of what we build and where we build.
- Support Council officers, including governance, audit and risk specialists, engineers, and asset, infrastructure and development planners to understand, disclose and mitigate against climate risk, including by replacing and upgrading infrastructure to minimise hazard exposure.
- Continue to engage in the State Planning Reforms and other relevant State and LGA system reforms and policy and strategy development.
- Provide feedback on the Department of Environment and Water's proposed strategy for coordinating spatial data to support climate sensitive decision-making.

City of Adelaide feedback on Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations For Change Discussion Paper July 2018

The City of Adelaide strongly requests further consultation on the development of 'Green Adelaide', including further details on governance, objectives and priorities for the region. To date, only high level information has been provided as part of the Managing Our Landscapes discussions.

The City of Adelaide welcomes the opportunity to provide general feedback on Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper July 2018. This input does not reflect formal Council consideration.

Objectives of reforms

- Vibrant biodiversity
- Sustainable economy
- Resilient communities

The City of Adelaide supports these objectives with the following comments:

- These objectives reflect the current objects of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act) aim to assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources. The proposed reforms provide for the 'ecologically sustainable management of our natural resource base to support primary production industry, regional communities, Aboriginal nations and the natural environment'. People are at the heart of these objectives. The objects of the current NRM Act are broader in scope – the objects promote the use of resources in a manner that recognises and protects the intrinsic value of the resources. People, species and natural systems are at the heart of these objectives.
- Responding to climate change and building resilient natural resources and systems should be an objective of the new legislation. The impacts of climate change will fundamentally challenge the way natural systems function and are currently managed (e.g. hotter, drier conditions, extreme weather events).
- For Green Adelaide an essential objective should be connecting communities to the natural environment through the protection and enhancement (investment and improved management) of urban parks, streets and water ways/infrastructure and nature education.

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Clear objectives and principles (that reflect best practice and science based evidence) and a commitment to implement them (the community is engaged in achieving objectives and principles).

The City of Adelaide and local government must be involved in planning, governance and decision making to manage and enhance natural systems and resources (particularly in Green Adelaide).

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

Support for NRM educational and community engagement programs.

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

Principles should be developed to underpin how the Boards, landholders and community will take responsibility for landscape scale outcomes (the 'culture'), including:

- ***A commitment for the long term improvement to natural systems.***
- ***A commitment for landscape scale management, standards and responsibilities***
- ***Prepare communities and natural systems to respond to climate change and to be resilient in face of change***
- ***Biodiversity matters***
- ***Clean water for the environment***

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

To best enable restoration at a landscape scale each Landscape Board should to have regard to:

- High level principles
- Foundation priorities (soil, water, pest management, climate)
- Supporting communities at the centre of landscape scale improvements on their land, local area and/or region.
- Higher order strategic landscape initiatives within and across regions.

The priority for more focus on the fundamentals of managing natural resources is supported subject to there also being support for strategic regional and cross regional projects that will support strategic landscape scale improvements (i.e. connecting islanded parks and enhancing remnant native vegetation).

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

Work with communities to establish priorities for projects on country and governance approaches.

Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Landscape Boards could best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities by including:

1. Defining guiding principles and objects for landscape scale Management.
2. Establishing local targets/outcomes for land management in relation to land use locally and across a region.
3. Identifying strategic regional and cross regional projects that prioritise improving habitat and biodiversity.
4. Advocating for improving landscape management and communicating the benefits of achieving defined outcomes.

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Green Adelaide

The Minister will appoint members to the Green Adelaide Board.

Members will need to demonstrate a range of skill sets and a strong understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities for natural resource management in urban areas to enable the delivery of the priorities for the region. The following skills/positions are essential:

- Local government representation (representative from City of Adelaide and each local government area in boundary is essential).
- Urban biodiversity planning and management.
- Urban water management (i.e. water sensitive city, water sensitive urban design, water resource management, understanding of issues with River Torrens and urbanised catchments).
- Planning
- Green infrastructure planning and management
- Recreation/Open Space planning and management
- Aboriginal representation (Kaurna people depending on boundary)
- Financial Management

Question 8 How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

Adelaide could become a more ecologically healthy city with increased species richness by enhancing green and blue infrastructure and building biodiversity into all aspects of the urban form. This would include:

- Increasing canopy cover, especially to mitigate impacts of Urban Heat Island Effect. City of Adelaide has canopy cover targets for 25% in CBD and 40% in North Adelaide.

- Ensuring that there is a canopy and biodiversity hierarchy approach towards urban consolidation, new building developments and building extensions.

- Supporting and incentivising new building designs to support and be integrated with an urban landscape that supports tree canopy cover and biodiversity habitat.

- Protecting and caring for significant and regulated and hollow trees wherever possible.
- Acknowledging the role of established private gardens in supporting and connecting urban biodiversity.

- City of Adelaide is working towards Adelaide becoming a Climate Resilient City through greening, green and blue infrastructure.

- City of Adelaide has target for Adelaide to transition to a Water Sensitive City.

- Mainstreaming Water Sensitive Urban Design in a way that:

    a) supports urban greening and biodiversity

    b) slows, detains and settles urban runoff for improved water quality of water discharged into the receiving environment (for example, to creeks, rivers and coastal environments)

    c) seeks to eliminate direct road to river and stream discharges

The barriers against Green Adelaide Outcomes

The factors which are acting against the concept for Adelaide to be a world leading biodiversity city, and to increase canopy cover by 20% by 2045

- Urban consolidation aspects of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017.

- The Current approach to urban consolidation is to clear most sites regardless of established biodiversity and natural assets, and construct new buildings and open space design with plantings that do not create habitat to support and optimise biodiversity.

- Whilst there are some examples of significant trees being retained across SA, the loss of significant trees, regulated trees and established gardens on private land is widespread and occurring at an unstainable rate.

- Across SA, new buildings and redeveloped precincts are not typically designed to support urban biodiversity, or to re-establish canopy cover to a minimum 30% canopy cover, or 30% Green Cover (in shrub plantings that support biodiversity)

- There is an increasing level of run off from more buildings and hard paved areas, without a corresponding increase in the level of water sensitive design.

- Exemplar sites such as new industrial and commercial large development sites are not demonstrating best practice in retaining established biodiversity assets or in creating new biodiversity habitat through green roof areas, green walls and green space.

- The understanding that healthy biodiversity is dependent on maintaining adequate areas of connected habitat, at a landscape scale is essential. Where suburbs are transformed to high density forms without viable habitat, healthy biodiversity will be lost.

Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

1. Regional Plans can be developed in accordance with established high level principles and objects (set out under new Act). There is an opportunity to connect with new regional planning tools available in the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, 2016* (SA).

2. Foundation priorities for soil, water, weed and pest management, climate are effectively managed across the landscape.

3. Communities are supported and connected to landscape scale improvements on their managed land, local area and region.

4. Higher order strategic landscape initiatives within and across regions are clearly defined, spatially describing a future that is desirable and agreed.

Question 10 How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

An overarching, state-wide plan with a long term strategic vision, high level principles and objectives is needed.

Regional Plans need to define a clear long term vision for the region. Plans must align with high level principles and objects under the new Act. Plans must also set out long term objectives priorities and spatial plans.

Regional Plans also need to outline how foundational responsibilities (soil, water, weed and pest management, climate) work together with specific local, regional and cross-regional programs/projects to achieve the longer term vision for the Region.

Question 11 How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Question 12 How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

It is important to have open and transparent methods relating to the way that levies are collected. There must also be consideration about the nature and values of the land, the needs

within a region to fund an activity to enhance natural systems and prevent further decline, and the capacity of those paying the levies to fund the improvements required in a particular region.

Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Question 14 How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

Strategic projects with defined outcomes need to be developed. A coordinated effort is essential to achieve specific and well defined spatial landscape scale outcomes.

Individual, diffuse efforts also add value. Supporting landholders to better manage natural resources on their land should be supported by encouraging those landholders undertaking positive improvements on their land. The benefits of supporting 'managing your patch' types of improvement can include demonstrating what is possible, creating refuges, improving land and water management, and supporting local economic and employment opportunities.

Question 15 How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

The Grass Roots Grants Program would work best if the landscape improvement or recovery outcome is spatially defined within the region and contributes to priorities for the region.

Question 16 What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Improved clarity on outcomes sought on a spatial and regional basis and ensuring coordinated effort across multiple land tenures.

Question 17 Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

The current NRM Act is focussed on water quantity. The City of Adelaide is transitioning to a water sensitive city to ensure optimal management of the resource for the conditions and required uses. Clean water for the environment is also key and should be a core principle. Riparian environments and lakes require clean water to thrive.

Question 18 What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

Clean water for the environment as a core principle to help guide the landscape boards. Catchment Management Plans can continue to be refined and evolve to deliver desired and tangible outcomes and goals. An additional improvement could be to provide additional guidance on the outcomes and goals sought for the biodiversity of the rivers and riparian systems.

Question 19 What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

1. Clearly defined outcome oriented landscape scale principles to guide the Boards and communities.
2. 5 year planning horizons with a longer tern 2050 goals for each region and major natural asset system.
3. Strategic planning that is defined spatially in regional plans in accordance with the outcome focussed principles.
4. Support for communities and landholders to achieve better natural resource management (including defining leading practice through guidelines and standards)
5. Focus on responding to climate change in natural resource management and building resilience in natural systems.
6. Weed / pest management across the whole landscape.
7. Better integration of outcomes sought with the new planning framework to prevent the legal and illegal destruction of natural assets.
8. Better monitoring of habitat loss from illegal clearance, assessment of cumulative impacts and stronger enforcement where necessary.

Question 20 What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

For Green Adelaide priorities to be realised the new legislation must enable the following:

- Enhancing, protecting and maintaining natural systems and green and blue infrastructure (i.e. WSUD, GAP Water, constructed wetlands).
- Targets to achieve priorities (i.e. achieving at least 25% increased canopy cover by 2040, transition to a water sensitive city by 2050).
- Supporting communities to enhance natural systems on their land or in their region and enabling community engagement to assist in achieving regional priorities.

Question 21 How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

Additional City of Adelaide feedback on alignment with and opportunities around the Landscape SA reforms with Planning System reforms

The planning system is currently undergoing its most comprehensive review in 20 years, with the *Development Act 1993* being progressively replaced by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. A key opportunity exists to integrate the proposed Landscape SA

legislative reforms with the planning system, to achieve the goals of the proposed reforms more effectively.

Current "Development Plans" will be replaced by a State-wide "Planning and Design Code" which will form the basis for development assessment decisions. Expanded regional planning tools provide opportunities to further connect planning and natural resource management functions.

There is a very real window of opportunity which should be pursued to connect development with the proposed landscape-scale goals of *"Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change; Prosperous businesses now and in the future, able to adapt as the economy and primary industries transform over time; and Capable local people and groups leading stewardship of their natural environment, contributing to strong social networks that can cope with changing environments".*

We encourage further discussion with the City of Adelaide to identify opportunities to contribute towards these goals via the current planning reform process.

Ref: 5.85.1/22

15 October 2018

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Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change Discussion Paper

Please find enclosed the District Council of Grant's response to the "Managing Our Landscapes - Conversations for Change" discussion paper, issued in July 2018.

I apologise for my delay in responding and understand that your consultation and implementation processes have deadlines.

Nonetheless, the following comments are a reiteration of the concerns forwarded to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) back in July 2016 when the levy was raised by 300%.

Water Policy and Strategy
I note that $4.7 million has been allocated to water policy and strategy. Under the National Water Initiative it clearly states under section 67 - Cost Recovery for Planning and Management that "*the identification of the proportion of costs that can be attributed to water access entitlement holders exclude activities undertaken for the Government (such as policy development, and Ministerial or Parliamentary services).* I also note that approximately $2 million of the $4.7 million has been allocated to the Murray Darling Basin Plan, however DEWNR Financial Statements for 2014-15 shows a $2.3 million contribution from the commonwealth for implementing the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Murray Darling Basin Authority contribution
I note the Murray-Darling Basin Authority contribution of $19.1 million and also note that the majority of projects listed were previously recovered through the Save the River Murray Fund (Save the River Murray Fund Annual Report 2014-15). When the levy was scrapped, Premier Jay Weatherill stated that the works and measures the Levy has contributed to will continue and will now be funded by State Appropriation. I note that activities in this area previously funded under the Save the Murray Fund are still included in the $43.5 million. These projects include maintenance of the Lower Murray Levee Banks, Salt Interception Schemes, River Murray Waste Disposal Stations, Hazard Management, River Murray Operations and implementing the Murray Darling Basin Initiative.

SA Water
Council understands that of the $43.5 million spent on water planning and management, between $17 and $20 million is recouped from SA Water coming from landholders, who irrigate with SA Water.

In addition to this, SA Water also makes contributions to water planning and management (2014-15 Annual Report):

- continued to investigate new and innovative ways of balancing water security with energy costs and water quality
- SA Water works closely with the water sector, seeking to both inform and understand policy development, regulatory decisions and innovative research
- monitoring the development of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin, Natural Resource Management Board's Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Resource.
- SA Water continues to make significant contributions to the science of water resource management.
- developed an innovative demand modelling methodology that considers the impacts of climate variability pricing and other demographic factors to project likely demands on local water resources in the South East

Independent review

Given the issues raised above, Council is requesting an independent review of water planning and management costs in South Australia. Furthermore, The National Water Initiative states that:

> *The States and Territories agree to report publicly on cost recovery for water planning and management as part of annual reporting requirements, including:*
>
> *i. the total cost of water planning and management; and*
>
> *ii. the proportion of the total cost of water planning and management attributed to water access entitlement holders and the basis upon which this proportion is determined.*

Collection of Levy

Whilst Council does not support transferring collection of the levy to Revenue SA they do need to be adequately reimbursed for collection of the levy.

This is predominantly based on the potential effects and costs for an alternative collection agency to collect the NRM Levy, and these costs would most likely be passed onto landowners across the State through a further increase in NRM Levies. If for example, Revenue SA were to take over collection services for NRM Levy, this could evoke similar collection costs as does the collection of the Emergency Services Levy as such:

Year	Levy Collection Costs
2014/15	$6,187,000
2013/14	$5,636,000
2012/13	$5,889,000
2011/12	$1,612,000
2010/11	$5,617,000
Total	**$26,941,000**

The Elected Members and staff of the District Council of Grant have a keen appreciation of the importance of water, especially in a region fortunate enough to have it.

The opportunity to comment is welcome and we are always interested to collaborate for mutual benefit.

Yours sincerely



David Singe
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Friday 12 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
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Dear Sir/Madam

Natural Resource Management System Reforms

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed reforms to the natural resource management system in South Australia.

Southern Mallee District Council has a strong interest in the effective management of natural resources across South Australia, particularly in our district.

Council at its ordinary meeting on 19 September 2018 resolved to provide formal feedback on the future of natural resource management in South Australia, particularly regarding the management of weeds, soil management and fire management. Accordingly Council is pleased to see that your reform proposes to make soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management major priorities. Fire management should also be a major priority.

Council would also like to see a reduction of the amount of natural resource management funding spend on administration so that a greater proportion of funding is used for on the ground actions. Accordingly, Council supports your initiative to create a simpler, flexible and accessible system for managing natural resources, with decentralised decision-making. This Council agrees that putting people at the heart of managing our natural resources, and recognising that those who work and live on the land are well placed to manage and sustain it, is appropriate. The proposal to create nine landscape boards and Green Adelaide to replace existing NRM boards is supported.

Council also supports the capping of annual land and water levy rises and welcomes the establishment of the annual $2 million state-wide grants program.

Thank you for giving Council the opportunity to respond to the Government's range of reforms to the natural resource management system.

Yours sincerely

Jason Taylor
Chief Executive Officer

SOUTHERN MALLEE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Local Government Association of South Australia

The voice of local government.

Managing our Landscapes:

Natural Resources Management Reform

Submission

October 2018

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Introduction

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response on the proposed reforms to the way that we manage our vital natural resources in South Australia, which are outlined in the discussion paper 'Managing Our Landscapes- Conversations for Change'.

The LGA is a membership association representing the State's 68 councils. The LGA's mission is to provide leadership support, representation and advocacy on behalf of South Australian councils, for the benefit of the community.

The LGA has consulted with local government on the development of this submission and held a briefing session with local government planning, sustainability and natural resource management representatives to assist in the development of the submission.

Current Policy Position

The current LGA Policy Manual contains the following principles and policies relating to natural resource management and the collection of levies:

Local Government and NRM

Principles

1. *Local Government has a long standing and ongoing commitment to environmental and natural resource management, enshrined in legislation and reinforced by community expectations.*
2. *Local Government recognises the need to work with State and Federal governments, the community, and business sector, to better address environmental and natural resource management issues including resource conservation, community access, ecologically sustainable development and climate change.*
3. *Local Government recognises that it needs to continue to adopt and promote environmentally responsible and sustainable approaches to carrying out its roles and responsibilities.*

Policy

1. *Local Government supports the concept of an Australia-wide network of conservation reserves, recognising the intrinsic value of such resources, their role in protecting Australia's unique flora, fauna and ecological systems and their importance to the Australian psyche and economy.*
2. *Designated conservation reserves, crown lands and transport corridors owned and managed by the State and or Federal Government should be adequately resourced to enable proper management and ensure adequate noxious weed and feral animal control, while balancing recreational access to ensure these areas are recognised and valued by the community.*
3. *Local Government supports rail, roadside and reserve vegetation programs.*

4. *Incentives and activities in relation to native vegetation retention and revegetation should be encouraged, subject to practical considerations concerning the provision and maintenance of community infrastructure.*
5. *Local Government supports a balance between the protection of native vegetation, planning and development and bushfire prevention strategies for the protection of communities.*
6. *Local Government supports the concept of integrated Natural Resource Management (NRM) as a co-operative mechanism to develop and implement ecologically sustainable use of the State's natural resources and environment.*
7. *Local Government will work cooperatively with regional NRM boards in areas or matters of mutual interest or concern and actively seek opportunities for joint NRM planning and delivery of NRM projects where all parties will benefit.*
8. *Sharing of information, data, and other resources between NRM Boards and Councils will be based on mutually agreeable terms.*
9. *Local Government supports initiatives for ecologically sustainable management of the State's natural resources, including programs related to the management and protection of land, coasts, estuarine, marine, water, vegetation and soil.*

Revenue Collection for other Governments

Principles/policy

1. *Local Government must not be required to levy or collect revenues on behalf of other spheres of government unless the arrangements are acceptable to the Local Government Association, following consultation with Councils.*
2. *Where Local Government provides services for or on behalf of State or Federal Governments, those governments should meet all costs incurred in providing those services (or on a mutually agreeable commission basis), including those associated with administrative overheads.*
3. *Where Local Government is required to undertake revenue collection for another sphere of government or where Councils choose to include such revenue payments on their rates notices there must be clear indication that these are not Council charges. This is to provide transparency and accountability to ensure the community is aware that the revenue being collected is not being retained by Councils.*

These principles and policies form the basis for our advocacy activities and have also been taken into consideration in the development of this submission.

Proposed Changes

The objectives of the current NRM Act provide the guiding principles for natural resources management in South Australia which are:

- integrated management;
- protection of existing biological diversity;
- ecological restoration & rehabilitation;
- economic production;
- balancing ecological needs with the need to support the contribution of primary & other economic production systems, such as agriculture & mining, to the State economy; and
- supporting & increasing people's capacity to participate in NRM, especially through educational initiatives.

It is generally accepted that these principles are sound.

Following the state election, the Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs MP has commenced a process to repeal the NRM Act and replace it with Landscape legislation.

The Minister is developing the new legislation in collaboration with key stakeholders and intends to introduce the Bill to Parliament in the first quarter of 2019. To inform this process, a discussion paper titled 'Managing Our Landscapes- Conversations for Change' (the discussion paper) was released in July 2018.

The discussion paper identifies five guiding principles for the reform of the natural resource management system:

- decentralised decision making;
- a simple and accessible system;
- communities and land owners at the centre;
- back to basics; and
- a whole of landscape approach.

Proposals for reform include:

- a focus on 'practical on the ground actions';
- a reassertion that the NRM Levy will continue to be collected by councils, but will be capped;
- levies collected in regions will be spent in regions;
- existing NRM Boards will be replaced by 9 new Landscape Boards, which includes replacing the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board with 3 Landscape Boards;
    - Hills and Fleurieu
    - Plains and Valleys
    - Green Adelaide
- Soil quality, pest plant and animal control will be priorities for the boards which will inform local priorities and actions;
- Five year plans will be developed in partnership with key stakeholders including local government; and
- Introduction of a grass roots program worth $2 million annually for volunteers, community groups and not-for-profit groups to access.

LGA Comment

Councils are significant land owners and managers and the proposed reforms will affect the way that councils currently discharge their responsibilities. In short, these changes will have a bearing on the success of council's ability to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and preserve the local landscapes for which it is responsible.

These landscapes include both natural terrestrial/ coastal and cultural landscapes; whereby cultural landscapes refer to those that have been modified for agricultural, viticultural and recreational uses and are as important as our natural assets. This also includes landscapes that are culturally important to aboriginal communities.

The guiding principles for reform relate to decentralising decision making, modifying systems of management, placing greater responsibilities on communities and landowners to manage landscapes, and refocusing activities on basics such as soil, water and pest plants and animals.

While these principles are broadly supported, many councils have a range of strategic and operational plans that have been developed based on current natural resource management arrangements. These contain decisions about resource allocation and long-term resource investment involving multiple stakeholders.

It is crucially important to councils that existing levels of governance and support are maintained to ensure councils can fulfil their obligations as significant landholders and managers. It is also important that any additional responsibilities of councils arising from reform activities are well funded and resourced.

As a sector, councils do believe that improvements can be made to the ways in which natural resources are managed, and we look forward to working with the State Government to achieve gradual, sensible and mutually beneficial reforms.

Green Adelaide Board

The LGA and metropolitan councils look forward to having further discussions with the State Government on the establishment and management of the proposed Green Adelaide Board. Given the important relationship this Board will need to have with local government, it is important that local government is involved in the formation of the Board and assists in defining its role and operations.

It is noted that there are significant overlaps between the Green Adelaide Board with the 7 priorities that have already been identified and current/ future planning reform activities.

We believe that full alignment with current and future planning activities is crucial to the success of this Board, due to the strategies and policies already in place and proposed through the planning system with regard to coastal and riverine management, water sensitive urban design, urban greening, and environmental management of urban natural areas.

The comments received from member councils as part of the consultation to inform this submission relate to aspects that are of importance to councils and how they see the current system for natural resource management can be improved.

Levy collection

Under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act), local councils in South Australia are required to collect the NRM Levy (the Levy) on behalf of the NRM Boards. The legislation requires that the council pays to the NRM Board the quantum identified by the Minister for Environment and Water and gazetted on an annual basis.

Local councils receive a reimbursement for this activity as a regional NRM Board is liable to pay to each of the constituent councils for the region an amount determined in accordance with the NRM Regulations on account of the costs of the council in complying with the requirements of the NRM Act.

The LGA has previously undertaken consultation with local councils in respect to the collection of the Levy, seeking feedback on the following questions:

- Do councils consider that the financial provisions allow councils costs to be fully recovered?
- If not what are the additional costs to councils of collecting the Levy? and
- What is the current total amount of NRM levies in arrears?

From the responses received, an overwhelming 83% of councils considered that the reimbursement payed to councils by NRM Boards did not adequately meet the costs of collecting the Levy.

The costs that councils consider are not covered by the collection fee include:

- losses as a result of valuation objections;
- enquiries and complaint handling;
- cost of forecasting and modelling;
- accounting and reporting;
- debt recovery costs;
- cost of applying rebates, and
- costs to configure financial systems.

The NRM Act collection fee provided to councils by the NRM Board is based on a formula determined by regulation and is therefore fixed by the State Government; unlike the administrative costs of collecting the Emergency Services Levy. Local government considers that as a result of this approach local government is subsidising the collection of a State Government tax. Local government considers that the current method results in 'cost shifting' from the State Government to local government.

The current NRM Levy collection system is not supported and the LGA has a well-established policy position which calls on the State Government to introduce legislative changes to either:

- completely remove this obligation in the new Landscapes South Australia Act;
- change the collection method so that councils pass on only what they receive; and
- to increase the costs that can be recovered by councils to collect the Levy.

Recommendation

The obligation for councils to collect the Levy from the proposed legislation should be removed.

Levy to be spent where needed

We note that the intent of the State Government is for levies collected in the individual regions to be spent in that region, apart from a small allocation for cross boundary initiatives.

Regardless of whether the Levy allocation is based on fixed amounts per property or rate in the dollar of capital value, there are currently variations in the amount of Levy that can be collected in each region. This is due to the number of properties and the value in properties and investments in each region.

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board takes in metropolitan Adelaide, in which the majority of the population resides, and also incorporates valuable peri urban agricultural areas. As expected, the amount of levy collected in this region is higher than other regions, even though many of the State's natural resource assets are outside of this region.

The financial implications of splitting the AMLR Board into 2 Landscape Boards and the Green Adelaide Board are yet to be evaluated. However, it is unlikely that the revised arrangements will tackle the issue of inequity.

Landscape Board boundaries and management frameworks are discussed in more detail below. However, in terms how the Levy should be collected and invested, a revised and more equitable mechanism for both calculating and allocating the Levy is required.

Recommendation

A revised and more equitable mechanism for both calculating and allocating the Levy should be established.

Foundation funding

The local government sector supports the proposed 'Grass Roots Program' which will see $2 million allocated annually to volunteers, community groups and not-for-profit groups to access.

While we support the program, the $2 million allocated is not adequate to undertake vital education, rehabilitation, protection and conservation activities at the local level, and may need to be increased over time.

In addition, while funding volunteers, community groups and not-for-profits; local councils are also heavily engaged in NRM activities, and are also capable of leveraging funds for landscape activities from other sources.

While increased State Government funding for councils would be extremely welcome, councils are also willing to invest in local landscape activities.

Funding should also be made available in the medium to long term given the ongoing nature of landscape management.

Recommendation

The allocation to be made available for 'Grass Roots Programs' to support education, rehabilitation, protection and conservation at the local level should be increased.

Financial transparency

In the past, regional NRM Boards were required to consult annually on their Business and Operational Plans. Amendments to the NRM Act changed this to every three years unless the increase to the Levy was greater than CPI.

This has reduced the opportunity for local government and local communities to understand the annual operations of the NRM Boards who can make amendments to meet actual and perceived costs without consultation. This is a major reason why those paying (communities) and collecting the Levy (councils) may not fully understand or appreciate what the funds are being spent on.

In addition, the Levy is also being used to meet costs of administrative and operational functions that were previously funded by the State Government to manage areas of State Government responsibility. These administrative and operational matters should be funded through general revenue or as part of the State Government funding of landscape management and should not be funded through Levy funds as they have a broader State benefit.

It is vital to the success of these reforms that State Government supports and funds landscape activities, and that its operations are open, transparent and subject to external scrutiny.

Recommendation

The legislation should require consultation on Business and Operational Plans on an annual basis with all stakeholders including the community and councils.

Collaboration

A main feature of the reform is to put communities and land owners at the centre of the new system. Meaningful collaboration has many benefits, but requires time and resources. Councils consult widely with their communities, partly because they are legally required to, but also because it is a cornerstone of how councils engage with their communities.

Councils are therefore fully aware of the cost of collaborating, which includes hosting meetings, providing administrative support, listening to what their communities have to say, and reporting back to communities on how they have shaped councils strategic and operational planning processes, and where their council rates will be spent.

As community leaders, councils are in a unique position to bring people together; councils would also welcome being more involved in local landscape activities, but not if it comes with a cost burden.

In developing formal consultation and engagement frameworks as part of drafting the new legislation, it is vital that State Government considers the costs of such provisions and makes adequate time and resources available.

The State Government should consider the establishment of a Community Engagement Charter, enshrined in legislation (similar to that established under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016), which Boards and agencies are required to comply with.

Recommendation

The requirement of a Community Engagement Charter should be enshrined within the new legislation.

Staffing

Each Landscape Board/ region should be adequately staffed. Having a good local staff presence will be important if the decentralisation aspects of the reform are to be realised. Technical and issue specific staff should also be assigned to tackle difficult issues such as noxious plants and animals, and overabundant native species. Consideration should be given to the sharing of services with local councils or the co-location of council staff. Co-location of staff has shown to be beneficial to both local government and NRM Boards, as evidenced by the co-locating of AMLR NRM Board Coast and Marine funded staff with coastal councils.

There needs to also be enough staff to manage and improve State Government owned land, particularly our national parks and reserves. These need to be separate to those employed to undertake functions of State Government responsibility so that there is not 'administration and funding creep' with regard to where the Levy is spent.

Recommendation

The legislation should enable the sharing of services and co-location of staff with local government.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a major role in natural resource management, and their contribution of time, energy, expertise, equipment and resources is extremely valuable.

It is vital that the reform considers the role of volunteers and that their contribution, rights and incentives are clearly articulated moving forward. This includes maintaining legal and risk arrangements that allow volunteer contributions.

Funding programs such as 'Volunteer Small Grants' should be retained and built upon. These programs should be in addition to the $2 million that has already been pledged as part of the 'Grass Roots Program'.

Recommendation

Volunteers should be given the opportunity to maximise their contributions and should be acknowledged for their support to effective landscape management.

Existing programs

All councils have made commitments to local natural resource management activities based on programs and funding currently available. These include support for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) planning and on-ground works, provision of technical advice and support, NRM Education

Program, Climate Ready Schools, Our Big Back Yard and natural/ environment/ sustainability centres.

To enable councils to meet their strategic and operational needs and to meet community expectations, these programs need to receive funding during the transition phase. Failure to do so may result in councils removing services and reducing the number of projects/ activities that they fund.

Recommendation

The status quo with current programs should be maintained to ensure current commitments can be completed.

Landscape region boundaries

The boundaries for the new metropolitan Adelaide regions are yet to be identified, and councils in the affected areas are considering a range of factors that could affect them with the boundary reforms, depending on whether they become part of Green Adelaide, Plains and Valleys or Hills and Fleurieu Boards.

A number of councils in these areas currently benefit from being wholly or partly in the AMLR NRM Board region through the additional funding they receive for existing programs and collaborations. There is a concern amongst some councils that their area will be worse off financially if the boundaries are changed to their detriment.

The discussion paper lists a range of factors to consider, which include societal aspects such as financial viability, land use patterns and features, areas of commonality and consistency and natural aspects such as water catchments, marine ecosystems and landscape formations.

Feedback from councils suggests that it is more important to consider societal aspects over the natural aspects when defining boundaries.

This is not to be seen as a shift away from valuing natural landscape boundaries and their importance for implementing whole of landscape solutions, moreover an acceptance that regions have to work together on cross boundary issues, and that there has to be social/ financial equity in the way natural resources are managed.

Promoting cross boundary or landscape scale management processes is a significant reform consideration and one that needs to be mandated as part of the reform, so regional boundaries being drawn along natural boundary's is no longer vital to achieving landscape scale outcomes.

Recommendations

Societal aspects and considerations should be at the forefront in determining the boundaries for Green Adelaide, Plains and Valleys or Hills and Fleurieu Boards.

State-wide strategic alignment

The governance and management model outlined in the paper does not include an equivalent of the existing State NRM Plan, with all planning devolved to the regional Landscape Boards. While councils broadly agree that regional planning should be informed by regional priorities, there still needs to be strategic alignment between regions.

It is important that there is a consistent approach across regions to ensure that cross boundary collaboration can occur and landscape scale solutions can be implemented. In addition, it is also important to be able to identify state-wide priorities and ensure that they are adequately incorporated into the regional plans that will be developed by the Landscape Boards. In addition to the relationship between a State wide Landscape Plan and regional Landscape Plans, the relationship with regional plans to be developed by the soon to be established Joint Planning Boards (under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*) also need to be considered. It is important that these plans are integrated and also consider Council Strategic Plans.

From a local government perspective, some councils may end up in two different regions. If regional plans are not aligned, this will create significant management issues for councils, many of which are responsible for large areas of coastal, estuarine, riverine, forest, and scrub and grassland environments.

In addition to a state-based plan, a state-based management body should also be established which includes local government representation, to provide direction as to where investment should occur at the State level.

The state-based body should be responsible for administering a state-based fund to support the management of key landscape assets across the State.

Recommendations

A State strategic landscape plan should be enshrined within the legislation.

A state-based management body including local government representation should be enshrined within the legislation.

Advisory boards

In developing a state-based plan, and establishing a state-based body, it is important that greater engagement and collaboration with councils occurs at the local level in terms of developing and achieving state-wide outcomes.

The new legislation should include clear provisions for regional boards to work closely with councils and communities. This could include regional boards establishing advisory committees, such as a 'Local Government Advisory Committee'.

These committees can then provide advice to the regional community representatives on the Landscape Boards, and also to the state-based management body (discussed above) to ensure that both make fact based, overarching and strategic decisions which have buy in from all key stakeholders.

In addition, landscape management is a cross cutting issue, and the new legislation should also include provisions to set up cross sectoral advisory committees.

Recommendation

The creation of local government advisory committees should be enabled in the legislation, to support local government representatives on Landscape Boards and on a proposed state-based body.

Community representatives on Landscape Boards

The local government sector supports the discussion paper's comments that community representatives on Landscape Boards should have relevant skills and knowledge to ensure that they can make informed decisions on behalf of the community.

Representatives should be members of the community with demonstrable previous commitments to achieving positive community outcomes. There should be diversity across the representatives in terms of gender, age and cultural background, and they should have existing community networks.

The LGA broadly supports the proposal for 7 members (3 community elected and 4 Ministerial elected). Given the LGA is the peak body for councils, we would suggest that the LGA/ regional LGA's are represented on the Landscape Boards and that the Minister incorporates this as one of his appointees.

It is unclear at this stage as to the proposed 'election' approach for community representation. Election processes are expensive to undertake and processes need to be transparent and well managed.

Recommendations

The legislation should include a local government representative as one of the Minister's representatives on the Landscapes Board.

Interactions with State Government

Currently, local government and the community are faced with working with, responding to or addressing policy issues from three separate bodies with responsibilities in managing natural resources in the State, these being:

1. regional Natural Resource Management Boards,
2. Coast Protection Board, and
3. Native Vegetation Council.

In addition, councils address or respond to policy or licencing issues from a range of government agencies, including:

1. Department of Environment and Water,
2. Primary Industries and Regions SA, and
3. Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure.

Having to seek advice or approvals from the three separate Boards/Council that are managed and resourced under the one department (DEW), in addition to the requirements from the government agencies, can be both time consuming and costly for both local government, business and the community.

Reducing red tape is one of the fundamental aims of the reform. It is therefore crucial that this review reduces the amount of red tape for councils when undertaking their natural resource management obligations.

Recommendation

Red tape should be reduced by creating a one-stop-shop for councils' interactions with the State Government in relation to all landscape related matters.

Coast Protection and Native Vegetation legislation

As part of achieving the efficiencies discussed above, coast protection responsibilities under the *Coast Protection Act 1972* and native vegetation responsibilities under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* should be incorporated into the Landscape SA Act and managed through regional boards rather than the multiples boards as currently exist.

While it is accepted that much of the legislation listed in the discussion paper would be difficult to assimilate into one Act, it would not be unworkable to incorporate coast protection and native vegetation.

Recommendation

The current *Coast Protection Act 1972* and *Native Vegetation Act 1991 should be repealed* and be incorporated within the new legislation.

The planning system

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) is listed in the discussion paper with a list of other statutes for consideration. However, it is crucial that the PDI Act in particular is fully aligned with the new landscape legislation, because of the wide-ranging reach and overlap of planning and natural resource management.

This interdependency is complicated by the fact that the planning system is having its most significant reforms in 20 years, which are due to be in place by July 2020.

There would appear to be significant scope for the current landscapes reform process to influence planning reform processes and vice versa, however this does not appear to be occurring.

The State Government has recently released the draft State Planning Policies for South Australia and the Natural Resources and Environment Policy Discussion Paper, as part of the development of the Planning and Design Code (PDC).

Ensuring sustainable development is a key objective of the current *Natural Resource Management Act 2004*. Feedback from councils suggests that one of the key deficiencies of the current NRM Act is that it has not prevented unsuitable or unstainable development to the detriment of our natural landscapes and natural resources.

There is no reference of the draft State Planning Policies or the Natural Resources and Environment Policy Discussion Paper in the 'Managing Our Landscapes- Conversations for Change discussion paper', when the planning reform activities could be capitalised on for better integration of land use planning. It is also noted that the State Planning Policies do not adequately address many of the key fundamental issues relating to landscape management, including water sensitive urban design, biodiversity and climate change.

It is crucially important that these two major reforms are aligned. Failure to align these processes has the potential to create barriers to effective landscape management and sustainable development.

Recommendation

The landscape reforms and current planning reforms should be aligned.

Climate change adaptation

The discussion paper rarely touches on climate change (one reference on page 20). Land owners/ primary producers/ farmers are all acutely aware of the impacts that climate change is already having on their livelihoods and the way that they run their businesses, and it is vital that climate adaptation is factored in to the way in which we manage our landscapes.

All State Government planning regions have regional climate change adaptation plans which outline a range of local on-the-ground and grass roots actions that need to be taken to protect our communities from sea level rise, bushfires, floods, extreme storms, drought and heatwaves; all of which have significant impacts on landscapes.

This reform process offers an opportunity to fully integrate and strengthen climate adaptation in the legislation and establish climate resilient landscapes. The reform process also offers an opportunity to assess the costs of inaction with regard to climate impacts and the overall effects on landscapes, and for the State Government to consider making funding available to the regions so that they can implement their regional climate adaptation plans in collaboration with Landscape Boards.

Recommendation

Climate adaptation is intrinsically linked to natural resource/ landscape management and its importance should be reflected in the legislation and in funding decisions.

Stormwater, flood mitigation and riverine environments

Current legislation relating to stormwater and flood mitigation lacks clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities of State Government, local government and others (including private land holders). In addition ownership responsibilities and duties for the effective management of watercourses and floodplains is also unclear and leads to poor management outcomes.

NRM Boards with adequate funding have supported councils in managing stormwater and flooding through support for planning, mapping and the provision of infrastructure, but not all NRM Boards have been able to do this. Some NRM Boards also assist landholders with managing riverine environments, however the funding is generally insufficient to tackle the widespread issues relating to watercourses, from erosion to weed management.

This reform provides an opportunity to strengthen stormwater and flood mitigation and riverine management provisions by defining roles and responsibilities and through ensuring that all Landscape Boards can adequately support councils in undertaking activities in relation to stormwater ,flood management and riverine management.

Activities related to stormwater/ flood management include water sensitive urban design, stormwater/ urban run-off re-use, reducing flood risk, managing riverine environments and improving water quality.

Recommendation

Stormwater flood management and riverine management roles and responsibilities should be incorporated within the legislation.

Management of abundant native species

Management and control of abundant native species is not currently appropriately addressed in State Government legislation. There is the opportunity with the new legislation to incorporate the management of abundant native species within the legislation.

It is suggested that the new legislation provide for the development of a state-wide abundant species management framework with the ability for regional Landscape Boards to manage specific abundant species, recognising that a species may be a problem within one region and not another.

Recommendation:

The new legislation should provide for the development of a state-wide abundant species management framework with the ability for regional Landscape Boards to manage specific abundant species.

Coastal protection

The current *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and the *Coast Protection Act 1972* are intrinsically linked, and the funds made available by State Government to the Coast Protection Board (CPB) for coastal protection works are considered inadequate.

It is recognised that funds were made available in the 2018/19 State Budget for coastal protection works, but most of this will be spent on maintaining Adelaide's beaches. It is also recognised that a $1 million research and development fund has been provided to advance knowledge for improved coastal protection.

The $350,000 currently allocated to the CPB for coastal protection works outside of metropolitan Adelaide has been a longstanding issue for councils, and the LGA has consistently advocated for an increase in these funds.

Failure to manage our coastline is a failure to manage our landscapes. Adequate funding of coastal protection works is fundamental to the success of the reforms.

Recommendation

That State Government should increase funding for coastal protection works to improve our coastal landscapes and protect our communities from the adverse effects of sea level rise and extreme storm events.

Coastal conservation

Where coastal protection focuses on planning and amelioration of risk, there is no opportunity for the CPB to focus on coastal conservation, particularly when considering its small operating budget.

In addition to coastal protection, there are many parts of the coast where ecological values have been severely degraded that are currently not being protected or managed.

Protecting and restoring biodiversity is a key objective of natural resource management, and there needs to be sufficient resources dedicated to coastal conservation, to maintain and increase ecological values.

It is recognised that there are examples of NRM Boards engaging and working with councils on coastal conservation activities with many positive outcomes. However, collaboration has differed across NRM regions.

To address this imbalance, State Government should consider a 'Coastal Conservation Fund' not linked to the coastal protection budget and available on a prioritisation basis across all coastal regions.

Recommendation

A 'Coastal Conservation Fund' not linked to the coastal protection budget and available on a prioritisation basis across all coastal regions should be established

Management of pest plants and animals

The State Government has a responsibility to manage pest plants and animals on their land as with any landholder. It should also be recognised that the State Government and its agencies have a leadership role in establishing programs that include private and public land owners that supports on-ground and on-going activities to address the management of pest plants and animals.

Recommendation

The State Government should acknowledge its leadership role and the leadership role of its agencies in coordinating collaboration for management of pest plants and animals.

Monitoring and evaluation

There has been an attempt by the previous State Government to properly monitor and evaluate progress of natural resource management objectives from regional and State NRM Plans, but feedback from councils suggests that the outputs aren't useful for the purpose of informing their natural resource management activities.

Monitoring and evaluation currently includes gathering information under a range of topics and the development of 'scorecards' in some regions. The information is also used to contribute to the development of the State of the Environment (SOE) Reports, which are produced every 5 years by the Environmental Protection Agency.

It would be beneficial for local government if information through monitoring and evaluation processes was collected at a more localised and detailed level to inform on the ground landscape activities. Increasing the level and scale of monitoring and evaluation outputs will also be critical if

decentralisation, back to basics and community land and owners as the centre principles of the reform are to be successful.

The SOE Reports represent a lost opportunity to properly articulate the successes and challenges of natural resource management to a wider audience, and the level and scope of detail in these reports can be improved.

In addition, communication between Landscape Boards and their communities needs to be improved as a result of these reforms. Developing value propositions, publishing bulletins and conducting community site visits are some examples of how Landscape Boards can increase their visibility in their local communities.

Recommendation

The legislation should enable the provision of monitoring and evaluation information to support and inform both council and community landscape activities.

Alignment to other legislation

A list of statutes that the new legislation needs to be aligned to are listed in the discussion paper. Feedback from councils suggests that the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*, *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act 2007* and the *Linear Parks Act* should also be added to this list.

Recommendation

The State Government should ensure all related Acts have been identified and that the new legislation is fully aligned.

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Response to Managing Landscapes: Conversation for Change

The South Australian Government has committed to a range of reforms to the natural resources management system including;

- *Replacing the Natural Resources Management Act with the proposed Landscape South Australia Act in the first quarter of 2019.*
- *Creating a simpler, flexible and accessible system for managing natural resources, with decentralised decision-making.*
- *Putting people at the heart of managing our natural resources, recognising that those who work and live on the land are well placed to manage and sustain it.*
- *Creating nine landscape Boards and Green Adelaide to replace existing NRM Boards.*
- *Making soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management major priorities.*
- *Capping annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).*
- *Establishing a Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million statewide annual fund for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.*

https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/landscape-reform/about

The discussion paper invites feedback on any of the proposed reforms and/or via response to 21 specific questions encouraging feedback by the deadline of ***15 October 2018***.

City of Unley and Natural Resources Management

The City of Unley maintains a valuable relationship with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board (AMLR Board) which covers the council region.

We have collaborated on a number of projects since the initial 2008 Natural Resource Management Plan, most notably in the areas of stormwater planning, stormwater reuse, climate change, NRM Education programs in local schools and kindergartens, NRM Grants and in recent years with the urban sustainability education program "Living Smart".

Stormwater

Collaborative projects on stormwater planning and re-use through Water Sensitive Urban Design have included over $455,000 since 2011 plus in-kind technical support from the AMLR Board, on projects including Wattle and Leader Streets. The technical advice from NRM officers specific to a planned project has been particularly useful.

NRM Education

Currently NRM Education is actively working with Unley Kindergarten, St Raphaels School, Highgate and Black Forest Primary School, Concordia College and ELC and St Thomas School. NRM Education plays an important role in promoting sustainability themes to these organisations and the wider community.

Climate Change

The AMLR Board is a signatory to the Resilient East Climate Change Sector Agreement. Through this partnership and via representation on the Steering Committee we maintain a link to State Government that is vital for the regional partnership approach to be effective.

Our natural resources and ecosystems underpin climate resilience and it is critical that the State Government provide state coordination and leadership in climate change planning. The South Australian Government's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan was developed across multiple state agencies and it is hoped that this work can be carried through into the proposed State Climate Change Plan.

It is also broadly acknowledged that natural resources are not constrained by administrative boundaries and the landscape scale work to "care for the land, water, air and sea that sustains us" set out in the State NRM Plan, has benefits for all South Australians.

The City of Unley welcomes the chance for a review of natural resource management arrangements within this context, and with the aim of improving the delivery of on-ground services for the betterment of our region and state.

Managing Our Landscapes and Council Comments

The discussion paper, Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change, includes introductory information about the reform background and process, proposed objectives, benefits, and the following reform proposals:

- *Landscape Boards*
- *Landscape Plans and Green Adelaide Plan*
- *Improving the levy system*
- *Cross-regional and state wide coordination*
- *Clear simple priorities*
- *Compliance*

A brief outline of key elements of the proposals are provided below, together with critical comments for the independent facilitator to review. This outline and the comments would be best read alongside the released information for improved understanding.

Objectives

The new Landscape Act and related reforms are intended to achieve the following:

- *Vibrant biodiversity* - Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change.
- *Sustainable economy* - Prosperous businesses now and in the future, able to adapt as the economy and primary industries transform over time.
- *Resilient communities* - Capable local people and groups leading stewardship of their natural environment, contributing to strong social networks that can cope with changing environments.

We recommended that the phrase "vibrant biodiversity", be replaced with 'healthy biodiversity'. Vibrant Biodiversity is not a scientific term and would be difficult to apply or measure.

The term "landscape" will need to be clearly defined within the new legislation.

It is mentioned in the Foreword that there are parts of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* that have worked well and should be retained although it is not clear what that covers and what items will be replaced. We recommend that the Objects and Principles of the current Act are still valid for the management of our natural resources and should not be lost by introducing new legislation. Particularly Principal 3 (a) that *"the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the natural environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations"*.

Benefits

This section outlines 12 benefits of the proposed changes which are essentially process benefits (governance, agility, administration costs etc). Process improvements are supported however focus should be on landscape outcome benefits, which are currently lacking, including direct links to the objectives stated earlier such as "vibrant biodiversity".

We recognise that the intent to decentralise decision-making may be the main driver of this focus on process, however high level outcome benefits and targets are still required to guide directions and track progress against landscape and state scale improvements. Alignment with the State Climate Change Adaptation Plans which have been jointly developed across the state at regional landscape levels could be an efficient and effective solution.

Reform Proposals

Landscape Boards

Nine new Landscape Boards are proposed to replace the existing NRM Boards. Unley currently sits within The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, which will be abolished and covered by a new Green Adelaide across the metropolitan area, with two new Landscape Boards to serve the Hills and Fleurieu, and Plans and Valleys regions.

Green Adelaide

Green Adelaide will be distinct from the new Landscape Boards recognising its urban ecology across a metropolitan area and aims to be "the most ecologically vibrant city in the world". The exact boundary and details are still being defined, with an initial list of 7 priorities provided:

1. Coastal management.
2. Urban rivers and wetlands.
3. Water sensitive design.
4. Green streets and flourishing parklands.
5. Fauna in the city.
6. Controlling pest plants and animals.
7. Nature education.

It is difficult to comment without further detail, however the current list of proposed urban priorities are supported. Climate change adaptation should be expressly included.

Strong links must be made with the new draft State Planning Policies and Planning and Design Code to embed key government targets and outcomes for urban biodiversity and climate resilience with development. For example priority 4 above could be changed to align with The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide's Target 5 for a 20% increase in green cover by 2045 from 2013 baseline levels including public and private realms.

It is understood that some further focussed engagement will help guide the development of Green Adelaide, and Unley would like to be included in this discussion.

Board Membership

We support the proposal for seven (7) members on the new Landscape Boards, three (3) elected from the community and four (4) appointed by the Minister. Board membership should be collectively comprised of members with the skills and local knowledge required to deliver natural resources management for their region.

Noting that the Minister can nominate and approve four (4) members and the community just three (3) members, it is not appropriate that the Minister then have approval powers over community nominated members.

It is unclear without any further detail on Green Adelaide why it is proposed that this region would have a board that is entirely appointed by the Minister.

Landscape Plans and Green Adelaide Plan

Simplified five-year Landscape Plans are proposed for each Landscape Board and Green Adelaide with up to five priorities and measurable outcomes that are more streamlined and consistent between Boards compared to current NRM plans.

Five-year plans are easier to manage, however in the context of natural resources management need the support and direction of a longer term framework and strategic direction. A higher level and longer time-frame State Landscape Plan that links with new planning legislation would support this proposal.

The discussion paper outlines 7 priorities for Green Adelaide on page 17 and then on page 18 prescribes a five-year Green Adelaide Plan that will have a maximum of 5 priorities. This discrepancy or need for arbitrary links will need to be resolved.

The proposal for more consistent plans between new Landscape Boards while also allowing for decentralised decision making appears to be at odds.

Improving the Levy System

Capping of annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the consumer price index and continuing to collect land based levies vial council rates to ensure transparency and accountability is proposed.

It is important to have open and transparent methods relating to the way that levies are collected. As a council that collects the levy on behalf of the State Government, ($1,172,000 in 2016/17), we know that there remains a high degree of misunderstanding about what the NRM levy is, what it is for, and who it goes to, and to some degree that is because it is collected by local government as part of rates notices.

The City of Unley supports the LGA position that the state NRM levy should be managed by a State Government agency such as Revenue SA, who already has access to billing data via their Emergency Services Levy database. This would also allow the new Landscape Boards to distribute information at point of collection about their programs and work.

Cross-Regional and State Wide Coordination

The functions of local boards can be decentralised to ensure that local priorities are reflected, but this needs to occur within a state planning framework. We support the need to establish a cross-sector advisory body and some level of state-wide planning and prioritisation to assist the new Landscape Boards.

Defining clear boundaries which best fit jurisdiction, land use and water catchments is inherently difficult, so any structure will inevitably require cross regional collaboration. Particularly weed and pest management efforts which are most effective on a coordinated scale.

The proposed grass roots program to support volunteers is supported.

Clear Simple Priorities

The discussion paper proposes a "back to basics" approach of focusing on soil quality, water management and pest animal/plant control.

Soil, water, pest plants and animals are all important elements of the ecosystem that are closely linked and interdependent, however any update in the legislation needs to have a strong focus on the impacts of changing climate and building resilient landscapes.

The importance of biodiversity, protection of existing vegetation and promotion of revegetation should be recognised in the priorities.

There also needs to be suitable cross referencing in the Landscape Act to the legislated draft State Planning Policy number 4: Biodiversity.

Compliance

The importance of effective compliance is discussed and mention of further consideration required.

Compliance for the different aspects of land management should be designed to suit the nature of impacts from non-compliance. For example communities can be supported in tackling weeds through annual and seasonal cycles with responses made during office hours, while water pollution incidents may require an immediate response by Landscape staff and the EPA.

Any compliance, including pest management, needs to be applied universally across the whole landscape, including on Government landholdings to be consistent and effective.

Key Issues Summary

The proposed reforms to the Natural Resources Management Act has a number of key issues which we would like to highlight including:

- Focus on outcomes for the protection and restoration of landscapes, not just process.
- Starting from climate change adaptation as the key future driver of change to landscapes.
- The new Landscape SA Act must integrate with the Development Act and its replacement Planning Development and Infrastructure Act.
- Recommend that the Objects and Principles of the current Act are still valid for the management of our natural resources and should not be lost in introducing new legislation.
- The functions of boards can be decentralised to ensure that local priorities are reflected, but this needs to occur within a state planning framework including outcome based benefits.
- The NRM levy should be collected by Revenue SA to reduce the administration burden on councils and confusion for the community.
- Not losing good work to date on NRM Education, Stormwater, Urban Engagement and Climate Change.
- The City of Unley would like to be included in the further discussion and planning around the development of Green Adelaide.

It is trusted that these comments will be given due consideration.

Yours sincerely

Peter Tsokas
Chief Executive Officer

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Reference: DOC/18/110792

10 October 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Climate Change
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001
minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

CC: Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform, landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs

RE: Council's response to NRM reform proposals

At its meeting on 2 October 2018 Council endorsed this response to the Natural Resource Management reforms proposed. Council is supportive of attempts to better manage our natural resources and makes the following points on the proposals as detailed in the Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper and under some of the key headings within the paper.

Landscape Boards and regional boundaries

The Mount Barker District Council falls within 2 of the 8 existing NRM regions; the SA Murray Darling Basin region (about 80% of the district) and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region (about 20% of the district). Council currently collects a levy on behalf of both Boards and it is expected that approximately $1.5 million will be collected in total in 2018/19.

Under the pre 2004 legislation there were 5 Soil Conservation Boards, 5 Animal and Plant Control Boards and 4 Catchment Water Management Boards that operated in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges region. The NRM Act 2004 replaced these with sub-regional groups based around existing Catchment boundaries. In the Mount Barker area this was the Ranges to River NRM group (SAMDB region) and the Central Hills NRM group (AMLR region) made up wholly of volunteers and representatives of organisations including local government.

These groups were intended to deliver programs and services undertaken by the soil conservation, animal and plant control and catchment boards but the reality is their main role is to provide an advisory service to the NRM boards and represent local community and 'on the ground' issues. A criticism of the current structure is that local issues aren't always dealt with as thoroughly as they might be and that local priorities aren't adequately addressed due to lack of resources.

The discussion paper proposes that 9 Landscape Boards plus Green Adelaide be established to replace the existing NRM boards. It isn't clear how the Board member selection process would be conducted but Council strongly supports that members be appointed on their knowledge and skill base and ability to represent science and research based policy and programs that lead to better NRM outcomes.
Council notes that the boards would develop 5 year landscape plans with up to 5 priorities to be achieved by the plan. It isn't clear why 5 priorities is the number identified but it is noted that climate change response and biodiversity conservation have minimal if any emphasis. This is discussed in more detail later.

The discussion paper proposes that the Boards have a higher level of autonomy than the existing NRM boards, be more focussed on delivery than planning and be responsible for setting strategy and approving programs for the environmentally sustainable management of South Australia's natural resources.

On this point Council considers that the Board's would operate most effectively with a lean structure and minimal staff overheads. Board and staff would be responsible for developing the landscape plan and setting strategy but the majority of the delivery component should be outsourced to other partners, potentially including local government, local action planning, landcare and other community groups, landholders and industry. It is important to note that Council has positive relationships with both existing NRM boards and their staff and believe they do good work with limited resources.

Boundaries

Council notes that the main boundary changes to landscape regions are around the Adelaide and Hills area with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty region to be abolished and to be replaced by Green Adelaide (hills face and metropolitan area) Plains and Valleys (Northern Mount Lofty Ranges and Barossa) and Hills and Fleurieu. The indicative map in the discussion paper shows the whole of the Mount Barker district falling within the SA Murray Darling Basin region.

In 2004 Council made a submission to the reform process with an emphasis on regional boundaries. In that submission Council raised concerns about being in 2 regions but more importantly suggested that the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region would be much more appropriate given that:

- The Mount Barker District is geographically located well and truly within the Mount Lofty Ranges;
- The people of the Mount Barker District identify socially, culturally and economically with the Mount Lofty Ranges much more so than the Murray Darling Basin; and

- The Mount Barker District is an integral part of the Greater Mount Lofty Ranges Biogeographical region with vegetation, fauna, soil and water resources having far more in common with this region than with the Murray plains

The submission went on to raise the issue of the Council district being within the SA MDB NRM region, including:

- The high likelihood of issues specific to Mount Barker being lost within the broader Murray Darling region, in an area which covers an enormous geographic region and with the current focus on the River Murray itself;
- High priority pest plant and animal control issues for the Mount Barker District not necessarily corresponding with the rest of the region and thus there is the risk of resources being directed elsewhere and the subsequent escalation of pest species management problems;
- The potential for a disaffected local community with difficulty in engaging with the regional group, and
- The potential for levy revenue raised in this District being spent as far away as Burra or Renmark.

Many of the points made in Council's submission 14 years ago are just as valid today and it is Council's position that the Mount Barker District Council area be included in its entirety within one board region, preferably in the same region that includes our communities of interest, i.e. the Hills area. That said, Council would be seeking to strengthen and further develop collaborative partnerships regardless of how the landscape boundaries end up being decided. It would be preferable to do this with one Landscape Board rather than two.

Landscape Plans and Green Adelaide

Council supports the suggestion that Landscape plans be simple, short, focussed on tangible actions and publicly accessible. It makes the point however that natural systems and human interactions within them are inherently complex and simplified or short term plans to address complex problems must be supported by a long term vision and strategic plans of 20 years or more, both at the State and regional level.

Also, there has been a lot of excellent planning undertaken by both NRM boards in our areas and knowledge of these systems increases year by year. Landscape plans, and a landscape approach as emphasised in the discussion paper, are welcome but should be underpinned by good and well-funded science and research, the knowledge of aboriginal people and other land managers, non-government organisations and private property owners.

It is also essential that landscape plans incorporate the knowledge and engagement of urban communities who impact and interact with the natural environment and who are beneficiaries and end users of our natural resources.

In terms of Green Adelaide, a focus on ensuring that the capital city is the greenest it can be is welcome and will be critical to its future liveability, competitiveness and sustainability, especially in the face of a changing climate. Council has a similar ambition for Mount Barker as it grows and strives to meet the objectives embedded within its long term vision and strategic plan. Council would like to emphasise its interest in working with its regional landscape Board to progress an 'eco city' agenda for the city of Mount Barker, its villages and rural hinterland.

Improving the levy system

Evidence suggests that State Government expenditure on the environment has reduced significantly and is not in keeping with community expectations, for example to ensure future sustainability and prosperity and protection from the potential catastrophic impacts of climate change.

The reform paper proposes that land and water levies be capped to CPI and set by an independent body and that levy funds collected in a region be spent in the same region. There are many arguments for and against this position but one of the perverse outcomes is (potentially) that population size could determine which region a community ends up in but actually being in that region could be to its detriment financially. For example, levy funds collected in Mount Barker would be beneficial to the broader SA Murray Darling Basin region but may not necessarily be spent in the Mount Barker area.

The way the level is collected and distributed should be an essential part of this reform process. For comparison purposes the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) funds the provision of emergency services and the money from the ESL is placed in a dedicated fund for the exclusive use on these emergency services based on need across the state. Also, in comparing the two levies it is interesting to note that the ESL collects around $222 million while the combined NRM levies collect around $45 million. This likely reflects the short term imperative of protecting life, property and the environment (ESL) vs the longer term environmental, economic and community imperatives intended through allocation of the NRM levy. Some deeper analysis of how we as a State prioritise and fund urgent environmental programs across planning and election cycles is required. Natural resource management is not well funded but regardless of the quantum of funds collected, a similar dedicated fund that held all NRM levy monies (plus additional funds from general revenue) could serve a similar purpose with funds allocated according to need and priority. Council supports the establishment of a State Landscapes Fund to provide stable, ongoing funding for landscape-scale projects.

Clear, simple priorities

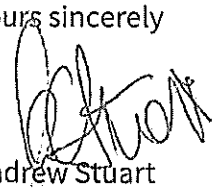
A landscape scale approach is supported but Council respectfully suggests that the 'back to basics' approach may be somewhat simplistic and has left a couple of major omissions that must be addressed, including lack of emphasis on biodiversity and climate change discussed below.

Most modern, progressive landholders and managers recognise the critical role biodiversity plays in a productive and healthy landscape and its consideration deserves the utmost priority in this reform process. South Australia's biodiversity is extraordinary and unique yet we have one of the highest rates of species extinction in the world. A renewed focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals without equal consideration of biodiversity will not achieve an integrated landscape outcome and would go against the very strong community support, investment and planning around improving biodiversity outcomes.

Similarly, the fact that the paper is virtually silent on climate change is perplexing and concerning. Climate change is increasingly impacting the ecological and economic fortunes of the State and could radically influence how our landscapes are managed in the future. The State government has been a leader in planning, adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change and it is essential that this leadership role is continued. The Landscape SA Act should recognise and articulate the critical role it has in guiding the State's response to climate change. That said, I note and am encouraged by your recent comments that the South Australian Government is focused on continuing the transition to renewable energy, and investing in practical measures to protect our environment against the changing climate.

Thank you for considering this submission. I look forward to working with the State Government and regional partners as this reform process is refined, improved and implemented.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Stuart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

File Number: S/02723
Enquiries To: Mary-Anne Siebert
Direct Telephone: 8366 4532

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

15 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Via email: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the *Natural Resource Management Act.*

Broadly speaking, the Council welcomes the proposed changes and looks forward to working collaboratively with the Department for the Environment and Water and other stakeholders to progress the management of our natural resources. In relation to the specific discussion points posed by the Department for Environment and Water, the Council is pleased to provide the following responses.

1. **What is most important to you in managing natural resources?**

The Council considers it is important to have a long term (5-100^{+} years) approach to managing natural resources, managed through short term action plans (1-5 years).

2. **What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

3. **What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?**

The Council is pleased that the four revised priorities are soil quality, water management, pest plant and animal control and other stewardship priorities such as revegetation. Where practical, it is recommended that consideration is also given to:

- Improved climate resilience and adaptation strategies;
- Improved canopy cover (particularly in private land ownership);
- Sustainably designed infrastructure, housing and buildings; and
- Improved biodiversity.

The Council is also pleased with the proposed introduction of Green Adelaide, which will bring a stronger focus on urban sustainability and will also help to progress the implementation of the Resilient East Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

With regard to the proposed Landscape Plans, it will be necessary to ensure the Plans have SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely). It would be worth considering increasing the Landscape Plan timeframe from five (5) years to at least ten (10) years to facilitate longer term planning. Of particular interest is the State Government's target to increase urban green cover by 20% by 2045, as outlined in the *30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.*

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4. **How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?**

The Council has little opportunity for landscape scale restoration but seeks to focus larger scale rehabilitation improvements on the River Torrens Linear Park, urban creek lines and other landscapes as applicable.

5. **How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?**

Aboriginal interests can be better recognised and promoted by improving Aboriginal representation in the decision making process.

6. **How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?**

Landscape Boards can facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities by ensuring the Landscape Plans provide a clear strategic framework with clear direction and objectives and by empowering the community (through funding and programs) to take actions that progress the Plan's objectives.

In an urban context it will be necessary to resolve the challenge of having competing targets of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, namely the target to increase in infill development and to also increase in urban green cover.

To deter development that does not adequately accommodate biodiversity, consider introducing strong incentives or disincentives in policy settings or through other implementation mechanisms.

7. **What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

8. **How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?**

The Council supports the proposed objectives of Green Adelaide. Green Adelaide will have the following seven priorities:

- Coastal management
- Urban rivers and wetlands
- Water sensitive design
- Green streets and flourishing parklands
- Fauna in the city
- Controlling pest plants and animals
- Nature education.

As previously suggested, where practical, consider also including:

- Improved climate resilience and adaptation strategies;
- Improved canopy cover (particularly in private land ownership);
- Sustainably designed infrastructure, housing and buildings; and
- Improved biodiversity.

9. **How can regional planning be streamlined?**

The Council seeks an efficient and aligned governance structure that works well with the Easter Region Alliance, Resilient East and sub-regional planning bodies as required under the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

10. **How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

11. **How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?**

Where applicable, it would be useful to use the results of the SA EPA's 2018 State of the Environment report to help determine natural resource management priorities.

Establishing SMART targets will assist in the measuring and reporting outcomes.

The Council supports the proposed improvements in transparency and accountability. Regular reporting to key stakeholders and the community will assist in awareness raising and accountability in the delivery of outcomes.

12. **How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?**

It is noted that Section 81 of the *Natural Resources Management Act* establishes that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the preceding financial year is used to determine the basis for the increase in the levy. Since 2016-17, however, the Council has expressed its significant concerns with the extent to which the levy has increased, noting that the increases exceed the CPI.

The Council supports the continuation of the value of rateable land being used as the basis for determining the levy, however it does not support increases in the levy over the CPI, particularly where adequate justification is not provided.

13. **How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

14. **How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?**

The key to delivery will be the efficient coordination and alignment with other applicable strategies, actions and funding programs.

15. **How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

16. **What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

17. **Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

18. **What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

19. **What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?**

The Council provides no specific response to this question.

20. What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

It is important that the objectives of the *Landscapes SA Act* align with the objectives of potentially competing objectives set out under legislation such as the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.*

21. How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

To improve compliance it is important that significant penalties are able to be applied and that there are adequate resources allocated enable enforcement.

On behalf of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed reforms to the way the State's natural resources are managed. Please don't hesitate to contact Mary-Anne Siebert, Sustainability Officer, if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely



Carlos Buzzetti **RPIA**
GENERAL MANAGER, URBAN PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

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12 October 2018

The Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

BY EMAIL: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear The Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform

Reform Of Natural Resources Management In South Australia

The City of Charles Sturt is pleased to provide input into the Reform of Natural Resources Management in South Australia.

The City of Charles Sturt has benefitted from a productive relationship with the AMLNRM Board and State Government and is committed to maintaining this spirit of collaboration and partnership under proposed reform arrangement.

We have examined the discussion paper and supporting documentation and appreciate that that these provide high level intent and direction setting, and that further opportunities exist for the Department to provide more in-depth information, with region and state focussed directions, strategies and desired outcomes to be forthcoming in this reform process.

Therefore, the feedback being provided is preliminary in nature, and we welcome input into further development of the reform, particularly that of Green Adelaide.

The opportunity to examine the mechanisms by which we are best served to deliver improvements to natural resource management in South Australia is generally supported in principle, with regard to the following commentary:

It is noted, that a range of objectives and benefits of NRM reform are described within the discussion paper. It is recommended that by providing additional detail on the outcomes sought from the reform, as well as expanding on the intent with further detail and exploration of the objectives and outcomes, and include provision of performance measures / measures of success would add considerable improvement to the information that has been provided.

With the creation of a number of Landscape SA Boards and Green Adelaide, it is imperative that region-based projects and directions are managed in a whole of State and whole of system context. It is noted that 5 year plans are expected of each Board. A clear outline of how the outcomes identified in 5 year plans are working to achieving the long term vision for each board and how these join to form the long term vision for the region and the State is recommended. For landscape-scale restoration and enhancement to be truly effective and authentic, a long-term vision for the State's environment is required.

Environmental management, restoration, and enhancement is complex, and an evolving process. Providing that clear science-driven and evidence-based approach is mandatory to underpin all decision making for an integrated, adaptive, systems-based approach ensures that social and ecological systems are held in appropriate regard, and are not driven by political ideology.

For the reform process to be supported now and into the future, Council recommends ongoing reporting demonstrating the efficacy and success of reform process. This reporting would identify the improvements in delivery and resource management that were not being achieved under the currently existing NRM Act and Board arrangements.

Through the reform process it has been identified "there will be opportunities to explore improved interactions between a range of legislation". Presently, there exists an opportunity to achieve better integration of desired outcomes for the State via the current planning reform running parallel to NRM. In particular, with regard to the impact of climate change as well as the increased densification of suburbs, reduction in private open space, tree cover and biodiversity, reduction in the amount of pervious surfaces increasing urban heat island and stormwater runoff.

Councils across the State are significant land managers. Greater recognition of, and support for, Local Government as a key stakeholder and delivery partner is therefore necessary. With this is mind, it is also recommended that a representative from Local Government is required in the composition of each Board.

As a metropolitan Adelaide council working within the future remit of Green Adelaide, we seek prompt release of the Green Adelaide discussion paper. We support the intent to build "a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment" and endorse building this greater appreciation of urban ecology.

The discussion paper identifies the need to ensure there is a clear understanding of how and where levies are spent, which Council supports. Equally as important, is ensuring that sufficient ongoing investment of levies into maintaining areas which have been restored and enhanced is made, to prevent degradation and loss of environmental gains achieved.

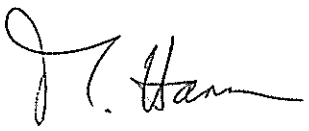
Council considers that there is an opportunity to further simplify the governance framework of natural resource management by giving consideration to incorporating the Coast Protection Board and Native Vegetation Council into this reform process.

It is stated that levies (land and water) collected in a region will be spent in the region, except for a portion of priority landscape scale or cross-boundary projects, and services to underpin regional outcomes. There is risk that less populous regions will not be well served by this arrangement and that it is unclear at this stage what would form priority cross boundary projects. It is not apparent what would be the formulation for apportioning funds between highly urbanised and therefore highly populous Green Adelaide area and the other Landscape SA Boards.

Overall, it is considered that far greater emphasis be given to climate change, and to adaptation and resilience building in our communities and environment.

We look forward to the outcomes of the reform process and we welcome the opportunity to be involved in further discussions.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hannan
Strategic Planner - Open Space Environmental Mgmt

From:
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:46 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: Niven, Rhiannon (DEW); Ben Seamark (Burnside); Eleanor Walters (NPSP); Jon Herd (CTTG); Kat Ryan; Kevin Lowe (Campbelltown); Mark Kwiatkowski (Walkerville); Michelle English (City Adel); Simon Bradley (Prospect); Bachar, Zafi (DEW); Aaron Wood; Bec Taylor; Burton, Lauren (DEW); Wright, Christopher (DEW); Kelly, James; Maria Zotti (ACC); Mark Ellis (Burnside); Mary-Anne Siebert (NPSP); Naomi Prunckun; Paul Smith (Adelaide); Philip Roetman; Rachael Hamilton (Campbelltown) ; Phillips, Sam (DEW); Sonia Denicola (Walkerville)
Subject: Resilient East Project feedback on the landscape reform discussion paper
Attachments: Resilient East feedback on Landscape Reforms.pdf

Dear Landscape Reform Team

Please accept the attached feedback from the Resilient East Project Steering Committee on the landscape reform discussion paper.

We believe that there is a key role for councils to contribute to the next steps, particularly in Regard to Green Adelaide and the strong synergies with our climate adaptation efforts and our collaborative networks.
The Steering Committee (representatives) would happy to discuss our submission and opportunities in more detail.

Yours sincerely
Tim

Tim Kelly
Resilient East Project Coordinator (Mon-Thurs)
City of Unley
T 8273 8718 | | f (08) 8271 4579
Email: tkelly@unley.sa.gov.au

We will respond to your request/enquiry within 10 business days. When an onsite inspection is required, the enquiry is complex in nature, or relates to an expiation notice we may exceed this timeframe. The officer dealing with this matter will contact you to explain the reason for the delay and when a full reply can be expected. The City of Unley advises that, under the State Records Act 1997 and the Freedom of Information Act 1991, email messages may be monitored and/or accessed by Council staff. The contents of this email are confidential and intended only for the named recipient of this email. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any use, reproduction, disclosure or distribution of the information contained in the email is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please immediately advise the sender by return email and delete the message from your system..

We will respond to your request/enquiry within 10 business days. When an onsite inspection is required, the enquiry is complex in nature, or relates to an expiation notice we may exceed this timeframe. The officer dealing with this matter will contact you to explain the reason for the delay and when a full reply can be expected. The City of Unley advises that, under the State Records Act 1997 and the Freedom of Information Act 1991, email messages may be monitored and/or accessed by Council staff. The contents of this email are confidential and intended only for the named recipient of this email. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any use, reproduction, disclosure or distribution of the information contained in the email is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please immediately advise the sender by return email and delete the message from your system..

15 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform,

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Landscape Reform Team

RE: Landscape Reform Discussion Paper

The Resilient East Project Steering Committee welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed reform of the Natural Resources Management Act.

The Resilient East Project is a partnership between the Campbelltown City Council, the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and the Town of Walkerville and the South Australian Government.

Purpose of Feedback

The Resilient East Steering Committee provide feedback towards informing the reforms process so that the new system is focussed on improving process and delivering improved landscape scale environmental outcomes that are well defined and resilient for continued climate change.

This input does not reflect formal Council consideration by any of the constituent Councils.

About Natural Resources Management Reform

The role of the new framework to empower and support people and communities to achieve better outcomes and goals is welcomed. It is important that the new approach acknowledge that people and communities are already at the heart of managing our natural resources. Councils, such as those in the Resilient East Project, working closely with their local communities on many aspects that impact or influence natural resources. Greater recognition of the critical role of Councils across South Australia in managing natural resources and supporting local communities can strengthen a whole of community response. This is particularly important as Councils currently collect the levy. The new framework should continue to support and improve partnerships across local government and the Landscape Boards with representation and engagement opportunities.

Objectives

It is noted that the new Landscape Act and related reforms are intended to achieve the following:

- ***Vibrant biodiversity*** *Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change.*
- ***Sustainable economy*** *Prosperous businesses now and in the future, able to adapt as the economy and primary industries transform over time.*
- ***Resilient communities*** *Capable local people and groups leading stewardship of their natural environment, contributing to strong social networks that can cope with changing environments.*

We understand that these objectives shown are generalised, and will not be used to replace the more comprehensive objectives of the current NRM Act. The detailed objectives are required to prevent ambiguity and to enable S.M.A.R.T targets to be identified (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Timed), so that actions can be completed in a logical manner and progress can be assessed.

It is recommended that the phrase "vibrant biodiversity", be replaced with 'healthy biodiversity'. Vibrant Biodiversity is not a scientific term and would be impossible to apply or measure.

Equally inappropriate is the term "sustainable economy". Sustainable development is about meeting the social, economic and environmental needs of current and future generations in an integrated manner. It therefore it is not consistent to apply the word 'sustainable' to the economy, but not to social and environmental needs.

There is opportunity to provide additional detail by expanding on the outcomes sought for key priorities including:

- Soil quality
- Water management
- Pest plant and animal control

plus, expanding on the outcomes sought for higher order priorities including:

- Climate change resilience
- Landscape scale restoration
- Regional corridors and habitat connectivity
- Urban biodiversity and habitat
- Urban tree canopy cover
- Water Sensitive Urban Design

There is an opportunity to elevate the importance and urgency for implementing the climate change strategies that have been established for each of the 12 regions across South Australia. The synergies between climate adaptation and landscape management and Green Adelaide are extremely strong and recognising the integration of these efforts is essential.

DETAILED FEEDBACK ON THE POLICIES

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Clear spatial objectives and commitment to those objectives are the most important aspects required for leading continuous improvement in landscape scale management.

In order to establish the objectives that can be most efficiently and effectively delivered, there is a need for solid baseline data appropriate to each regional or landscape area, and to develop systems based approaches for improvement. In some areas this data is very strong, however for the new innovative approaches for combating urban heat islands, increasing urban canopy cover, assessing improvements from Water Sensitive Urban Design and strengthening urban biodiversity, new data sets are required for monitoring and to evaluate changes.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

There are many things that are working well in the structure of managing natural resources including the focus on regions, accountability of annual expenditure programs and assistance and programs provided for local landholders.

The following table provides some feedback on how well the Objects of the current NRM Act have been supported through its implementation which may also provide assistance with the revision process of the legislation.

Part 1—Objects	Objects well supported Objects can be better supported Objects not achieved?
7—Objects	
(1)The objects of this Act include to assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources in a manner that—	Ecologically sustainable development is a misinterpretation of 'sustainable development', repeating the ecological aspect which is implicit in the understanding of sustainability that already incorporates social, economic and environmental needs for current and future development. These needs must be met in order for sustainability to be achieved. The term should be tightened to read 'sustainable development' and better explained. Unless this commitment is also made in other legislation such as the State Planning Act, State Planning Policies and Planning Design Code, it will fail to have relevance.
(a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and	This is not a meaningful object. It is ambiguous without first identifying the natural assets referred to and taking steps to describe the value of those assets. There has been no progress to report about which natural assets have been recognised and protected. Will need to be updated to clearly define what is encompassed by the term "landscapes" in the new legislation.
(b) seeks to protect biological diversity and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, to support and encourage the restoration or rehabilitation of ecological systems and processes that have been lost or degraded; and	The NRM legislation as implemented in regions has supported projects and initiatives aimed at these outcomes, but has not achieved sufficient projects at a landscape scale to achieve connected parks and remnant native vegetation through viable nature corridors.

(c) provides for the protection and management of catchments and the sustainable use of land and water resources and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, seeks to enhance and restore or rehabilitate land and water resources that have been degraded; and	The NRM legislation has made progress in this area yet there are still cattle and livestock living and grazing in streams across catchment areas, and urban stormwater systems that discharge directly into streams.
(d) seeks to support sustainable primary and other economic production systems with particular reference to the value of agriculture and mining activities to the economy of the State; and	The Legislation has supported these activities.
(e)provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community; and	This is an area where progress has stalled. In many places, weeds are not managed using a systems approach at a landscape scale. There are landscape scale infestations which should have been curtailed through annual land management. Progress is insufficient on both public land and on private land.
(f) promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.	The legislation has supported these activities.
(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), ecologically sustainable development comprises the use, conservation, development and enhancement of natural resources in a way, and at a rate, that will enable people and communities to provide for their economic, social and physical well-being while—	Sustainable development is a pattern of development that supports the social, economic and environmental needs of current and future generations. For landscape scale management this includes:
(a) sustaining the potential of natural resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and	Yes The legislation has supported these activities.
(b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacities of natural resources; and	Ambiguous Does not identify which life this refers to. Suggest adding: for communities, wildlife and ecosystems.
(c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on natural resources.	Not fully achieved.

(3)The following principles should be taken into account in connection with achieving ecologically sustainable development for the purposes of this Act:	The legislation has not been effective in influencing developments in areas of biodiversity habitat. Development is not sufficiently steered to already cleared land. In many cases remnant vegetation and recovering land has been impacted, then further impacted by access pathways and bushfire asset protection and buffer zones. Further linkages between landscape legislation and South Australia's planning system are required
(a)decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations;	
(b)if there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to natural resources, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;	This object fails to acknowledge the cumulative impacts of multiple developments, development creep and changes of land use. The process is failing to support the objective due to cumulative loss.
(c)decision-making processes should be guided by the need to evaluate carefully the risks of any situation or proposal that may adversely affect the environment and to avoid, wherever practicable, causing any serious or irreversible damage to the environment;	The concept of applying only in the most serious cases has compromised Object 7,1 "a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and"
(d) the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the natural environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;	This is not being achieved due to land degradation, insufficient clean water for the environment and inappropriate developments
(e) a consideration should be the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity;	The use of offset mechanisms to approve clearance of natural assets is compromising this objective. Offset mechanisms have a role that should be used as a last resort rather than a preferred option. "Consideration of", is not the same as "acknowledging and protecting". The legislation is only as strong as the weakest link which in many cases is reduced to "consideration".

(f)environmental factors should be taken into account when valuing or assessing assets or services, costs associated with protecting or restoring the natural environment should be allocated or shared equitably and in a manner that encourages the responsible use of natural resources, and people who obtain benefits from the natural environment, or who adversely affect or consume natural resources, should bear an appropriate share of the costs that flow from their activities;	This aspiration is difficult to implement and assure where all south Australians could be seen as benefiting from a healthier environment. The formula for allocating funds from collected revenue should be open and transparent.
(g)if the management of natural resources requires the taking of remedial action, the first step should, insofar as is reasonably practicable and appropriate, be to encourage those responsible to take such action before resorting to more formal processes and procedures;	In the case of managing weeds on a landscape scale, there are many places where the process is not working to achieve this object. In the case of protecting regulated trees, roadside native vegetation and private land native vegetation, there are many cases where the process is not working to achieve this object.
(h)consideration should be given to Aboriginal heritage, and to the interests of the traditional owners of any land or other natural resources;	Not able to comment on the success of this object.
(i)consideration should be given to other heritage issues, and to the interests of the community in relation to conserving heritage items and places;	There are examples where support for developments has trumped genuine issues and community concerns.
(j)the involvement of the public in providing information and contributing to processes that improve decision-making should be encouraged;	Could be stronger in the new legislation.
(k)the responsibility to achieve ecologically sustainable development should be seen as a shared responsibility between the public sector, the private sector, and the community more generally;	This object of the Act has not been fully supported, particularly on public land such as in parks and crown land, best practice land management should be demonstrated.
(l) the local government sector is to be recognised as a key participant in natural resource management, especially on account of its close connections to the community and its role in regional and local planning.	Yes, The local Government Sector is crucial in working with its communities to achieve the best landscape scale outcomes. The process could do better in supporting this object.

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

In addition to establishing clear objectives with S.M.A.R.T. targets, principles should be established to underpin the culture of how the Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide Board and landholders will take responsibility for landscape scale outcomes.

Principles

Outcome based principles to guide the Landscape Boards should include:

- ***Preparing communities and landscapes for continued climate change***

  Boards should support strategic landscape scale efforts to prepare communities and landscapes for continued climate change. Such preparations include but are not limited to implementation of regional climate adaptation plans and continued preparations for extreme heat, bushfires, drought, dust storms, stressed habitat and ecosystems, primary industry exposure and losses, risks of desertification, extreme storms, flooding and erosion.

- ***A commitment for long term improvement, including maintaining achievements***

  This principle is applicable to the continuous effort to manage soil, water quality and pest plants and animals.

  The need for such a principle is demonstrated by projects such as the clearing of ash trees and willow trees in the Torrens Gorge between 1995 and 2005 below 6th creek and above Athelstone. This project was claimed as a major success citing

  > *"The clean-up of the poorly maintained and degraded Torrens and Port Adelaide Rivers has been a big success with thousands of tonnes of rubbish, silt and debris intercepted and removed. Large areas of woody weeds, including ash trees, willows and other introduced species, have been removed from watercourses, with hundreds of thousands of indigenous species planted in their place"*

  Sadly however, there was inadequate continuous follow up and management to maintain and build on this effort and much of the initial achievement was lost. There seems to be funding for projects but not for ongoing management.

- ***A commitment for landscape scale standards and responsibilities***

  Landscape scale activities are commendable, but there must be agreed landscape scale objectives. For example, there are large landholdings of government land and land under uses such as mining and quarrying which are not managed at a landscape scale for issues such as weed management. There may be some management of perimeters and to maintain tracks or to spray certain weeds, yet the infestations of woody weeds such as olives, non-endemic pines, gorse, broom, hawthorn-berry, blackberry, ash, willow, and many others are choking out native vegetation and for some species creating additional fire risk. The hills face zone is an example of where significant improvements could be achieved.

Many contracts only have a 12 month term and are not providing the best outcomes for weed management at a landscape scale.

A clear objective to guide effective management of weeds across **whole land parcels** would be a significant improvement. Whilst the NRM Act covers this aspect, the individual plans and guidance notes for managing each declared plant appear to water down the requirements so that it is ok for an entire land parcel to be heavily infested with a variety declared weeds.

- ***Biodiversity matters***

  A principle that biodiversity matters in all aspects of land management, planning and development could serve to drive better culture and greater effort to benefit fauna and habitat. Increasingly there has been an approach that compliance with approval conditions and payment to offset schemes is all that is required, but this approach is not driving better approaches to managing landscapes, creating development that is more accommodating for wildlife, and providing for the movement of wildlife.

- ***A systems approach to landscape scale management and restoration***

  To achieve outcomes at a landscape scale local and regional approaches should be supported:

  - local collaboration of landholders achieve their practical, on-ground works and improvements. As this movement grows, there will be improvements at a landscape scale.
  - strategic regional and cross regional restoration projects will deliver outcomes such as naturelink corridor initiatives. Example: Glenthorne Farm/Great Southern Urban Forest (GSUF), restoration project which includes re-establishing grey box woodland.

  Whilst South Australia's Naturelinks Strategy is no longer being promoted, re-connecting islanded parks and native vegetation land parcels across the state can be part of a systems based approach for landscape scale management and restoration.

- ***Clean water for the environment***

  Landscape scale management should be providing clean water for the environment which incorporates providing adequate flows or water access, and ensuring that water when released to streams, rivers and coastal environments is clean enough to support healthy biodiversity and ecosystems. This principle will support Water Sensitive Urban Design and the many benefits from urban greening, biodiversity and improving the condition of streams and rivers.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

In deciding their investment planning and strategies, each Landscape Board and the Green Adelaide Board should to have regard to:

- High level principles
- Foundation priorities (soil water and pest management)

- Supporting communities at the centre of Landscape scale improvements on their managed land in their local area and region.
- Higher order strategic landscape initiatives within and across regions.

Benefits

This section of the paper outlines the benefits but does not describe the tangible objectives and outcomes that would be used to measure whether the benefits will eventuate.

The priority for a sharper focus on the fundamentals of managing natural resources is supported subject to there also being support for strategic regional and cross regional projects that will support strategic landscape scale improvements.

Communicating the benefits to all stakeholders of the strategic objectives (when defined) will be of upmost importance to the longevity of the new framework.

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

Resilient East acknowledges and supports better recognition and promotion of Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests across South Australia. In order to better recognise these interests Resilient East believes that direct consultation and engagement with relevant Aboriginal groups is key to understand their thoughts on how this is best achieved.

Noting that we are not the appropriate person to provide input on the land, water, economic and cultural interests of aboriginal people, one way to address this challenge may be to identify environmental and cultural assets that are important to Aboriginal communities. Assets such as regulated and hollow trees are an important example of tangible assets that can be identified and better protected and supported. Whilst significant and hollow trees are important for the whole community, there are of cultural importance for Aboriginal people and there are stories explaining why so many significant tree base hollows face one direction

There are also strong connections for managing land at a landscape scale.

HOW WILL WE TRANSITION?

Landscape Boards

Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Landscape Boards could best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities by;

1. Defining guiding principles for Landscape Management
2. Addressing issues
3. Establishing standards and aspirational outcomes for land management in relation to land use locally and across regions.
4. Identifying strategic regional and cross regional projects that prioritise improving habitat and biodiversity

5. Communicating the need for improving landscape management and the benefits of achieving defined outcomes.

Because Landscape Boards will have more autonomy than the current NRM Boards there is a greater need for guiding principles and clearly defined tangible objectives that are consistent with achieving the social, economic and environmental outcomes that are sought.

Any cap or constraint on levy increases must take into account additional effort required to address emerging and increasing risks such as climate change and pest species,

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Noting that the Minister can nominate and approve four members and the community just three members, it is not appropriate that the Minister then have approval/veto powers over community nominated members.

Community members should be living or working (ideally both) within the region of the Landscape Board in question.

In recent years the constraints to ensure diversity on Boards has led to restrictions on those elected from community or nominated by non-government organisations. Ensuring that there is adequate diversity and coverage of necessary skill sets is supported to apply to the Landscape Boards but requirements should be described in the Act. A good approach could be for Ministerial appointments to be made after the three community nominated members are elected to assist in providing this balance.

There may also be a need to ensure sufficient representation of ecology based skill sets within the community elected members, particularly given the likely that there are likely to be a number of nominees with strong primary industry based interests.

Green Adelaide

Green Adelaide is an ambitious and positive commitment towards urban greening and biodiversity.

Green Adelaide supports urban communities through greening and increased canopy cover which is a key climate adaptation strategy. This should be promoted very clearly to stakeholders together with the co-benefits for amenity, biodiversity and sustainability in general.

For Green Adelaide to be achieved in a meaningful way, there are lots of significant challenges which will require a different way of thinking, a different way of planning, a different way of developing and building, and a different approach to acknowledge, support and respect urban canopy cover, habitat and biodiversity.

Each of the following seven priorities will require a clear articulation of aspirational objectives and tangible outcomes standards and goals to work towards.

Green Adelaide and Climate Adaptation

1. *Coastal management*
2. *Urban rivers and wetlands*

3. *Water sensitive design*
4. *Green streets and flourishing parklands*
5. *Fauna in the city*
6. *Controlling pest plants and animals*
7. *Nature education*

Question 8 How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

The Recipe

The simple recipe for Adelaide to become a more ecologically healthy city with increased species richness and abundance of endemic species is to design and build biodiversity into all aspects of the urban form. This would include:

- Supporting greening and canopy cover in local communities on public and private land;
- Communicating the benefits of Green Adelaide in making greener more liveable and more sustainable places to live;
- Protecting and caring for regulated and hollow trees wherever possible;
- Acknowledging the role of established private gardens in supporting and connecting urban biodiversity;
- Ensuring that there is a canopy and biodiversity hierarchy approach towards urban consolidation, new building developments and building extensions;
- Supporting and incentivising new building designs to be integrated with an urban landscape that supports tree canopy cover and biodiversity habitat; and
- Mainstreaming Water Sensitive Urban Design in a way that :

    a) supports urban greening and biodiversity

    b) slows, detains and settles urban runoff for improved water quality of water discharged into the receiving environment (for example, to creeks, rivers and coastal environments)

    c) Seeks to eliminate direct road to river and stream discharges

The barriers against Green Adelaide outcomes

The factors which are acting against the concept for Adelaide to be a world leading biodiversity city, and to increase canopy cover by 20% by 2045

- Urban consolidation aspects of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017
- The current approach to urban consolidation of clearing most sites regardless of established biodiversity and natural assets, and construct new buildings and open space design with ornamental plants that does not create sufficient habitat to support biodiversity.
- Whilst there are some examples of regulated trees being retained, the loss of significant trees and established gardens is widespread and occurring at an unsustainable rate.

- New buildings and redeveloped precincts are not typically designed to support urban biodiversity, or to re-establish canopy cover a minimum 30% green cover (in tree, shrub and/or ground cover plantings).
- There is an increasing level of run-off from more buildings and hard paved areas, without a corresponding increase in the level of Water Sensitive Urban Design.
- Exemplar sites such as new industrial and commercial large development sites including car parks (at ground level or as multi level car parks), are not fully demonstrating best practice in retaining established biodiversity assets or in creating new biodiversity habitat through green roof areas, green walls and green space.
- The understanding that healthy biodiversity is dependent on maintaining adequate areas of **connected habitat**, appears to have been lost. Where suburbs are transformed to high density forms without viable habitat, healthy biodiversity will decline sharply. This cannot be fully offset by enhancing disconnected parks. There are limitations on the extent to which nature corridors such as the Torrens Linear Park can be significantly improved as these are multi use parks with the shrub layer removed for community safety.

The Opportunity for Green Adelaide

The new draft State Planning Policies and Planning and Design Code discussion papers provide an opportunity to embed key government targets and outcomes for urban biodiversity across both the Planning and Environment portfolios.

This will however require that the State Planning Policies set the high standard in direction.

The Planning and Design Code mechanisms, zoning and design guideline and assessment methods establish requirements and incentives that cause a change in the way that urban consolidation is being undertaken with an effective greening and biodiversity hierarchy. This hierarchy should be aimed at preserving and maintaining existing trees and gardens, minimise any losses, restore more than is lost for every development (on site and close by), enhance and maintain habitat connectivity, and to prevent pavement and road runoff being discharged into stormwater pipes release directly into streams and rivers.

Some key directions and goals could be established for Green Adelaide – (say by 2045 to align with the State Government's Canopy increase target.)

Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

The challenge will be how regional planning can be streamlined without compromising the environmental management and improvement efforts.

The proposal for 5 year landscape plans must be framed within longer term landscape scale objectives and goals. Humans have occupied the Australian landscape for more than 60,000 years, so if regional planning is narrowed to the next 5 years, there is a risk that a 5 year planning horizon will lack strategic direction. For example, if there were commitments made towards connecting up islanded parks and remnant native vegetation with viable nature corridors, there would need to be a coordinated community and stakeholder effort involving multiple projects and land parcels over a multi decadal period.

The streamlining could be based around ensuring that:

1. Landscape Boards and the Green Adelaide Board plan in accordance with established high level principles.

2. Foundation priorities for soil, water, weed and pest management are being effectively managed across the landscape (public, private, and in special lease and access arrangements such as for mining and quarrying).

3. Communities are supported at the centre of Landscape scale improvements on their managed land in their local area and region.

4. Higher order strategic landscape initiatives within and across regions are clearly defined, spatially describing the future that is desirable and agreed.

Question 10 How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

Long Term Strategic Direction

Regional plans can be more accessible where there is a clear long term vision for the region, in accordance with high level principles, together with the long term objectives and spatial plans. The spatial plans can be progressed over time to show options for parks, native vegetation to be re-connected to support biodiversity. The spatial plans can also showing how farming and economic activities, infrastructure and transport corridors will co-exist in a way that supports biodiversity and minimises habitat and fauna losses.

The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment approach established and trialled by the Federal Government began a method for considering such issues but the scope of the assessments did not fully integrate with environmental and landscape needs. The Landscape Boards will play a valuable role in defining the long term direction

5 Year Planning

With the long term strategic direction better defined, the five year regional plans can be better targeted and communicated with regard to how the foundation responsibilities (soil, water, weed and pest management) together with specific local programs and strategic regional and cross regional projects contribute towards achieving the long term vision.

Less Jargon

Better planning means that less jargon is preferred. Jargon and program names should be avoided as there is a tendency for governments to continuously change policy and programs leaving communities to carry out the same work on their properties and in their local area yet having to constantly adjust to new program names and the latest government phrases.

Examples include:

- Naturelinks Corridors – Despite the policy being no longer supported, there is still a need to connect remnant vegetation for better biodiversity resilience to extinctions
- No Species Loss – Despite the policy being abandoned, there is still a need to address species extinction

- Natural Resource Management/Landscape management – There is always a need to manage landscapes to meet social, economic and environmental needs for current and future generations, including to protect and enhance wild areas for biodiversity.

Question 11 How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

The reporting against programs (as used in the AMLR 2016-17 Annual Report) is supported to continue, but could be improved with the addition of much more clearly defined regional objectives towards a regional vision that can be expressed spatially on a map as the sum of all achievements rather than words.

Tables which compare the NRM Regional Objectives with key Government objectives are useful for internal reporting but not for public documents when communities are managing the landscape for the longer term. Outcomes for managing natural resources should provide meaning to local communities and once agreed, should be separate from government priorities of the moment.

Outcomes should provide for a mix of process and task oriented actions, together with spatial changes sought. For example, if an outcome is for weeds to be managed on a landscape scale then the Regional plans should clearly define the spatial objectives for removing plants such as feral olives, and establish initiatives that will deliver the outcome.

Question 12 How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

It is important to have open and transparent methods relating to the way that levies are collected. There must also be consideration about the nature of the land, the needs within a region to fund activity to prevent further decline, to undertake improvements including to re-connect isolated populations through viable nature corridors, and the capacity of those paying the levies to fund the improvements required in a particular region.

Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Two key aspects

1. Defining the landscape scale project or projects through time to provide the context of the investment and the outcomes sought. Once this is done, there will be a clearer indication of the level of project funding and in-kind landholder contributions necessary. There may also be a need for land use changes to occur which could involve planning, heritage agreements, or even procurement of land.

2. Funding of ongoing management and maintenance activities. It is just as important to fund the ongoing management as it is to fund an initial project. In some situations, the benefits of a project could be completely undone if there are no ongoing land management controls.

Question 14 How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

Strategic projects and outcomes

To achieve specific and well defined spatial landscape scale outcomes in accordance with Statewide outcome based principles coordinated efforts are essential. Initiatives such as connecting hills and coasts, Glenthorne National Park, the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and other cross regional restoration and connection projects must be well defined in order to be supported by many different stakeholders.

Diffuse efforts also add value

Other efforts for landholders to better manage natural resources on their land (your patch), need not be as coordinated and should still be supported by encouraging those landholders undertaking positive improvements on their land. The benefits of supporting 'managing your patch' types of improvement can include demonstrating what is possible, creating refuges, improving land and water management, and supporting local economic and employment opportunities. Supporting those that are already taking action contributes to the cultural shift in the thinking towards managing landscapes.

Question 15 How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

A Grassroots Grants Program could best work where a significant landscape improvement or recovery outcome is spatially defined. The Grassroots Grant programs can be a call to arms to support the landscape scale objectives and will be best supported if these objectives are defined locally by the Landscape Boards, in accordance with statewide principles.

Question 16 What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Be clearer about the outcomes sought on a spatial basis.

- A systems approach to managing natural ecosystems and modified landscapes will guide pest plant and animal activities in how they are designed. For example, to prevent regrowth of aggressive weeds it may be necessary to integrate weed spraying programs with weed replacement plantings.
- For Northern Adelaide, there could be a commitment to dramatically reduce the prevalence of caltrop during summer by 95% by XXXX year.
- For the hills face, there could be a commitment to dramatically reduce the prevalence of wild olives and hawthorn berry trees by 95% by XXXX year.
- On managed land near plantation forests there could be a commitment to reduce weedy pines by 95% by XXX year.

Question 17 Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

Riparian environments and lakes require clean water to thrive, so quality not just quantity of water is important. The River Torrens and urban streams demonstrate poor water quality, with

a damaging level of road runoff particulates. Macroinvertebrates are greatly reduced and pollution at levels can prevent the re-establishment of yabbies and other local fauna from re-colonising our urban streams.

Section 127 (5) states that: "Subject to this Act, a person must not undertake any of the following activities contrary to an NRM plan applying in the region in which the activity is undertaken (c) draining or discharging water directly or indirectly into a watercourse or lake;

However when it comes to road runoff, the normal practice is to take the water from roads and discharge directly to streams and rivers via the stormwater system. As recently as in 2017 and 2018, a new urban infill project created new roads and laneways with new a stormwater system that discharges directly into the River Torrens with a new stormwater pipe. No natural settlement, no beneficial use for Water Sensitive Urban Design, just greater stormwater runoff.

An amendment to the new Bill could be made to establish higher standards and ambition for no new road-to-river discharges without settlement ponds or similar WSUD features that improve water quality, greening and biodiversity. This would not only help restore aquatic life and macro invertebrates to the riparian ecology but would also serve to reduce the pollution and brown tides in the coastal environment.

Question 18 What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

With clean water for the environment as a core principle to help guide the Landscape Boards the Catchment Management Plans can continue to be refined and evolve to deliver the desired and tangible outcomes and goals. Another improvement could be to provide additional guidance on the outcomes and goals sought for the biodiversity of the rivers and riparian systems. This is because the biodiversity, being improved species richness and abundance, is not just the main outcome sought, it is also the key indicator of progress.

Question 19 What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

The current legislation contains a good set of Objects of the Act which should not be dismissed and could be improved with some minor clarifications. The key challenge of the new legislation is to achieve a better result with a reduced State Government workforce. The key aspects which could potentially compensate for some of the loss include:

1. Alignment with the Climate Change Adaptation Plans across the state which have many complimentary aims and outcomes working with Governments and community at landscape level;
2. Clearly defined outcome oriented landscape scale principles to guide the Landscape Boards across the state;
3. 5 year planning horizons with a longer term 2050 goals for each region and major natural asset system;
4. Strategic planning that is defined spatially in regional plans in accordance with the outcome focussed principles;
5. Support for communities and landholders to achieve better continuous management (soil. water, pest species) of land and water towards defined best practice expectations and standards;

6. Weed management across the whole landscape, demonstrated on Government landholdings and by key landholder organisations including on mining and quarry lands;
7. Better integration of outcomes sought with the new planning framework to prevent the legal and illegal destruction of natural assets; and
8. Better monitoring of habitat loss from illegal clearance, assessment of cumulative impacts and stronger enforcement where necessary.

Question 20 What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

In the urban landscape, particularly for the Green Adelaide Outcomes to be realised, the development sector needs to be legislated to be part of the solution. The vast majority of urban development currently being undertaken would not past simple tests for:

- Preserving, protecting and maintaining natural assets, significant trees and urban gardens essential to habitat and biodiversity connectivity
- Planning biodiversity connections on a precinct and suburb scale
- Integrating new habitat that is able to support healthy urban biodiversity including suitable shrub habitat to support macro invertebrates, small birds, lizards, and mammals.
- Achieving 20% increased canopy cover by 2045.

Question 21 How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

Compliance for the different aspects of land management should be designed to suit the nature of impacts from non-compliance. For example:

- Communities can be supported in tackling weeds through annual and seasonal cycles with responses made during office hours.
- Illegal clearance of native vegetation, habitat and significant trees may require an immediate response 24 hours a day by landscape staff and the DEW Native Vegetation Management Unit to respond to pockets of poor culture and behaviour.
- Water pollution incidents may require may require an immediate response 24 hours a day, by Landscape staff and the EPA.
- Increasing compliance provisions and penalties to ensure action taken against non-compliance will discourage further breaches of the legislation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Resilient East Steering Committee sees substantial alignment with the progress made on climate adaptation, and opportunity for Councils to play a greater role in a reformed Landscape Management framework and for Green Adelaide in particular.

Our core suggestions can be summarised as:

1. Climate Change Adaptation must be a key part of landscape reforms and the Resilient East Councils via the Steering Committee, can play a key role in supporting the Government's Green Adelaide objectives through our collaboration networks and aligned goals.

2. The framework should establish high level outcome based principles to guide the Landscape Boards in preparing their long term regional plans and investment decisions.
3. The new Landscape Boards should define the vision and spatially defined strategic goals and targets for each region.
4. The five yearly action plans and annual business planning should be undertaken to guide and support communities at the centre of landscape scale management on individual properties and in strategic initiatives in regions in a way that makes progress towards the longer term vision and goals of each region.

The Resilient East Steering Committee would be happy to meet with the Landscape Reform Team to discuss this submission and the opportunities to utilise climate adaptation progress and our networks to fast track progress for the implementation of Green Adelaide.

It is trusted these comments will be given due consideration.



Tim Kelly

Resilient East Project Coordinator City of Unley

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Appendix 1 Resilient East Project Steering Group (October 2018)

Council/Dept	Project Steering Group Member	Proxy
City of Adelaide	**CHAIR - Michelle English** Associate Director Sustainability m.english@cityofadelaide.com.au 8203 7687	**Bec Taylor** Sustainability Coordinator bec.taylor@cityofadelaide.com.au 8203 7913
Town of Walkerville	**DEPUTY CHAIR Mark Kwiatkowski** Manager Planning and Environment mkwiatkowski@walkerville.sa.gov.au 0411 840 244	**Sonia DeNicola** Manager Communications & Marketing sdenicola@walkerville.sa.gov.au 0478 408 789
City of Campbelltown	**Kevin Lowe** General Manager Urban Planning and Leisure Services klowe@campbelltown.sa.gov.au 8366 9204 Mob 0417 083 628	**Rachael Hamilton** Coordinator Environment and Sustainability RHamilton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au 8366 9257
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	**Eleanor Walters** Manager Urban Planning and Sustainability ewalters@npsp.sa.gov.au 8366 4521	**Mary-Anne Siebert** Sustainability Officer msiebert@npsp.sa.gov.au 8366 4532
City of Prospect	**Simon Bradley** Director - Infrastructure and Environment simon.bradley@prospect.sa.gov.au 8269 5355	**Naomi Prunckun** Environment & Sustainability Officer naomi.prunckun@prospect.sa.gov.au 8342 8069
City of Tea Tree Gully	**Jon Herd** Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator City of Tea Tree Gully jon.herd@cttg.sa.gov.au 8397 7232	**James Kelly** Team Leader Civil Assets City of Tea Tree Gully james.kelly@cttg.sa.gov.au 8397 7212
City of Unley	**Kat Ryan** Coordinator Environmental Projects & Strategy 8372 5118 kryan@unley.sa.gov.au	**Aaron Wood** Manager Strategic Assets 8372 5465 | m 0412 684 114 awood@unley.sa.gov.au
City of Burnside	**Ben Seamark** Coordinator Open Space Recreation and Environment bseamark@burnside.sa.gov.au 8366 4263	**Phil Roetman** PRoetman@burnside.sa.gov.au **Mark Ellis** MEllis@burnside.sa.gov.au
Natural Resources AMLR	**Zafi Bachar** Climate Applications Coordinator Zafi.Bachar@sa.gov.au 0430 434 214	**Sam Phillips** Water Projects Engineer Sam.phillips@sa.gov.au 8273 9114 Mob 0408 721 871
DEWNR Climate Change	**Rhiannon Niven** a/Senior Policy Officer DEWNR Climate Change Branch Rhiannon.Niven@sa.gov.au 8463 3822	**Christopher Wright** Manager, Adaptation and Infrastructure Christopher.Wright@sa.gov.au 8463 3822
Coordinator	**Tim Kelly** Resilient East Project Coordinator Email: tkelly@unley.sa.gov.au 8372 5718 Mob 0419 831 933	

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15 October 2018

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

VIA EMAIL: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs

Re: Landscape Reform – Alexandrina Council Submission

Alexandrina Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed reforms to South Australia's natural resources management (NRM) system.

NRM is an issue of great interest to our Elected Members, our primary producers and the many members of our community who care about, and are actively engaged in, the conservation of our natural environment.

The direction of this submission was endorsed at Alexandrina's 2 October 2018 Council meeting. In developing this submission, Council administration has also consulted with members of our Environmental Advisory Panel and the Alexandrina Sustainable Agriculture Roundtable (ASART).

Question 1: What is most important?

Community feedback provided to Council clearly indicates that current levels of on-ground service delivery are not meeting community expectations in many areas of our Council district. Priorities identified by our Elected Members and community advisory groups include:

- investment in coordinated pest plant and animal control supplemented by simple and effective compliance mechanisms;
- coordinated management of over-abundant native species including corellas and kangaroos;
- accessible staff with local knowledge and expertise available to assist and coordinate on-ground delivery and compliance effort – potentially hosted by councils on a cost-neutral basis;
- devolved funding for local groups with demonstrated ability to provide effective advice and support to landowners and community; and

- long-term funding certainty for key programs noting that landscape-scale change requires secure 5+ year funding cycles.

Alexandrina Council supports the proposed back to basics approach subject to increased emphasis on biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

In addition to sustainable water management and pest plant and animal control, vibrant biodiversity requires people who are connected with and thus care for nature; protection against habitat loss; and fragmentation and support for threatened species identification and recovery.

Climate change is a known threat to vibrant biodiversity, sustainable economy and resilient communities and (as described in the Resilient Hills and Coasts submission dated 12 October 2018 of which Alexandrina Council is a signatory) we strongly support a continued focus of Landscape Boards on climate resilience.

Question 2: Things that are working well

Things that are working or have worked well within the current SAMDB region include the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre, CLLMM Recovery Project, NRM Education and the recently concluded Threatened Flora Recovery Program lead by Kylie Moritz.

The Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre is home to the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP). GWLAP is an excellent example of a lean, community-led organisation which empowers and puts community and land owners at the centre of everything they do. Their numbers speak for themselves: 8288 hectares of land protected and enhanced, almost 1.9 million seedlings planted and 3671 landholders engaged since 1998. Alexandrina Council collaborates with the GWLAP on a regular basis and it is difficult to imagine how the NRM system might function in our region without them. It is essential that the reform process focus on enabling successful community-led NRM organisations such as GWLAP to both flourish and emerge.

Within the current AMLR region, Alexandrina Council maintains valuable relationships with technical staff across a range of disciplines and these relationships are often supported by Board investment in local/regional projects. Examples include the collaborative roadside vegetation and coastal work programs co-funded by Council and AMLR on an annual basis as well as the ongoing and regular presence of local District Officers and a Coastal Officer hosted by the District Council of Yankalilla. The AMLR NRM Board is also a signatory to the Resilient Hills and Coasts Climate Change Sector Agreement. An AMLR staff member sits on the Resilient Hills and Coasts Steering Committee and hosts regular meetings of the state-wide Adaptation Practitioners network, connecting us with people, ideas, and funding opportunities as described in the Resilient Hills and Coasts submission dated 12 October 2018. Water Sensitive SA is another valuable source of advice and training for the local government sector with respect to green infrastructure and integrated water management.

It is important that the new Act continue to integrate with the South Australian planning system to enable referrals for developments that present land and water management issues. Our development staff and local development proponents also value the informal assistance and advice provided by NRM staff in the pre-application phase of developments likely to have an impact on environmental assets such as a watercourse or native vegetation. Access to this kind of advice is particularly important for smaller regional councils who are less likely to have an equivalent level of in-house expertise.

Question 6: Landscape Board Boundaries

The majority of Alexandrina Council currently sits within the existing SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) region with a small portion of our district falling within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) region.

We note that under the new arrangements the current AMLR region will be split in three new bodies, one of which will be the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board but that other existing board boundaries are largely proposed to be retained. The indicative map in the discussion paper shows the vast majority of the Alexandrina Council district as being retained within the SAMDB region.

The issue of possible boundary reform has been of much interest to our Elected Members and community stakeholders during this consultation process. The question of whether our landscapes and community would be better served by being located within the SAMDB region or the new Hills and Fleurieu region has been the subject of lively discussion and debate.

Ordinarily it would be preferable from an administrative perspective for NRM boundaries to align with local government boundaries, however the Alexandrina Council district has a number of unique characteristics that complicate the determination of sensible NRM boundaries:

- From a geographic and socio-economic perspective, our district has multiple identities, being part of the Fleurieu Peninsula in the west, the Adelaide Hills in the north and the Murray-Darling Basin in the east. Residents within certain parts of our district will identify more closely (socially, culturally and economically) with one or the other of these regions. Our district is also diverse in other ways – we are a river council, a coastal council, an agricultural council and a peri-urban council. Importantly, the south-eastern part of our district is the gateway to the Coorong and Lower Lakes where the mighty River Murray meets the sea, with associated irrigation communities particularly in and around Langhorne Creek. In order to improve landowner engagement with NRM, we submit that the new Landscape boundaries should seek to more closely reflect the predominant community connections and identities within our district.

- We understand that current NRM boundaries are largely based on water catchment boundaries but community feedback provided to Council suggests that other factors (such as those listed on page 15 of the discussion paper) should be accorded more weight when determining boundaries for the new Landscape regions. Ecologically, our district encompasses higher rainfall zones in the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges around Ashbourne and Mount Compass in the west, transitioning into lower rainfall mallee country in the eastern parts of our district. Our primary production sector has emphasized the importance of boundaries aligning with land-use type, noting that agricultural systems and land management practices in much of our district (and their associated pest plant and animal control and urban-interface issues) have more in common with the rest of the Hills and Fleurieu region than they do with the SAMDB region.

- An assessment of logical administrative boundaries should also consider that Alexandrina is a member of the Southern and Hills Local Government Association (which aligns more closely with the proposed Hills and Fleurieu region) rather than the Murraylands and Riverland LGA. Moving forward, we understand there are also opportunities under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA) for the establishment of Joint Planning Boards whose responsibilities

could extend to natural resource management and it would make sense for the new Landscape regions to align with these groupings of councils where possible.

Our experience within the current NRM system has been that the portion of our district falling within the AMLR region receives a significantly higher level of service on a day to day basis than the much larger area falling within the current SAMDB region (noting that the south-eastern portion of our district has nonetheless benefited greatly in recent years from the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project predominantly funded by the Federal Government and partly delivered by Natural Resources SAMDB).

As indicated above, within the current AMLR region Alexandrina Council maintains valuable relationships with technical staff across a range of disciplines and these relationships are often supported by Board investment in local/regional projects. The SAMDB region also has knowledgeable and passionate staff but they are stretched across a larger region and a lack of operational budget severely restricts the ability of these staff to co-invest in the types of on-ground outcomes (i.e. pest plant and animal control) in partnership with Council to an extent which would more closely meet Council and community expectations.

We attribute the higher level of service offered to Council by Natural Resources AMLR to their significantly larger metropolitan levy base. We are concerned that by splitting the current AMLR region into three, funding for the new Landscape regions to the north and south of Green Adelaide will be significantly reduced. Were any or all of the Mount Barker and/or Alexandrina council areas to be shifted into the new Hills and Fleurieu region, this might also have implications for the financial viability of the remaining SAMDB region, resulting in even less funds being available for delivery of on-ground outcomes than under current arrangements. Boundaries and budgets are thus inextricably linked. If a funding arrangement which provided for more equitable distribution of funding across regions was to be proposed, it is possible that our community's focus on boundary reform would not be so top of mind.

On balance, we ask that serious consideration be given to locating a greater proportion (but not necessarily the whole) of the Alexandrina Council district within the new Hills and Fleurieu region.

Question 7: Membership of Landscape Boards

Whatever the method for election of Board members might be, we ask that careful consideration be given to ensuring that the adopted method will in fact result in the appointment of persons with the collective knowledge and skills necessary to guide effective management of the region's natural resources and conversely, will avoid the appointment of "single-issue" candidates.

We suggest that each Board should have at least one member with skills, knowledge and experience in local government administration. We note that Elected Members have already been through an election process and have thus already demonstrated the local knowledge and strong connections with the local community desired of Landscape Board members. We suggest this be taken into consideration when devising the final method for appointment of both Minister appointed and community elected members.

Question 12: Improving the NRM levy system

It is expected that in 2018/19 Alexandrina Council will collect approximately $1.35 million in levies on behalf of the SAMDB NRM Board and $178,000 in levies on behalf of the AMLR NRM Board.

Alexandrina Council supports the LGA position that NRM levies should no longer be collected by local government and should instead be collected by a State Government agency such as Revenue SA, which already has access to billing data via their Emergency Services Levy database. Having levies collected by State Government would reduce the administrative burden on councils and remove a source of community confusion about the purpose for which the levies are collected.

If collection arrangements are to remain unchanged, the methodology for cost reimbursement to councils should be reviewed to ensure a fair level of cost recovery is established. As it stands, there is a disconnect between actual collection costs incurred and the level of reimbursement received.

As discussed above in relation to boundaries, the effect of creating Green Adelaide and splitting the current AMLR region into three will likely be a reduction in funds available for expenditure in the adjoining regions. There will inevitably be a need for a proportion of levies collected within the metropolitan area to be redistributed to the regions and not entirely quarantined for use by Green Adelaide. Failure to do so would seemingly be at odds with the expressed dedication of the State Government to strengthening regional SA.

It is worth noting here also that community feedback provided to Council often laments the perceived lack of State Government investment in public lands such as National Parks. Landscape scale change is only possible when all parties take responsibility for their own land. It is critically important that State Government lead by example in maintaining and enhancing the condition of South Australia's national park network. There is also a community expectation that the management of parks will be funded from general revenue rather than by NRM levies.

Question 14: Cross-regional collaboration

Governance arrangements must provide for cross-regional collaboration on, and co-investment in, issues that cross board boundaries such as pest plant and animal control. If Board boundaries change such that Board and catchment boundaries are no longer co-existent, consideration will also need to be given to how water allocation planning and implementation is to occur across regions.

Question 15: Grassroots Grant Program

Our district is blessed with an active community conservation sector which contributes thousands of hours of volunteer effort across public and private lands each year. These groups have a longstanding connection to, and understanding of, the country they care for and are generally very efficient at maximizing small amounts of funding for the greatest possible outcome.

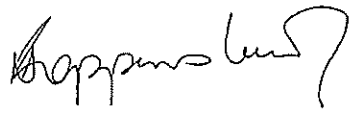
We strongly support the need for ongoing grant funding programs which support the continuation and renewal of the community conservation sector. It is no secret that funding support for the community conservation sector has become increasingly scarce in recent years. These groups are used to running on the 'smell of an oily rag', but without regular injections of public funding, maintaining momentum becomes increasingly difficult.

Corresponding support systems are needed to ensure that volunteers and community groups who are passionate about being involved in on-ground works are not deterred by onerous grant reporting and regulatory requirements. Volunteer support officers (whether employed by the Board or hosted by a LAP or council on a cost-neutral basis) play an important facilitation role, helping groups apply for and acquit grants, providing access to technical expertise which builds capacity and coordinating effort towards achievement of strategic outcomes.

Members of Alexandrina's Environmental Advisory Panel have also emphasized the benefits of the now defunct Heritage Agreement Incentive Program and would welcome the return of this funding stream (to be paid from general revenue as opposed to NRM levies) as an addition to the proposed Grassroots Grant program.

Thank you for considering this submission and we look forward to the next stage of engagement on the key elements of the Landscape South Australia Bill.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Rappensberg
Chief Executive Officer

city of
Victor Harbor

15 October 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Climate Change
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001
minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

File No: EM5.3.007
In No: IREC15874318
Out No: OREC8817718

Dear Minister

Re: City of Victor Harbor Submission on the NRM Reform and Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the proposed Natural Resources Management reform process.

NRM Reform and a continued strong partnership with the State Government & NRM is seen as crucial to managing the natural environment and community expectations and needs in Victor Harbor.

Victor Harbor is rich in biodiversity with two significant water courses, as well as estuaries, wetlands, significant remnant vegetation, coastal beaches, cliffs and islands.
The area is recognised as having areas which are relatively pristine and with a high energy coastal environment.

Continuing urban growth is placing pressure on the clearance of native vegetation and on streams, wetlands, and watersheds, as well as the general landscape.
Climate change is forecast to impact on our future climate with warmer and drier conditions, more frequent extreme weather events, and higher sea levels.

Key areas for future adaptation planning include agriculture, climate-ready homes and buildings, coastal ecosystems, community facilities and open spaces, emergency management services, infrastructure assets, natural landscapes, public coastal assets, vulnerable members of the community and water dependent eco-systems. A better understanding of both climate variability and climate change will mean the community can better manage the adverse impacts and take advantage of any opportunities that arise.

In particular I raise the following comments and concerns which we hope can be addressed during the review of the NRM Act:

- Decentralisation and reduction in administration and red tape in NRM is welcomed by council and our community;
- Board boundaries should as much as possible align with LGA boundaries to reduce duplication and simplify collaboration between boards and local government. Current

boundaries are based on water catchments, which don't consider administrative and community boundaries, often creating additional administrative costs;

- Concern about reduced funding to the Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board with the annexing of metropolitan Adelaide into Green Adelaide. There needs to be a process to ensure distribution of funding to maintain current levels of funding to non-metropolitan Landscape Boards;
- Green Adelaide could administer broader programs to the regions such as education programs, research and monitoring. In saying that NRM Education has significantly reduced its delivery in our region over recent years. The delivery of this program was more effective when regional Councils hosted these positions. This position is supported by local schools;
- Board Officers should be given greater autonomy to act to higher degree rather than reliant on continually seeking approval from several layers of bureaucracy. This has led to inefficiencies and delays in receiving approvals and responses;
- There needs to be a high level of transparency to levy fund income and expenditure to improve community support;
- Consider levy funding for on-ground works provided direct to Councils to improve efficiencies in these areas. Currently joint programs will often have a Council engaged contractor and an NRM engaged contractor working alongside each other;
- Is there a case to consider funding entirely directed to Councils providing a more efficient delivery than this additional layer of bureaucracy;
- It does not appear reasonable that Council acts as the 'Tax Collector' with the levy, but does not set the levy rate or manage these funds;
- There needs to be a clear separation between Landscape Boards and State agencies including Department of Environment & Water in terms of administration and finance to ensure transparency and independence of the boards;
- Joint on-ground projects with Councils have been very successful in achieving outcomes aligned with 'Back to Basics', which should be supported to continue;
- Support from the Climate Change staff at NRM has been invaluable in developing and instigating the Resilient Hills & Coasts (Regional Climate Adaption Strategy). Continuation of this support will greatly assist Councils to embed climate resilience within both Landscape Board and Council decision making processes. The partnership between Councils and the Landscape Boards is crucial to achieve any positive outcomes and solutions.

Yours sincerely

Victoria MacKirdy
Chief Executive Officer

Submission

Response to Managing Landscapes: Conversations for Change

This submission was approved by Council on 16 October 2018. It has been prepared in response to the questions posed by the State Government's Discussion Paper regarding proposed NRM Reforms.

The City of Onkaparinga maintains a valuable relationship with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board (AMLR NRM Board) which covers the vast majority of our council region.

We have collaborated on a number of projects since the initial 2008 Natural Resource Management Plan, most notably in the areas of climate change planning, native vegetation management, stormwater planning, stormwater reuse, coastal management, and in our successful hosting arrangement with NRM Education officers.

The AMLR NRM Board is a signatory to the Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement which was the first to be signed in South Australia and is now one of six regional climate adaptation programs across the state. Through this partnership and via representation on the Steering Committee, we maintain a link to State Government that is vital for the regional partnership approach to be effective.

Our natural resources and ecosystems underpin climate resilience, and it is critical that the State Government provide state coordination and leadership in climate change planning.

As the level of government most affected by extreme events we are already experiencing the impacts. In a recent survey of 630 residents, 84 per cent believed they too had already experienced the effects of climate change.

The South Australian Government's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan was developed across multiple state agencies and it is hoped that this work can be carried through into the proposed state Climate Change Plan.

The Adaptation Practitioners network and the Climate Adaptation Workshop event at Adelaide Oval are further examples of cross agency and government activities that are both simple and effective and support the cooperative work that has been occurring between state and local government.

The City of Onkaparinga welcomes the chance for a review of natural resource management arrangements within this context, and with the aim of improving the delivery of on-ground services for the betterment of our region and state.

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Landscape Boundaries

The City of Onkaparinga currently sits primarily in the existing AMLR NRM region, with 34 properties in the Kuitpo area part of the Murray Darling Basin NRM Board. 75 per cent of our council area is considered rural.

Our council region is diverse and given the proposed Green Adelaide region is being created to deliver natural resources management functions that are specific to urban areas, it is likely we will be split into two board areas under the new structure. Without any further administrative or funding detail on Green Adelaide, we can only base our suggested boundary on the natural resource management functions and 'urban ecology focus' that is briefly outlined in the Discussion Paper.

With this qualification in mind, we suggest that the boundary for Green Adelaide follow the urban planning boundary for Adelaide ending at Sellicks Beach, and that the remaining area within our council region be included in the Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board, consistent with the McLaren Vale Protected Area.

See map in Appendix 1

In proposing this boundary we have considered community identity and connections, current and future land use, topography, Kaurna coastal sites and current administrative boundaries.

In this scenario, existing residential areas and urban growth areas (i.e. areas not yet developed but zoned 'residential' and 'deferred urban') would be included in Green Adelaide. This is sympathetic to the identified goals of greening, water sensitive design, and coastal management.

Our Position

The boundary for Green Adelaide should be consistent with the Greater Adelaide urban planning boundary.

As several water catchments will cross board boundaries (including the valued Onkaparinga River), stormwater planning, water quality considerations and waterway revegetation will be some of the functions that will need to be managed across Landscape Boards (also incorporate important sites such as Aldinga Washpool).

This is functionally possible given that urban rivers, wetlands and vegetation management are still a focus for Green Adelaide, and it is recommended that cross-board activities of this nature will also need to be included in the governance arrangements that guide board members and their strategic planning.

It is also proposed that the coastal boundary of Green Adelaide be considered the metropolitan coastline for NRM Board programs as is the case with the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan.

It is understood that some further focussed engagement will help guide the development of Green Adelaide, and we would like to be included in this discussion.

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Landscape Scale Restoration

The NRM Plan 2028 and previous DEWNR initiatives such as Naturelinks advocated for landscape scale change. This is only possible when all parties are taking responsibility for their own land and working collaboratively and we support the partnership approach put forward in the Discussion Paper.

A more refined, regional ecological corridor linkage project within the Hills and Fleurieu region and the southern portion Green Adelaide would provide an opportunity to enhance the existing riparian corridors, improve health and connectivity between remnant vegetation and build on existing community initiatives such as the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project.

Our Position

Landscape scale change requires all parties to take responsibility for their land and to work collaboratively as partners.

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Coordinating natural resource management

We believe that autonomy for local decision-making can still occur within a context of wider state planning. The role of Department of Environment and Water (DEW) or a central authority or group will remain important to ensure that a state plan and objectives are worked towards, and to ensure a consistent approach to issues that cross regional board boundaries such as feral animal and declared weed control.

We support the intent of decentralising the functions of local Boards to ensure that local priorities are reflected within a state framework.

The governance arrangements will need to ensure accountability, but also a requirement to work across Board boundaries to ensure that a whole of landscape approach is maintained, and that we don't end up with silos where groups become protective about their own priorities without considering their impact or contribution to the adjacent area. Water catchments are a good example of an approach that we don't want to lose.

Our Position

The functions of local boards can be decentralised to ensure that local priorities are reflected, but this needs to occur within a state planning framework.

This could be one of the roles of the proposed central 'cross sector advisory body'. Board members are going to be responsible for considerable public funding, with the decentralised governance model requiring each Board to be responsible for the employment of staff, budgets and strategic five year plans.

There is an argument for this 'cross sector advisory body' to go beyond advice and to assume a regulatory role to ensure that all boards are operating with the appropriate checks and balances of a robust strategic and financial structure.

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Board membership

The City of Onkaparinga supports the point made in the Discussion Paper that 'collectively the members of each Landscape Board would need to have the relevant skills to facilitate management of the region's natural resources, with appropriate consideration of local knowledge, community connection and diversity.'

We also support the proposal for seven members – three to be elected by the community and four to be appointed by the Minister.

Community representatives could be nominated by the community and subject to a rigorous application process to ensure that the Board is getting the right mix and balance of skills across all members.

It is unclear without any further detail on Green Adelaide, why it is proposed that this region would have a board that is entirely appointed by the Minister. Until the Green Adelaide Discussion Paper is released it is difficult to have a view on this matter.

Our Position

Boards should be collectively comprised of members with the skills and local knowledge required to deliver natural resource management for their region.

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Redefining 'Back to Basics'

The Discussion Paper proposes that the draft legislation and work of the new Landscape Boards focus on the three fundamentals of natural resource management – (1) soil quality, (2) water management and (3) pest animal/plant control.

The Government has also stated it wants the new Act to reflect contemporary thinking in natural resource management.

To this end we request the addition of native vegetation to be considered one of the 'basics' of NRM work.

While revegetation is mentioned in the Discussion Paper, the retention and preservation of existing native vegetation and trees, and building on existing areas of vegetation is absent. While we wish to see the separate legislation (the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*) remain, there needs to be adequate cross-referencing to this critical natural function within the *Landscape Act* and in the functions of the new Boards.

This is particularly relevant given the City of Onkaparinga has less than 9 per cent remnant native vegetation remaining.

The intent behind integrating natural resource management functions from the earlier structure which separated Water Catchment Boards/Soil Management Boards and Plant/Pest Control Boards was the recognition of the need to integrate these functions across the landscape.

Our Position

The 'back to basics' mantra should include the retention and restoration of native vegetation.

Soil, water, plants and animals are all elements of the ecosystem that are closely linked and interdependent. Native vegetation cannot be ignored in this context given that the management of the other elements often involves, or impacts upon native vegetation.

The protection of habitat and remnant vegetation is critical to the survival of many of our native fauna species, not to mention a significant contribution to stormwater management, erosion minimisation, habitat linkage between larger areas of vegetation and reduction of heat island effects.

Vegetated areas are also increasingly recognised as a proactive response to drought resilience, with properties that plan for dry years maintaining a percentage of native vegetation cover to provide pollinator services, shelter, reducing exposure to stock in extreme events, and to reduce the impacts of wind erosion.

There also needs to be suitable cross referencing in the Landscape Act to the legislated draft State Planning Policy Number 4: Biodiversity.

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Pest plant and animal control

The City of Onkaparinga strongly supports the increased focus on on-ground programs to address the management of pest plants and animals, and it is essential that the government provide leadership in this regard by establishing programs that engage both private and public land holders (including National Parks) in working towards common goals.

We are currently experiencing significant numbers of feral animals on the land that we own and the Crown Land that we manage, including rabbits and foxes in waterways and dune areas. As a responsible land owner our intent will always be to address feral animal issues on our land, but we recognise that without a wider regional program that crosses property boundaries, any isolated intervention is likely to be ineffective.

The current model from the NRM Board is largely one of technical advice which is welcome, but isn't currently resourced adequately for the scale of the problem, and needs to be backed by cross boundary coordination of control effort and compliance for landholders.

Our Position

The management of pest plants and animals can be managed regionally but requires a consistent approach to data collection, adequate resourcing for real outcomes and a commitment to cross-boundary goals.

Within the urban boundary, the State Government is currently offering an Urban Partnership model which would contribute $10,000 towards the wage of a council employee to become an authorised officer and address private land weed management and compliance. Given the extent and nature of the work proposed, this proposed contribution to funding is inadequate for a council of this size.

If there are to be real outcomes at a property, regional level and landscape level, the State Government will need to consider funding Authorised Officers in their entirety, or as a cost neutral hosting arrangement for Councils.

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Pest plants

There is a pressing need to coordinate weed mapping and monitoring at a regional level. A consistent approach to mapping and management throughout the metropolitan area and adjacent regional boards would make a significant contribution to the landscape scale approach that the government is seeking. It would also serve to increase accountability, measure progress and demonstrate effectiveness to the community over time.

The City of Onkaparinga is managing and protecting native vegetation in bushland reserves, as well as extensive areas of coastal reserve, waterways and roadsides. We have mapped native vegetation to a significant extent on our land and have developed an app that can record weeds when officers are out in the field for follow up control. We would welcome the opportunity to have input into regional mapping.

We invite you to look at our interactive Urban Creek Recovery Project Story Map which demonstrates the progress of our five year program that has worked in 46 creeks across nine catchments, removing 120 hectares of woody weeds and ecologically restoring over 62 km of urban waterways in Onkaparinga.

Our Position

Weed management needs greater resources on-ground, and a consistent approach to regional mapping and monitoring.

This project was possible due to a five year Australian government grant of $1,625,000, the AMLR NRM Board contributing $500,000 and the City of Onkaparinga contributing $1,580,000 of operational funds over that time.

The Story Map is an example of a tool that can visually demonstrate both the extent of weed infestations and the progress in managing them.

The map shows all the creeks where works are occurring and includes access to monitoring data such as vegetation health assessments and changes in weed density.

There are also hundreds of photo points of creeks across the region (such as the one pictured below).

Education Creek, Happy Valley – taken 3 years apart with Desert Ash and Olive removed and area replanted





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Council has also developed extensive roadside weed mapping which is used as both a reference to develop strategic approaches with the AMLR NRM and to track weed control efforts in realtime (shown below). We believe that this level of mapping and tracking of control effort is critical and should be integrated with any future regional weed control efforts.

We would like to see this kind of data collected and represented across areas of publically owned land. We propose the following weeds that would initially benefit from this approach – caltrop, feather grass, boxthorn, coolatai, broom, boneseed, Juncus acutus.

We note that there is also an intention to increase the focus on delivering "tangible on-ground outcomes" from DEW including "increasing the number of rangers and other front line staff". We have observed a steady deterioration in weed control in DEW managed land in our region to the point where the seed load is having a detrimental impact on adjacent land. Any funding provided for camping and recreational facilities in parks should be considered as additional to the funding of weed, pest plant control and restoration of native vegetation in these areas.

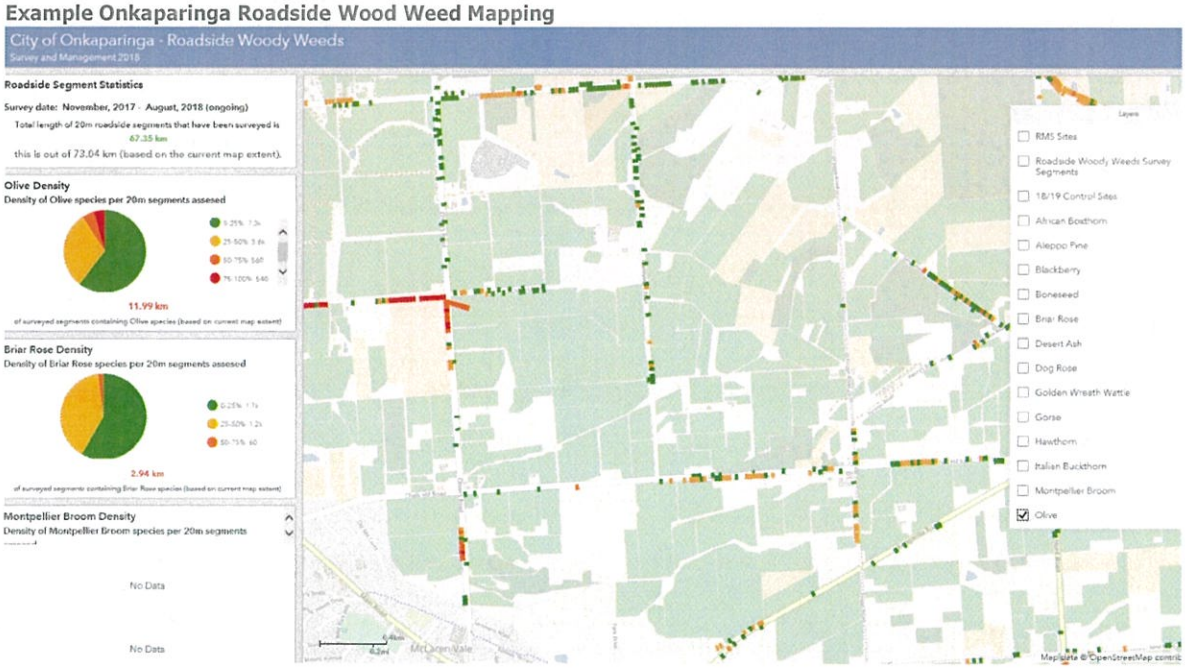
A recent example was in a flood in the Onkaparinga River in 2016 which washed a deluge of prickly pear – a declared weed under the NRM Act – onto council land in the estuary. This weed is notorious for being able to regrow if a piece is left in-situ and can easily injure people and animals.

We had excellent coordination with National Parks staff following the flood and were able to remove approximately 2.5 tonnes of prickly pear pads and seed pods. This required around 580 hours of work from City of Onkaparinga and DEW contractors and volunteers. This project is ongoing as we are still finding portions growing in important conservation areas, though less each year.

It is alarming to think there is that much prickly pear upstream of the estuary in the Onkaparinga Catchment, and this example highlights the importance of providing adequate resourcing to maintain the conservation values of National Parks and Conservation Areas, and to monitor declared weeds and resource compliance for the removal of declared weeds on private land.

From a landscape ecosystem perspective, DEW conservation reserves should be the 'jewel in the crown' and a reflection of best practice biodiversity management.

Example Onkaparinga Roadside Wood Weed Mapping



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Volunteers

The nature of volunteering is changing and while the community is continuing to express a desire to contribute to improving our natural resources, they are more likely to do so on a more casual basis or on their own terms.

We should encourage community participation with grants and technical support, while continuing to be responsible for legal and risk requirements that are in place under the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012.*

The City of Onkaparinga has a staff member within the Natural Areas Conservation Team who works with groups on council land in this regard. However this is an area that needs increased attention by the NRM Boards.

We support the proposed Grass Roots program, backed with technical expertise and on-ground support to ensure participants are working in a safe manner, and in a consistent and coordinated approach to enable outcomes to be achieved in line with strategic plans.

Our Position

Volunteers are an essential part of our sustainable future. They need technical support, a safe work environment and effective coordination.

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Managing overabundant native species – corellas

Our Position
The management of overabundant native species to be included in the Landscape Act to reduce the impact on native vegetation and our communities.

The management and control of overabundant native species needs to be enabled by the new Landscape SA Act.

The Little Corella has been impacting upon remnant native vegetation (by stripping eucalypts of leaves over dry periods when they are already stressed), private property, schools, sporting fields and recreational facilities for a number of years.

The City of Onkaparinga considers it is our role is to provide maintenance to affected areas under Council's care and control that are impacted by the Little Corella, and to advocate to the DEW to meet their responsibilities in relation to abundant species.

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NRM levy collection & reimbursement

One of the aims of NRM reform is to increase transparency regarding levy expenditure to give the community greater involvement and confidence in the system. As a council that collects the levy on behalf of State Government, we know that there remains a high degree of misunderstanding about what the NRM levy is, what it is for, and who it goes to, and to some degree that is because it is collected by local government as part of rates notices, that this confusion remains.

The City of Onkaparinga supports the LGA position that the state NRM levy should be managed by a State Government agency such as Revenue SA who already has access to billing data via their Emergency Services Levy database. This would also allow the new Boards to distribute information at point of collection about their programs and work.

Local Government should not be required to bill and collect state levies as part of their rating systems and our position is that this requirement should be removed from the Landscape SA Act.

If the collection arrangements continue under the new legislation, the methodology for cost reimbursement for councils must be reviewed to ensure that a fair level of cost recovery is established.

Under the current NRM legislation, the reimbursement formula allows for a base amount ($2,430) per council plus a specified amount ($0.23) per assessment. Both amounts are indexed annually.

Our Position

The NRM levy should be collected by Revenue SA to reduce the administration burden on us and confusion for the community.

In 2018-19, the City of Onkaparinga will collect $2.9 million for the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Levy. The reimbursement received was $20,500 for 79,372 assessments.

The current NRM formula for reimbursement has not reflected the large increase in postal charges and does not include related administrative and transactional costs such as modelling the levy amount to determine the rate in the dollar, administration costs of generating the rates, public notices or the cost of recovering outstanding amounts.

Rates including the NRM Levy component are billed as legislated on a quarterly basis. Adding to costs is that over 80 per cent of ratepayers now choose to pay their rates quarterly, and the number of residents who choose part payments on a fortnightly basis is increasing. This is resulting in an increase in transactional costs to councils (i.e. where the quarterly rates are paid over 6 fortnights the transactional cost increases by 500 per cent).

In this regard, the City of Onkaparinga differs from the LGA proposal to pay the boards only what is collected. This would be less cost effective for councils due to increased administrative functions to determine the amount received from ratepayers on a quarterly basis (e.g. what proportion of each rates payment is attributed to the NRM Levy). Amounts levied are also subject to continual adjustments due to valuation objections. This would require an ongoing reconciliation and audit process to substantiate the contribution amounts a council paid to each specific NRM Board each quarter.

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As the current NRM levy is a very small component of the total general rates levied (2.2 per cent), amounts outstanding are not considered as being material enough to warrant separate follow up. Any outstanding levy amounts are a secured debt on the land and recoverable by Council on the sale of the property.

Changes to Board boundaries

Any changes to Board boundaries requires mapping, translating to a loadable file format, applying those changes to our rates system, manually checking all the boundary properties to ensure they fall into the correct board regions and manually fixing any errors. This is a separate process for each board area. All of this must be done in a test environment first and then translated into our live database environment where further checking is undertaken.

In addition we are required to update information, reference and policy documents and provide additional information in Annual Business Plans and summary documents explaining any changes to ratepayers. This then results in a considerable number of enquiries and complaints in the initial year or two following implementation.

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Things that are working well

Water Sensitive Design (WSUD)

The AMLR NRM Board has been very responsive to our requests for support for WSUD planning and onground works. The technical advice from NRM officers specific to a site or planned project has been particularly useful.

There is an ongoing need for capacity building in local government in green infrastructure and it is recommended that state government financial support continue for Water Sensitive SA and for co- funding onground works that progress design, construction and maintenance knowledge in this field.

Technical advice and support

Feral plant and animal control via the Willunga NRM office.

The availability of staff to visit weed infestations in the field and advise on management is critical to the aims of the current Act. The City of Onkaparinga supports the aim of the reform in increasing access to this landholder advice but would stress that resources must extend to the coordination of cross boundary pest plant and animal control efforts.

Development referrals and informal advice

It is important that the Landscape SA Act continue to integrate with the Development Act and its replacement Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, to enable referrals for developments that need a permit such as water affecting activities and water allocations. We have found this to be an efficient process, and do not consider it to be unnecessary 'red tape'.

Our development staff also find the informal assistance and advice from NRM staff valuable in relation to land and water management and compliance issues e.g. horse keeping, land degradation and watercourse pollution.

NRM Education Program

The City of Onkaparinga (three staff) and City of Marion (one staff) have hosted the Southern NRM Education team since 2011 under a cost neutral program that is governed by three year service agreements.

This program continues to make a positive and dynamic contribution to our school and wider communities which we see as an extension of the work councils do to promote environmental stewardship in local communities.

In 2017, The Southern NRM team engaged with 66 schools and preschools on their sustainability goals across southern Adelaide and the Fleurieu, working with nearly 1000 teachers and 800 students.

There are several value-adds for Council that have built capacity and outreach for different departments within Council, including our Community Capacity team, Sustainability team and Nature Conservation programs.

The NRM Education program works across four key programs - The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, Engaging with Nature program, Families and Communities (building linkages to the wider community), Youth Action and the Youth Environment Council.

The City of Onkaparinga as the host organisation negotiates 'value added activities' that are specific to our council area. These have included the delivery of community workshops for the Sustainable Onkaparinga program such as "Discover Nature by Night" and "Beachcombing" and involvement in events such as Reconciliation Week in Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre.

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We have also worked collaboratively on the following partnership projects that have the potential to be implemented in other regions.

Our Big Backyard is an award winning project aimed at parents and carers and in particular - isolated and vulnerable groups. It worked with the community to identify places of interest in their neighbourhood and created activity sheets such as *50 things to do before you are 12 in Aldinga & Sellicks*.

The project developed an awareness of place, community identity and environmental stewardship for those new to the region and is now available as a model for other communities to initiate in their area.





Climate Ready Schools is in in its pilot phase and is a collaboration between the City of Onkaparinga and NRM Education. Adapting to climate change provides an opportunity for schools to introduce complex real world problem based learning into their Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) programs, involving students working in teams to develop adaptation solutions to climate change issues that can be implemented in the school as part of a site Climate Ready Plan.

Teachers and student leaders from Tatachilla Lutheran College, Southern Montessori, Hackham East and Aldinga Primary Schools are currently being supported through professional development to better understand climate change adaptation so they can support a wider group of students in their classroom to identify the questions themselves and explore the answers through an inquiry or problem solving approach.

The aim is that this is the first step in an adaptation planning process that can be integrated into the school curriculum to provide learning opportunities for students, professional development for teachers, and a clear course of action that schools can take in order to harness opportunities arising from climate change and protect themselves from risks.

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Nature Education or Education in Sustainability?

'Nature Education' is listed in the Discussion Paper as one of the seven priorities of Green Adelaide.

It is not clear what is meant by this but we do hope that the emphasis remains on *embedding sustainability* into schools and learning via the curriculum. We also want to see the continuation of successful capacity building programs such as the Youth Environment Council and the Youth Environment and Learning Program which are supporting our young people to become leaders in their community and advocates for sustainability in their life beyond school.

It is also vital to ensure broader community nature education opportunities are supported which include hands-on activities and nature experiences which are accessible to everyone. This can be achieved through supporting partnerships and programs with councils and non-government organisations.

Willunga Environment Centre

The City of Onkaparinga is partnering with the Willunga Environment Centre on a number of initiatives such as community workshops and events and on a forthcoming Citizen Science project in which Seed Consulting will teach participants to measure the ecosystem services of local Willunga trees using the I-Tree Eco tool.

Natural resource management centres provide a hub for the community to congregate, learn and galvanise around environmental goals, and it is hard to imagine Willunga without it. The Centre attracted 680 workshop attendees in the past year – an indicator of its success as it services this active community in a very tangible way, and provides a base from which community ideas grow.

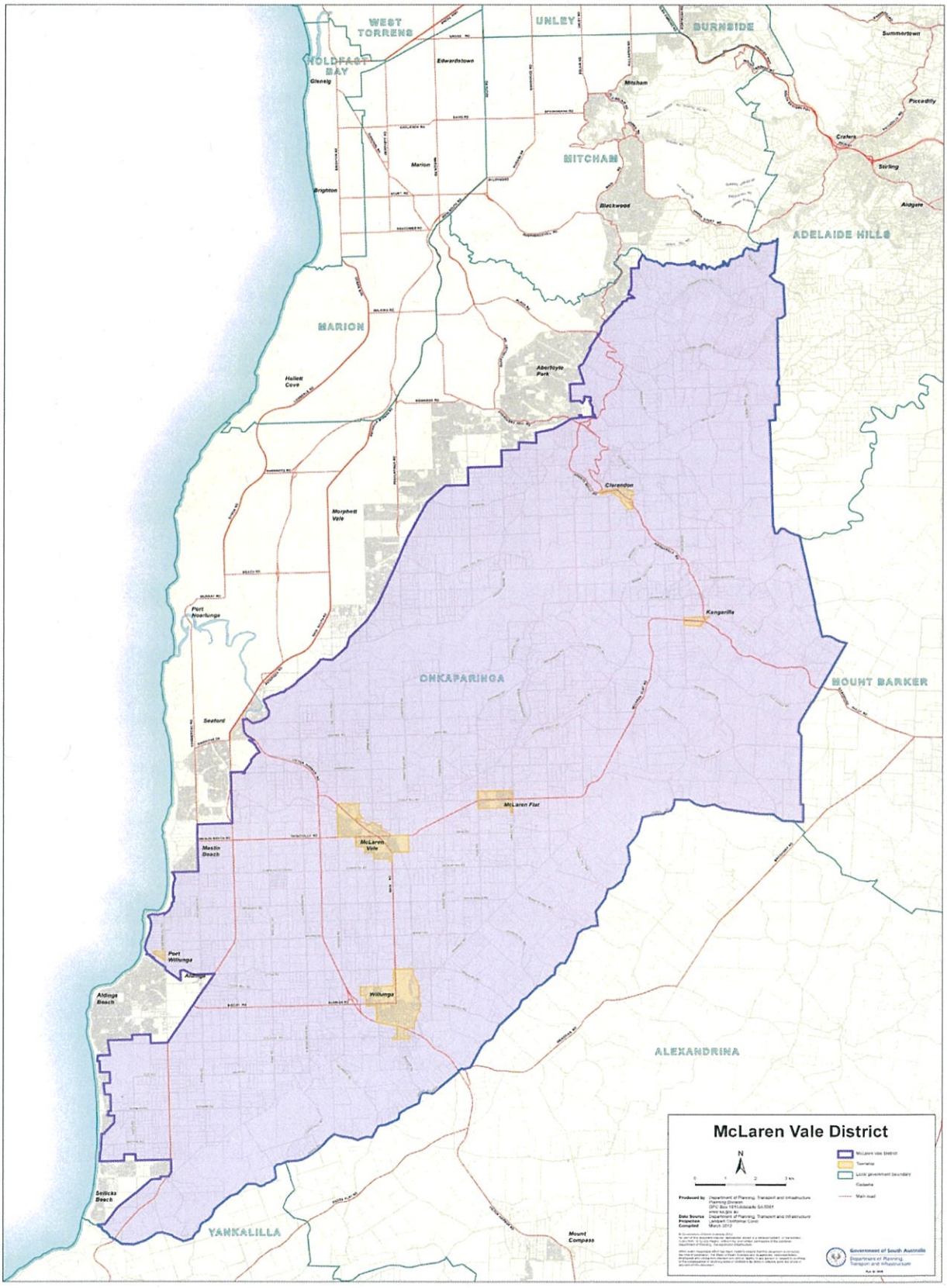
It is critical that the state government continue to fund the Willunga Environment Centre in support of these positive outcomes.

Contact
For any queries about this submission please contact
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Jenni.McGlennon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

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Appendix 1

City of Onkaparinga: McLaren Vale District – propose Hills & Fleurieu, remaining urban area to the west - Green Adelaide.



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City of **West Torrens**
Between the **City and the Sea**

17 October 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

landscapereform@sa.gov.au

To the Landscape Reform Team

Re: Draft Landscape Reform Consultation

At its meeting on 16 October 2018, Council considered a report and feedback regarding the Draft Landscape Reform and resolved:

1. The proposed feedback contained in this report be approved and submitted to the Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform as Council's response to its request for feedback on the proposed Landscape South Australia reform.

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve any minor additions or changes of an editorial nature required prior to final submission.

Please refer to the attached Council Report and Consultation Response for details of Council's feedback.

Should you require further information, please contact Sue Curran, Manager Strategy and Business on 8416 6326.

Yours sincerely

Terry Buss

Terry Buss PSM
Chief Executive Officer
City of West Torrens

Att:
Council Report
Feedback on the South Australian Landscape Reform

Printed on Envi Recycled, 50/50 which is certified Carbon Neutral and Australian Made.

Feedback on Landscape Reform

The following feedback from the City of West Torrens (Council) is provided on the Discussion Paper 'Managing our Landscapes' to the Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform.

Response

Note **-**although the boundaries of Green Adelaide have not yet been defined, it is assumed that it will include the area of the City of West Torrens.

The Discussion Paper on Green Adelaide is currently being prepared by the State Government and therefore the City of West Torrens can only provide responses on the limited information currently available. Council expects to be given opportunity to comment on the Green Adelaide Discussion Paper when it is publicly released.

In the meantime, the following feedback on the Discussion Paper 'Managing our Landscapes' is provided below.

Legislation
Details about what is staying and what is going from the NRM Act into the new Act is currently not described. This information would be useful in understanding potential implications and/or benefits.

How will the new Landscape SA Act interact with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act?

Landscape Boards

Membership of Landscape Boards

It is proposed that Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water, however the nine Landscape Boards also include community elected members.

- Why doesn't Green Adelaide include community elected members? Council supports the inclusion of community representation on the Green Adelaide Board.
- What appointment criteria will Board members need to meet, particularly to ensure members bring local knowledge and skills?
- What will be the term of each Board?

The proposal is that community members may be elected through a voting process similar to other electoral processes which would require a significant amount of time and money to undertake. Assuming that this process is funded by each Landscape Board, it has the potential to have a significant impact on the Board's budget. In terms of the community elected members, will there be a requirement for them to have any experience or skills relevant to the role or will it be up to the individual Boards to determine their requirements?

Priorities for Green Adelaide

The Discussion Paper outlines 7 priorities for Green Adelaide. These are vague. Instead, a set of objectives and desired outcomes are required for each, as well as assigning roles and responsibilities for Green Adelaide.

1. *Coastal management* - what will be Green Adelaide's responsibilities for coastal management compared to the existing agencies currently involved?

2. *Urban rivers and wetlands* - urban rivers and wetlands in metropolitan Adelaide are cared for by a range of authorities, such as local councils, SA Water, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty NRM Board, etc. What will Green Adelaide's role be?

Funding from the NRM Board through the River Torrens Recovery Project has been fundamental in assisting Council with riverine activities such as weed removal, revegetation and community projects. The NRM Board has also made significant contribution to projects such as Breakout Creek (Stages 1 and 2). Will this funding still be available under the new model?

The strategic overview of the broader urban river network is fundamental to engage the different stakeholders such as councils and private land holders further upstream. If there is not a coordinated response for the whole system, then local efforts will not be as effective in relation to the management of water quality, pest plant and animal species, revegetation and biodiversity corridors.

3. *Water sensitive design* - Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is mostly designed and installed by local councils in their streetscapes, with capacity building undertaken by Water Sensitive SA and some funding available from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). What will Green Adelaide's role be in WSUD?

4. *Green streets and flourishing parklands* - 'Green streets' is one of the seven priorities listed for Green Adelaide, and is supported by Council.

How can any Adelaide's ecology be maintained or improved when infill development policies are resulting in the removal of green cover on private properties and on public council land, such as street verges?

The City of West Torrens is undergoing much change through population changes, housing infill and loss of greening. How will Green Adelaide achieve its priority of creating 'green streets' in this council area?

Green cover such as trees plays an important role in the health of the community and natural environment. The loss of trees can have detrimental impacts on the long-term physical and mental health of the community, economic prosperity and resilience to climate change.

Urban infill development is often undertaken by clearing the land parcel of all its vegetation, then building in a manner that provides little or no space for replacement of greening. It also often results in the loss of street trees to make way for more driveways. The loss of greening is disconnecting biodiversity corridors which are needed for healthy ecosystems. Legislation to protect significant trees is not strong enough in the face of urban development aspirations. What mechanism will Green Adelaide provide to assist in protecting existing trees and in adding more trees to streets?

New developments are not being designed to support urban biodiversity or to maintain tree canopy cover. Private gardens are being replaced with more hard surfaces, resulting in higher average surface temperatures, known as the urban heat island effect. This places people at risk of heat exposure (and other impacts), and this situation is likely to be exacerbated in the future as the impacts of climate change are felt.

The City of West Torrens is seeking ways to increase green cover along streets and in its parks, such as through water sensitive urban design and increasing plantings, however more

assistance is needed to protect street trees and to maintain green cover on private properties. What role will Green Adelaide play in protecting and improving green cover? What is meant by 'flourishing' parklands and how will Green Adelaide achieve this priority? It all sounds nice but what targets or measurements are in place to articulate outcomes against this?

5. *Fauna in the city* - what is meant by fauna in the city? What is the objective for this and how will Green Adelaide achieve it?

6. *Controlling pest plants and animals* - Funding is provided to councils to assist with the management of pest species. Will this funding continue in its current form (in partnership with councils) or will current arrangements be impacted by the new structure?

7. *Nature education* - What is meant by this term? Is it consistent with current NRM type education offered? A continued focus on 'sustainability' education and hands on activities for school and community programs is supported.

It is mentioned that Green Adelaide "could" have a strategic and influencing role. Council questions the use of the term "could" as it would expect Green Adelaide to have that role. Is that not that what Green Adelaide has been created for?

It is anticipated that these issues may be addressed in the yet to be released discussion paper on Green Adelaide.

Landscape Plans and a Green Adelaide Plan

The discussion paper states that the current NRM plans are all unique with few requirements for consistency making it difficult to compare and to provide consistent oversight. Council supports a simplified plan structure proposed but questions the reporting and evaluation process which allows each region to reflect their community requirements for reporting. How does this maintain the consistency desired to allow overall management of the state landscape?

The paper states that some of the on-ground delivery would be outsourced to the private sector and local councils. How will this process work? Will councils be required to apply for funding from the Landscape Board to undertake works or will this be tendered? More information is required to understand how the new Board would outsource on-ground works to councils, and what kind of activities this may include.

The City of West Torrens supports opportunities to partner with Green Adelaide but more detail is needed to understand what kind of opportunities will be offered by Green Adelaide to councils.

Developing partnerships with the community (individuals and organisations) has always been a valuable outcome of NRM. The Discussion Paper identifies an opportunity for local councils to apply to undertake some of the work. More detail is required to understand this more fully.

The City of West Torrens greatly values the grants and other funding programs offered by the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, such as climate adaptation, River Torrens recovery, etc. Will funding from Green Adelaide continue to fund current programs?

Improving the Levy System

The Discussion paper states that Green Adelaide will raise levies in a similar way to new Landscape Boards, i.e. via council rates. More detail about the collection and spending of levies is required in order to provide comment.

The Discussion paper outlines that all levies collected in a region are spent in that region – except for a percentage of all levies collected each year from some or all Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide that would contribute to a Grassroots Grants program and a Landscape Priorities Fund. What portion of the levy will be required to contribute to this, or how will the contribution required from each area be calculated? Why would the levy not be collected from all areas?

Council supports the intent to offer greater transparency in the distribution of the levy and investment across the City of West Torrens.

The new reform aims to reduce red tape; however the new Landscape SA Bill will establish a regulator to oversee a cap on levy increases. This seems to be contradictory to intention to reduce red tape and administration.

The paper states that the levy will continue to be collected in the most cost effective method - by local councils as part of council rates. How was it determined that this is the most cost effective method of collection? It may be the most cost effective for State Government but represents an administrative cost to councils which is not recognised by any contribution from State Government and perception among some community members is that it is a council imposed charge. Council does not support the continued collection of levies through Council rates.

Cross Regional and Statewide Coordination

Council agrees that there is a level of cross regional and statewide coordination required to ensure a consistent approach to issues affecting more than one region. Experience shows that gaining cooperation from such a large, diverse group may be difficult and so any cross regional or statewide coordination would need to be driven in accordance with State plans and planning legislation.

Grassroots Grant Program

It is unclear how all Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide would co-administer the grants program. Is it intended that the $2 million is one bucket of funds and if so, would grants be available on a first come first serve basis until the money is spent? Is it intended that there is one body which evaluates grant applications which is made up of representatives of each Landscape Board and Green Adelaide?

The idea of the new Landscape Management framework is to empower local communities. Grant management would require some level of local knowledge to ensure that grant funds were allocated to projects that were community priorities and therefore, there may need to be a step in between where the grant applications are validated by the Landscape Board for the region prior to being submitted to the Grassroots Grant program.

Language/ Terminology used in the Discussion Paper

Less jargon is required, while more detail is needed to better understand the Landscape reform. For example, one of the key aims of Green Adelaide is to be the most 'ecologically

vibrant' city in the world. What is meant by the term 'vibrant' and how will this be monitored or benchmarked? How are metropolitan councils expected to help achieve this aim?

The Discussion Paper includes 'Nature Education' as one of the seven priorities of Green Adelaide. It is not clear what is meant by this terminology; however a continued focus on 'sustainability' education and hands on activities for school and community programs is supported.

Is it outlined that a key achievement is "ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change". What is meant by change in this context - is it climate, urban development? What specific mechanisms will be put in place to achieve this?

What is meant by 'sustainable economy'? Responsibility for achieving this is not a role for the Landscape SA Act. Rather, a stronger focus and linkages with climate change adaptation should be stated so that we build capacity for the community to become more resilient to the potential impacts of climate change.

The Discussion Paper provides an overview of Compliance. What is meant by 'effective compliance'? Who and how will monitoring and compliance be undertaken, particularly as less money is going to be spent on administration by the Boards?

The section on water management only refers to administrative considerations around water licenses and water affecting activities. It should also incorporate consideration for water quality.

The Discussion Paper includes a series of questions to prompt community feedback. Council's responses to these are provided in the table below:

MANAGING OUR LANDSCAPES - Landscape Reform	
Questions in the Discussion Paper	***Council Response***
Question 1 - What is most important to you in managing natural resources?	Acknowledge that natural resources boundaries and issues spread across Board boundaries and so cooperation between Boards and other Government agencies is vital. It's important to have a set of clearly stated objectives and mechanisms to achieve such objectives.
Question 2 - What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?	Current arrangements in working closely with local government to provide support, funding to undertake weed control and revegetation projects.
Question 3 - What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?	Management of natural resources needs to address the loss of urban vegetation on private and public land.
Question 4 - How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?	It is important that efforts are undertaken to work with and listen to the impacted communities, and provide the required resources to effectively manage their land.
Question 5 - How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?	Communicate and work directly with Aboriginal peoples' regarding how to address this. Consider opportunities to include Aboriginal people on each of the Landscape Boards.
Question 6 - How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?	Listen to the communities by holding frequent opportunities to discuss issues. Develop solutions with local communities to gain their understanding, support and cooperation.
Question 7 - What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?	Develop clear criteria to guide the appointment of members. The Board membership must include a strong knowledge of ecology, land management and climate change.
Question 8 - How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?	Need to acknowledge the likely impacts of climate change, such as the effect of higher temperatures and lower rainfall on urban vegetation and therefore on habitat. Need to identify strategies to maintain existing ecological values and methods

	aimed at improving such values. Contribute funding to councils for the planting and maintenance of more green cover throughout the suburbs. Without green cover it's hard to maintain healthy ecosystems! Provide an effective mechanism that councils can use to protect and maintain existing green cover. Provide funding to councils to assist in the planting and maintenance of more street trees. More trees will result in more habitats for a range of wildlife. Trees will also provide shading and cooling, improve suburb character and 'sense of place', higher real estate values, greater opportunity for neighbourhood interactions and improve the community health and well-being. Work with State and Local Government to identify biodiversity corridors and develop strategies together to maintain and improve these. Work with State Government and Local Government to require a minimum pervious garden area for new developments, including minimum tree canopy coverage for each allotment. This would help reduce the urban heat island effect by offering shade and water retention through soils (lowering surface temperatures), improved stormwater management and quality, and strengthen biodiversity corridors across the region.
Question 9 - How can regional planning be streamlined?	-
Question 10 - How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?	Utilise less "buzz words" and "jargon", and remove overtly bureaucratic documentation.
Question 11 - How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?	Clearly define the objectives and actions for each issue. If the issue spreads across Board boundaries then the relevant Boards need to develop the objectives and actions together (with their communities) and ensure their plans reflect a coordinated

	approach.
Question 12 - How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?	It is important that the levy collection and expenditure system is open and transparent.
Question 13 - How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?	Ensure capital and maintenance costs are clearly identified, and then allocate funding accordingly. Maintain ongoing works to ensure desired outcomes are maintained.
Question 14 - How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?	Very important. For example, in the case of the River Torrens, the City of West Torrens receives water from upstream, which can impact water quality as well as pest plant species that are washed downstream. Furthermore, working across the Landscape Boards and Greening Adelaide will allow for biodiversity corridors to be developed and other cross-boundary initiatives which encourage connectivity.
Question 15 - How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?	Provide adequate promotion, and ensure clear communication with all relevant stakeholders through each stage of the program.
Question 16 - What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?	It is important that each Board clearly outline, and spatially define, its pest and animal control issues. Each Board is likely to have different issues that require different actions and priorities.
Question 17 - Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?	Legislation should include a focus on improving water quality as this is currently not adequately covered. The Bill could be improved through requiring better stormwater management and installation of WSUD features to achieve better water quality.
Question 18 - What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?	-
Question 19 - What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?	How is this question relevant for the metropolitan Adelaide area? Metropolitan Adelaide needs legislation that aims to provide effective protection of street trees and to introduce minimum pervious garden areas for new developments on private property.
Question 20 - What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?	Integrate the new Landscape SA Act with the PDI Act to share objectives and outcomes for the management of natural resources in urban areas and in the

	regions. Require a minimum pervious garden area and tree canopy coverage for new developments.
Question 21 - How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?	Identify the likely compliance issues and ensure sufficient resources are allocated to manage such issues. This may include an awareness raising program to better inform the community of expectations and compliance issues. Ensure the timing of compliance is undertaken to suit the nature of the offence.

11.2 Proposed Feedback on Landscape Reform

Brief

This report presents proposed feedback on the Landscape South Australia reform to the Minister for Environment and Water, via the Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to Council that:

1. The proposed feedback contained in this report be approved and submitted to the Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform as Council's response to its request for feedback on the proposed Landscape South Australia reform.

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve any minor additions or changes of an editorial nature required prior to final submission.

Introduction

The South Australian government plans to introduce the *Landscape South Australia Act* into Parliament in early 2019, replacing the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The Landscape reform includes the creation of nine new Landscape Boards for regional SA as well as Green Adelaide for metropolitan Adelaide. These are intended to replace the existing Natural Resource Management Boards. Although the boundaries of Green Adelaide have not yet been defined, it is likely that it will include the area of the City of West Torrens.

Discussion

A discussion paper 'Managing our Landscapes' (Paper) has been prepared by the State Government to outline the landscape reform and to seek community feedback **(Attachment 1)**. However, a summary of key points is provided below.

The Paper states that landscape reform aims to achieve:

- Vibrant biodiversity - Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change.
- Sustainable economy - Prosperous businesses now and in the future, able to adapt as the economy and primary industries transform over time.
- Resilient communities - Capable local people and groups leading stewardship of their natural environment, contributing to strong social networks that can cope with changing environments.

A set of guiding principles have been developed for the reform, including:

- Decentralised decision making;
- A simple and accessible system;
- Community and land owners at the centre;
- A whole of landscape approach; and
- Back to basics.

A number of changes to the levy system are proposed to:

- Help to reduce cost of living pressures for South Australians
- Improve fairness of levies across and within regions
- Make levy expenditure transparent to the community
- Improve effectiveness in delivering sustainable landscapes.

Proposed changes to the levy system could include:

- Capping annual land and/or water levy increases at a rate set by an independent regulator with regular reviews, or could be set according to the CPI.
- Providing a more consistent basis for land and water levies both within and across regions, while retaining some flexibility for regional differences.
- Ensuring that all levies collected in a region are spent in that region – except for a percentage of all levies collected each year from some or all Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide

Levies will continue to be collected via council rates. A publicly available budget will be prepared by the boards outlining how levies will be spent in the forthcoming financial year as well as an end-of-financial-year report documenting actual expenditure.

The Minister for Environment and Water will remain responsible for overall direction of natural resources management in South Australia and for administering the Act, with powers of delegation. The Department for Environment and Water and other State agencies will continue to support the Minister in developing policy and contributing to statewide strategy, coordination, reporting and other initiatives on managing natural resources as required by the Minister.

The legislative reform will focus on practical programs and on-ground works delivered within existing resources.

Key issues most relevant to the City of West Torrens will be outlined in the Green Adelaide Discussion Paper (to be released in the near future). Some information about Green Adelaide is provided in the current Paper and is summarised below:

- Green Adelaide will be created to deliver natural resources management functions in metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on enhancing the city's urban ecology and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing.
- Green Adelaide will work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world.
- Green Adelaide will replace a portion of the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board area, with the remainder of this NRM area becoming part of two new Landscape Boards serving the Hills and Fleurieu region and the Plains and Valleys region.
- Green Adelaide will have an expert Board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. It will focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment, and work to ensure there is a clear understanding of how and where levies are spent.
- Green Adelaide will focus on seven key priorities:
    - Coastal management;
    - Urban rivers and wetlands;
    - Water sensitive urban design;
    - Green streets and flourishing parklands;
    - Fauna in the city;
    - Controlling pest plants and animals; and
    - Nature education.
- Green Adelaide will co-administer the $2 million Grassroots Grants fund to support environmental groups and not for profits deliver on-ground projects.

Proposed feedback to State Government

The most relevant Board for the City of West Torrens is Green Adelaide. A Discussion Paper on Green Adelaide is currently being prepared by the State Government. It is expected that Council will be given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on that discussion paper when it is publicly released.

Notwithstanding this, proposed feedback from the City of West Torrens on the Landscape reform (the Discussion Paper 'Managing our Landscapes') is provided in **Attachment 2**.

Conclusion

This report presents an overview of the proposed Landscape SA reform which has been released for public comment by the South Australian Government. It proposes feedback on the reform from Council for its consideration, approval and submission.

Attachments

1. **Discussion Paper 'Managing our Landscapes'**
2. **Proposed Feedback on Landscape Reform**

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D18/45409

15 October 2018

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Managing Our Landscapes Conversations for Change – Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the reforms to the natural resources management system via the 'Managing Our Landscapes Conversations for Change' Discussion Paper.

The central focus for natural resource management in Adelaide Plains Council (APC) is currently our coastline. APC's coastline is a place of high environmental significance that provides important habitat for migratory shorebirds, fish and reptiles and is also an important social and recreational venue for both residents and tourists alike, particularly through the new Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park.

In recognition of the importance of this environmental asset, APC hosts a Coastal Conservation Officer in partnership with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) board who is responsible for the management of our coastline in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and community groups in the region. APC is keen to ensure that a similar partnership and hosting arrangement is maintained following the reforms.

Following the recent expansion and proposed intensification of Council's horticulture area, APC is keen to ensure that soil health and water quality are maintained so that opportunities that arise as a result of the land use changes and the proposed Northern Adelaide Irrigation System (NAIS) pipeline can be fully realised and provide ongoing business and employment opportunities for our residents.

River health is also a key issue for APC's natural resource management, with both the Gawler and Light Rivers dissecting the Council area. With the flood risks associated with both river systems, the importance of having a clean river system free of weeds, feral animals and pollutants upstream cannot be underestimated for both Council and our residents.

In relation to the key reforms proposed in the Discussion Paper, APC makes the following comments:-

Question 1

What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

APC considers collaborative approaches with a range of land holders and land managers across a large landscape to be central to managing natural resources, together with adequate funding and resources in order to deliver tangible outcomes. Good long term planning is important to ensure that the priorities are correct and maintained over an extended period.

Successful coastal management requires landscape scale linear management and is a key feature that is missing from the discussion paper. The importance of proper coastal management cannot be underestimated when assessing not only environmental value but also the social and economic value that an area can have.

APC agrees with soils, water and pest plant and animal control being at the centre of the new Landscape Boards' priorities, with additional conservation and stewardship concerns such as the restoration of flora and fauna also being key in supporting the baseline components of natural resources management.

Question 2

What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

APC believe that the following aspects of natural resources management are currently working well:-

- implementation of on-ground works to improve soil, water and pest plant and animal control as well as ongoing conservation efforts;
- local community engagement;
- capacity building of stakeholders and community; and
- the holistic management of marine and coastal areas conducted by APC's hosted Coastal Conservation Officer in conjunction with other departmental staff.

Question 3

What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

APC considers that changes are needed to the organisational structure of NRM Boards (soon to be Landscape Boards) and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) in order to better manage natural resources. These would include simplifying the structure of the Boards and providing a clear definition of the Boards' objectives, separate from the objectives of DEW to allow for greater autonomy of the Boards and reduce potential conflicts of interest. However, collaboration should still be encouraged and enabled between the organisations.

APC would also like the new Landscape South Australia Bill to facilitate the ability to undertake proactive maintenance of private levee banks so as to mitigate flood inundation.

Question 4

How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

Adequate funding and resources, together with cross-sector collaboration and an integrated approach to project management will be critical to enabling successful landscape scale restoration projects.

The proposed landscape priority fund would ensure that larger projects could be adequately funded and provide a good basis to leverage funding from non levy sources. APC has some concerns that splitting the current Adelaide NRM Board into 3 different Landscape Boards will increase the administrative burden for staff in developing and planning for larger, cross boundary projects. There is also a risk of creating different department silos within the metropolitan and Greater Adelaide regions.

A way to overcome these risks could be the placement of Council hosted NRM (Landscape Board staff) working across council boundaries to deliver on-ground projects. These staff would have support from a centralised project manager or team and liaise regularly with staff undertaking similar roles in adjoining areas. An example of this type of management structure can be found in the current Adelaide based Seascapes Program or the NRM Education Program.

Question 5

How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

APC is supportive of recognising and promoting Aboriginal peoples' interest across the region. Direct consultation and engagement with relevant Aboriginal groups is key to understanding their thoughts on how this can best be achieved.

Question 6

How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Utilising existing action planning documents and developing new action planning documents with clear outcomes should be the basis for allocating resources to projects.

Once key targets and outcomes have been identified, collaborative work plans between land holders/owners and stakeholders will be the best method of facilitating natural resources management. The current Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board facilitates the management of natural resources across APC's communities through the hosting of a Coastal

Conservation Officer. APC supports the continued funding and hosting arrangements of this position through the new Landscape Boards as well as adequate funding for on-ground works programs to support the community in protecting and conserving their natural environmental assets along the coastline.

Collaborative working both between Landscape Boards and with external stakeholders and their communities will allow for an integrated approach to the management of natural resources. To this end, APC considers that the new Plains and Valleys Landscape Board would benefit from having representation on the Gawler River Floodplain Management Board to help ensure a cross-sector approach to the mitigation of flood inundation from the Gawler River.

Question 7

What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

An application process based on skills, knowledge and ability to network with the local community should form the basis to elect the community members to the new Landscape Boards. To ensure that the community members bring an independence and impartiality to the Boards, the assessment of these board members should be undertaken by an independent party to ensure appointments are maintained at 'arms length from government' and truly represent community and not just lobbying bodies.

Question 8

How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

APC acknowledges that it will not be included within the new Green Adelaide boundaries as the Council area is more likely to fall within the new Plains and Valleys Landscape Board boundaries. However, those who reside in the proposed Green Adelaide area will benefit from what APC and other regional areas have to offer and impact both positively and negatively on our local natural resources. With this in mind, APC anticipates mutually beneficial cross-boundary collaboration to ensure that Adelaide residents are ecologically aware both at home and when travelling throughout South Australia.

The northern Councils are considered to be peri-urban in nature and are keen to support work which will help Adelaide and Greater Adelaide become ecologically vibrant on a global scale. Green Adelaide's seven priorities (coastal management; urban rivers and wetlands; water sensitive design; green streets and flourishing parks; fauna in townships; controlling pest plants and animals; and, nature education) are also aspirational priorities to APC and Council would like the opportunity to work collaboratively with Green Adelaide to enable the expansion of their forward ecological thinking into Greater Adelaide.

Question 9

How can regional planning be streamlined?

APC considers that all NRM regions are unique in respect of both their landscapes and the natural resources management concerns of their communities. As a consequence, comparing NRM regions with one another is not necessarily a valid assessment tool for regulators to use.

However, the streamlining of management structures and administrative processes, including reporting methods, will ensure a level of consistency and transparency across NRM regions with regards to their function. It is important to ensure a level of flexibility in such procedures to ensure that the new Landscape Boards have the capacity to respond to unique regional circumstances.

Previous NRM Plans include a lot of scientific knowledge which supports the priorities for different sub regions and NRM areas. Utilising this existing knowledge should help to quickly identify the 5 priorities for each region. The 5 priorities need to be long term aspirations which set the direction for investment over a 10 year period or more. Shorter term plans will still be required to assist with targeting on-ground priorities and assist in providing measureable outcomes that the community can see.

APC is supportive of streamlined strategic planning but also recognise the need for good local planning to ensure investment in natural resource management is well targeted and prioritised.

Question 10

How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

More consistency in the format and terminology of regional plans and written with the intended audience in mind will help improve the accessibility of the plans for the community. Strong engagement and consultation during the preparation of plans will assist with 'buy-in' from other relevant organisations as well as the community.

Regional plans are currently accessible to the community via NRM region websites and should continue to be accessible to the community via this method, with hard copies available as required. Short summary action plans and fact sheets on the priorities of the NRM regions will help ensure the key information from regional plans is easily accessible and understood by the community.

Question 11

How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Setting up clear goals and actions prior to the implementation of a project is critical. In relation to tracking progress, natural resource management is a long term process and reporting over the short term is difficult in real results. However, a high level project roadmap which sets out the project's long term objectives and deliverables, together with short term action plans should help to maintain the project's direction and identify new issues as they arise.

The reporting and evaluation of landscape scale projects also needs to be transparent and consistent across all projects. This will allow community members to understand and interpret the progress of all projects in achieving their outcomes in the region. The reporting and evaluation of progress and outcomes needs to be easily accessible to the community.

Question 12

How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

APC considers that is it important to be transparent around how land and water levies are raised but understands that the levy is calculated based on the capital value of land or the allocation and use of water by licensed water users and distributed accordingly across each region.

It is important to continue to ensure that these levies are shared across the region, and in Green Adelaide's case, across the state, as natural resources do not follow Local Government, Regional or even State boundaries. It would be disappointing to see highly valued natural resources degraded or lost because they have a low levy base collection.

Moreover, reporting on levy spending to Councils' by the Boards' is essential in ensuring the community can understand the benefits to the management of natural resources the levy is having. This should be broken down into what proportion of the levy is spent on what natural resource and the specific outcomes and achievements in Local Government areas to further ensure accountability of the Boards to the community.

Question 13

How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

APC considers that if a landscape scale project is a high priority, it should be identified in regional action plans and that Landscape Boards should fund projects appropriately against their priority status. Furthermore, additional funding streams should be considered for

endangered or threatened flora and fauna species and coastal regions as they are the front line defence to climate change for South Australia.

Question 14

How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

NRM Boards currently work cross-regionally and state-wide to coordinate an approach on whole landscape management issues through MOUs and shared work plans and APC considers that this process should continue for effective natural resource management.

APC supports in principle the establishment of a state-wide Landscape Priorities Fund to which all Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide contribute a portion of levy funds raised. This would allow for state-wide priorities that cannot be adequately address by it's regional Landscape Boards due to lack of levy raised or resource capacity.

It is important to determine appropriate boundaries for Landscape Boards. APC considers that it should be included within the Plains and Valleys Landscape Board together with Light Regional Council, Barossa Council, Town of Gawler, City of Playford and City of Salisbury. The reasoning for this selection is firstly due to these Local Government areas all being considered as peri-urban areas, which have different NRM issues to those of metropolitan Local Government areas. Secondly, the above Local Government areas are situated within one landscape region or water catchment, which can be more effectively managed together if covered by one regional Landscape Board.

Question 15

How could a Grassroots Grant program best work?

APC supports the election commitment to establish a Grassroots Grant program (in addition to existing grants programs) as this will allow for further stewardship by community in the protection and conservation of natural resources. APC considers that the NRM Board's current Grants systems work adequately in making funds available to communities and should continue to operate in a similar manner, with inclusion of this additional funding from the Grassroots Grant program.

Question 16

What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

APC considers that the existing NRM Act has suitable Regulations that deal with pest plant and animal control, water management and soil quality and these should be carried forward in the new Landscape SA legislation.

If the priorities set out in the reforms are going to be delivered with existing resources, APC would like to see continued collaborative approaches by landholders facilitated by DEW staff and increased compliance provision and penalties to be made to allow enforcement of the legislation.

Question 17

Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

APC has no comment to make in relation to this question.

Question 18

What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

APC supports in principle state-wide water reform processes, with water allocation to be transparent in its decision making and take into account environmental impacts to landscapes in its decision making. In addition, APC supports greater protection for security interests in relation to water licences for landholders as well as for the environment.

Question 19

What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

APC considers that new legislation should enable and encourage agricultural production systems to be flexible in order to respond to climate change and varying seasonal rainfalls. New farming systems that incorporate perennial and annual crops; rotational crop and paddock management to ensure soil quality; and, general conservation efforts, will allow for better management of impending climate changes effects.

Question 20

What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

Engaging with stakeholders and communities within regions is key to improving the stewardship of landscapes. The new legislation should include incentives for community engagement that will allow for a better managed landscape by stewards. This will in turn create an increased sense of ownership by the community. This will need to be adequately supported and resourced to ensure the development and growth of capacity building in the region.

Question 21

How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

APC considers that for the new legislation to enable effective compliance, it should increase compliance provisions and penalties to ensure action taken against non-compliance will discourage further breaches of the legislation. Furthermore, adequate funds and resources will be necessary to ensure consistent and rigorous enforcement of the legislation can occur.

Should you require any further information from Council or have any queries regarding this consultation submission, please contact Rob Veitch, General Manager – Development and Community on (08) 8527 0200 or info@apc.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

James Miller
Chief Executive Officer

[redacted]

Rec'd	19 OCT 2018
Reg. No.	
File No.	
Ack.	
Action Officers	/
Response due	

From: Dominic Testoni <eo@lclga.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 October, 2018 3:49 PM
To: DEW:Minister Speirs
Cc: Mae Steele; Mayor Erika Vickery
Subject: Landscapes SA
Attachments: 20181012_Landscapes SA.docx

Minister Speirs,

Good afternoon, further to the request for feedback on amendments to the way in which the State deals with Natural Resource Management, at a recent meeting of the LCLGA Board members discussed several issues that they wished to convey directly to you. The attached letter outlines these concerns.

If you would like to discuss these further please do not hesitate to contact myself or LCLGA President Mayor Erika Vickery.

Regards,

Dominic Testoni | Executive Officer
Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Level 1, 9 Bay Road | Mount Gambier SA 5290

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the LIMESTONE COAST unearth our treasures

1116

LCLGA
Limestone Coast
Local Government
Association

12h October 2018

The Hon. David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister Speirs,

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) is formed of the seven Local Government Councils in the Limestone Coast, and leads coordination and advocacy for Local Government in the region. The Association which represents the City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant, Wattle Range Council, Naracoorte Lucindale Council, Kingston District Council, District Council of Robe and Tatiara District Council is active on a number of regional issues and works in partnership with other regional organisations to deliver benefits for the Limestone Coast economy and communities. We currently represent a population base of more than 65,000 residents.

I write this letter on behalf of our member Councils' in response to your governments desire to reform natural resource management in South Australia. Many of our members have taken the opportunity to engage directly with the consultants in the forums that have been held in Bordertown and Mount Gambier. Having said this, at our Board meeting held in Bordertown on the 12th October, members expressed a need to write directly to you highlighting some specific issues, that we as a region, feel need to be addressed.

We applaud the Liberal Government for committing to address the way in which natural resource management is undertaken across the State. Your commitment and statement of intent to issue instructions to repeal the Natural Resources Management Act as part of your 100 Day Plan has been widely supported in our region. Whilst it has been a topic of great discussion and debate for some time we acknowledge that it is a complex issue that needs a community lead solution.

It is widely agreed that the current arrangement has been impeded by an overly bureaucratic system of governance and cost shifting with a great deal of time and energy spent preparing plans that are not delivered to the satisfaction of communities. Regional decision making must be a major part of the new framework with more of the levies raised in the region remaining in the region.

Major issues that we would like to highlight include:

1. The level of funds raised in the region that are diverted away for so called corporate and other recovery costs is an issue that we have continued to advocate against and needs to be addressed. Our region has significant natural resource management assets that are accessible for all to use and enjoy – proper levels of funding must be allocated directly for its protection and enhancement.

2. There is a real need to define a methodology in determining an appropriate levy and mandating what constitutes a fair consideration of an amalgamation of lots to avoid paying multiple fees or a fair levy. We have situations where large corporate and non-corporate land owners are amalgamating their land holdings to pay a single fee effectively shifting NRM levies onto communities – in effect a subsidy.

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3. Recognition that whilst town centres also contribute to the levy, that hardly any funds are spent in these areas. As an example, pest animals, whilst lower in numbers are still present in many rural and regional townships.

4. Our members would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the formation of a single body or advisory council that can consolidate state-wide regional issues for your consideration. In previous years the NRM process included an advisory council that communicated between the various regional boards and the Minister. This would negate the need to have multiple conversations and consolidate common themes.

5. Local government recognises that it will more than likely remain as the primary agency for the collection of any natural resource management levy. One of the major concerns our sector has is that any failure to pay the levy, the debt remains with the council. The debt then becomes the councils' responsibility to collect but the amount due is still required to be passed on to the State Government even when the funds have not been received. We strongly suggest that only the funds received by the councils are passed on and any delinquent debts remain with the State Government.

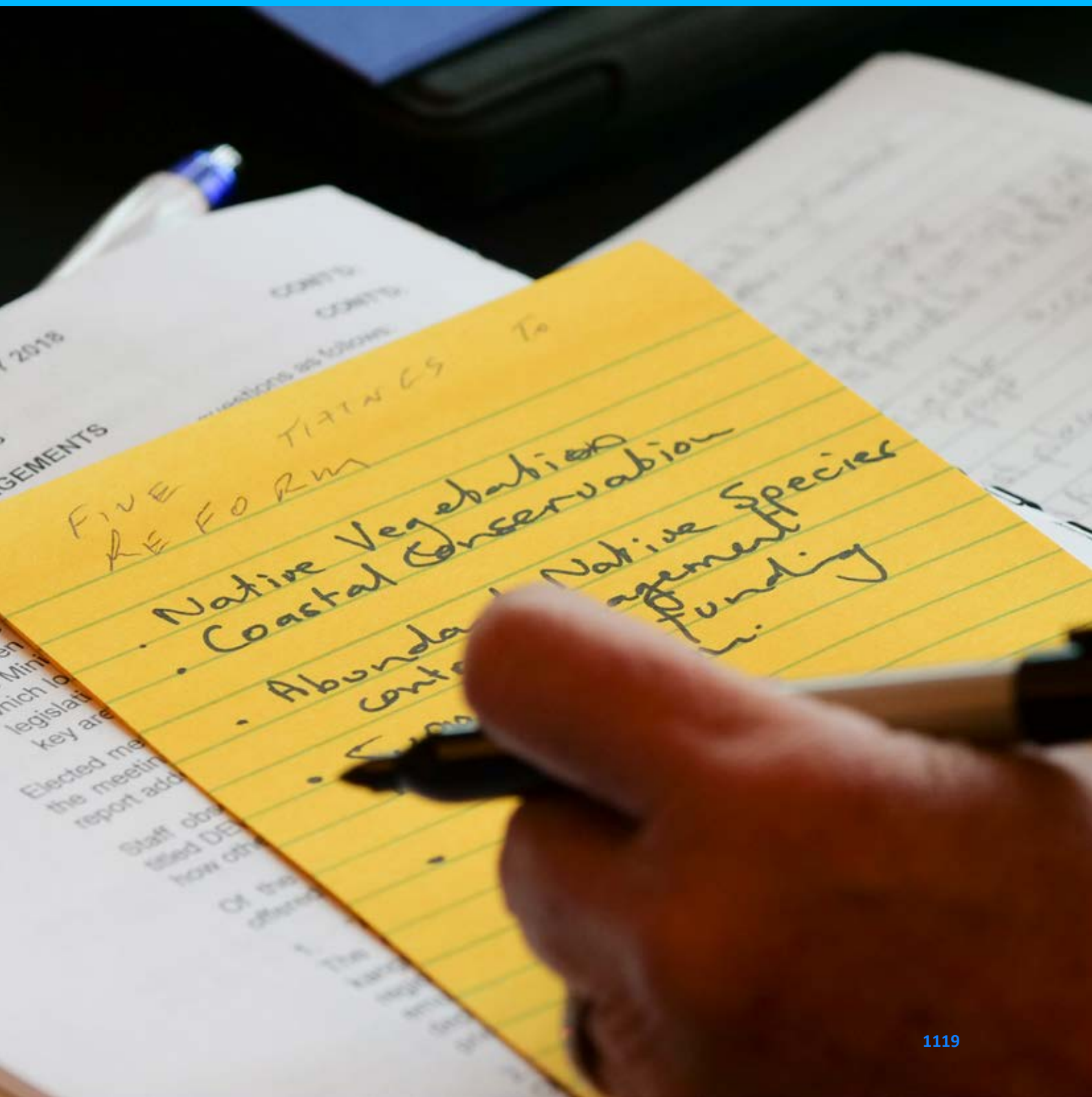
Our region fully supports the review and remains committed to being engaged throughout the process. We look forward to continued dialogue with you about this important issue.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact myself or our Executive Officer Mr Dominic Testoni.

Regards,

Mayor Erika Vickery
President LCLGA

8.10 | Written Submissions From Primary Producer Organisations



Register of written submissions from Primary Producer organisations

Date Received	Given name	Family name	Organisation
29-Jun-18	Rob	Kerin	Primary Producers SA
7-Sep-18	Jennifer	Lynch	McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association
14-Oct-18	Mark	Stanley	Ag Excellence Alliance
15-Oct-18	Melissa	Rebbeck	Fleurieu Beef Group Inc
15-Oct-18	Mark	Gishen	SA Wine Industry
15-Oct-18	Darren	Keenan	Agriculture Kangaroo Island
15-Oct-18	Rob	Kerin	Primary Producers SA
19-Oct-18	Mark	Grossman	Agricultural Bureau of SA Inc

PRIMARY PRODUCERS SA

Primary Producers SA Inc
Unit 4
780 South Road
GLANDORE SA 5037
Phone: 08 8297 0899

Friday 29 June 2018

Dear Minister Speirs

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the impending NRM reforms and the new *Landscape South Australia* legislation.

You have already acknowledged a key priority for Primary Producers SA:

- <u>Re-empowerment of regions</u> – including via
    - re-empowerment of NRM/Landscape SA boards (greater autonomy) to
    - control their budgets and
    - employ staff (and to engage contractors as appropriate, including industry groups and other non-government organisations, for example)

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the importance of successfully passing the new legislation through both houses of Parliament in a timely manner. With this in mind, we believe that water management provisions will need to continue to be included in the new Bill. The legislation being drafted will need to establish a robust, fair, streamlined and enabling framework, addressing the key dot points above. Perhaps a schedule could be set to address some of the more controversial and/or complex issues in more detail, following the enactment of the new legislation.

Water management is a priority area for primary producers and the legislation should be simplified and incorporate the flexibility for NRM/Landscape SA regions to utilise the most appropriate tools for water planning and management. There will be more work to be done in the area of water management following the introduction of the new legislation.

There is a need to carefully explore the demand for, and the community response to, the option for NRM/Landscape SA authorities to issue expiation notices (at an appropriate level) for significant and ongoing **animal and plant control** transgressions. The ability to adequately address animal and plant control challenges within the new legislative framework needs to be carefully considered.

The new legislation should take into account the potential for further incorporation of native vegetation management provisions (including those currently residing in the *Native Vegetation Act* and *Regulations*) to be considered, although this currently seems more likely to occur at a later date.

Soil and land management remain critical components of the management of natural resources as well; with practical research, development, extension and adoption activities being delivered by local and regional farming systems groups, for example.

Our NRM policy, which was finalised prior to the state election, is attached as an appendix.

Management of climate variability provides ongoing challenges to both primary producers and natural environments, within and outside the NRM system.

In addition, we note that court processes should only be used as a "last resort" option, bearing in mind the very high public and private costs of these processes (and therefore cost inefficiency in achieving outcomes, except in the very worst cases where there needs to be a public penalty/disincentive). There have been examples of both water and native vegetation issues where the ability to negotiate further could have produced much better and more cost-effective outcomes.

We look forward to consulting more thoroughly with our sector on the NRM Reform – and assisting with the government's engagement processes – over the coming months.

For more information or to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact Rob Kerin on 0439 933 103 or robkerin@ymail.com or Amy Williams on 0427 803 805 or amywilliams28@bigpond.com.

Yours sincerely



Rob Kerin
Independent Chair
Primary Producers SA



Fiona Rasheed
Chair, NRM Committee
Primary Producers SA

Appendix: PPSA NRM Policy

Engagement of primary producers in NRM policy and planning

While acknowledging suggestions for more radical changes to NRM, we accept that there must be management and governance of natural resources – both assets and risks – and investment in NRM. A system which engages and empowers (and is accountable to) local communities and regions is preferable to a system relying on centralised decision-making in Adelaide. The NRM system needs to return to its original intent to allow regional and subregional engagement and decision-making.

- **Re-empowerment of regions**

While striving to achieve and maintain high levels of responsiveness and efficiency, NRM Boards need to be able to manage their budgets without unnecessary State Government interference, identify regional priorities (and therefore the work that staff do in the region) and direct the development of appropriate local and regional policy. This should encompass the ability to engage their own staff or contractors.

This does not diminish the role of the SA Government in coordination across the regions. There should be very strong involvement of NRM Boards and industry groups (regional input) in the development of statewide policy.

NRM Boards should consider a nimble organisational design with a small core staff, contracting additional work to the most appropriate organisations and people – including resourcing industry/producer groups for engagement, communications and project delivery.

Less time should be spent on glossy documents and PR and more on practical actions and outcomes.

- Succession planning

  It has become difficult to recruit appropriate candidates for NRM Board roles, particularly when previous and current board members have not felt that they have been able to genuinely influence policy and outcomes. Therefore addressing the above point (re-empowerment of boards and regions) is critical to achieving effective NRM Board composition.

  Once this is addressed, we recommend that NRM Boards take a pro-active role in partnership with industry groups and primary producer networks (including local and regional groups) to recruit appropriate board members. **It is critical that there is effective primary producer representation on NRM Boards and committees and in the development of policy.**

- Time constraints on primary producer engagement

  Industry groups and networks should be resourced to assist with communications and engagement on plans and policy development – with early and ongoing dialogue, including to work out the issues of importance to primary producers and how to strategically work together on those issues. This would be in contrast to using employees or consultants (particularly those without an extensive knowledge of primary producer networks and imperatives); as well as contrasting with mailouts (e.g. USBs containing long documents) without adequate and appropriate supporting communications and meetings or roadshows based on government and/or NRM Board timeframes, which are not well coordinated with local groups and therefore not well attended.

- Strategies need to be put in place to address turnover of government staff as a real challenge to good engagement (particularly on water planning and management and water policy) and good outcomes. The ability of NRM Boards to engage their own staff and contractors (including resourcing industry groups and networks) over appropriate timeframes may assist with this.

- Regions should be able to determine or strongly influence the timing of reviews or changes to their water allocation plans and policies, bearing in mind both regional priorities (and budgets) and DEW resourcing capacity.

Key investment areas

NRM levy charges need to be contained at the lowest reasonable and sustainable level, including through appropriate levels of investment from the SA Government and Australian Government. Investment is expected in sustainable land management and production practices (including soil management and appropriate capital investments) – particularly via producer groups and networks – and animal and plant control (including the management of wild dogs and feral animals).

Water planning and management

- Refocus investment into better science and better engagement on the science underpinning water policy, as well as work on licensing, permitting, allocation and transfer processes. There is also a general need for further work on water policy development with strong industry/local community engagement.

  For example, there is clearly a need for more work under Priority 8 in the State NRM Plan to *"increase the use of local knowledge in NRM"*.

  This needs to happen in the context that there are very strong drivers to maximise efficiency and minimise bureaucracy. The tension between investing in better science and issues regarding the recovery of costs through NRM levies – and **the need to keep those costs to a minimum** – needs to be noted.

- **Water licensing and administration**

  NRM Boards and regional staff should be consulted on any significant communications from the licensing section of DEW.

- Provisions that quickly elevate licence or allocation queries to ERD Court processes need to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

- The processes for allocating and transferring water rights should be workshopped with key stakeholders.[1]

- **More dynamic (timely and responsive) and efficient water management systems**

  DEW, NRM Boards and PPSA (and our commodity groups and industry networks) need to work in partnership to significantly improve the science and IT and communication systems, to make good information quickly available and easily accessible, enabling good policy decisions and good business decisions (for example, regarding seasonal allocations, water availability, carryover provisions) with minimal bureaucracy. This would encompass capacity building of primary producers to access and use this information, clearly understand water policy frameworks and manage risk. Seasonal allocation and carryover policies need to be clearly communicated, with timely notification (as early as possible) and discussion about prioritisation of different uses in times of scarcity for River Murray water.

A number of "hot spots" have been identified, requiring specific work more urgently. For example, ongoing work is required in close collaboration with producers in the Virginia region (addressing water table and flood mitigation issues), Mt Lofty Ranges, South East (to ensure appropriate drainage infrastructure investment and monitoring of groundwater systems) and with River Murray water users.

[1] This would encompass issues such as conjunctive use, "new use", succession and relationship breakdown (property settlement) issues.

- **Triple bottom line – strengthening the economics**

  Work must be undertaken to strengthen the socio-economic information base regarding prescription, the separation of water rights from land rights and impacts on property values, opportunity costs, transaction costs and compliance costs (such as costs of metering, low flow provisions and professional services such as engineering required for applications) – as well as the allocation of costs/"cost-sharing".

  This work should facilitate comparison with interstate and overseas costs, including compliance costs and opportunity costs; as well as to contain and explain water levies, for example, with more transparency and a better "line of sight". This is consistent with previous SA Government aims and policies to be "**the best place to do business**" and to create "**the most cost-competitive business environment in the nation**".

  As part of this, tradeability, or transferability, of water rights across the state – and the implications of those policies – would be reviewed. Part of the work would also consider the application of levy charges based on licensed volumes rather than volumes of water used (and the signals and incentives embodied in that). Inequity between water buybacks for the River Murray and allocation reductions in other areas would also be discussed.

  There should be regular independent review of water planning and management costs and their cost effectiveness, as agreed as part of the National Water Initiative:

  > *"Where costs are recoverable from water users (in whole or in part), activities will be tested for cost-effectiveness by an independent party and the findings of the cost-effectiveness inquiry are to be made public"*

- Conflicts of interest in advocating for SA Water versus other water users need to be avoided in the governance of water resources. This arises with the Minister for Water and the River Murray also being the Minister responsible for SA Water.
- Producers reliant on potable SA Water supplies should be supported to shift to alternative supplies.

<u>Native vegetation management</u>

PPSA would like to acknowledge the pro-active engagement undertaken by DEW in the past couple of years and are very supportive of moves towards private landholders (as well as environmental NGOs) being able to supply – and be paid for – biodiversity offsets. It is noted that the transaction costs associated with this need to be kept to a minimum for this system to be effective. Regulations governing the clearance of native vegetation and offsetting of clearance also need to be kept fair and reasonable.

Careful consideration should be given to recognition and reward for the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity on private land (especially long term protection of remnant vegetation, including via Heritage Agreements) and the interaction between that and native vegetation clearance offsets (SEBs), NRM Board incentives and carbon credits, for example. PPSA would be pleased to continue working with DEW on these issues.

<u>Cost sharing</u>

Levies raised in a region should be spent on the core, essential activities in a region, with state and federal funding used to supplement and support regions with smaller levy bases in particular – and to help to keep levy charges to an absolute minimum, ensuring that SA provides a cost-competitive environment for primary producers.

As mentioned above, there should be transparency and a clear line of sight between water levies and water planning and management expenditure in each region.

Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

7th September 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Response to Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper and proposed *Landscape South Australia Act*

I write to you on behalf of the McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association (MVGWTA) – the peak body representing more than 500 businesses – encompassing all grape-growers, winemakers and tourism providers in one of Australia's most valuable wine tourism regions – McLaren Vale, South Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper and proposed *Landscape South Australia Act.*

The tourism, agriculture and food production industries are all major employers of our region which contribute billions of dollars to our State's economy. Our State's regions hold particular significance in these industries and are recognised worldwide as iconic South Australian destinations.

In 2012, the regional distinctiveness and contribution of both the McLaren Vale and Barossa districts to our State was formally recognised and protected through the introduction of the *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012* and *Character Preservation (Barossa) Act 2012.*

The *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012* provides reassurance to our community – both business and residential – that the unique attributes of McLaren Vale are also acknowledged and highly valued by our State, and that the protection of these attributes is paramount to the long-term vision for building our State's economy and global reputation for premium food and wine from a clean environment.

Reviewing the Summary of the Discussion Paper (July 2018), MVGWTA provides the following feedback, and, specifically highlights the following two (2) proposed reforms of being significant to our region's long-term prosperity:

Decentralised Decision-Making and Community-led Landscape Management
MVGWTA's strongly acknowledges that decentralised decision-making encourages greater local stewardship and ownership of natural resource management. The protection of natural resources is paramount to the long-term vision for building our State's economy and global reputation for premium food and wine from a clean environment.

The protection of these natural resource priorities and our State's global reputation can only be maintained through universally agreed minimum standards for managing and enhancing soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control across all levels of land owners and stakeholders – individuals, community, business and industry, Local Government Associations and agencies, as well as the State Government.

MVGWTA seeks further clarity regarding the proposed decentralised decision-making and community-led landscape management reforms' ability to ensure agreed minimum standards for our State's whole-of-landscape natural resource management are maintained.

Landscape Boards and Landscape Board Boundaries
Soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control requirements do not operate in isolation, nor respect 'boundaries' or borders.

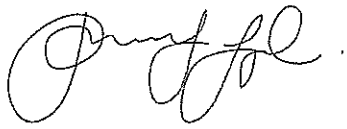
The vitality and success of one or all of these priorities at a local level and a State level is incumbent upon equitable and agreed minimum standards – irrespective of identified and designated boundaries.

Whilst MVGWTA supports the four identified natural resource priorities of soil quality, water management and pest plant and animal control, MVGWTA seeks further clarity regarding the proposed Landscape Boards' and Boundaries' ability to ensure cohesive inter-regional management and priority management, as well as consistent and clear communications regarding priorities, management, targets, funding and employment.

McLaren Vale has a unique sense of place which cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. The value and protection of place through well-considered and thoughtful Planning Policies – including the perpetuation of our State's Character Preservation Act – is fundamental to the prosperity of future generations and industry in regional communities.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further, and thank you for you for your consideration of MVGWTA's request.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lynch
General Manager, MVGWTA

PO Box 138 Burra SA 5417

E admin@agex.org.au
W www.agex.org.au

Hon David Speirs
Level 10, 81-95
Waymouth Street,
ADELAIDE SA 5000
landscapereform@sa.gov.au
Monday, 27 August 2018

Dear Minister

Re: Response to the NRM Reform in South Australia

The Ag Excellence Alliance would like to congratulate you on the reform agenda you have put in place to ensure a more responsive, simpler and community involved NRM sector. Ag Ex has a long history of working effectively with NRM in SA, and has strong relationships and partnerships with a number of the NRM regions across state. Ag Ex also works effectively with government at the state and national level in Landcare; the industry research & development corporations; universities; and research, development and extension providers. We believe the grower group network in SA is well placed to be at forefront of implementing and supporting the new direction of NRM in the state.

Ag Ex was established in 2005 to provide leadership, encourage collaboration and independence in support to the farming sector, through working with the 16 grower groups across the state that drive local research, development and extension, improving the profitability and sustainability of farming businesses. The collective power of groups is a strong force in influencing and driving positive change in the agricultural sector. Ag Ex provides communication services and manages a range of projects that contribute to the profitability and sustainability of farm businesses across South Australia. Projects are supported by a diversity of funders and are delivered in collaboration with grower groups and other industry partners. The goals of Ag Ex are to:

1. Empower, support and up skill Ag Ex grower group members and industry networks
2. Facilitate collaborative technical, business, environmental and social project development
3. Advocate for the role played by grower groups and industry networks
4. Advocate and support the delivery of extension, adoption and practice change

Decentralised decision making

Ag Ex supports the move to make decision making in NRM focussed in the regions and with greater community involvement. There are many avenues that are currently employed for identifying issues and setting priorities and it is hoped the new Landscapes SA will engage with these rather than duplicate what is already occurring. Having trusting and transparent relationships with organisations that want to engage and be actively involved in NRM will provide positive outcomes for all involved. The grower group network provides a highly representative and responsive avenue for engaging with land managers to address relevant NRM issues.

A simple and accessible system

Systems that are both easy to access, work with and report on are critical to the success of achieving effective on ground NRM outcomes. Community owed and driven organisations don't want to be hampered by complex bureaucratic processes, but on the other hand they need to be transparent and accountable to the funders of the projects they are delivering. The grower group network in SA has a very good history of delivering NRM funded

programs on time and budget, with effective community engagement and significant NRM outcomes being achieved.

A whole of landscape approach

Broad acre farmers are the largest land managers in the state. They integrate the management of their productive landscapes with the natural landscapes on their properties. Farmers are very aware of the impacts of their farming systems on the natural systems on their properties, and recognise the value of maintaining and enhancing soil health, water resources and native vegetation on their properties. Farming groups provide the most effective avenue for the farming community to priorities issues and to trial, demonstrate and extend new and innovative practices that enhance both productive and natural systems. They also provide the avenue for farmers to work collaboratively across property boundaries.

Community and land owners at the centre

Results from a survey of grower groups conducted in 2016 by the Ag Excellence Alliance in SA showed that a total of 4,532 farm businesses were members of a least one grower group. Given there are around 6,000 broadacre farm businesses across the state, 75% of farm businesses in the state are members of a grower group.

Grower groups are 'innovation brokers', bringing farm advisors, researchers, regional NRM organisations, resellers and farmers together. They provide much of the local/on-ground information and support "soft- infrastructure" that farmers seek, and this helps industry and government achieve their goals. Groups have strong industry wide representative membership bases that can capture the grass roots issues on ground and identify future needs early and feed that information up the line. They provide an avenue to attract funding to address local production and farm management issues.

Groups engage well with a broad segment of the industry and are crucial contributors to the regional extension network. Groups provide a vehicle that can adapt broader information to make it relevant to each region. They are a key influence in the uptake of new farming practices. They also provide an avenue for young farmers to take on leadership roles and be influential in driving local research, development and extension needs.

Groups adapt research findings to local conditions and provide an important link between the researchers and growers. They provide an avenue to put the research on the ground in an efficient and timely manner.

Renewed focus on the issues that matter most to regional communities – soil, water and pest plants and animals.

The farm extension system operating in South Australia has changed dramatically over the past three decades, and is continuing to evolve. The private sector is now dominant in providing advice to farmers, and there will not be a return to the public-sector extension model that has operated over much of the past century *(ref: Mick Keough, review of extension systems in Australia).*

Key drivers of strategic change in the farming sector are now grower groups and farm advisers. Key trusted advisers are a link to these groups. The groups have the trust of government and industry funding bodies to be the key recipients of funds to drive regional research, development and extension at the local, regional and state level. These groups are now the regional research centers that were once the domain of the state agencies. Some NRM regions have recognised this and have formed strong partnerships with farming groups to develop and support initiatives that drive sustainable land use and profitable farming systems in the regions.

What are grower groups?

Grower groups are defined as those groups that are farmer driven with a farmer led committee, are incorporated bodies, manage a range of government and industry funded RD&E project, have a membership base, employ at least part time staff and can service areas from sub regional through to state wide in scope. There are also many more grower groups that are not incorporated and their main function is to facilitate discussion on local issues. They differ markedly in their size and in their ability to deliver complex research outcomes. Grower groups are very effective at integrating public good NRM issues into production based projects. Funding is predominately from the industry R&D corporations and Australian Government programs such as the National Landcare Program. NRM regions and the State government agencies have also been supporters of these groups activities, however this source of funding is becoming increasingly tight and competitive.

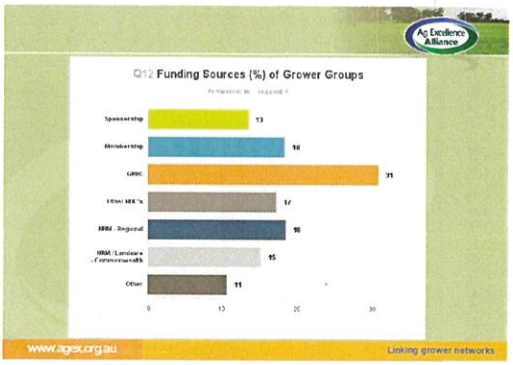


Figure 1: Funding sources of grower groups in SA – Ag Ex Survey of Grower Groups, 2016

What do grower groups do well

Grower groups and advisers provide significant value to the agricultural industries, state and Commonwealth governments by;

- providing credible access to farmers and their support networks;
- providing a vehicle to access and coordinate funding through Research and Development Corporations and Australian Government investment in the state;
- having a proven track record of delivering research outcomes for agriculture RD&E;
- providing a good understanding of the technology adoption process and having the capacity through the support of advisers to adapt practices and innovations to suit local conditions and ensure faster adoption by farmers;
- providing a vehicle for identifying emerging issues quickly, which RDC's and Government can use for strategic and tactical investment decisions. They provide input to local policy makers and managers on RD&E priorities as demonstrated with members of the RCSN networks, many of whom are grower group members.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important reform of the NRM sector. Ag Ex is willing to provide clarity and support to achieving an more engaged and effective NRM sector in the state.

Your sincerely

M J. Stanley

Mark Stanley
Executive Officer – Strategy, Projects & Partnerships

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Landscapes Reform Comments on behalf of the Fleurieu Beef Group Inc
Attachments: FBG edit.docx; Geoff Davis archive.doc; IMG_0703.JPG; IMG_0706.JPG; mark higgins.docx; Richard Lawrence.docx; steverogers.pdf; Synopsis of Issues.doc

To Whom it May Concern,

As the secretary of the Fleurieu Beef Group Inc, I have been instructed on behalf of the group to submit the attached information. Some of the attachments are from individual producers and other information is from our archives and relates to the reform.

The Fleurieu Beef Group Incorporated have been operating since 1998. We meet every month and look at issues and opportunities that would improve our cattle businesses. We have a strong core membership of 25 members. We trust that you will be able to use the collective comments and articles to shape the landscapes reform for the Fleurieu region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on behalf of the FBG Inc if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Rebbeck

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc – Secretary/Treasurer
[redacted]
PO Box 25, Goolwa, S.A. 5214

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.
C/o EC Phillipson &Co
GPO Box 216
Adelaide
S.A. 5001

Mr. John Coombe
Chief Executive Officer
Alexandrina Council
Dawson Street
PO Box 21
Goolwa
S.A. 5214

29/3/2010

RE: **1. WEED INFESTATION ON THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA**
2. WEED MANAGEMENT

Dear Mr Coombe,

We wish to express our concern and dismay at the continued and accelerating degradation of land and water courses on the Fleurieu Peninsula caused by weeds.
In November 2003, the Fleurieu Beef Group Inc, (FBG), wrote to the Fleurieu Peninsula Councils expressing similar concerns.

The FBG has operated for nearly 15 years and comprises more than 30 farmers, all having a commercial interest in beef production, and land and water course management. Geographically, farms represented by the FBG are located from Meadows to Parawa and are situated on the east and west zones of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Prior to the establishment of the Natural Resources Management [NRM] Board, weed control was decisive and effective.
Today, the threat of weed invasion and contamination is increasing. The "careless" and low priority placed upon weed control has resulted in a multiplication of threats and costs to our businesses. The ever increasing infestation of weeds into and throughout the Fleurieu Peninsula is like a chain reaction, compounding further rapid spread. The Fleurieu is venturing into a situation never known before, where declared weeds are so prevalent that their control is becoming difficult in the extreme.

Many of our members have had direct contact with the relevant authorities of the NRM with disappointing results.

We are writing to you because it has come to our attention that Councils believe that NRM is looking after the rural hinterland and thus Councils' attention is engaged predominately in the urban areas. This trust in NRM is not working. Councils traditionally have been the recognised managers of our region and we ask, for example, do you want the rural hinterland "weed infested" and purple with Salvation Jane from Willunga Hill to the coast.

Are Councils aware that the terrible weed, Caltrop, is on the increase? This weed has the potential to pierce push bike tyres and inflict nasty wounds on unprotected feet. Is this what we want for our region?

We are writing to Councils because we are confident in the belief that they do not want a degraded rural hinterland. What we are respectfully asking Councils to do, is to develop a vision and plan for rural hinterlands and then "take hold of the steering wheel" to make it happen.

We are asking for a return to the basics of weed management whereby:

- Contaminated fodder could not be transported without permits.
- Stock inspectors checked saleyards for weed contamination.
- Quarries are kept "squeaky clean" of all weeds.
- Roadside weeds are controlled.
- Engagement with land owners who neglect weed control.

It is these basic elements of weed management that have been neglected. For example; the inundation of quarries with Salvation Jane through the 1990's, resulted in the transportation of contaminated material to all corners of the Fleurieu Peninsula. This situation could easily have been avoided. Almost anything we do from here would be better than what we are currently doing.

The ball is in your court and the FBG would respectfully appreciate a non-political response to this issue. We assure you of our support toward a better weed management programme.

Yours faithfully

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.
c/o E C Phillipson & Co
GPO Box 216
Adelaide
S.A. 5001

W.J.(Bill) Davies
Director
Land & Biodiversity Services, DWLBC
17/2/2006

RE: Proposed Outcomes

1) **Legal registration of weed infestation at point of sale**

Point of sale of land provides a unique opportunity to recognize and bring to account weed infestation of land. At the present time prospective purchasers of land are ill informed of their responsibilities and liability to prevent land degradation resulting from infestation by declared weeds.
Equally they are often unaware of the cost liabilities involved in the eradication of the weeds on the land.

It is not in the interests of Vendors or Land Agents to ensure that buyers are properly informed of their responsibilities and liabilities for weed management. This results in purchasers often being unable to budget sufficient resources to address the problem.

We believe that the vender has a duty of care to inform the purchaser of the liabilities which attach to the purchase of the land prior to the transaction being completed. Such disclosure enables the purchaser to engage in meaningful negotiation with the vender to ensure that he has the resources to meet his liabilities.

Furthermore such disclosure would mean that NRM notices served on the new landowner would not come as a surprise so placing the officer in the role of the "enemy". NRM officers could then be seen as an advisor and supporter so facilitating effective weed control.

Our proposal

That the NRM Act require that prior to listing of property for sale an authorized weeds officer or registered adviser undertake an inspection to determine the weed status of the property together with a control program which includes a time frame for the work and an estimate of the costs involved. This inspection report to form part of the landowner's statements which are provided to all prospective purchasers. The cost of this inspection and report is to be borne by the vendor. The high turn over of land on the Fleurieu would ensure the success of the control program.

1134

2) **Greater Responsibility provided to Local Control Officers**

a) Support and Confidence

At the present time enforcement of notices is made almost null and void because of the time delay imposed upon local officers by the central office who require referral of enforcement to central officers who do not understand the conditions present at the local level. These include climatic conditions, property owner attitude, geographical conditions and past history. This results in time delays where somebody in Adelaide directs that further time be given to the landowner to comply, frequently resulting in seeding occurring (1 years seed, 10 years weed).

Our proposal

Confidence should be shown in local officers to make decisions in respect to local matters, and intrinsic support given to them in situations of conflict with recalcitrant landowners. Our experience is that local officers deserve this confidence and support.

b) Resourcing

Until local resources are mobilized some form of Government funding will be required. At present local boards are aware of thousands of properties infested with Salvation Jane but are only able to issue a few hundred notices. This would suggest gross under staffing of the board and ensures that no matter what good intentions the NRM may have they are doomed to failure.

Our proposal

The Government fund additional officers or registered advisers for effective weed control until the NRM levy is introduced. From then on Government resourcing would cease and the operation be supported by funds generated by the proposed levy. For example, a budget estimate of $100,000 for an additional officer would only represent approximately $1 per property assessment in the Fleurieu Region.

c) Cost Recovery for Control Measures

The NRM currently experiences difficulty in recovering the cost of any control measures undertaken on a property.

Our proposal

Amend the NRM act to make all control measure costs a charge against the land to which they relate. The previsions which apply in the Local Government Act to non payment of rates should also be extended to such cost recovery; that is, if a debt remains unpaid for three years that the NRM has power to sell the property and recover the debt.

Past experience has shown that this method of charge has promoted a recognition of responsibility and as a result most debts are paid in full or by installments without resorting the need to execute the sale provisions of the Act.

3) Roadside Weed Control

Under the current NRM Act section 182(7) the relevant NRM authority is responsible for controlling declared plants on roadsides. Landowners are responsible for the cost of such control works. Additionally, under the NRM Act, the cost of roadside weed control can only be assigned as a debt to the landowner and not against the land as provided in the previous Act. This results in a costly debt recovery process, lengthy operational and administrative processes with consequent inefficient use of resources.

Our proposal

Councils take over responsibility for roadsides and are funded from the NRM Levy for this work. This has many advantages:

1. There is only one entity involved in the process

2. Councils are experienced in engaging contractors and administering contractual obligations.

3. Quality assurance standards are in place to ensure that contractors of high standard of work are available to be engaged by the council.

4. The advantage of using Council in this way is that the community knows and recognizes this entity as the body which works for the betterment of the community and is easily accessed by them.

4) The Role of Local Government in Weed Control

We believe that the potential contribution of Local Government to successful weed control is yet to be realised. Local Government is in the unique position of being the interface between the community and the administrative functions of Government. It is highly visible and interacts with the community as part of its day to day operation. In contrast NRM Boards have not and are unlikely to achieve that level of interaction.

NRM Boards with their expertise and resources formulate policies which are promoted to the community. This promotion would be greatly enhanced through close cooperation and liaison with Local Government. In reality this represents an opportunity to market the work of NRM to the community in a way which is not achieved at present.

In other words, Local Government becomes an important marketing arm for NRM. Councils are constantly communicating with their rate payers and NRM would benefit enormously from joining with councils in these efforts.

1136

Our proposal

Local Councils become an important marketing arm of NRM. This has many advantages:

1. Constantly brings NRM issues before the community through the medium of Local Council, saving NRM Boards advertising costs.

2. Provides a known "shop window" through which the community can initiate enquiries about NRM.

3. Local Councils would be better informed concerning the programs and policies of NRM thus assisting them to manage the region in accord with those policies.

4. Council's role as a marketing arm and responsibility for roadsides will greatly assist the achievement of common objectives.

5. Councils would include a field in the quarterly rate notice to advise property owners of their outstanding liabilities arising from weed control carried out by NRM Boards. This would greatly assist the recovery of outstanding debts to NRM.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Davis
Chairman
Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.

MISSION RE NRM'S PERCEIVED FAILURES/SHORTCOMINGS.

WATER LEVY.

As everyone knows and for very good reason **RURAL PROPERTY** is exempt from Land Tax in the state of SA.

NRM will gladly boast how they have **UNBUNDLED** rural property into 2 segments – land and water, and in the process imposed what is effectively a land tax on the water component.

In our circumstance we have not irrigated once in the past 15 years and due to changing economics i.e. increased electricity costs, will not be doing so in the future.

Despite this our annual NRM tax for water is $690 p.a.

We have attempted to on-sell our allocation, only to find it has minimal or no value in our area, hence our efforts to date have been unsuccessful.

In these circumstances we are strongly of the view that a "holding license" category should be created whereby no rural property/water tax is payable.

NRM EXPENDITURE

We also object strongly to the way NRM spend much of the tax raised when so little is done in areas of environmental improvement such as weed control, soil erosion etc.

It appears most expenditure occurs on NRM administrative needs and other government department requirements.

COMMUNITY ALLIENATION

Over the past 15 years we have witnessed the NRM paying lip service to the consultative process and completely ignoring community advice and recommendations.

Many submissions have been put by various organisations eg. Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.; only to be ignored without even the courtesy of a response. This condescending behavior on behalf of NRM only engenders increasing cynicism and dismay within the broader community.

ENVIRONMENTAL BETTERMENT

Should the broader community have expectations of environmental betterment, then it is only reasonable and fair that the whole community should meet the cost of same,

rather than burden a select few farmers with water levies solely on the basis that they choose to irrigate or maintain the right to do so.

LOW FLOW BYPASSES

The $15M Commonwealth Grant monies currently being expended on experimental technology across 11 sites is scandalous in the extreme when everybody with an ounce of common sense knows that:

1. It doesn't work
2. The prohibitive cost of implementation on a broader scale cannot be justified.

SUMMARY

The Water Levy is seen as yet another way the government can raise additional taxes and further quash any incentive to farm.

Richard Lawrence & Angela Moore. [redacted]

Angela Moore

Parliamentary Select Committee – Sustainable Farming Practices – Victor Harbor – 19th October 2012.

Attachment to section 813 of my testimony.

For future food security we must reserve quality agricultural land even if it is supposedly worth $1.5M for 80 acres. The precedent has already been set in all of our urban areas. Take for example The City of Adelaide where Colonel Light's vision wisely set aside Victoria, Light, Whitmore, Hindmarsh and Hurtle Squares. Any of these Squares could be worth say $1B an acre if valued by "Market Forces', but they are reserved for other purposes that insulate them from such forces. Government Legislation protects and prevents their use for commercial or alternative developments

The same could be said for example concerning the streets in Adelaide, where in wisdom wide streets have been planned and are the envy of other cities such as Sydney. If these streets had not been protected, rather been left exposed to market forces, their high dollar value per square metre would have opened the flood gates for narrowing, making room for "profitable development opportunities".

Even in our personal lives we often do not value or change things simply on economic potential or market force pressures. No man who loves his wife would for example, force her into prostitution on the basis that a superior income could supposedly be earned. No there are many areas of our lives and communities that are exempt from market forces by decision. Sustainable agriculture demands that Governing Authorities make the decision to protect quality agricultural land from these market forces that would permanently destroy their use in food production.

Australia is a relatively large continent but with one of the lowest rainfalls. Much of the most productive land lies within 100-200 km of the coast, especially in South Australia. Added to this is the population drift to coastal regions, the dreaded "Sea Change". The demographics of such a mix makes it obvious that conflicts involving agriculture will occur and "Market Forces" destroy the most productive land.

We believe the thinking in Government at all levels must change to the protection of agricultural land in all future planning decisions. It is an urgent matter for Governments to turn their thinking to the hierarchy of human needs as displayed in Maslow's Triangle, where agriculture is situated in the preeminent position, at the base of all human existence.

Mark Higgins.

Attention: The Independent Facilitator - Landscape Reform.

I welcome the opportunity to tender the following comments:

1.What is working 'well'?

- In short, 'nothing of any note', except ALIENATION of the rural community, due in large part to the disastrous implementation of water licensing. Ongoing taxation of same will only 'taint and /or stain' any future reforms that might be implemented.

2. What would you like to change?

- An instant moratorium on licensing fees. A landholder maintaining the 'right to irrigate' solely for the purpose of irrigating during an extended dry period, is no reason to tax that prudent drought proofing measure on an ongoing annual basis.
- One step in the right direction could be the introduction of a 'holding licence' exempt from levies when the water allocation is not being used in any given year.
- The appointment of an 'animal, pest, plant control, officer' attached to each Council who is sufficiently skilled to be able to work with the rural community for the betterment of all concerned. Currently the City of Victor Harbor Council is having to fund its own roadside weed control on State managed roads. (Where is the NRM?).

3. Boundaries.

- The Fleurieu requires its own Board and the area of control should commence at the top of Willunga Hill and extend to Cape Jarvis, using the existing boundary to the east. Combining with the Hills/Alexandrina area, I believe, would be most unwise as it would inevitably lead to duplication of Boards overseeing the same catchment area.
- The Fleurieu has its own unique issues (e.g. feral deer population, Cape Tulip weed infestation etc.) which requires focussed attention and not have such issues diminished or downgraded when combined with other proposed Landscape Board Areas.

4. My involvement.

- Given my age, my involvement will be limited to looking after my own property free of any NRM bureaucracy, red tape and other such trash that has been served up over the past 15 years.

Richard Lawrence.
FBG Member.
Inman Valley.

Melissa, a few points for the NRM submission

1) Millions spent over 20 years on the southern ones wren but no policy on cat or fox control. Both of which are recognized as having a huge effect on native fauna.

2) Heureau swamps fenced but no follow up weed control inside the areas or maintenance of exclusion fencing.

3) No local input from farmers or people of the district

4) District officers set up large projects instead of spreading funds over whole of district. Officers spend significant amounts of time at "meetings" & "courses" to benefit themselves.

5) Huge number of staff, vehicles & officers in the area soaking up funds instead of using money for enviroment.

6) New mechanism has to be run costs effective "Boards" are expensive to run and can be swamped by "interest groups" who are only interested in small area of the enviroment instead of the whole area.

Regards

Stephen Rogers.

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.
c/o E C Phillipson & Co
GPO Box 216
Adelaide
S.A. 5001



W.J.(Bill) Davies
Director
Land & Biodiversity Services, DWLBC
17/2/2006

RE: Synopsis of the Issues

1) Land use must never be used as the criterion by which land degradation is considered acceptable or unacceptable. For example, lifestyle/Horse Blocks must exercise the same duty of care to the environment and neighbours as those who have commercial interest/productions. Furthermore, weed spread is an issue as serious as spray drift and contamination of non GMO. by GMO.

2) Land must never be viewed as a commodity to be traded at will, whilst it is degraded to save costs, and finally dumped.
Land ownership in itself carries privileges and responsibilities which must be exercised in the national interests.

3) Whilst some Government funds may be required initially to resource the weeds officers "to take hold of the horse that has bolted", the aim is local needs to be met by local resources. These local resources though already in place, are untapped.

   The most important local resource is the landowners themselves, who as a consequence of land division, are an ever increasing number. Thus the area of land that each owner is responsible for is on average decreasing. This massive labour force, when mobilized by education and awareness, combined with their own monetary resources, would be the single greatest asset to effective weed control. At present this human resource is viewed as a liability.

   The present failure is that whilst financial resources have been provided by landowners to pay for ever increasing land values, less and less of this available financial resource has been employed in actual care of the land.

4) In recent years both Federal and State Governments have expressed publicly their support and commitment to policy that reflects a "Duty of care to the community and the Environment". All of the above support that commitment at the "expense" of self interest.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Davis
Chairman
Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.

Department for Environment and Water

Submission in response to the discussion paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change*

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

SUBMISSION OF:	SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ABN:	43 807 200 928
ADDRESS:	First Floor, Industry Offices National Wine Centre Botanic Road ADELAIDE SA 5000
CONTACT PERSON:	Mark Gishen
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WEB:	www.winesa.asn.au
DATE:	15 October 2018

Submissions by 15 October 2018 to:
The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001.
Email: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION

The South Australian Wine Industry Association Incorporated (SAWIA) is supportive of reform that improves outcomes in natural resources management, however, there are some aspects of the proposal and discussion paper that are of concern:

- The discussion paper uses some very vague terminology and language that make it difficult for us to understand sufficiently to provide a detailed response.
- The proposed reform needs to be clearly targeted at specific issues requiring improvement, and those are not clear to us from the discussion paper.
- More detail is required about how the reforms will be applied in practice, especially in regard to governance, administrative processes and funding mechanisms.
- We are concerned that the proposed reform may not address the disturbing past trend of 'cost-shifting' that, in our opinion, may have diminished the funding available for on-ground activities.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

SAWIA is an industry employer association representing the interests of wine grape growers and wine producers throughout the state of South Australia.

SAWIA is a not for profit incorporated association, funded by voluntary member subscriptions, grants and fee for service activities, whose mission is to provide leadership to South Australian grape and wine industry businesses so they achieve great things that they couldn't by themselves.

SAWIA membership represents approximately 96% of the grapes crushed in South Australia and about 40% of the land under viticulture. Each major wine region within South Australia is represented on the board governing our activities.

SAWIA has a strong track record as an industry leader and innovator in many areas. SAWIA pro-actively represents members and the greater wine industry with government and related agencies in a wide variety of aspects of business in the wine sector.

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SUBMISSION

SAWIA is pleased to be able to comment on discussion paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change* (the 'Discussion paper') that was published on the South Australian government's *YourSAy* website.

General comments

The wine sector is highly dependant on the health of natural resources on which it relies, and therefore, SAWIA recognises and supports efforts to maintain and protect these vital assets.

SAWIA also recognises the view that there have been shortcomings in natural resource management (NRM) in the past, and considers that any reform should be highly focussed and targeted at addressing these in order to improve outcomes. In short, if reforms are to be made, then we wish to see what changes they will make, and the deliverables of improved natural resource management as outcomes.

Some of the shortcomings that we have observed in the past include:

- declining funding being available to regions for on-ground activities, which might be due in part to shifting the cost burden from the government and on to the current NRM regional Boards (e.g. for water allocation planning services), and
- centralisation of decision making with associated administrative costs.

As a general comment, the discussion paper uses terminology that is quite vague and general in nature, and in our opinion, it could be describing any reform proposal. For example, it is not clear as to what exactly will make the system "simple and accessible", nor what that actually means in practice. This makes it difficult for us to understand the changes and assess the appropriateness and likely true impact of the proposed reforms on the wine sector. We would like to see further detailed information in order to better form an opinion.

We note that the discussion paper states that "the current system of natural resource management is not delivering what it should". This implies that some work on identifying the problems has been undertaken, yet the discussion paper does not clearly articulate what they are. Without a clear and transparent description of the issues, it is very difficult for us to be confident that the proposed reforms will address the root causes.

We make some comments about the principles and some of the specific questions that are posed in the discussion paper.

Responses to the discussion paper

1. ***The guiding principles***

   In general, the guiding principles appear to have the potential to make for a sound and sensible approach to natural resource management, but some of them require more detail as to how they will apply in practice.

   On the issue of "Decentralised decision making", it is laudable to require funds raised in a region to be spent in that region, but the need for equity in funding availability according to need and the greater good in instances of multi-regional management priorities immediately creates the need for some form of centralised control and equalisation mechanism.

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The proposal suggests that this will be addressed by the two funding programs (i.e. Landscape Priorities Fund, and Grassroots Grants), but it is not clear that this will create any more efficiency in the use of levy funds than currently exists, and potentially could create further barriers to projects or even increase administration costs. For example, our experience with similar types of funding and grants programs has been that, due to the extensive processes for applications, assessments, approvals, contracts and reporting, quite often funds are not distributed and used in a timely or effective manner.

The "Back to basics" principle puts three key issues as the major priorities: soil, water, and pests. Whilst these aspects most likely contribute towards the goal of achieving "vibrant biodiversity" (i.e. one of the three aims of the proposed reforms), it is questioned as to what objective evidence exists to support these as the most materially important ones, and why 'habitat' has not been included on equal standing.

We note however, that "revegetation" is listed as one of the "other stewardship priorities", whereas vegetation protection does not seem to appear.

On the other hand, we would welcome the "streamlining of water allocation planning", but there is little detail on how the proposed reforms will achieve this. We are aware of significant frustrations within the wine sector around the extraordinary length of time taken, the process intensive, and in some instances a lack of transparency, in developing past water allocation plans.

2. ***Landscape Boards***

We believe that good governance underpins good outcomes, and this requires attention to all the management processes including appointments, finance, operational efficiency, and reporting. Because of a lack of detail in the discussion paper about proposed governance mechanisms, we are not convinced that these issues have been thoroughly evaluated and understood. We would like to see the aspects of governance better explained in order for us to have confidence in the proposed reforms.

SAWIA recognises the need for the Boards to have autonomy and, importantly, to have appropriately skilled members. Equally, the governance processes need to be robust, and further detail is required in relation to the proposed processes of making appointments to the Boards.

In the case of the elected members, the costs of the election process must be outlined in more detail, as well as how that will be resourced (i.e. the funding of elections should not be at the expense of the levies raised for activities in the region).

3. ***The levy system and funding***

The significant rises in levies in recent years has been a source of frustration and anger for levy-payers. Whilst we are not aware of all the root causes of this, we understand that some part of it is due to the shifting of some costs to the NRM Boards (e.g. for water allocation planning services, as mentioned previously), thereby diminishing the funding available for on-ground activities.

We suggest that this should be examined and rectified as a higher priority than the proposed capping mechanisms. We would also caution that establishing a regulatory process for the levies will inevitably lead to increased administrative cost burden to all stakeholders, ourselves included, especially due to the need for increased engagement in consultation processes.

End of submission

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Hon David Speirs
Level 10, 81-95
Waymouth Street,
ADELAIDE SA 5000
landscapereform@sa.gov.au

15 October 2018

Dear Minister,

Re - NRM Reform in South Australia

Your proposed reform agenda to replace the current NRM Act with a more responsive, simpler and community involved Landscape SA Act has been enthusiastically received by Agriculture Kangaroo Island (AgKI). AgKI is the peak primary producer's organisation on Kangaroo Island and we have had a long association of working with all tiers of government and the private sector to enhance both the profitability and sustainability of primary industries on the Island.

Decentralised decision making

We fully support the notion to decentralise decision making and giving greater empowerment for the community to determine the direction of natural resource management in their regions. It is hoped that the Government will liaise closely with the key existing community organisations (and in particular farming systems groups like AgKI) who have considerable knowledge of their region, land management issues and key priorities.

A simple and accessible system

We look forward to straightforward systems with les red tape and complex compliance requirements. The majority of landholders wish to follow due processes and understand that transparency and accountability are essential. But, complex systems, unnecessary 'paperwork' and working with bureaucrats who have limited understanding of farming systems can at times be frustrating and lead to negative outcomes.

A whole of landscape approach and back to basics

As farmers, we are responsible for managing the largest area of natural resources on KI. We fully understand and recognise the importance of the triple bottom line, the need to consider the environmental, economic and social considerations in every decision we make. On KI we are justifiably proud of the high adoption of the Landcare ethic amongst our farmers.

Comments on specific reform topics:

1. **Landscape Boards**

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- We support the formation of nine boards and in particular support the notion to retain Kangaroo Island as its own region
- We question the reasoning behind reducing board membership from 9 to 7. The smaller the membership the harder it is to guarantee a quorum. If the boards are to truly reflect the community we would hope that more farmers and business people will become member. Such people have complex lives that will not be able to guarantee attendance at all meetings.
- We are concerned with the possibility of members being elected via a popular vote as this may discount some people from nominating, as they do not have the time or inclination to run a campaign to garner votes. One of the keys strengths of the current NRM boards is the strong emphasis placed on skills. The popular vote option does not guarantee the appropriate cross section of skills, experience and local community knowledge.

2. **What can be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?**
    - We draw your attention to the attached paper 'NVC Draft for Consideration' which was developed on KI in 2014. It provides a new way of dealing with NRM issues in a more holistic manner

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed reform of the NRM sector. We look forward to working with you and the wider community in developing this new model.

Yours sincerely

Agriculture Kangaroo Island

Primary Producers SA Inc
C/O Unit 5
780 South Road
GLANDORE SA 5037

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Monday 15 October 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the impending NRM reforms and the new *Landscape South Australia* legislation.

A key priority for Primary Producers SA remains:

- **Re-empowerment of regions** – including
  - re-empowerment of Landscape Boards (greater autonomy and decision-making ability) to
  - control their budgets,
  - employ staff and to engage contractors as appropriate, including industry groups and other non-government organisations, and
  - set regional priorities, for example.

The water planning and management cost recovery from regional budgets needs to be discontinued. Regional budgets will, in most cases, include water planning and management expenditure *where it is identified as a priority at the regional level*. Where agreed by regional boards, this could include cross-regional work. However, any additional expenditure required – which is prioritised at a statewide level – should be funded by the SA Government or other sources. We are aware that these costs are already substantially funded by SA Water payments and the commitment by Treasury to cover the cessation of the River Murray levy.

The imposition of significant additional costs on regions seriously undermines the principles of decentralised decision making and re-empowerment of regions. This also adds to the difficulty in recruiting suitable candidates for board positions.

For similar reasons, we further strongly recommend that the proposed Grassroots Grants and Landscape Priorities Fund should be funded by Greening Adelaide (or the South Australian Government and/or other sources) – *not* from regional Landscape Board budgets. We note that there was input from the Adelaide consultation sessions which indicated a willingness for urban levies to fund statewide and regional activities.

Along with other NRM stakeholders, we have observed decreases in South Australian Government investment while NRM levies have increased. There is a need to reverse this trend of declining SA Government investment into such an important area.

We would like to acknowledge the importance of successfully passing the new legislation through both houses of Parliament in a timely manner. With this in mind, we believe that water management provisions will need to continue to be included in the new Bill. The legislation being drafted will need to establish a robust, fair, streamlined and enabling framework, addressing the key dot points above. A schedule should be set to address some of the more controversial or complex issues in more detail, following the enactment of the new legislation.

Water management is a priority area for primary producers and the legislation should incorporate the flexibility for Landscape Boards and regions to utilise the most appropriate tools for water planning and management.

We query the need for the legislation to prescribe timeframes for both regional Landscape Plans and Water Allocation Plans. This is aligned with queries we have raised, over a period of time, about the effectiveness of some of the investment into NRM planning processes. We prefer efficient, responsive and streamlined processes, focused on on-ground outcomes.

There will be more work to be done in the area of water management following the introduction of the new legislation. We suggest that some key water planning and management issues be addressed by making a commitment to timeframes for the commencement of this work (at a minimum). A number of these will be specific to one or more Water Allocation Plans (or water resources). However there will most likely be a need, at the conclusion of this work, to consider whether any amendments to the legislation are required.

Landscape Boards

Concerns have been raised about the election of Landscape Board members on the basis of both cost and the potential outcomes of elections in terms of board composition and implications for the effective functioning of the boards, particularly if voter turnout and participation in elections is low.

With either low levels of nominations (especially three or less) or low voter turnout, the result could be board members who do not have required skills or knowledge and/or are not able to contribute constructively to the Board and regional governance. The combination of elected and appointed members could make it difficult to get the required mix of skills and knowledge too; even if four appointments are made following the election of three board members (e.g. if a geographical spread of members is being sought).

It could also be difficult to deal with or remove disruptive elected members. We note that alternative proposals have been made for the recruitment of members. For example, regional representatives of the key regional stakeholders could select three board members.

It will be critical that Landscape Board members have a deep understanding not only of NRM issues in their region, but also of socio-economic factors and drivers and production systems.

Animal and plant control

There is a need to carefully explore the ability to adequately address animal and plant control challenges within the new legislative framework. Landscape Boards should have the ability to prioritise weeds and pest animals in their region and to respond to key threats in a timely manner.

Biodiversity / native vegetation

We note that some regions, such as the SA Arid Lands region, have received significant amounts of funding from the Australian Government to undertake or support activities for biodiversity outcomes. The new legislation should enable these types of activities to continue, particularly where they facilitate additional investment in a region.

Soil and land management

Soil and land management remain critical components of the management of natural resources; with practical research, development, extension and adoption activities being delivered by local and regional farming systems groups, for example. It should be noted that the capacity of such groups to deliver engagement and outcomes is not limited to soil and land management.

The submission by the Ag Excellence Alliance outlines well the capacity of the grower group network (with 16 grower groups within the Ag Excellence Alliance and a focus on broadacre agriculture). Similarly, there are networks and groups within the more intensive sectors (for example: Dairy SA; Pork SA; horticultural organisations, groups and networks; and wine grape grower organisations, groups and networks).

Management of climate variability provides ongoing challenges to both primary producers and natural environments, within and outside the NRM system.

In addition, we note that court processes should only be used as a "last resort" option, bearing in mind the very high public and private costs of these processes (and therefore cost inefficiency in achieving outcomes, except in the very worst cases where there needs to be a public penalty/disincentive). There have been examples of both water and native vegetation issues where the ability to negotiate further could have produced much better and more cost-effective outcomes.

Our responses to some of the questions posed in the discussion paper are attached in the Appendix.

We look forward to ongoing involvement and discussions on these matters.

For more information or to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact Rob Kerin on 0439 933 103 or robkerin@ymail.com or Joe Keynes on 0428 648 235 or keyneton@activ8.net.au.

Yours sincerely



Rob Kerin
Independent Chair
Primary Producers SA



Joe Keynes
Chair, NRM Committee
Primary Producers SA

Appendix: Responses to discussion paper questions

1. *What is most important to you in managing natural resources?*

- **Re-empowerment of regions** – including
    - re-empowerment of Landscape Boards (greater autonomy) to
    - control their budgets and
    - employ staff and to engage contractors as appropriate, including industry groups and other non-government organisations, for example.
- NRM levy charges need to be contained at the lowest reasonable and sustainable level, including through appropriate levels of investment from the SA Government and Australian Government.
- **Water management** – incorporating the flexibility for Landscape Boards to utilise the most appropriate tools for water planning and management. More work will need to be done in the area of water management following the introduction of the new legislation.
- **Animal and plant control** provisions – giving the ability to adequately and promptly address animal and plant control challenges within the new legislative framework and considering the tools required.
- The potential to further incorporate **native vegetation** management provisions (particularly those currently residing in the *Native Vegetation Act* and *Regulations*) at a later date if appropriate.
- **Soil and land management** remain critical components; with practical research, development, extension and adoption activities being delivered by local and regional farming systems groups, for example.
- Management of climate variability provides ongoing challenges to both primary producers and natural environments, within and outside the NRM system.

2. *What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?*

The "NRM Partners" forum (NRM Boards, PPSA, Conservation Council of SA, Landcare Association of SA, LGA, Aboriginal representative/SANTS, Department for Environment and Water, PIRSA) is working well and should be retained, along with regular meetings of the Landscape Board presiding members and staff across all regions working in specific areas (e.g. water management, animal and plant control, land management, planning).

- Investment which supports local and regional farming systems/producer groups

3. *What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?*

- **Re-empowerment of regions** – including via
    - re-empowerment of Landscape SA boards (greater autonomy) to
    - control their budgets and
    - employ staff (and to engage contractors as appropriate, including industry groups and other non-government organisations, for example)
- The legislation being drafted will need to establish a robust, fair, streamlined and enabling framework, addressing the key dot points above. The legislation should be less prescriptive to Landscape Boards, allowing them to determine their planning timeframes, water management and animal and plant control priorities, tools and strategies, for example; while allowing for good coordination and communication between the regions in order to seek consistency across the regions, where possible.

  It will therefore be critical that Landscape Board members have a deep understanding not only of NRM issues in their region, but also of socio-economic factors and drivers and production systems.

- We hope that these changes will enable the recruitment of appropriate people from the primary production sector onto Landscape Boards.
- A schedule to address some of the more controversial or complex issues in more detail, following the enactment of the new legislation, is also recommended.
- That court processes should only be used as a "last resort" option, bearing in mind the very high public and private costs of these processes (and therefore cost inefficiency in achieving outcomes, except in the very worst cases where there needs to be a public penalty/disincentive).

4. *How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?*

There have been a number of discussions about funding arrangements – linking this to questions 13 and 15.

There is significant concern about funding being appropriated from regions/regional boards to pay for statewide programs (adding the proposed Grassroots Grants and Landscape Priorities Fund on top of the existing water planning and management "cost recovery") – and what this will leave regions. This is also linked with concerns about the financial viability of some regions.

As mentioned in the cover letter, we believe the water planning and management cost recovery from regional budgets needs to be discontinued. Regional budgets will, in most cases, include water planning and management expenditure *where this is identified as a priority at the regional level*. Where agreed by regional boards, this could include cross-regional work. However, any additional expenditure required – which is prioritised at a statewide level – should be funded by the SA Government or other sources.

For similar reasons, we further strongly recommend that the proposed Grassroots Grants and Landscape Priorities Fund should be funded by Greening Adelaide (or the South Australian Government and/or other sources) – *not* from regional Landscape Board budgets.

Along with other NRM stakeholders, we have observed decreases in South Australian Government investment while NRM levies have increased. There is a need to reverse this trend of declining SA Government investment into such an important area.

Regional Landscape Boards should be able to choose whether and when they invest levy funds in cross-regional initiatives.

There are obviously other elements which can facilitate cross-regional work (beyond funding arrangements), starting with fundamental good collaboration between regions and the various stakeholders. There are already good examples of this. The continuation of the NRM/Landscape Partners group, meetings of the regional presiding members of Landscape Boards and statewide meetings of regional staff on specific topics (e.g. planning, water, animal and plant control – along with Biosecurity SA) should help to enable and continue these types of collaboration.

5. *How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?*

We defer to Aboriginal people and groups/organisations to best answer this question.

6. *How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?*

See also question 3. We have suggested "a streamlined approach" (less spending on PR, plans, reports and glossy documents and more on practical, on-ground measures) and good engagement of industry and grower/farming systems groups, including outsourcing activities where appropriate (which may include communications and engagement activities).

7. *What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?*

Concerns have been raised about the election of Landscape Board members on the basis of:

- Cost – including time and effort and taking into account the cost as a proportion of a region's budget; and
- The potential outcomes of elections in terms of board composition/membership and implications for the effective functioning of the boards – particularly if voter turnout/participation in elections is low.

It will be critical that Landscape Board members have a deep understanding not only of NRM issues in their region, but also of socio-economic factors and drivers and production systems.

We note proposals for members to instead be appointed by a combination of:

- Nominations by peak bodies
- A selection process and panel composed of regional representatives appropriate to a region, incorporating nominations from the peak bodies (to the selection panel)

with skill and knowledge requirements identified and applied.

9. *How can regional planning be streamlined?*

We query the need for the legislation to prescribe timeframes for both regional Landscape Plans and Water Allocation Plans. This is aligned with queries we have raised, over a period of time, about the effectiveness of some of the investment into NRM planning processes. We prefer efficient, responsive and streamlined processes, focused on on-ground outcomes.

Planning processes should focus more on the engagement to develop a plan (or policy) and the policy that results than a glossy or long document. It may be appropriate in a number of instances to be able revise parts of plans (or specific policies), as required, rather than whole plans.

10. *How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?*

Again this is probably more about processes and policies than documents. Less prescriptive timeframes may result in much better and responsive engagement. Face to face engagement via existing networks (and with flexible timeframes) has often produced better outcomes than sending out large documents and expecting engagement on those documents within relatively short, set timeframes.

Good communication, coordination and collaboration between the regions (e.g. sharing of drafts and final policies and plans across regions and cross-regional discussions) is important. The NRM/Landscape Partners group (including presiding members of Landscape Boards) could consider drafts – including with a particular view to highlighting any significant inconsistencies between regions or water resources.

11. *How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?*

Previous surveys have highlighted that confidence regarding NRM science (especially for water planning and management) is not as good as it should be within the primary producer community. Engagement of the primary producer community and industry networks across all NRM science (including monitoring and reporting) needs to be improved – probably at a range of levels – to increase this confidence. Some of the much better examples demonstrate extensive engagement of local communities on local issues.

12. *How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?*

Discussions at the NRM Partners forum have highlighted preferences for regional boards to be able to determine their own levy rates (while ensuring that comparisons are made as part of this process). The NRM/Landscape Partners group (including presiding members of Landscape Boards) could also consider levy proposals – including with a view to highlighting any particular inconsistencies.

13. *How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects*?

See also question 4. How do we identify high priority landscape scale projects? In addition to voluntary collaboration between regions, is there a possible role here for the NRM/Landscape Partners group (including the Landscape Board presiding members)?

Grower groups / farming systems groups, industry and community groups and networks should be engaged appropriately – across both planning and delivery of these types of projects (as appropriate).

14. *How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?*

This has been addressed in some of the previous questions.

15. *How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?*

See also question 4.

16. *What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?*

The legislation should enable Landscape Boards to determine their planning timeframes and appropriate animal and plant control priorities, tools and strategies to respond to key threats in a timely manner; while allowing for good coordination and communication between the regions. Biosecurity SA would work closely with the NRM/Landscape Partners group, as well as Landscape Boards and cross-regional animal and plant control staff.

The issue of overabundant native species is of critical importance and should also be part of the remit of Landscape Boards and the NRM/Landscape Partners group. We note that this currently resides with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

See also question 21.

17. *Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?*

It is important that provisions which apply to the River Murray aren't necessarily automatically applied to other, very different water resources, without carefully thinking through the most appropriate management regimes for each resource (taking into account the knowledge base, resourcing and all of the features specific to each resource) – but that regions have the flexibility to use the most appropriate management tools for each resource.

As highlighted above, we query the need for the legislation to prescribe timeframes for both regional Landscape Plans and Water Allocation Plans. This is aligned with queries we have raised, over a period of time, about the effectiveness of some of the investment into NRM planning processes. We prefer efficient, responsive and streamlined processes, focused on on-ground outcomes.

18. *What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?*

As mentioned above, a schedule should be set to address some of the more controversial or complex issues in more detail, following the enactment of the new legislation.

There will be more work to be done in the area of water management following the introduction of the new legislation. We suggest that some key water planning and management issues be addressed by making a commitment to timeframes for the commencement of this work (at a minimum). A number of these issues will be specific to one or more Water Allocation Plans (or water resources). However there will most likely be a need, at the conclusion of this work, to consider whether any amendments to the legislation are required.

A submission has been made previously by Primary Producers SA on the Department's Better Water Planning and Management discussion paper, after conducting a water planning and management survey. Other submissions have also been made already on water planning and management issues. We would be happy to provide further input or materials, and to discuss these issues in much more detail.

19. *What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?*

See also question 16 above and questions 20 and 21 below.

20. *What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?*

There are currently a few different incentives variously available to primary producers in different parts of SA, including: various regional and subregional NRM incentive programs (funded by NRM Boards); native vegetation clearance offset payments (Significant Environmental Benefits or SEBs); and, potentially, Emissions Reduction Fund payments.

The cumulative effect of these various programs might be better coordinated to reach, and be accessible to, primary producers. Where appropriate, NRM incentives might be made available more consistently to all primary producers across SA (but without losing the ability for regions to identify and fund specific regional or subregional needs).

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators and/or sustainable agriculture officers might be further enabled to assist primary producers to access any of these opportunities through streamlined processes, noting that primary producers require support with regulatory requirements too (such as water policies and licensing, native vegetation management regulations and animal and plant control requirements).

The incentive program/s also require science and technology support to demonstrate effective techniques in local areas and assess the local and financial viability of actions for incentives on offer and possible responses to regulations.

In the area of native vegetation management and biodiversity outcomes, in particular, there may be potential to draw in additional investment (e.g. from NGOs, philanthropic investors) into a system which can demonstrate a range of NRM outcomes. We need to connect primary producers in SA into the range of opportunities, where appropriate.

We note that healthy financial circumstances (for landholders) increase capacity for good landscape stewardship. To this end, we reiterate that NRM levy charges need to be contained at the lowest reasonable and sustainable level, including through appropriate levels of investment from the SA Government and Australian Government.

Keeping government costs at the lowest reasonable and sustainable level will help primary producers to remain viable, profitable and cost-competitive (e.g. with overseas and interstate producers) and increase capacity to invest in landscape management.

21. *How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?*

We have noted previously that court processes should only be used as a "last resort" option, bearing in mind the very high public and private costs of these processes (and therefore cost inefficiency in achieving outcomes, except in the very worst cases where there needs to be a public penalty/disincentive). There have been examples of both water and native vegetation issues where the ability to negotiate further could have produced much better and more cost-effective outcomes.

On the other hand, in areas such as animal and plant control, there is a need to be able to respond promptly to key threats, for example.

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Agricultural Bureau
of South Australia Inc.
PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT

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c/- Rural Business Support
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Ph: 8364 5063 / **fax:** 8364 5274
Email: agbureau@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

19 October 2018

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Parliament House SA 5000

Via email: Minister.Speirs@sa.gov.au
cc: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs

Re: Review of the NRM Act and the proposed Landscape SA

Thank you for your letter dated 27th July 2018 regarding information on the review of the NRM Act and the proposed Landscape SA.

Historically the Agricultural Bureau of SA (ABSA) and Government enjoyed a strong relationship in supporting and connecting with the rural sector of South Australia. This connection and activity has changed over the years, however the need for connection and productive outcomes for agriculture and the sustainable management of our natural resources are still important. This following information provides a summary of the mutually beneficial value that Agricultural Bureau of SA can offer to support the implementation of the new Landscape SA arrangements.

Background

The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia is a not-for-profit organisation run by farmers for the rural sector. Membership is for everyone associated with, or interested in; farming, agricultural development and education. ABSA helps strengthen the relationship and information flow between scientist and farmer and assists its members in working together on issues of common interest and benefit to primary production.

The Agricultural Bureau is an integral part of rural communities throughout South Australia and has a proud history in serving agriculture since 1888. There are approximately 1100 members - over 60 active branches - spread across South Australia. Branches meet regularly to exchange ideas, discuss farming practices and issues, and work on common challenges together - most importantly providing a support to each other in their local community.

The strength of the Agricultural Bureau lies in the unique character of our volunteer based organisation. Our members are local groups in local communities with local knowledge, which cover all parts of South Australia. ABSA members are passionate about; agriculture, community and learning, working together for the best outcomes for their businesses, families, communities and the rural sector.

Function of the Agricultural Bureau of SA

- Provide leadership to the Ag Bureau network (regions, branches and members) and encouragement to develop vibrant rural community and industry networks.
- Be an advocate for excellence in agriculture, business management and sustainable natural resource management.
- Develop partnerships with pertinent government departments, agribusinesses and regional organisations that have an impact on agriculture.
- Present ABSA issues, options and solutions to relevant Ministers and agribusiness leaders.
- Be an information conduit for; State and Federal legislation, Research and Development, and Industry information

What the Agricultural Bureau of SA can offer regarding implementation of the new Landscape SA arrangements

The ABSA represents the interests of South Australia's farmers to government and related agencies, as well as contributing to the extension of agricultural research and development through the management of projects and distribution of research outcomes via its member branches. It plays an important knowledge transfer role to farmers in South Australia and is a critical conduit in the broader "two way" information flow process.

Keys areas where ABSA can support Landscape SA are:

1. Sustainable Agriculture
    a. ABSA members manage a large proportion of our landscape as part of their agricultural enterprises (over 12 million hectares in the agricultural zone)
    b. A major focus of our Branches is improving productivity and the sustainable management of our farming land and landscape in general

2. Extension
    a. The ABSA encourages the adoption of improved practices through its various activities, including; trials and demonstrations, field days, guest speakers and robust discussion sessions
    b. Sharing relevant information independent of commercial and political interest

3. Communication
    a. In the event of a crisis i.e. dry times, an immediate strategy clicks into action linking the membership and branches as required
    b. Opportunity for Government to get information out and in via ABSA database
    c. Regional and local reports

4. Collaboration
    a. There is an opportunity to improve linkages and partnerships between primary producers, the sustainable agriculture sector and the NRM/Landscape SA sector
    b. Strong partnerships will enhance the new Landscape SA arrangements

5. Disaster reaction
    a. Ag Bureau have resources and network already in place to respond to disasters and adverse events
    b. Local information can be communicated directly back to government and key decision makers

6. Research and Development
    a. Adoption of technology through uptake of Research and Development (R&D)
    b. Input into R&D that is relevant at local producer level
    c. History of project management in collaboration with PIRSA /DEW/ NRM
    d. Responding to grass root issues
    e. Short and long term identified concerns / possibilities (forward thinking)

7. Wellbeing
    a. Community support via local networks and opportunity for social and face-to-face contact
    b. Crisis response – immediate, personal and targeted response
    c. Good times to celebrate and learn
    d. Educate community about farming,

More detailed information about the activities of the Ag Bureau is included in the attached copy of our most recent Annual Report (2017-18).

We believe the Agricultural Bureau of SA can contribute to the sustainable management of South Australia's landscape and natural resources through enhanced collaboration with new Landscape SA Boards and the ABSA network.

I am happy to provide further information as required.

Thank you once again for this opportunity and we look forward to working closely with the new Landscape SA arrangements.

Yours sincerely

M R Grossman

MARK GROSSMAN
Chairman, Agricultural Bureau of SA

Encl. Agricultural Bureau 2017/18 Annual Report

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

CHAIR'S REPORT

Achievements, awards & sponsorships

MEMBER AWARDS

More than 45 members clock up milestones

ROSS REMINISCES

70 years as an Ag Bureau member in our 130th year!



2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

2018 marks **the 130th anniversary of the Ag Bureau of South Australia!** It also marks the 70th year of membership for 92 year-old Ross Roberts (pictured on our front cover), of our Nelshaby branch.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held in Adelaide in October, followed by the **Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards** presentation dinner on 12 October 2017.

The **2017 Rural Youth Bursary** helped Mount Pleasant's Kayla Starkey to progress her dreams of becoming a high school Agricultural Science teacher. Read more about how Kayla has utilised her bursary win on page 12.

The Barossa Valley's Tracy Bonython was awarded the **Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship for Young Farmers** at last year's awards and says it has been "a huge game changer" for her and her family business, Bon Chevon. Tracy shares how the scholarship has helped her to grow their gourmet goat meat business on page 10.

Greg Cock was recognised for his Services to Primary Production and longstanding contribution to primary production. Greg's contribution to agriculture over more than 30 years includes leadership roles with PIRSA and the Ag Bureau. He has fostered strong relationships with Ag Bureau members through roles such as leading PIRSA's Regional Advisory Group for the 2006 drought response.

The 2018 winner of **the Lois Harris Scholarship was Alec McCallum**.

Ag Bureau **continued our contribution to PIRSA's Modern Extension** framework.

The Bureau **managed project funding of $141,000** to increase the adoption of evidence based sustainable production methods.

Sponsorship of $23,000 was received towards Bureau member projects.

Our **Regional Support Network was launched** this year, creating the opportunity for six Bureau members to be a voice for their local agricultural communities to the Board, government and other agencies.

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."

George Washington



ABOUT US

The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia (the Bureau) is a not-for-profit organisation run by farmers for farmers.

With a proud history in South Australia, the Bureau has assisted primary producers since 1888 and is the only farmer network group of its kind remaining in Australia.

Membership is open to anyone who is associated with, or has an interest in farming, agricultural development and education.

The Bureau supports agricultural development through the provision of information and expertise to producers and the wider community via an extensive network and works in close co-operation with the Government of South Australia and agricultural research institutions. This currently includes Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the University of Adelaide and the SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

There are more than 1500 members of the Bureau across 70 branches throughout South Australia. Membership of an Ag Bureau branch provides opportunities for professional development, growth and a chance to network with local farmers.

In particular the Bureau provides opportunities for young farmers to be mentored and encouraged as they learn from the experience of other members.



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CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board I am pleased to present this report of our Bureau's achievements for 2017/18 and in this, our 130th anniversary year!

Since 1888 the Ag Bureau of South Australia has provided farmers and landowners with a meeting place to discuss issues of interest to their local region. Branch activities have evolved to include hosting technical and extension trials, organising grower bus trips and supporting communities affected by natural disasters. Members of our 70 branches attend branch events and activities and contribute to the sustainability of the industry by taking part in the latest projects and trials.

One person who could tell you a thing or two about the Ag Bureau's achievements over the years is Ross Roberts, of Nelshaby branch. Ross has clocked up an extraordinary 70 years of membership! Ross kindly shares a few of his memories with us on page 6.

Historically Ag Bureau shared a strong connection with Government and was supported financially to be a key conduit of information flow from government to farmers. I am pleased to say that this tradition is re-emerging with the Ag Bureau's invitation to contribute to the Modern Extension framework.

This year saw three Modern Extension meetings held with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), with Brett Smith from Rural Business Support, our Treasurer Janette Ridgway and myself representing the Ag Bureau. Janette Ridgway will represent the Bureau on this project steering committee moving forward.

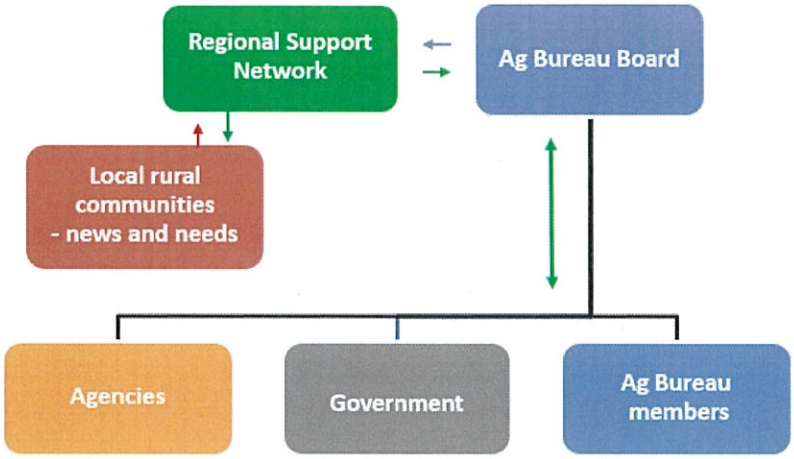
I also have been involved with Natural Resource Management Reform project headed up by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

The Royal Adelaide Show acknowledged the longstanding connection with Ag Bureau in our 130th year with a special grain and fodder section. The Show has provided sections for Bureau entries over many years. This year I sponsored the Ag Bureau Chair's trophy for the best exhibit in Bureau classes.

Our newly launched Regional Support Network (RSN) has been another exciting development this year.

Six Bureau members will have the opportunity to contribute to key decision making and ensure that important local issues are communicated to the Board, government and other agencies.

Contribute. Share. **Influence.**
Ag Bureau of SA **Regional Support Network**





The new board for 2017/18 was announced at our AGM and I am pleased to welcome Allan Zerna, representing the Eyre Peninsula.

Geoff Page continues to represent the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island until his retirement from the Board in October 2018. Janette Ridgway represents the South East, David Edwards the Yorke Peninsula/Mid North and I remain as the Chair and representative for the Barossa/Light region.

The Bureau is committed to encouraging and supporting rural youth who are working not only in primary production but in careers that sustain rural communities, so our annual Spirit of Excellence Awards were offered again in October 2017.

It has been so rewarding and inspiring to learn how our 2017 winners have progressed their agricultural careers this year - read more on pages 10 and 12. I also had the pleasure of awarding the 2017 Services to Primary Production Award to Mount Barker's Greg Cock (pictured left).

For the 2018 Awards we're pleased to again have the support of both the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and PIRSA, which allows us to provide these prestigious scholarships.

We also thank SA Water for their generous sponsorship of the Bureau's Regional Bus Tours during 2017-2018.

The strength of the Ag Bureau lies in the unique character of our volunteer based organisation. Our members are passionate about agriculture, community and learning together for the best outcomes for their businesses, family and the rural sector.

We look forward to continuing our work in the agricultural industry in 2018-19, representing our members in providing an independent voice to government departments, agencies and partners.

Mark Grossman
Chair - Agricultural Bureau of South Australia



LONGSTANDING MEMBER AWARDS

The Board recognises and congratulates the following longstanding members on reaching their milestones. Thank you for your continuing contributions to our work.

70 years

Nelshaby	**Ross Roberts**

60 years

Rowlands Flat	**Alan Modistach** **Eddie Schild** **Kevin Schiller** **Reg Robinson**
Moonta	**Donald Bagshaw**

50 years

Boors Plains	**Mervyn Baker**
Koonunga	**Charlie Braunack** **Jeffrey Hoffmann** **Marcus Kleinig**
Lone Pine Tanunda	**Malcolm Graue**
Nelshaby	**Daryle Johns** **Henry Mudge**
Parawa	**Bill Pearce** **Ian Williams**

40 years

Angaston	**Richard Evans**
Boors Plains	**Lindsay Gordon Barker**
Lone Pine Tanunda	**Jeffry Rosenzweig**
Owen	**John Tiller**
Parawa	**Graeme Golding** **Glen Rowlands** **Vic Walter**

30 years

Lone Pine Tanunda	**Dean Afford**
Nelshaby	**Gordon Baker** **Peter Bishop** **Graeme Crouch** **Ray Haldane** **Philip Johns**
Owen	**Trevor Clifford** **Peter Freebairn** **Andrew Parker** **Rob Saint** **Lachlan Wood**
Parawa	**Peter Filsell** **Charlotte Morley** **Dean Whitford**

20 years

Koonunga	**Matthew Hampel** **Andrew Kleinig** **Allen McKenzie** **Nick Riebke**
Nelshaby	**Steven A. Johns** **Brendan Johns** **Merv Lewis** **Barry Mudge**
Parawa	**Stephen Rogers**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The pursuit and securing of additional sponsorship support for the Ag Bureau's activities and events has once again been successful this year.

Pleasingly, negotiations with both SA Water and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) resulted in funding again being allocated towards our Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards and for educational bus tours by branches.

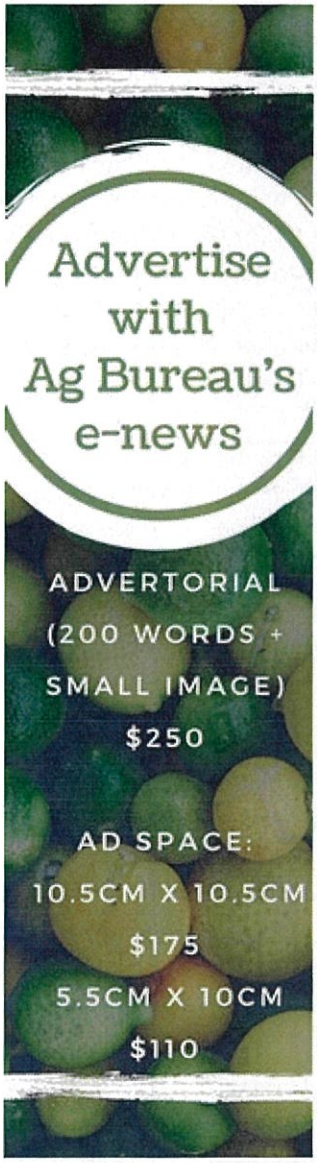
The $8000 DEW Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship is in memory of both Peter and Wendy Olsen to recognise the couple's collective contributions to agriculture and landcare.

We remember Peter and Wendy's passion for environmental management and advocacy for sustainable farming practices.

SA Water continued its Bronze level Ag Bureau sponsorship to facilitate more educational bus tours for branch members. Branches were able to apply for a share of these funds to run trips in local areas.

We also acknowledge the ongoing sponsorship of Primary Industries SA (PIRSA), which enables us to offer the Rural Youth Bursary.

We thank Rural Business Support as well for their contribution to our Spirit of Excellence Dinner.



GOVERNING BODY

The Board of the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia comprises representatives from each of the Bureau regions, augmented with members from government, agricultural education and research bodies.

The Board represents the interests of South Australia's farmers to government and contributes to the extension of agricultural research and development through the management of projects.

On behalf of Bureau members, the Board manages the Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards which comprise four awards which recognise achievements in the agricultural field.

The Awards provide opportunities to young people to pursue a career of excellence in agriculture and are an avenue to promote Bureau membership to a younger audience. As the governing body the Board is responsible for the following:

- Managing and administering finances, insurance, awards and projects;
- Preparing and distribution of submissions on industry relevant issues;
- Facilitating the implementation of research, extension and training programs that enhance agriculture, business, management and
- Promoting the aims, objectives and achievements of The Ag Bureau and the importance of agriculture and sustainable resource management to the broader community; and
- Providing a view forward to industry bodies and Government departments on behalf of members.



"YOU NEVER REALLY RETIRE FROM FARMING"...

Ross Roberts claims you never really retire from farming and, at 92 (or thereabouts - he's lost count) he continues to be an active Nelshaby Ag Bureau member who takes a keen interest in local farming operations.



In this, the Ag Bureau's 130th anniversary year, Ross has reached a magnificent 70 years as a member of Nelshaby branch - an extraordinary achievement!

Ross was a broad acre cereal cropper, farming barley wheat, lupins and field peas. He continued this well into his late 80s until retiring "four or five years ago".

Ross says that while he's been "getting a bit slow" lately, he is still a regular face at the branch meetings. And armed with a new set of hearing aids recently, he doesn't miss much.

Ross' connection with Ag Bureau began from the day he was born. His father was a founding member of the Nelshaby Ag Bureau in September 1922.

Ross still remembers attending his first Bureau meeting as a young chap, just out of high school - he came home as branch secretary! In the seven decades since then he has served several stints as both president and secretary.

In the early days Ross was so devoted to his Bureau duties that his wife was forced to take drastic measures.

"She would lock my good pants in the wardrobe to keep me home and stop me going out to the meetings," Ross said, tongue in cheek.

"I didn't miss many Bureau meetings - they were the highlight of my month."

Ross recalls that Nelshaby Bureau meetings used to be held on Saturday mornings. The wives would make the most of the opportunity to go into town shopping while the blokes met to catch up on Branch activities.

Nelshaby, a market garden area supplying the city of Port Pirie district, was formed after Port Pirie branch closed in 1921 (1886 to 1921).

When Ross' father returned home from serving in World War I, he took up a Soldier's Settler Block and began farming. He built a house on the block, carting the stone for it from the nearby hills.

This historic house is the place Ross still calls home today.



70 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR ROSS

Ross continued to farm the family land with his brother until his brother enlisted for the second World War. Returning home, his brother received a Soldier's Settler Block on Kangaroo Island - where he is still farming today.

Ross and his wife Lorna had five children. Of them, their eldest son Gary continued on the farm and is recognised as an Ag Bureau life member.

Before he retired from farming, Ross remembers there was a trial plot on his family's land about five years ago.

"I found it very interesting with all the different treatments for cereal crops - farming has changed so much during my 70 years in the rural industry," he said.

Ross has many other fond and still vivid Ag Bureau memories, including an annual trip away to visit other Bureaus around the state.

"This was a highlight and very beneficial for my farming practises," he said.

"These days farmers don't share information between themselves so much - instead they get in experts and consultants."

Ross reminisced that when he was first a member, the Ag Bureau had an informational paper that was regularly distributed. The informational papers covered many subjects over the years and focused on all aspects of life, not just on farming. One of the first papers Ross organised as secretary of Nelshaby was by the Minister of Religion, whom Ross arranged to come and speak at the Branch meeting.

When asked about the Spirit of Excellence Awards and how they encourage young farmers to grow their careers in agriculture, Ross responded with enthusiasm.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to support young farmers," he said.

In our 130th year, Ross says the most important benefits of being an Ag Bureau member are the same as what they were in 1888. He has nothing but good things to say about the direction the Bureau is heading in.

"(Belonging to) Ag Bureau is a lovely way to mix with the people of the district - that knowledge sharing between members and the social aspect, meeting with other farmers and having the support of local members... it's important."

"I'm very proud of the young people that have taken over the responsibility of the Nelshaby Bureau. They are respectful and responsible and I believe they will do good things with the continuation of the Nelshaby branch."

We're confident they will, Ross. They have big shoes to fill, but if they follow in your well trodden footsteps, the future for Ag Bureau is a bright one!

"She would lock my good pants in the wardrobe to keep me home and stop me going out to the meetings. I didn't miss many - they were the highlight of my month."



SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

Our Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards offer farmers and rural youth the opportunity to pursue personal and professional development to ultimately benefit their local communities.

A Barossa Valley goat meat visionary and an aspiring Ag Sciences teacher from Mount Pleasant were recognised as future leaders of South Australian agriculture at our 2017 Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards.

Generously supported by the then Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), the Awards offer young farmers and rural youth the opportunity to pursue personal and professional development to benefit their local communities.

Tracy Bonython from the Barossa Valley was the recipient of the new 'DEWNR Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship for Young Farmers'.

The $8000 scholarship is for a young farmer (aged 18-35 for the 2017 Awards) to pursue further study, take a study tour or run a special project. The new scholarship is in memory of the late Peter and Wendy Olsen to recognise both of their contributions to agriculture and landcare in South Australia.Sponsored by DEWNR for the first time in 2017, the scholarship focuses on sustainability of the natural resources that underpin primary production.

Kayla Starkey from Mount Pleasant was awarded the 2017 Rural Youth Bursary sponsored by Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

Kayla is studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Adelaide and aims to go on to complete a Masters in Teaching. She also co-manages two sheep studs with her father.

The Rural Youth Bursary consists of a $5000 grant from PIRSA for rural young people (aged 18-30) working in a rural community, not necessarily in agriculture, to pursue further study, undertake a study tour or develop a special project in their chosen career.



LEFT: 2017 Award winners. Tracy Bonython - 'DEWNR Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship for Young Farmers'; Greg Cock - 'Services to Primary Production' recipient and Kayla Starkey - 'PIRSA Rural Youth Bursary winner.

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

Passionate about educating young people to pursue success in agriculture, Kayla planned to use the grant to attend the 2018 National Association of Agricultural Educators conference in Launceston in January 2018.

The October 2017 ceremony also saw Greg Cock of Mount Barker recognised with the Services to Primary Production Award.

Greg's contribution to agriculture over more than 30 years includes leadership roles with PIRSA and the Ag Bureau. He has fostered strong relationships with Ag Bureau members through roles such as leading PIRSA's Regional Advisory Group for the 2006 drought response.

Greg has an ongoing interest in rural financial services, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. He is a firm believer in empowering others to identify their own priorities and support them in achieving them.



Services to Primary Production winner for 2017, Mount Barker's Greg Cock, with Alison Lloyd-Wright (PIRSA), Mark Grossman and Daniel Casement (PIRSA).

"Even if you think it's the smallest idea that may help in your community, or help your career in the rural sector, have a go. It's such a great prize."

Kayla Starkey
2017 PIRSA Rural Youth Bursary winner

WHERE COULD AN AG BUREAU BURSARY TAKE YOUR CAREER?

Each year the Ag Bureau of SA's Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards provide two young people with the opportunity to open doors, chase an idea or follow their dreams.

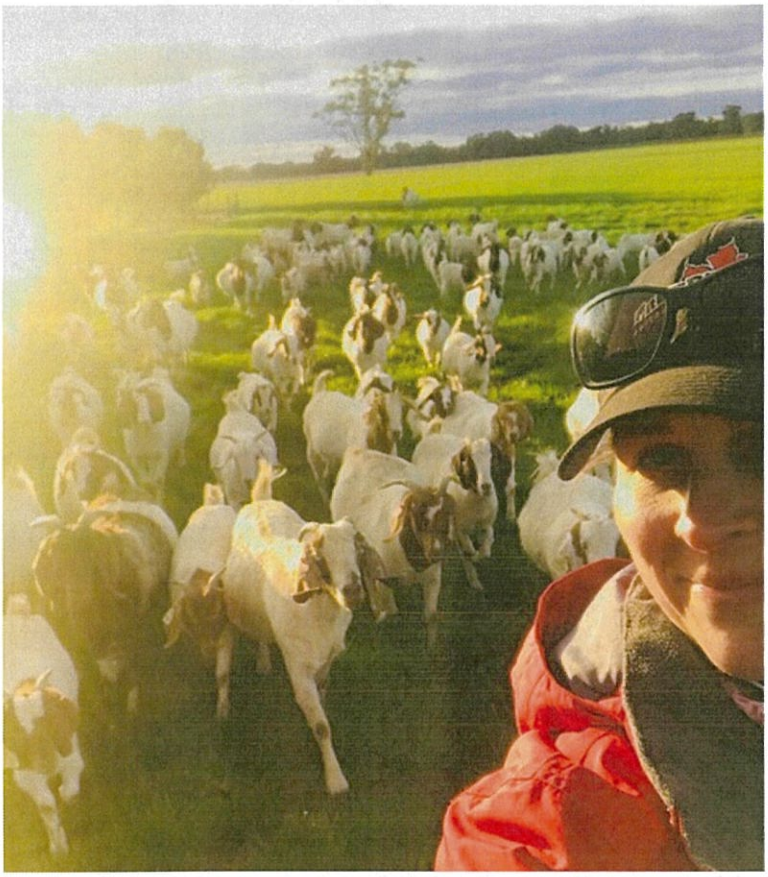
The $8000 DEW Sustainable Agricultural Scholarship honours the memory of Peter and Wendy Olsen, former members of the Ag Bureau who died in the Whyalla Airlines crash of May 2000. It is open to primary producers aged between 18 and 40.

Anyone aged 18-30 and living in a rural area can apply for the Rural Youth Bursary. The winner receives $5000 to spend on a project or study tour to further their career opportunities.

Next year's awards will be launched in July 2019. This means there's plenty of time to start working on your application...



ONE YEAR ON WITH 2017 AWARD WINNERS



Winning the Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship for Young Farmers at last year's Spirit of Excellence Awards has been "a huge game changer" for Tracy Bonython and her family business, Bon Chevon, a Barossa Valley gourmet goat meat business.

Tracy and husband Owen started the business as a hobby in 2014 after purchasing 10 Boer does to breed their own wethers. Tracy was an agriculture teacher with Faith College in Tanunda and had been trying to find wethers for students to compete with at the Royal Adelaide Show. The goats were brought home after the Show – and Bon Chevon was born.

As the Bonythons added to their herd, local restaurants discovered the rare, locally produced gourmet meat. It didn't take long for the unique paddock-to-plate operation to become an award-winning local food brand.

Receiving the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship gave Tracy the confidence in the family's unique business to "really consider what role we can play" as part of the Australian agriculture and goat industries.

"I've met some amazing people and have been given opportunities to not only grow our business but also to become associated with groups like the Goat Industry Council of Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia," Tracy said.

When asked about the next step for Bon Chevon, Tracy says "a lot more growing and a lot more learning!"

"Our business has recently purchased numerous stud animals with amazing structure and size so that we can continue to improve the quality and genetics of our animals," she said.

"We want to continue growing the number of local restaurants we supply to and always keep the quality of our product at the forefront."

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship winner Tracy Bonython

Winning the 2018 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship allowed Tracy to:

- Conduct pasture trials to work towards better practices for grazing goats and more sustainable options.
- Purchase equipment and training to complete on-farm Faecal Egg Count tests so that drench resistance can be controlled on farm.
- Participate in a study tour of Victoria to establish connections with similar businesses that are promoting farmed goat meat in Australia and with breeders of stud Boer goats so that genetic improvement can be achieved in the Bon Chevon herd.
- Observe other unique farming operations in the form of Community Supported Agriculture.
- Create a new housing facility for the Bon Chevon bucks utilising sustainable pasture options like Tagasaste trees.



ABOVE: Grazing Bon Chevon goats on Tracy and Owen's Barossa Valley property earlier this year.

"I've met some amazing people and have been given opportunities to not only grow our business but also to become associated with groups like the Goat Industry Council of Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia."

Tracy Bonython



2017 Rural Youth Bursary winner – Kayla Starkey

Winning the 2017 Rural Youth Bursary has helped Mount Pleasant's Kayla Starkey to progress her dreams of becoming a secondary Agricultural/Science teacher.

Growing up on a sheep property at Mount Pleasant, Kayla is highly passionate about teaching youth within the agricultural sector and is currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Kayla's winning 2017 application included detailed plans to travel to Launceston Tasmania in January 2018 to attend the four day National Ag Teachers conference. This provided a valuable opportunity to broaden her knowledge of the agricultural education sector, as well as meeting and networking with likeminded professionals already in teaching.

With the help of Ag Bureau of SA members, Kayla organised some on-farm visits while in the Apple Isle, allowing her to explore the practises being utilised by sheep growers there, while further broadening her industry contacts.

Kayla is still heavily involved in her family's stud farm, breeding quality Polwarth and Merino sheep as part of their two studs; Bel-Antha Polwarth and Hill View Merino. Along with the breeding, Kayla also hopes to get her family stud back showing Polwarth sheep again – a highlight from their rural past – in the near future.

After completing her Bachelor of Ag Science, Kayla plans to enrol and complete a Masters of Teaching over the next two years to fulfil her dream of qualifying as a secondary educator.

Kayla says the Rural Youth Bursary highlights the community spirit of the Ag Bureau, supporting young people in rural areas to pursue and solidify their career dreams, ultimately to help build their local communities.

"No matter what your idea is, run with it – do the costing, make a budget, put it all together and be prepared," Kayla said.

If you are serious, then definitely have a good plan of how you're going to use the money because if you are shortlisted you will have to present it to the judging panel.

"Even if you think it's the smallest idea that may help in your community, or help your career in the rural sector, have a go. It's such a great prize, it really is worth giving it a shot.

"I have personally made so many contacts and connections through winning the award that have already benefited me and that I will continue to use throughout my ag teaching career."



ABOVE: During her Tasmania farm visits, Kayla had the privilege to inspect some of Georgina Wallace's rams and ewes. "This was just some of her spectacular wool that she is producing," Kayla said.

agricultural bureau of south australia
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness."

Thomas Jefferson



AG BUREAU PROJECTS 2017-18

The Bureau has a long and proud history of managing projects that benefit members from State to local level. Funding is from a variety of sources including the Australian Government and the Government of South Australia.

Projects continuing

Benchmarking Soil Health Under Alternative Systems, Monitoring Biochar Trial and FFF Group Support Stage 2b

Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges
NRMB - Sustainable Agriculture Industry Support Grant

$130,115.70 (June 2017 to June 2018)

The pressure is on for farmers to increase production and maintain profitability, while providing a healthy product for consumers. Production issues for the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM region continue to emerge including increasing acid soils, reduced growing season length under a changing climate, a lack of adequate Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur and trace element deficiencies such as copper.

Soil health treatments such as alternative fertilisers can help overcome these issues by reducing acidity, increasing the soil organic carbon and soil moisture holding capacity, increasing the growing season length and supplying organic nutrients and trace elements. Chemical treatments cannot do this but they can increase production by providing nutrients and trace elements in a more readily available form.



Producers in the Adelaide Mt Lofty NRM region would like a better understanding of the best and most cost effective soil health treatments and their relationship to soil acidity, soil moisture, growing season, nutrient and trace element content.

Furthermore, they would like an understanding of their longer term benefit on their soil health and potential to help manage climate change impacts such as a shortened growing season.

AG BUREAU PROJECTS 2017-18

Projects commenced

Improved Control of Exotic Pest Snails in the Yorke Peninsula Region of SA

Australian Government National Landcare Program (NLP) – Smart Farms Small Grants

$52,250 (July 2018 to June 2020)

The project will evaluate new techniques to improve snail control and meet new market demands for low numbers of snails in grain.

The use of time lapse cameras, together with collection and analysis of snail species throughout the season has improved snail control, through increasing understanding of snail behaviour and snail bait efficacy. Increasing snail mortality to 85% has reduced crop damage and harvesting issues.

However snails are still a major problem in many areas in SA due to high snail reproduction rates in favourable conditions (one snail producing 200 to 400 offspring) Achieving 85% control of snails will not ensure farmers can meet forecast standards of "less than one snail per 0.5 litres" There is concern farmers may revert to increased use of bare earth treatments to meet tighter grain snail tolerances. Bare earth treatments will reduce plant soil cover and significantly increase erosion risk in loam soils.

Fleurieu Forward Farmers - Increasing profit by managing climate variability through soil health

Australian Government NLP – Smart Farms Small Grants

$109,793.20 (July 2018 to June 2020)

Livestock producers in the Fleurieu region will be supported to better manage soil and pasture health, climate variability and improve profit.

The project will:

- Innovatively measure pasture quality, soil moisture and rainfall at six soil health sites and 15 farm sites, while continuing to measure soil health at two of the replicated soil heath sites.
- Utilise and build upon decision support tools for our region incorporating data collected on feed quality, nutrition, productivity, soil moisture and soil health to support decisions for N & P scheduling, optimal hay and silage cutting, grazing management, and supplementary feeding.
- Produce a fact sheet that helps producers to understand how to build soil health.
- Conduct a field day demonstrating the tools and key project outcomes.
- Develop a one-day workshop to train producers on building soil health, using the tools developed.
- Deliver outcomes via newsletters and our web site.



AG BUREAU PROJECTS 2017-18

Innovative and cost-effective methods to manage 'emerging' soil acidity to improve soil health, crop and pasture production

Australian Government NLP – Smart Farms Small Grants

$100,188 (July 2018 to June 2020)

With more intensive and productive farming systems in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula of SA there are now areas with emerging issues of soil acidity that have been regarded as traditionally non-acid soil areas. The growth of high value crops such as lentils and beans that are highly sensitive to low pH soils are not growing well in some areas due to increasing areas of soil acidity.

The project will work with six farmer groups. It will trial and implement new and innovative technologies of soil pH mapping to show the spatial variation of soil pH across paddocks. The soil pH mapping demonstration work will be ground-truthed and used with decision support tools with farmer workshops to increase awareness, understanding, management and treatment of acid soils.

The increased knowledge and facilitation of the new technology will allow farmers to better manage soil acidity to improve soil health, production and profitability. Case studies will be prepared.

Innovative NDVI, pH and EC mapping in the Clare Valley vineyards and investigation and management of soil constraints to improve soil health, production and profitability

Australian Government NLP – Smart Farms Small Grants

$108,607.40 (July 2018 to June 2020)

The Clare Valley of South Australia is renowned for its Riesling wines as well as its premium red varieties including Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. In 2017 the total value of wine grapes was approximately $32 million.

Within the vineyards there can be considerable soil variability that can have a serious impact on grape quality as well as yield. This can be due to variation in soil type and soil qualities such as low soil pH, salt, sodic soils etc.

This project is to develop and extend new and innovative tools, methods and technologies such as NDVI (normalised difference vegetation index) with UAV (drones), pH and EC (Electrical conductivity) mapping to identify variability within vineyards. From this, management zones can then be identified. Within each management zone soil pits will be dug to look at soil constraints.

Workshops will be held with grape growers to improve their knowledge of soil and to better manage soils to improve production and profitability.



Workshops for Clare Valley grape growers will improve their knowledge of soil and to better manage soils to improve production and profitability.

AG BUREAU PROJECTS 2017-18

Feasibility study to explore the technical and financial feasibility of establishing a facility for aggregating and adding value to locally produced grain

Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Community Benefit Programme

$76,230 (July 2018 to June 2019)

The following activities will be undertaken:

- Market consultation to study requirements and determine viability of - establishing the infrastructure, including calculating capital expenditure required
- Identifying location for planned facility, if the study is positive producing information memorandum
- Seeking expressions of interest, which will be evaluated
- Negotiating an agreement with preferred parties if expressions of interest are acceptable

The outcome of the activities is to determine the viability of developing infrastructure to store and process grain.

The project will be located within the Local Government Area of the District Council of Kimba.



Ag Bureau has received funding for a feasibility study to explore the technical and financial feasibility of establishing a facility for aggregating and adding value to locally produced grain.



AG BUREAU PROJECTS 2017-18

Export Hay Trials in the Kimba district

Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Community Benefit Programme.

$19,250 (July 2018 to June 2019)

Minnipa Research Centre is to undertake export hay trials in the Kimba district, on oaten hay in relation to yield and feed test standards to allow producers to make better informed decisions when planting and managing hay crops.

Activities include: planting, managing and harvesting trial plots, undertaking an oat rotation study, and compilation and reporting of trial and study data.

Establishing a moisture probe and weather station network across the Kimba region

Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Community Benefit Programme

$21,693 (July 2018 to December 2018)

Establishing a moisture probe and weather station network across the region, to improve data availability and quality, and agronomic decision-making and grain yield.

Activities will include: site selection and installation of probe network (six probes in representative soil types), data collection/internet upload, and running education workshops on data interpretation and better agronomic decisions.



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ABOUT OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Grossman, Chair

Mark represents the Barossa and Light region and has been a Bureau member of the Angaston branch since 1982 where he held all office positions. He operates a family primary production partnership with enterprises including sheep (self-replacing merinos, 1st cross ewes, prime lambs and operating Koonawarra white suffolk and border leicester studs), cattle, cropping and viticulture. The farming properties are situated in the Angaston and Sedan regions. Other community involvement includes board member of Australian White Suffolk Association, elected member of the Barossa Council and Vice President of Angaston AH&F Show Society.

Geoff Page, Deputy Chair

Geoff represents the Hills & Fleurieu region on the Agricultural Bureau of SA Board which is where he resides and has his own farming business that produces cut flowers, certified organic vegetable and herb seedlings which are sold at farmers markets. The farm also produces prime lambs and hay for sale. Geoff works part-time at the University of South Australia as the student Ombudsman. Geoff has academic qualifications in education, agriculture, agricultural economics and land valuation.

Janette Ridgway, Treasurer

Janette returned to the Board this year as Treasurer and representative for the Upper South East Agricultural Bureau branches. As a farmer, Janette works on a mixed farming enterprise with her husband and son. Their farm is east of Bordertown, in the district known as Pine Hill. They grow broad acre crops, have a sheep enterprise as well as a horticulture business growing gladiolus bulbs. Janette has a passion for agriculture, community and family and brings these skills and understanding to the Board along with a desire for learning and sharing of information.

Members of our 70 branches attend branch events and activities and contribute to the sustainability of the industry by taking part in the latest projects and trials.

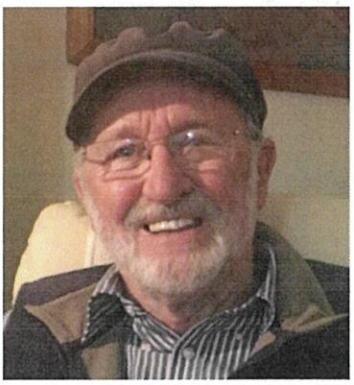
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David Edwards

David is a fifth generation farmer at Minlaton on the southern Yorke Peninsula with his ancestors taking up the land in 1880. David's cropping rotations have changed over the last fifteen years from barley pasture rotations working the land five to seven times, to no till farming, sowing three hundred hectares each of wheat, barley and canola. David is seen the significant changes in farming over the past ten years and is very positive and optimistic about the future of farming.

Welcome Allan Zerna



Our newest Board member, Allan first became involved in the Ag Bureau movement when the Franklin Harbour branch reformed in 1983. he has since served as both president and secretary and, more importantly in recent years, as the "Beer and Barby" Manager!

Although his parents and grandparents were pioneer farmers in the Cowell district, Allan spent his early working life at BHP Whyalla. He abandoned the life of a cadet engineer for the call of a free, easy and bohemian surfing lifestyle for a time, before accepting a job offer on an uncle's farm at Mitchellville.

After 14 years of working for his uncle, having accumulated a wife (Jan), three and a small amount of money, the family bought 1600ha just north of Cowell where Allan and Jan continue to live in semi retirement. They ran 500 merino ewes, grew hard wheat, feed barley, oats and triticale and dabbled unsuccessfully in canola, peas and vetch.

Dry seasons, with the resultant wind erosion convinced me to become involved in the No Till movement spurred on by a West Aust bus trip organised by the late Peter Olsen.

Allan looks forward to serving on the Ag Bureau Board and hopes that by doing so, he can assist fellow farmers to become more productive and sustainable, while enjoying what they are doing.

8.11 | Written Submissions From Conservation Sector Organisations



Register of written submissions from Conservation sector organisations

Date Received	Given name	Family name	Organisation
21-Jul-18	Craig	Wilkins	Conservation Council of SA
2-Aug-18	Gerry	Butler	Landcare Association of South Australia Inc
8-Aug-18	Richard	Coyte	Friends of Sturt Gorge
6-Sep-18	Lisa	Redman	Henley Dunes Care Group
27-Aug-18	Greg	Martin	Riverland Landcare
3-Sep-18	Greg	Martin	Riverland Landcare
11-Oct-18	Nick	Harvey	Australian Coastal Society
4-Oct-18	Elaine	Bensted	Royal Zoological Society of SA
14-Oct-18	Roger	Wickes	Mallee and Coorong NRM Group
15-Oct-18	Melissa	Ballantyne	Environmental Defenders Office (SA) Inc
15-Oct-18	Joan	Gibbs	Mid Torrens Catchment Group
15-Oct-18	Craig	Wilkins	Conservation Council of SA
15-Oct-18	John	Phillips	KESAB environmental solutions
15-Oct-18	Julia	Peacock	Nature Conservation Society of SA
15-Oct-18	Elaine	Bensted	Zoos SA
15-Oct-18	David	Ferguson	Gawler Environment and Heritage Association Inc
15-Oct-18	Vicki-Jo	Russell	Trees for Life
15-Oct-18	Veronica	Clayton	South Para Biodiversity Project Inc Committee
15-Oct-18	Wayne	Meyer	Brownhill Creek Association Inc and Friends of Brownhill Creek
15-Oct-18	Ross	Oke	Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association
15-Oct-18	Sheree	Bowman	Landcare Association of South Australia Inc
15-Oct-18	Grainne	Maguire	BirdLife Australia
15-Oct-18	Danny	Reddan	Greening Australia
15-Oct-18	Cliff	Hignett	Friends of Private Bushland
15-Oct-18	Hugo	Hopton	Nature Foundation of SA
16-Oct-18	Vicki-Jo	Russell	Nature of SA
26-Jul-18	Stephen	Rogers	Friends of Cobbler Creek

Conservation Council SA

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ABN: 22 020 026 644

Tuesday 31 July 2018

Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO BOX 1047
Adelaide SA 5000

E: minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

Re: NRM Reforms and the new Landscape SA Act

Dear Minister Speirs,

The Conservation Council of South Australia (Conservation SA) appreciates the opportunity to provide early input into this once in a generation opportunity for NRM reform and the new *Landscape South Australia* legislation. Conservation SA has been a strong advocate for the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity in South Australia since 1971 and so has a significant interest in these reforms. We are also keen to work with you to help implement your vision of community focused NRM.

Our specific Landscapes/NRM priority areas include:

- community empowerment, which means shared ownership and involvement in decision making and increased funding support to deliver
- biodiversity/nature outcomes delivered at the landscape scale with a focus on improving connectivity and climate change adaptation
- an increase in overall government expenditure in SA's environment and NRM outcomes accessible at all levels beyond the levy.

I am also the current chair of the SA Nature Alliance (SANA) which includes not for profit groups that have a State-wide conservation focus. These groups share the same priority areas of interest.

SANA's purpose is to deliver improved nature conservation outcomes, a community better connected to nature, and a stronger conservation sector in South Australia through a collaborative approach. Members include: Greening Australia SA, Trees For Life, Nature Conservation Society SA, Nature Foundation SA, Nature Glenelg Trust, Friends of Parks, The Wilderness Society SA, National Trust SA, Zoos SA & Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Community empowerment

We welcome your commitment to empowering local communities and land managers through the reform process.

Like Primary Producers SA & the Landcare Association of SA we would like to see a system that:

- engages and empowers community at the local level
- is accountable to the community
- supports robust regional decision making balanced with centralised input
- contributes to the viability and vitality of regional communities.

We also recognise the vital support services that will still need to be provided by the Department of Environment & Water, which include:

- policy and legislature support
- science/monitoring
- cross regional coordination
- communications
- facilitation of good planning/governance.

We see the reform process as a great opportunity to open up (tailored) dialogue across the community, empowering all interests to develop a shared vision for their landscape.

Implementing the community's landscape vision will require investment at all scales of endeavour. It will also require utilising tried and tested planning approaches such as Conservation Action Planning (or Community Action Planning) as a mechanism for achieving a community vision.

Biodiversity Outcomes

The tight timeframe for this reform process puts some limitations on its scope. For example, it will not allow for the broader discussion about connected land management issues (such as biodiversity, native vegetation and coasts) that our sector has been seeking. However we acknowledge this process provides a good starting point for that thinking to occur in the future, given that NRM is the main delivery mechanism for both on-ground biodiversity and community capacity building programs.

Biodiversity outcomes could be prioritised by considering;

- The creation of a 'State Landscapes Fund' in the new Act. This would provide stable, on-going **funding** for biodiversity-focused, cross-regional, landscape-scale projects. It could receive a proportion of the levy. The Fund would require decision-making criteria and an oversight body with interests beyond the Boards represented. Also, to support a greater community role, a requirement that the Fund not be limited to projects that include the Board as a prerequisite.
- The new Act could require Boards and/or DEW to collect **data** on biodiversity health (and other aspects of NRM) to improve knowledge on biodiversity condition and trends across the state. This would build on work done to date, and could provide other information needed by the State Government. Newer technologies (such as remote sensing, drones, satellite imagery, eDNA) could be combined with traditional survey techniques. Another benefit of data on biodiversity, as well as tracking on 'return on investment' for levy funds, would be for other state-based needs such as planning (e.g. implementing the State Planning Policy on Biodiversity) and reporting (e.g. SoE) - so it would have multiple benefits.

- A requirement for regions to outline a **vision** for biodiversity in the landscape and the steps needed to achieve it. The biodiversity focus could be further strengthened by legislating the setting of *proactive* targets for native vegetation extent and condition (as a surrogate for biodiversity) within each region, guided by protected area concepts like Comprehensive, Adequate & Representative (CAR) and also accounting for the impacts of climate change.
- The **Objects of the Act** should require that biodiversity be one of five priorities in each of the simple, 5 year plans the Boards will be required to prepare, and possibly focus on the on-farm biodiversity that has co-benefits for salinity, pollination, wind breaks etc.
- **A focus on supporting nature stewardship** – the Act should recognise that biodiversity conservation and broader landscape restoration are of benefit to all South Australians including primary producers. Landscape Boards could work in conjunction with the SA Nature Alliance (SANA) and through the Nature of SA (NOSA) initiative,

Landscape scale Approach

In our consultation to date the key message has been the importance of a holistic integrated and connected landscape scale approach at scales that are meaningful to ecosystems or species, so we are heartened to hear this underpins your reform agenda.

Effective landscape management **must** retain water management provisions and integrate both natural and agricultural systems in a way that is sympathetic to each other. Proficient landscape scale management of natural resources for multiple outcomes has been repeatedly shown to support productivity, human wellbeing and environmental sustainability. The art is in achieving landscape scale outcomes whilst enabling local scale actions.

To ensure that practical, on-ground works achieve the best outcomes, we are most effective when we think and operate at landscape scales, beyond the scale of individual patches or properties. We also see that the 'back to basics' approach can dovetail nicely into the context of whole of landscape planning.

We see that landscape-scape biodiversity conservation outcomes benefit local communities and economies, and are not incongruent with these outcomes (the fundamental principle of sustainability).

That we clearly, and transparently, demonstrate that on-ground works align with landscape-scale outcomes, and that the desirable outcomes for a landscape are designed based on alignment of the local community's aspirations, the best available evidence for what's most threatened (from a biodiversity perspective) locally (both threatened species and priority ecosystems), and contributes to our national and international obligations (therefore achieving desirable outcomes like intergenerational and inter-regional equity).

A landscape approach requires commitment to landscape scale programs which:

- Follow international standards of nature conservation planning – the Open Standards for Conservation;
- Are multi-partner, multi-year projects with multiple benefits (social, economic & ecological);

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- Are driven by local community aspirations and leadership;
- Are adequately resourced and supported to achieve the outcomes over realistic timeframes;
- Cross boundaries and borders;
- Focus on managing for climate change impacts;
- Are outcome-driven and evidence-based with monitoring, evaluation, learning for change and improvement embedded into programs;
- Are adaptable and efficient with transparent governance and delivery;
- Are at scales that are meaningful to ecosystems or species;
- Have multiple participation pathways where all interventions (from small to large) link to landscape outcomes (Landcare focus); and,
- Evolve out of community-led processes such as Conservation Action Plans, where the science suggests strong partnerships between organisations would be beneficial for threatened species recovery or the protection and extension of under-represented ecosystems.

Wild Eyre continues to be the exemplar of a collaborative landscape scale conservation project on western Eyre Peninsula with a focus on working with landholders to deliver best practice land and vegetation management, connecting large, intact and connected areas of bushland. Similar work was commenced under NatureLinks in many regions and then abandoned despite community's commitment to it. It needs only political leadership and funds to reignite efforts.

Ongoing Resourcing

As you know the share of State Government funding for the environment has fallen steeply since 2007/08. The Environment Department has suffered funding cuts nearly every year, while overall expenditure in the State Budget has been steadily increasing. Unfortunately funding cuts at the Federal Government level have mirrored this. These budget cuts have impacted substantially on a range of NRM work, in SA in particular. Although there has been a welcome expansion of SA's protected areas, there has been no commensurate increase in funding to manage these areas.

Through NRM reform Conservation SA would like to see appropriate levels of government investment made available for all scales of endeavour that complements current public investment (via levies). This will unlock the community-driven approach to landscape scale conservation that you are seeking.

As always robust evaluation is key to achieving the desired outcome of an effective NRM system and we would be interested in discussing the potential role of an independent commissioner (or such) along the lines of the Natural Resources Commission in NSW.

We look forward to consulting more thoroughly with our sector starting with our upcoming Council Meeting on Thursday 2 August, where Becky Hirst will be leading an early session on the reform.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of the points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Wilkins
Chief Executive

Landcare Association of South Australia Inc

A member of the National Landcare Network

ABN 20 341 395 200

gbutler@landcaresa.asn.au

2 August 2018

Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO BOX 1047
Adelaide SA 5000
E: minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs,

Re: NRM Reforms and the proposed *Landscape South Australia* Act

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on the priority issues for NRM reform in South Australia and the new *Landscape South Australia* legislation. We are very encouraged by the genuine sense of collaboration and open consultation that you have brought to the NRM reform process.

The Landcare Association of SA supports the guiding principles for the new legislation that you have put forward, especially:

- decentralised decision making
- a simple and accessible system
- community and land owners at the centre
- whole of landscape approach.

Our priorities for the reform process include:

- community empowerment, which means shared ownership and involvement in decision making and devolving delivery and associated funding to the community wherever possible.
- an integrated landscape-scale approach to natural resource management, recognising that this requires consideration of biodiversity, soil, water and pests (plant and animal) and their interrelationships. A landscape scale approach will also require consideration of actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- an increase in state government expenditure on SA's environment at all levels, separate to the NRM levies. This will be particularly important to enable the delivery of future landscape-scale projects such as *WildEyre*.

Community Empowerment

We welcome your commitment to empowering local communities and land managers through the reform process. As with Primary Producers SA, the Conservation Council of SA, and the SA Nature Alliance, we would like to see a system that:

- engages and empowers community at the local level;
- is accountable to the community;
- supports robust regional decision making, balanced with centralised input; and
- contributes to the viability and vitality of regional communities.

Achieving this will require a change in culture and practice at the State agency and Regional Board level, in addition to any legislative changes. Boards will also require more local autonomy in decision making, staff management and budget management.

Putting the community and land managers at the centre of NRM so that they are directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources will take genuine community engagement and empowerment. This will be reflected in shared ownership and involvement in decision making and the devolvement of delivery, with associated funding, to community organisations wherever possible.

Devolving project delivery would include on-ground action, as well as other projects, such as monitoring, communications, etc. An open and inclusive community-based planning process will identify where Landscape Boards are a project leader and where they are a facilitator or enabler.

Boards will have the role to inspire, facilitate and enable community planning, decision making and delivery. This will include building and facilitating community leadership and strengthening the capacity of land managers and community, volunteer, industry, environmental and Aboriginal groups and organisations. A successful empowerment process should raise the standing of the Boards and lead to people actively seeking to become members of the Landscape Boards.

The Landcare Association of SA acknowledges that community empowerment does not diminish the role of the Department for Environment and Water and other State government agencies in:

- The development of state-wide policy and coordination across the regions;
- Provision of scientific expertise and knowledge, monitoring and evaluation and custodianship of state databases;
- Policy, legislature and compliance support;
- Communications; and
- Facilitation of good planning/governance.

Integrated landscape-scale approach

We are very heartened to see that a landscape scale and integrated approach underpins the reforms, recognising that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of our landscapes.

We strongly support this approach. An integrated landscape approach that leads to a vibrant biodiversity and sustainable economy will also require an understanding of the impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation strategies. It will also need to be based on robust science and evidence combined with local knowledge.

An integrated landscape approach will involve achieving a balance that provides for productivity and development, social well-being and the environment. To be successful it will need take account of soil quality, water management, pest plants and animals, biodiversity conservation and management, and their interrelationships.

A return to basics approach that places a renewed focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals, without equal consideration of biodiversity, will not achieve an integrated landscape outcome. Further, regional communities and land managers place a very high value on biodiversity conservation and management, as reflected in the enormous amount of time, effort, and funding they have invested in these outcomes for many decades. This should be clearly recognised in the reform process. A return to a basics approach that does not include biodiversity would be inconsistent with community values. Such an approach is not supported.

A Landscape approach and vision needs to include biodiversity conservation and management from the outset, not as a secondary or incidental outcome. As with the Conservation Council of SA, it is our view that the new Act include the following:

- The Act should require that biodiversity be one of five priorities in each of the simple, 5-year plans the Boards will be required to prepare, and possibly focus on on-farm biodiversity that has co-benefits for salinity, pollination, wind breaks, carbon-farming, etc.

- A focus on supporting nature stewardship – the Act should recognise that biodiversity conservation and broader landscape restoration are of benefit to all South Australians including primary producers.

The new Act should also include the Objects from the current Act that refer to ecologically sustainable development and the intrinsic values of natural resources, and the protection of biological diversity.

Increase State government expenditure on SA's environment

We note that investment by the State government in SA's environment has declined significantly since 2008/9, despite an overall increase in the State budget. An increase in State government expenditure on SA's environment at all levels, separate to the NRM levies, is therefore a priority. This will be particularly important to enable the delivery of future integrated landscape-scale projects such as *WildEyre*.

We share the view of the Conservation Council of SA that the new Act should establish a 'State Landscapes Fund' to provide stable, on-going funding for landscape-scale projects. The Fund would require decision-making criteria and an oversight body with interests beyond the Boards represented. Also, to support a greater community role, a requirement that the Fund not be limited to projects that include the Board as a prerequisite.

Ideally the Fund would receive annual State government contributions. This could be based on an amount that matches the levies raised by the Landscape Boards from the community, or a proportion of them.

We are very pleased to see the reform process will establish the Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million state-wide annual fund (in addition to existing NRM grants programs), administered at a Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access. However, through the reform process it has been proposed that the Grants program would be funded from the levies. The Grants program should be funded directly by the State government, as with the past NRM Community Grants scheme.

In your Foreword to the *Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper* you acknowledge that "the state does not come to a halt at the Tollgate, at Gepps Cross or at the bottom of Anzac Highway: distance should not mean disadvantage". Currently the budgets and programs undertaken by Boards in several regions (e.g. Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island) are constrained by their levy base. The new legislation should enable some of the levy funds from Green Adelaide to be available to the remote Landscape Boards to help correct this inequity.

We are keen to work with you to help implement your vision of community focused NRM and we look forward to further discussion on the reforms through the consultation workshops that Becky Hirst will be running. Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of the points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Butler
Chair, Landcare Association of SA

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:39 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Proposed changes to NRM [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Richard Coyte
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August, 2018 12:17 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Proposed changes to NRM

Some comments on proposed changes to the NRM.

From: Rick Coyte
Working Bee Coordinator (south side), Friends of Sturt Gorge

In connection with the proposed changes, please consider the following:

For the Friends of Sturt Gorge, the way that the NRMs Volunteer Support system has been operating has proved most helpful. Prior to that, to obtain funding for our work (for tools and equipment, weed poison, tube stock for revegetation, tree guards, stakes, etc.) we had to apply for grants. That was a tedious and time consuming process, using up time that we would have rather spent doing the actual bush care work that we love. Having an NRM Volunteer Support Officer maintaining a close contact with our group meant that she knew what we were doing, where, and how. She came to our work sites and looked at what we were doing, and talked to us about it, so she understood what we needed and why, and would simply purchase it for us with the funds available. This system worked very well for us, being quick, efficient, and time saving. We hope such a system will be maintained, so we can simply get on with our work. Based on our past experience, we feel that going back to a grants application system would be a backwards step.

A close working relationship between our Volunteer Support Officer and DEWNR / DEW staff (such as our park Ranger, the Fire Control Officer, Endangered Species ecologist, etc.) worked to our advantage. For example, our Volunteer Support Officer oiled the wheels of communication between our group and DEWNR / DEW staff. Differences of viewpoint arise from time to time with potential for friction, but our Volunteer Support Officer would talk with the parties concerned, smooth out disagreements and misunderstandings, and help establish an agreed way forward. The result was that our bush-care work did not stall, but continued to forge ahead. So from the point of view of the Friends of Sturt Gorge and presumably other Friends of Parks groups, for smooth operation, there will need to be scope for staff of the

proposed Landscape Boards and staff of DEW to be able to work together closely and cooperatively. Otherwise Friends of Parks groups will be worse off than under the present NRM system.

Hoping these comments get close consideration,
Rick

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:51 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Henley Dunes Care Group [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Lisa Redman
Sent: Thursday, 6 September, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc:
Subject: Henley Dunes Care Group

Hello,
I am cofounder of a small community dunes care group at Henley Beach. We only started this year but have achieved an incredible amount in a short time. The issues we need continued assistance with are!
funding to buy equipment and plants
Educational resources
Volunteer support and insurance
Grants to help us help the community - a simple process to apply.
Finding new and regular volunteers

We hope that these issues will be considered with the changes to NRM.
Community can provide a huge free resource but MUST be supported to do so.

Kind regards
Lisa Redman
Henley Dunes Care Group
Www.henleydunes.org.au

Sent from my iPad

Berri Barmera Landcare | Renmark Paringa Landcare | Loxton District Landcare | Riverland West Landcare

RIVERLAND LANDCARE

Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5000

27 August 2018

Dear Minister Speirs,

RE: NRM Reforms and the proposed *Landscape South Australia Act*

The decline of community based natural resource management in rural South Australia.

The steady decline of community based natural resource management and the slow transition and uncertainty of Phase Two of the National Landcare Program has led to a range of negative outcomes for natural resource management over much of South Australia. In recent months a number of community based NRM organisations and groups have either closed or been forced into hibernation and if there is not careful but timely consideration of what is happening there could be several more taking that path in the Riverland Region over the next 12 months. Their closure will directly impact many of the NRM initiatives you are proposing.

Landcare is made up of community members and run by community members for the community. For over twenty years Landcare organisations and the communities they supported were the focus and centre of agri-environmental policy and action in Australia, *heralded as one of the world's leading examples of community based natural resource management.* In the past Riverland Landcare organisations and groups acted as an important conduit and delivery agent between communities, local councils as well as government with many noted successes.

However, the more recent focus on bureaucratic institutions that have embedded "NRM community liaison" and their creeping expansion into areas that were once widely acknowledged as best conducted by community representation and implementation has correlated with a significant contraction and in some cases closure or semi closure of local community organisations.

The current NRM structure and operational model in many regions of S.A. centralises most planning and operational decision making and implementation within the bureaucracies even while there are a few notional community positions represented at different levels such as on boards or committees. Community consultation when done (frequently after the major decisions have been formulated) is usually conducted by employees embedded within the bureaucracy. ***Only independent community-based and run organizations can truly represent the community.***

Key stakeholders (NR SAMDB, DEW and community-based organisations such as Landcare) are currently not equal partners in regional NRM, that is, jointly identifying priorities, developing plans and in partnership delivery, instead the bureaucracies plan together and then tell community organisations what they can do. There is little genuine opportunity for input on community priorities, needs or especially program and project planning and implementation. This dysfunctional system based on flawed rationale and structure is accompanied by a funding system that is controlled by the bureaucracies requiring only to distribute a minimum percentage to community stakeholders mostly via competitive tender. In other words, Landcare and other community-based groups must fight between themselves for the scraps remaining after the bureaucracies have decided where the money goes and who gets the bulk (them).

This is a system and structure where bureaucracies will naturally grow, and community organisations will be pushed to the margins and relegated to inconsequential minor roles eventually to close and is not overall effective or efficient especially in *whole of landscape approaches* as it loses a vital ingredient, community coordination, collaboration and support. The system and structure does not *"...empower local*

communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources".

Riverland Landcare does not see any dark conspiracy or the problem as coming from individuals in the bureaucracy with a particular axe to grind, and we believe that overall staff are doing a good job. Rather it is the system, structure and its governance that has enabled the bureaucracy to grow at the expense of community-based organizations severely eroding community participation and replacing it with a form of in-house box ticking that needs addressing if there is to be meaningful NRM reforms.

NRM Reforms and the proposed Landscape South Australia Act. The community as an EQUAL Partner.

The solution should not be complicated or difficult. Any real and sustainable NRM change in South Australia must recognise;

- If *"... a central focus of the reform program is empowering local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources..."* then it needs to be front and centre that community e.g. through regional Landcare organisations are an **EQUAL PARTNER in NRM** and as such need to be at the **table from the beginning in identifying, planning and implementation.**
- The roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders need to be identified and clearly set out in governance and other policy documents e.g. that Landcare represents community and that the bureaucracies have clear roles and responsibilities to prevent them from creeping ever bigger and ever more powerful. A definition and guidelines on who conducts and coordinates community engagement, planning and implementation is required and governance boards should monitor it.
- Funding therefore needs to recognise the important role community NRM plays and is allocated and managed in a way that ensures overall effectiveness, efficiency *and* sustainability. That is, funding needs to be adequate for the effective survival of a representative organisation such as Landcare and not overly consume an organisations time and drain capacity simply trying to survive. The funding system must recognise the reality of how overall NRM effectiveness and participation is achieved over a cycle (e.g. whole of landscape planning and implementation), not at a given point in time such as a single project.

Riverland Landcare moving towards a new future

Local Riverland Landcare organisations recognised that we are entering a new paradigm in NRM and to be an "equal partner in NRM" we needed to adapt to changing circumstances and what is required for good NRM planning, implementation and management. As such early this year *Riverland Landcare* was formed which is a formal collaboration between four local Landcare organizations (Renmark Paringa Landcare, Berri Barmera Landcare, Riverland West Landcare and Loxton Landcare).

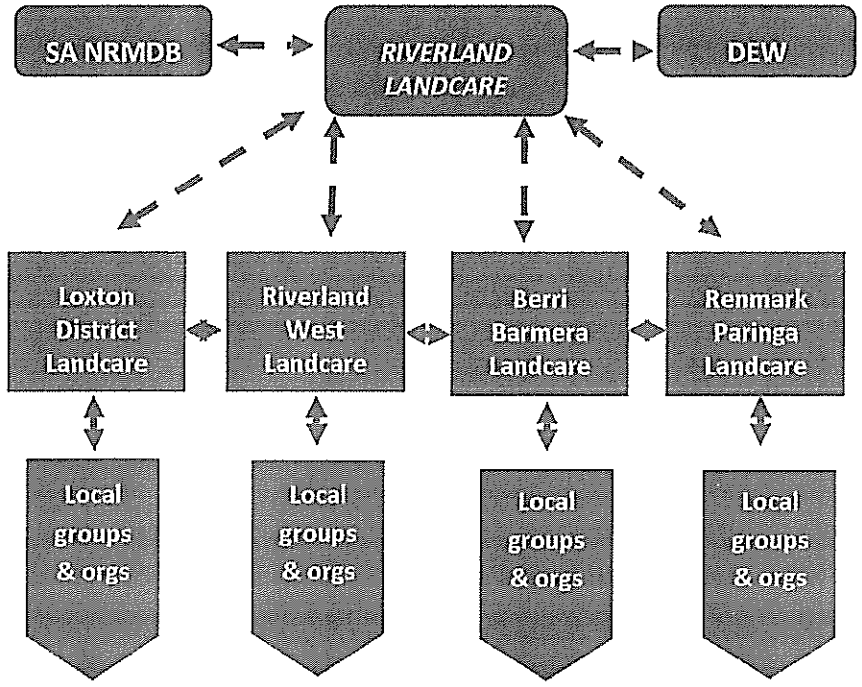
The collaboration and structure aims to streamline communication and decision making and provide a more focused and effective voice for the groups and people they represent as well as provide an effective community led NRM delivery system. By collaborating and coordinating together we can move from small individual organisations focussed on a specific local area (often divided by the current planning and funding systems in place) to representing, planning and delivering whole of landscape solutions across the region while still servicing local needs.

Riverland Landcare members engage with over 150 volunteer local community groups, indigenous groups and organisations as well as individual community members covering an area from Renmark to Waikerie and Blanchetown.

Following is a suggested flow chart on how NRM could be structured in the region.

Notes on the chart below;

- SA NRMDB, Riverland Landcare and DEW are EQUAL PARTNERS in NRM in the region in planning and delivery.
- Local groups, organisations and individuals feed into local Landcare or directly into *Riverland Landcare* which then represents and coordinates activities. Examples of local groups include Regent Parrot Recovery Group, Yatco Wetland Landcare Group, Dry Land Farmers Murtho, Hart Lagoon Wetland Group, Spiny Daisy Recovery Team and Gerard Country Rangers.
- Local government is an important stakeholder and although not directly represented in this diagram should be viewed as equal partners in NRM. *Riverland Landcare* is looking to work closely with the various local councils in areas such as providing NRM and environmental expertise, support and delivery.



Equal partners in NRM planning, delivery and implementation.

Local NRM groups e.g. Regent Parrot Recovery Group, Yatco Landcare Wetlands Group, Gerard Country Rangers.

With the community and land managers at the centre of NRM they are directly responsible (but collaborating with other stakeholders) to sustainably manage their region's natural resources. Project delivery would include on-ground action, as well as monitoring, communications, etc. An equal partnership in the NRM planning process would collaboratively identify who is the project leader and who is a facilitator or enabler with all stakeholders working towards a mutually developed and shared project goal.

Riverland Landcare welcomes the principles of the new legislation that is proposed and is well placed to be a key regional stakeholder. We specifically endorse:

- A whole of landscape approach
- Decentralised decision making
- Community and landowners at the centre
- A simple accessible system

Riverland Landcare acknowledges that community empowerment and community as equal partners in NRM should not diminish the important and valuable work that the Department of Environment and Water, NR SAMDB and other state agencies do, rather we encourage clear roles and responsibilities for

stakeholders in NRM and a structure and mechanism to encourage stakeholders to comply with the important aim of working towards shared goals and outcomes that are collaboratively developed both at the broader level and at the program and project phase.

Boards must be encouraged to inspire, facilitate and enable community planning, decision making and delivery and must also firmly understand their governance role in ensuring that organisations do not expand past their designated roles and responsibilities which will break down the central tenet of *"...community and land owners at the centre".*

We are encouraged to see a whole of landscape scale approach underpinning the proposed reforms which has been one of the key drivers of the *Riverland Landcare* collaboration. We note however that a secretive tender system and competitive funding (such as in the NLP2 model) where individual NRM groups are set up to compete against each other severely undermines this important initiative.

A back to basics landscape approach will involve achieving a balance that provides for productivity (and likely a need to significantly increase productivity over time) and development, social well-being and the environment with critical stakeholders' local communities and landholders. It will need to take into account soil quality, water management, pest plants and animals, biodiversity conservation and management and their important holistic interrelationships. A "return to basics" approach with only a focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals, without equal acknowledgement or status of biodiversity is unlikely to achieve the outcomes required and will be a block to progress (especially amongst youth, schools, groups and individuals supporting single issues and areas), in achieving measurable and sustainable NRM in many communities.

Riverland Landcare is keen to work with you and all stakeholders to implement your vision and a much-needed recalibration of NRM in South Australia. We applaud your overall vision and direction.

We would therefore welcome an opportunity to meet at your convenience, in Adelaide or the Riverland, to share further insights, answer any questions and to discuss how we can meet our shared goal of *"...shaping the future of natural resources for the benefit of all South Australians".*

Yours sincerely,



Greg Martin

Riverland Landcare

E: greg@loxtonlandcare.org.au

Riverland Landcare

Renmark Paringa Landcare	Myles Fauser
Loxton District Landcare	Greg Martin
Berri Barmera Landcare	Sharon Schrapel
Riverland West Landcare	Karen Bishop

Berri Barmera Landcare | Renmark Paringa Landcare | Loxton District Landcare | Riverland West Landcare

RIVERLAND LANDCARE

Talking Points for Managing our Landscapes, Minister David Speirs

Mon. 3 September 2018, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Berri Bowling Club, Riverview Drive, Berri 5343
https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/landscape-reform/about

Key Riverland Landcare Message

- *Riverland Landcare* is keen to work with the Minister and all stakeholders and is supportive of a much-needed recalibration of NRM in South Australia.
- *Riverland Landcare* is about providing ***solutions***
- Landcare is made up of community members and run by community members for the community.

What is Riverland Landcare?

- Riverland Landcare is a *formal* collaboration between four local Landcare organizations (Renmark Paringa Landcare, Berri Barmera Landcare, Riverland West Landcare and Loxton Landcare). It will have a formal governance board and meet all governance requirements.
- The collaboration and structure aims to streamline communication and decision making, provide a more focused and *effective voice* for community groups and people represented as well as provide an effective *community led NRM planning and delivery system*. It will represent, plan and deliver whole of landscape solutions across the region while *still servicing local needs.*
- Riverland Landcare members engage with over 150 volunteer local community groups, indigenous groups and organisations as well as individual community members covering an area from Renmark to Waikerie and Blanchetown.
- Local government is an important stakeholder and Riverland Landcare is looking to work closely with the various local councils in areas such as providing NRM and environmental expertise, support and delivery.

NRM Reforms and the proposed Landscape South Australia Act. The community as an EQUAL Partner.

The Situation:

- Bureaucratic institutions have embedded "NRM community liaison" resulting in creeping expansion into areas that were once widely acknowledged as best conducted by community based representation and implementation. This has correlated with a significant contraction and in some cases closure or semi closure of local community organisations.
- Key stakeholders (NR SAMDB, DEW and community-based organisations such as Landcare) are currently not equal partners in regional NRM, that is, jointly identifying priorities, developing plans and in partnership delivery, instead the bureaucracies plan together and then tell community organisations what they can do. There is little genuine opportunity for input on community priorities, needs or especially program and project planning and implementation.
- A funding system that is controlled by the bureaucracies requiring only to distribute a minimum percentage to community stakeholders mostly via competitive tender.

- The system and structure allows bureaucracies to naturally grow in size, and community organisations pushed to the margins and relegated to inconsequential minor roles. It is **not overall effective or efficient especially in whole of landscape approaches as it loses a vital ingredient, community coordination, collaboration and support.** The system and structure does not *"...empower local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources".*
- Riverland Landcare does not see any dark conspiracy or the problem as coming from individuals in the bureaucracy with a particular axe to grind, and we believe that overall staff are doing a good job. Rather it is the system, structure and its governance that has enabled the bureaucracy to grow at the expense of community-based organizations.

The Solution (*Riverland Landcare!*):

1. (VOICE) Any real and sustainable NRM change in South Australia must recognise;
    a. If *"... a central focus of the reform program is empowering local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources..."* then it needs to be front and centre that community e.g. Regional Landcare organisations are an **EQUAL PARTNER in NRM** and as such **need to be at the table from the beginning in identifying, planning and implementation**
2. (Working Space) The **roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders need to be identified and clearly set out in governance and other policy documents** e.g. that Landcare represents community and that the bureaucracies have clear roles and responsibilities to prevent them from creeping ever bigger and ever more powerful. A definition and guidelines on who conducts and coordinates community engagement, planning and implementation is required and governance boards should monitor it.
3. (Sustainable Funding) **Funding must recognise the important role community NRM plays and is allocated and managed in a way that ensures overall effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.** That is, funding needs to be adequate for the effective survival of a representative organisation such as Landcare and not overly consume an organisations time and drain capacity simply trying to survive. The funding system must recognise the reality of how overall NRM effectiveness and participation is achieved over a cycle (e.g. whole of landscape planning and implementation), not at a given point in time such as a single project.

We are encouraged to see a whole of landscape scale approach underpinning the proposed reforms which has been one of the key drivers of the Riverland Landcare collaboration. We note however that a secretive tender system and competitive funding (such as in the NLP2 model) where individual NRM groups are set up to compete against each other severely undermines this important initiative.

A *"back to basics"* landscape approach as proposed will involve achieving a balance that provides for productivity (and likely a need to significantly increase productivity over time) and development, social well-being and the environment with critical stakeholders' local communities and landholders. A "return to basics" approach with only a focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals, without equal acknowledgement or status of biodiversity is unlikely to achieve the outcomes required and will be a block to progress (especially amongst youth, schools, groups and individuals supporting single issues and areas), in achieving measurable and sustainable NRM in many communities.

The Riverland Trail

The Riverland Trail is a long-distance walking trail which will showcase approximately 200 kilometres of the stunning natural environment of South Australia's Riverland. The trail will pass through and link National Parks and conservation areas, local attractions, towns, as well as connect with existing tracks and trails.

The Riverland Trail will follow the Murray River from Renmark to Waikerie and feature diverse changing landscapes of ochre-coloured cliffs, Mallee bushland, river floodplains and wetlands and be a nature and bird lovers paradise. Along the way will be many opportunities to explore delicious local produce, world class wineries and a host of nature and water-based activities.

The Riverland Trail will be designed to cater for both the serious backpacker walking the complete trail and for the day walker who might choose to do short walks along different sections of the trail. A variety of information and education opportunities will be available to enhance the experience.

The Riverland Trail will be based on four values:

- conservation and nature
- indigenous and cultural heritage
- educational and research
- recreation and tourism

Riverland Landcare's goal is for the Riverland Trail to be recognised as one of the world's great long-distance walks and be a physical link between the region's communities and attractions.

Objectives:

1. Establish a cross region long-distance walking trail from Renmark to Waikerie.
2. Enhance the Riverland's conservation and natural value through support and collaboration with projects such as Riverlink.
3. Provide opportunities for all levels of tourism activities and accommodation.
4. Provide and support education and research initiatives.
5. Establish the Riverland as the home of one of the world's great long-distance trails.

Environment and ecology.

The Riverland Trail will provide an ideal vehicle to promote, protect and enhance the regions natural resources and will be closely connected with Riverlink. The Trail will be based on sound environmental and cultural foundations and will provide many opportunities to:

- Provide educational, environmental and cultural sites and activities.
- Provide hands on opportunities for volunteers, schools and community members to be involved in the regions natural resources.
- Promote the states and regions unique environment to international, state and local visitors.

Benefits to the Riverland community

Social, Economic and Environmental benefits to local communities include;

- Foster natural resource stewardship in communities
- Promote and enhance indigenous and first people's culture and understanding
- Create opportunities for volunteerism and conservation efforts
- Enhance international, Australian and statewide tourism opportunities
- Grow the Riverland as an eco-tourism destination
- Inspire and bring communities and people together

Riverland Landcare as the facilitator and coordinator.

Riverland Landcare is uniquely placed to act as the leader and facilitator of the Riverland Trail project with individual Landcare organisations developing and coordinating within their regions. Riverland Landcare is:

- A formal collaboration between 4 existing Landcare organisations (Renmark Paringa Landcare, Berri Barmera Landcare, Loxton District Landcare, Riverland West Landcare)
- Is community-based and run by local community members
- Is connected with over 150 local groups and organisations within the region
- Collaborates extensively with NR SAMDB, DEW, Renmark Paringa Council, Loxton Waikerie Council, First Peoples Groups and other key stakeholders
- Can call on expertise and knowledge from a wide range of local and state sources
- Landcare has established credibility, trust and connection to local people critical to a project of this type's success

For further information contact

Greg Martin
Loxton District Landcare
E: greg&loxtonlandcare.org.au

Myles Fauser
Renmark Paringa Landcare
E: eo@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au

ACS
Australian Coastal Society Ltd

11 October 2018

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Re: Discussion Paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change*

This submission is on behalf of the South Australian branch of the *Australian Coastal Society Ltd*, which is a national 'not for profit' organisation dedicated to healthy coastal ecosystems, vibrant coastal communities and sustainable use of coastal resources.

The SA Government's discussion paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change* (July 2018) defines 'landscapes' in broad terms but appears to move away from a holistic approach to natural resource management. For example, under the paper's objectives it refers to landscapes as natural systems including;

the soil, water, plants and animals that make up our rivers, forests and hills, coasts and seas (page 6)

and later in the paper under 'stewardship priorities' it says that our landscapes comprise features such as;

our coastline, trees and wildlife (page 25).

These statements refer to our coast and seas as part of our natural resources but the discussion paper then makes no mention of the more than 5,500 km of the state's non-metropolitan coastal resources. The only reference to the coast in the paper is for the metropolitan division of 'Green Adelaide' where coastal management is one of seven priorities.

The previous *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* had underlying principles of ecologically sustainable development and integrated management which gave the Natural Resource Management Boards scope to produce some excellent plans for stewardship of coastal and marine resources across the entire state. These were achieved with support from the state's Coast Protection Board, which has responsibilities for the whole of the state's coast. The paper (page 28) discusses exploring future interactions between the proposed landscapes legislation and related legislation such as the *Coast Protection Act 1972*. It is important for any such considerations to maintain the important state-wide remit for the Board.

Minister Speir's foreword to the discussion paper comments that;

Our state does not come to a halt at the Tollgate, at Gepps Cross or the bottom of Anzac Highway

This sentiment is not reflected in the paper which gives the impression that our state does indeed 'come to a halt' when considering non-metropolitan coastal and marine resources. Minister Speir makes it clear that the emphasis for the new legislation is on 'soil quality, water management and pest and animal control' rather than integrated natural resource management. Such a restrictive approach does not allow scope for proper stewardship of coastal and marine resources.

Yours sincerely

Professor Nick Harvey
VICE-PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN COASTAL SOCIETY
Emeritus Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies, The University of Adelaide, SA, 5005
email: nick.harvey@adelaide.edu.au

[redacted]

R O Y A L
Zoological
S O C I E T Y
of S.A. Incorporated

ABN 38 750 470 952

Royal Zoological Society
of South Australia
Frome Rd
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Fax: 08 8239 0637

www.zoossa.com.au

4 October 2018

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Re: Senate Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis

Dear Minister,

As you are aware there is a current Senate Inquiry into faunal extinction in Australia. Zoos SA have been involved in in-situ conservation efforts including translocation and re-introduction programs, feral control and revegetation and habitat restoration programs. We are also involved in ex-situ conservation efforts with our captive breeding programs as well as research and emergency intervention.

I heard you speak at the Landscape SA Facilitated Forum where you expressed concern that conservation organisations were not supportive of "pest control". If you review our attached submission to the Senate Inquiry you will see that Zoos SA sees predator control as absolutely vital. Many of our conservation efforts involve staff travelling to areas to undertake feral control.

I hope that your review of our submission will provide you insight into our thinking about what is essential for creating healthier landscapes.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Bensted
Chief Executive

Attachment: Zoos South Australia submission: Senate Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis

ZOOS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ZOO AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION | ANIMAL WELFARE ACCREDITED

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

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9th September 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Zoos South Australia submission: Senate Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis

Zoos South Australia (Zoos SA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Inquiry. This submission addresses the Senate Inquiry Terms of Reference by providing a summary of the points raised within both the *in-situ* and *ex situ* context.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Bensted
Chief Executive

Royal Zoological Society of South Australia
ABN 33 750 470 962

Introduction

Zoos South Australia is a charitable conservation society that exists to connect people with nature and save species from extinction. We are dedicated to biodiversity conservation and are actively driving a range of local, national and international conservation programs. We are a key member of a number or Recovery Teams and stakeholder groups in both South Australia and Nationally.

Zoos SA's *in situ* conservation efforts range from translocation and reintroduction programs, to significant revegetation and habitat restoration programs. Zoos SA also both drives and supports *ex situ* conservation efforts, through captive breeding programs and the development of additional conservation tools, including animal husbandry, biological/ecological understanding, emergency intervention and research. We are focused not only on the care of animals in our captive programs but on the condition of the wild populations that they serve, and how we can foster community appreciation and action for the protection of wildlife.

Terms of Reference:

a. the ongoing decline in the population and conservation status of Australia's nearly 500 threatened fauna species;

The loss of Australian species is not restricted to historical events – we are continuing to see declines and need to use all the conservation tools available to address the current Australian faunal extinction crisis. We have watched three fauna species disappear since 2013 (Christmas Island pipistrelle, Bramble Cay melomys and Christmas Island forest skink), all of which would have been preventable with adequate mechanisms and funding in place.

Predator control

Introduced predators continue to wreak havoc on our native fauna. Investments in time and funding are being delivered to reduce the numbers of these pests in our landscape, as well as supporting local concerted threatened species effort. A sustained, combined Federal, State, Local Government and NGO attack on the many pest species of fauna and flora that are currently impacting on the survival of native Australian species is needed. The emphasis on pest eradication can improve the survival of many species. There is no single solution for introduced predator management, and the development of varied management tools is essential. A number of tools remain in research phases, and the further delivery and support for development of these should be supported (ie Eradicat and Curiosity).

Zoos SA supports the development of new and widespread approaches to pest management, which will be needed to improve the current trajectory for many species.

Safe havens and islands

Safe havens provide areas for Australia's native fauna by reducing threatening processes and removing key threats to species. They can provide species at risk with the relief and space needed for their recovery. Similarly, there is value in the use of island populations, and actions need to be under taken to protect and enhance these populations. Island populations have been critical for the survival of a number of declining species (for example Stick-nest rats). They can also form important populations for translocation to former mainland habitats.

However, safe haven and island populations also come with over-population and genetic management risks, and where being used for threatened species recovery, the population health should also be

considered. Cross-jurisdictional and metapopulational management are becoming increasingly important – conservation cannot afford to operate in silos.

Zoos SA supports the recognition of islands and safe havens as important conservation resources. Their protection, including the clearing of islands and safe havens of feral pests, will be critical for providing a strong-hold for threatened species. They can be used as arks for threatened species that can subsequently be relocated to former mainland habitat.

Zoos SA recommends an integrated approach to critical habitat management, as well as population management of the species within those habitats. For instance, the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group One Plan Approach, which recognises the conservation action and planning strategies across all agencies with a stake hold. This ranges from scientists, land managers, zoos, traditional owners and government agencies – with an interdisciplinary approach being essential.

Ex situ conservation and wildlife health and disease

Captive-breeding programs and zoo-based recovery efforts have been essential to a number of threatened species. Zoos have been essential in the establishment of populations, albeit for captive husbandry knowledge in case of emergency, the establishment of insurance populations or breeding for reintroduction. Zoos in Australia have a strong conservation focus, and include threatened species recovery within their primary objectives.

Furthermore, Australian zoos and aquariums have considerable expertise in the areas of wildlife disease and health management. The zoo industry continues to contribute significantly to increased national and global knowledge in the areas that support wildlife health and biosecurity processes, however more funding is needed to help increase the work zoos do. There are biosecurity risks and introduced diseases (ie toxolasmosis, sarcosporidos, chytrid fungus) that affect our livestock and wildlife – yet the impact is not fully understood.

Australian zoos offer a great opportunity to both breed for release and maintain long-term insurance populations of endangered Australian wildlife. They have extensive expertise and experience in successfully operating intensive breeding programs and helping to manage translocations, reintroductions and monitoring efforts. Large area open-range zoos can be especially important in holding greater numbers of these animals, as well as providing more natural environment (reducing wild naivety and improved release survival). There is a need for additional support for zoos, particularly those non-government, as well as the development and recognition of national priorities for ex situ programs.

Community awareness and behaviour change

The lack of community understanding is an ongoing challenge for threatened species and the broader environment in Australia. Much of the general population does not realise that the unique wildlife the country prides itself on is in trouble. For conservationists, researchers and scientists, this further cultivates the challenge of securing stronger protection, support and funding.

Zoos SA is supportive of improving community awareness and behaviour change. Organisations such as zoos, have a huge audience to deliver threatened species messaging and calls to action. For instance, every year Australasian zoos have around 22 million visitors. Zoos SA itself has over 570,000 visitors a year entering Adelaide and Monarto Zoos and this includes about 60,000 school children. By partnering both our zoo and other ZAA zoos, the government can leverage this high number of visitors to promote conservation issues and effect change in the community.

b. the wider ecological impact of faunal extinction;

The concept of ecological impacts of biodiversity loss is not new, in fact dates back to Darwin and Wallace who considered that diverse mixtures of plants should be more productive than monocultures and furthermore considered that species losses result in vacant niche-spaces, disrupting ecosystem processes (Darwin and Wallace, 1858). The recent, widely described, example demonstrating this Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, whereby reintroduced wolves controlled the abundance and behaviour of the deer population. The subsequent trophic cascade included vegetation change, increases in abundance of other fauna species from beavers to birds, and even an altered river pattern with stabilised river banks. A lesser known example is the role of whales in the oceanic ecosystem, whereby their production of excrement at the water surface enabling photosynthesis and the growth of phytoplankton, in turn feeding zooplankton and subsequently feeding a cascade of other marine life.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggest species extinctions are globally likely to have far-reaching consequences, furthering disruption of systems, ecosystems services, disease spread and cascading extinctions. Ecological services fauna provide to systems include the maintenance of soil fertility, climate regulation, natural pest control, and the provision of food. In fact, the loss of species and interactions are decoupled, such that ecological interactions are often lost at a higher rate. This implies that the loss of ecological interactions may occur well before species disappearance, affecting species functionality and ecosystems services at a faster rate than species extinctions.

In Australia, this is an emerging area of research with a range of examples system functions already being demonstrated. Some examples include the role of digging species (such as Bettongs) in being soil engineers and creating microenvironments, native rodents and other species in seed dispersal and bees through pollination.

Zoos SA recognises that the loss of species and their interactions have historically been decoupled. In fact, the loss of their interactions likely occurs before the species themselves disappear. There is currently a lack of knowledge of the breadth of the ecological impact of faunal extinction in Australia. Whilst the conservation of species is no less immediately important, the effects of the biodiversity crisis and biodiversity loss on the extinction of ecological interactions and consequences needs addressing and restoring. The importance of such should receive recognition, as well as funding support, to develop projects and research that improves our understanding and delivers on-ground outcomes to reverse the ecological impact of fauna declines.

Example Case Study: Rewilding Southern Yorke Peninsula

On the Southern Yorke Peninsula (South Australia), 95% of the district's 29 mammal species are now locally extinct. The area's native vegetation communities are undergoing a slow deterioration in condition (41% of flora species are considered to be in decline; Gillam & Urban 2008), which will continue without the supporting ecological functions provided by the missing fauna species.

Following 10 years of *Community Action Planning* on Yorke Peninsula, a consortium of organisations led by the N&Y NRM Board, WWF Australia, Zoos SA and the FAUNA Research Alliance initiated the development of a rewilding project. Envisaged as a 25 year project, with the staged reintroduction of key native species to the landscape, the project seeks to re-establish ecological function to prevent and reverse the further decline of the district's unique vegetation and to facilitate improvements in the resilience and adaptability into the system. The system is not conservation bound - local farmers can envision the potential productivity benefits, financial savings, and improvements to sustainability. The broader community see opportunities for enhanced tourism, improvements to the regional economy, and supporting the continued provision of local services.

Although rewilding is a well-established conservation method overseas, it is a new concept in Australia. By reintroducing fauna to Southern Yorke Peninsula, this novel approach foresees the advancement of sustainability, research and community capacity, being built upon with a range of species reintroductions over the next 20 years.

c. the international and domestic obligations of the Commonwealth Government in conserving threatened fauna;

Zoos SA, like many ZAA members, is actively involved in international conservation efforts. This adds to the "social licence" for Zoos to hold exotic species. Examples at Zoos SA include rhinos, where we are actively involved in breeding programs, and provide funding support in Africa, or orangutans where we have provided funding for a guard post to protect orangutans in the wild.

Our partnerships with international zoos have provided benefits to local conservation efforts. An example is Toledo Zoo, who hold two Tasmanian devils as display ambassador animals, and they provide funding to support the research efforts into the facial tumour effecting Tasmanian devils in the wild. This model could be expanded as a means to increase funding for conservation programs.

The Commonwealth Government provides annual funding to Adelaide Zoo, which is sent to China as part of our agreement with the China Wildlife Conservation Association. Holding Giant pandas in Australia has delivered significant trade and tourism benefits, and the Commonwealth funding provided supports conservation and research efforts in China.

d. the adequacy of Commonwealth environment laws, including but not limited to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, in providing sufficient protections for threatened fauna and against key threatening processes;

Whilst the EPBC Act recognises the existence of threatening processes, there is no direct mechanism under the Act to afford protection from all of the threatening processes recognised. Some protection is provided from human impacts, namely through development controls, however, this is not the case for processes such as those imposed by introduced animals.

Introduced predators, namely the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cat (*Felix catus*) are known to be responsible for the destruction, decline and extinction of native fauna in Australia. Zoos SA recognises the significant investment and targets set-out concerning the impact these species are having, through the recognition of these as threatening processes in the EPCBA Act, and in their respective Threat Abatement Plans. However, the legislation needs to be stronger and more impactful at addressing these issues.

Zoos SA is supportive of Australia-wide compulsory cat registration. It is further recommended that compulsory registration is coupled with substantial community awareness. Campaigns led by organisations with significant community reach, such as zoos, could be delivered in partnership with Federal/State and Local governments, to improve understanding, give cat registration greater social license and approval, and encourage responsible cat ownership.

The National Threatened Species Strategy includes targets for "improving recovery processes" and it is recognised that progress has already been made, for instance with the development of Best Practice Guidelines and National Recovery Team Register. However, no formal authority is provisioned with the Recovery Teams' recognition. Recovery Teams hold extensive expertise and are largely responsible for the development and implementation of EPBC Act recovery plans and/or conservation advices. There is also no investment to accompany such recognition or responsibility – they are for the most part supported by the goodwill of the Team's membership and often their capacity to apply for competitive grant funding. Additionally, the National Register and Guidelines are accompanied with annual reporting requirements. Whilst most recovery teams undertake ongoing reporting upon themselves to ensure the progression of action, this formalised reporting necessitates additional work and there is no financial support to facilitate the administration of these.

Zoos SA is supportive of the formal acknowledgement of Recovery Teams, and recommends that their delivery is supported with funding investment.

g. the use of traditional knowledge and management for threatened species recovery and other outcomes as well as opportunities to expand the use of traditional knowledge and management for conservation;

Traditional knowledge has an important role in threatened species recovery and conservation management. For most Australian threatened species at least some, or a major part, of their range occurs on Indigenous land. There is great value held within traditional knowledge and embedded in local taxonomies, environmental relationships and seasonal understanding. Traditional knowledge is rooted in place-based natural-history observations. It has been gathered and shared over centuries. As such, traditional knowledge, along with management techniques, is in many ways complementary to academic or citizen science.

With the extinction crisis faced in Australia, resources, knowledge and management techniques should be maximised and be working together. Long-term success of conservation initiatives hinges on a diverse and interdisciplinary course of action.

Zoos SA recognises the value in collaborative work, whereby traditional knowledge has an important role in biodiversity conservation. It should also be recognised that there is an important role in stewardship, and empowering indigenous and local communities in managing and recovering threatened species.

Example Case Study: Warru (Petrogale lateralis) conservation

Warru conservation in South Australia has been guided by the Warru Recovery Team - a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Traditional Owners, Anangu communities, the Land Management department of APY Lands including the Warru Rangers, scientists, consultants, Zoos SA and government organisations. The goals of the recovery team have been to recover the South Australian populations by increasing animal abundance and distribution across the APY Lands, to downgrade the conservation status of warru in South Australia from endangered to vulnerable (Read and Ward 2011a), and to provide employment and training opportunities for indigenous rangers.

Traditional Anangu land custodianship, law and family relations guided the engagement of the Warru Rangers in terms of where they could or could not work and at times presented considerable cross-cultural challenges to non-indigenous staff. Since inception, the Warru Recovery Team have focussed on the use of reintroduction techniques to meet these goals.

The most important and appropriate sites in South Australia for extant and potentially reintroduced warru and populations of other rare desert wildlife species occur on the indigenous-managed APY Lands. Reintroductions into indigenous-owned land have been integral to warru conservation. The recovery efforts have benefitted from the condition of the habitat through concerted management efforts (including fire management and predator control), the traditional ecological and cultural knowledge about warru, the accessibility of a government-funded and provisioned Anangu workforce and a well-governed recovery team. The Warru Recovery Team consider this program to have not only had a significant conservation impact, but also social and cultural benefits. These include Anangu employment, skills/training, connection to Country and Tjukurpa.

h. the adequacy of existing funding streams for implementing threatened species recovery plans and preventing threatened fauna loss in general;

There is insufficient funding available for implementing threatened species projects and recovery efforts. Subsequently, conservation agencies, scientists and the like, are subsequently limited in their capacity to reverse declines, prevent extinctions and support the long-term conservation of our fauna species and their habitats.

The Threatened Species Strategy and Prospectus has provided a new framework for broader engagement with threatened species projects and for the procurement of external, non-government, funding. Current Commonwealth funding is primarily targeted at NRM bodies and non-government organisations that are not directly undertaking threatened species management. Whilst the emphasis on the importance of partnerships is ever increasing, the funding streams available are largely focused on community driven and immediately measurable on-ground outcomes (ie planting). These streams are not targeted at threatened species recovery, and there is limited capacity to address research, knowledge and management gaps. Work in conservation and recovery efforts for Australia's threatened species could be considerably enhanced with more cooperation and funding from government agencies.

Greater flexibility in grant parameters would facilitate the ecological nature of threatened species projects. Provision with agreement scopes for exceptional conditions, and improving mechanisms by which carrying-over of funds can be achieved, would provide greater flexibility and better conservation outcomes.

For instance, there is immense technical knowledge available in Australian zoos in the areas of husbandry, nutrition, health, disease management and animal welfare. This is just one area of opportunity for more joint and funded collaboration between government and zoos. Furthermore, many zoos operate threatened species research and recovery programs, and every year produce scientific publications concerned with the conservation and study of our native species. However, the capacity to deliver pro-active planning, such as the development of captive husbandry as a conservation tool, improve our understanding of disease in faunal declines and deliver recovery efforts, is hindered by the lack of available funding.

Zoos SA supports the building of knowledge and technical capacity for implementing threatened species recovery plans and preventing the further decline and loss of our fauna species. Additional funding, in conjunction with leveraged funding, would help to capitalize on knowledge and expertise and enable recover efforts to more effectively be delivery.

i. the adequacy of existing monitoring practices in relation to the threatened fauna assessment and adaptive management responses;

Monitoring is required to enable the adjustment of threatened fauna assessments as new knowledge is acquired, new taxonomy is described or the security of a species changes. However, at least one third of Australia threatened species are not monitored - this does not take into account currently unlisted fauna.

It should also be recognised that the outcomes of threatened species recovery efforts are often temporal, with results and change is often not observable for many years. This is particularly relevant as the role of fauna in ecosystem function is increasingly recognised.

There is a high reliance on volunteers for the monitoring of threatened species in Australia, without whose data collection informing species's status, recovery efforts and management responses would not be attained. Whilst there is great value in community awareness and engagement in volunteer participation, this is coupled with significant efforts in training, WH&S management, on-ground support and logistical management. The efforts required in delivering these, particularly where volunteer and community participation is key to program delivery, needs to be recognised and funding be available to support them.

Zoos SA is supportive of increasing the capacity for threatened species monitoring to be undertaken as a key activity of threatened species recovery. This includes both within immediate responses, and especially temporally where the monitoring of ecosystem change and/or habitat growth require time. However, monitoring of threatened fauna, and its conservation, requires more adequate resourcing.

Example Case Study: Southeastern Red-tailed Black-cockatoo

The noisy and flamboyant Red-tailed Black-cockatoo is a specialist feeder that relies on native stringybark and buloke trees in the southeast of South Australia and southwest of Victoria. Land clearing within their range has threatened the cockies long-term survival in the wild – there are less than 1500 left in the wild.

Zoos SA is a major partner of 'Cockies helping cockies helping cockies' - a project working with a network of landholders in the southeast to protect and revegetate feeding and nesting habitat for this precious species.

The project began in 2009 with a stringybark habitat demonstration site being established. It was predicted that it could take around 15 years before the trees would provide suitable feed habitat for the birds. However, in 2017, the trees flowered heavily, and fruited for the first time. Just one year later, in 2018, birds were seen using the site – a huge achievement for the project. However, that is nearly 10 years since the first critical habitat plantings could be directly linked to usage by the red-tailed black-cockatoos.

The immediate results of planting successes and area revegetated/protected delivery can be measured and monitored during such a program. However, the impact these plantings have had for the threatened species itself are often not immediate, and it can take many years for areas of productive/useful habitat to become established and suitable, and for outcomes to be detected.

The long-term monitoring of this species is delivered through an annual Cocky Count, which the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-cockatoo Recovery Team first began in 1996. Volunteers search for birds across their range (South Australia and Victoria) and provide crucial population information, helping to determine the location of large flocks, the minimum number of birds known to be alive, and patterns of habitat use. Not only providing important community engagement, without the support of these volunteers, the long-term, range-wide, and highly important monitoring would not be feasible for this nationally endangered bird.

j. the adequacy of existing assessment processes for identifying threatened fauna conservation status;

It is recognised that there have been improvements in the understanding of the status of many of Australia's fauna, in conjunction with improvement in listing process efficiencies in recent years. This has led to an increase in the number of threatened species recognised. However, whilst this is an indication of a more current status of these species, it is also an indication of previous process deficiencies.
The process for recognition of species' listing and of Recovery Plans remains somewhat protracted. There are a number of recovery plans that have been held 'in limbo' due to minor word disagreements across jurisdictions (state to state and federal). The assessment processes should be more responsive to enable listed species' status to be more up-to-date. The EPBC Act has been proposed for review (anticipated in 2019) and this provides a key opportunity for processes and statutory timeframes to be improved.

Zoos SA is supportive of processes that would allow the more timely recognition of the conservation status of species, as well as the formal recognition of necessary recovery actions. Zoos SA is also supportive of legislation that would encourage investment in threatened species recovery.

From: Roger Wickes
Sent: Sunday, 14 October, 2018 9:37 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Group structures in NRM

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NRM Act 2004 was extensively negotiated with the community at the time and one of the key platforms was to form a Group Structure that reported to the Regional Boards but operated locally with the community and the Local Governments in the Group area carrying on the excellent work that was undertaken by the previous Soil Conservation Boards and Animal and Plant Control Boards. We note that one of the platforms of the current review is to get back to the basics of soil, animal and plant control. The structure in the current Act is premised on the Boards being strategic and the Groups focussed on the operational issues and connecting to the exisiting local community structures. Unfortunately many of the Group structures were dismantled by the Boards and the Boards themselves taken on both strategic and operational roles. Fortunately the Murray Darling Basin NRM Board has decided to maintain the Groups and structure the operational staff into districts which coincides with the Group areas.

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group is made up of landowners in its district and these landholders are geographically spread around the District. The Group has an agreed annual workplan and revises it regularly. The work plan and the District Managers Plan are developed together so that the landholders and the staff have agreement on the priority actions for the district.

The Group has undertaken influencing mapping of the District so it can work with other organisations, individuals and Local Governments in the District to influence them into carrying the natural resource management objectives into their activities.

Local Government
Twice a year we meet with the 5 Local Governments in District and these are attended by elected members and staff to progress an agreed program of discovery in natural resource management issues of joint interest. We have over time focussed on such things as native vegetation management, weed control, rubble pit management, rabbit calici virus, carp control, fire management, and roadside revegetation. Each subject is led by a subject expert often coming from institutions in Adelaide. The aim is to connect up with Local Government, improve their skills and develop joint programs between their staff and NRM staff.

Forums
Each year a forum on natural resource management is held somewhere in the district. Where there another organisation such as an Agricultural Bureau, the forum subject matter is developed with the group and where there is no groups surviving, we develop the program with a group of leaders from the area. These are always well attended and people come from over the district to partake in the forum. The key is always to make the program relevant and bring in the best speakers we can find even if means going interstate to find them. It is a chance to focus on natural resource management issues and promote the NRM Program to those who pay the NRM levy.

Recognition of Volunteers
Each year we feature an area in the region that has committed volunteers, often landcare groups, that are managing natural assets. Many other groups like to attend and learn from the experiences of these groups. A Certificate is given at the event to one or two groups that we know have undertaken good works.

Meetings and Information
The Group membership is distributed across the district so that a good understanding of the condition of the land can be bought to the NRM Board ie the eyes and ears of the district. The adjoining NRM Board has dismantled its Groups and as a result the leading landholders in the Upper SE district met with the Group to explore issues of common interest. An increase in drylands salinity, unexplained with the current knowledge of the hydrogeology in

the joint districts was recognised at the meeting and the Group has sought a revision of the modelling so it can be explained and hopefully alleviate the salinity problem. The Group also presents at the Karoonda Farm Fair and has produced, with the staff, a local document that explains the role that the local landholders have in Natural Resource Management and directions on where they may find more information.

Conclusion

The Group structure does allow a connection between the local landowner and the NRM Board. It is very effective in educating the local landholders in their role in natural resource management and in making meaningful connections with local government. It is also is an excellent connection to the staff programs so the staff are prioritising their work on priority issues as seen and supported by the community leaders. A Group structure may not work in all circumstances but it does make connections with the local landowners and meets the objective of in the review of getting back to the basics of natural resource management.

Roger Wickes
Chair Mallee and Coorong NRM Group

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (SA) INC

15 October 2018

LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

RE: Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change

The Environmental Defenders Office (SA) Inc ("the EDO") is an independent community legal centre with over twenty five years experience specialising in environmental and planning law. EDO functions include legal advice and representation, law reform and policy work and community legal education.

The EDO appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to this Discussion Paper which focusses on the operation of the *Natural Resources Management Act* 2004 (NRM Act) and the introduction of a new Landscape South Australia (the new Act). In our view the new system must be:

- Robust, clearly principled and enforceable;
- Science-based and evidence-driven;
- Strategic and integrated across the whole of government; and
- Supported by good governance, resourcing and accountability

Question 2

What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

There are many positive aspects of the NRM Act which should be transferred into the new Act including;

- The landscape and integrated approach to NRM including planning

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- The broad definition of natural resources in section 3 which provides that natural resources includes— (a) soil; (b) water resources; (c) geological features and landscapes; (d) native vegetation, native animals and other native organisms; (e) ecosystems.
- The current objects in section 7 for long term conservation and particularly the concept and long standing principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

Question 3- What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

General Statutory Duty

The EDO recommends broadening the criteria in section 9 (2) NRM Act for interpreting the duty of care provision to include protection of biodiversity as set out below in the underlined sections:

9(1) A person must act reasonably in relation to the management of natural resources within the State.

(2) In determining what is reasonable for the purposes of subsection (1), regard must be had, amongst other things, to the objects of this Act, and to—

(a) the need to act responsibly in relation to the management of natural resources, **including the protection of biodiversity**, and the potential impact of a failure to comply with the relevant duty; and

(b) any environmental, social, economic or practical implications, **including the current state of matters pertaining to biodiversity,** any relevant assessment of costs and benefits associated with a particular course of action, the financial implications of various measures or options, and the current state of technical and scientific knowledge; and

(c) any degrees of risk that may be involved **including risk to the environment and the state of biodiversity**; and

(d) the nature, extent and duration of any harm, **including harm to biodiversity**; and

(e) the extent to which a person is responsible for the management of the natural resources; and

(f) the significance of the natural resources, including in relation to the environment **and its biodiversity** and to the economy of the State (if relevant); and

(g) the extent to which an act or activity may have a cumulative effect on any natural resources **and the environment including a loss of biodiversity**; and

Question 17- Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

Question 18 - What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

The NRM Act provides for the protection and management of catchments and the sustainable use of water resources, seeking to enhance and restore already degraded water resources. The NRM Act furthers these aims through prescription of water resources, the subsequent development of water allocation plans, the issuing of water management authorisations, restrictions where appropriate on water usage and the issue of permits for Water Affecting Activities.

A major concern is that effectively the NRM Act has no application to the Olympic Dam mine operated by BHP Billiton, a very large mining concern. Whilst other mines are regulated primarily by the provisions of the Mining Act, the Olympic Dam mine is regulated by a special Act – the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982 (SA) (Indenture Act). The Indenture Act takes precedence over any other state government environmental legislation.

For environmental protection within the Olympic Dam and broader area the Indenture sets up its own set of rules in Clause 11 for the "Protection and Management of the Environment". These provisions require the joint venturers to submit 3 year programs to the Minister (responsible for the Indenture) regarding the protection, management and

rehabilitation (if appropriate) of the environment in respect of each project. The Minister has the sole power to approve or refuse the application on the basis of those programs.

In relation to mining activities more broadly there are inconsistencies though regarding the legal requirements of mining enterprises with regard to extracting water and using it for mining purposes. These differ depending on a number of factors including location, water source and method of extraction. Most importantly different rules apply depending on whether the mining location and / or points of extraction of water are within a prescribed or non prescribed water resources area.

The EDO recommends the inclusion of the following legislative requirements to enhance protection and provide consistency in the management of water resources:

a. Application of new Act to the Olympic Dam mining project
b. Environmentally sustainable diversion limits in Water Allocation Plans
c. Metering of all bores
d. Prescription of all non-prescribed water resources
e. Water management authorisations be subject to:
    - an environmental watering plan which includes water conservation measures
    - an environmental improvement program
    - financial bonds
f. Revision of the stock exception to prevent stock from taking water before the needs of the environment.
g. Mandatory consideration of Water Allocation Plans when granting a licence
h. Increased penalties regarding the maintenance of a watercourse or lake and in relation to water restrictions
i. Introduction of incentives to comply with the duty to care

Question 21 -How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

The EDO recommends the following legislative changes to enhance environmental protection and compliance:

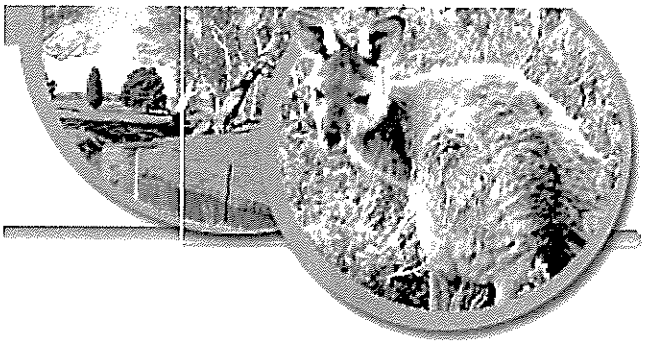
a. Amendment of the duty of care to enable it to apply to inherited degradation of natural resources and to improve the condition of the land where it is degraded ie delete subparagraph (h)
b. Reward beneficial environmental performance, (performance which is more than the duty), for example by a reduction in Council rates provided there is compliance with particular standards set out in legislation.
c. Increasing the penalties for failure to comply with the notice to produce the action plan as the maximum of $20,000 is a minimal amount which can easily be factored into the operational costs of a business enterprise
d. Certain community members can seek court orders against those allegedly breaching the NRM Act. In order to be able to apply to the Environment, Resources and Development Court the community member must be someone whose interests have been directly affected or they have the permission of the court to proceed. To obtain permission a community member must convince the court that their action has been brought in the public interest. This is somewhat limiting and consequently the EDO recommends provisions in the new Act similar to those in Part 18 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act* 2016 which includes the right of anyone to seek court orders.

Please advise if you have any queries in relation to this submission. We request that the EDO be consulted on the draft Bill.

Yours faithfully

MBallantyne

Melissa Ballantyne
Coordinator/Principal Solicitor
Environmental Defenders Office (SA) Inc.



Mid Torrens
Catchment Group

PO Box 25, Cudlee Creek,
South Australia 5232

TO: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

RE: Managing our Landscapes – Feedback from Stakeholder, Mid Torrens Catchment Group

DATE: 15 October, 2018

The Mid Torrens Catchment Group, offers to give input to the Landscape Reform review. Our group is mainly concerned with biodiversity conservation in relation to landholders and with management of the catchment for the health of the land and the people. We would welcome an opportunity for a direct conversation with the new Minister. After discussions in the group, we offer the following points that should be addressed in the new act:

- The SA Government would have an important role in **honouring Federal and International agreements for biodiversity conservation**. Landscape "Conservation" SA should at least fit within Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 and the CBD/Rio. Biodiversity and conservation must improve on NRM plans.
- **Long-term planning and monitoring** would be a useful purpose for DEW, to give the broader perspective of how communities can collaborate to achieve meaningful landscapes that function for both people and Nature. Regions would work together for bioregional integration of projects and future planning.
- **Continuity and recognition of the good projects and work done** by community volunteers is essential to keep the momentum going.. Forward planning and management of the projects have been facilitated by the NRM district officers, and this government input has been a key factor to maintain the support, passion, commitment and credibility for the group.
- **Scientific knowledge base** of biodiversity and agricultural ecosystems is required for political and practical decisions. Ecological economics would provide vital evidence that landscape conservation works and will be supported by the greater community.
- **Levies raised and spent in the regions** should be in addition to the commitment from DEW staff. Project grants would still be required from State and Federal programs to address broader issues like species extinction and climate change.
- **Board composition** should not be dominated by government reps; boards should be independent and have a range of expertise in conservation & agricultural science, project planning and management, community cooperation, Aboriginal issues and landscape valuation.

We would be pleased to discuss the details of our projects in person or by emails. Contact the MTCG chairperson: Joan Gibbs [redacted], joan.gibbs@unisa.edu.au . Thank you.

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11 October 2018

RE: Landscape Reform

Dear Minister Speirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to again provide input into the impending NRM reforms and the new *Landscapes South Australia* legislation.

The Conservation Council of South Australia (Conservation SA) is an independent, non-profit and strictly non-party political peak body organisation representing around 60 of South Australia's environment and conservation organisations. Conservation SA has been a strong advocate for the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity in South Australia since 1971.

Facilitating the SA Nature Alliance (SANA), we are committed to delivering improved nature conservation outcomes, a community better connected to nature, and a stronger conservation sector in South Australia through a collaborative approach. Members of SANA include: Greening Australia SA, Trees For Life, Nature Conservation Society SA, Landcare Association of SA, Nature Foundation SA, Nature Glenelg Trust, Friends of Parks, The Wilderness Society SA, National Trust SA, Zoos SA & Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Conservation SA welcomes the opportunity to make a further submission in the reform of natural resource management in South Australia. We also acknowledge and welcome our ongoing participation in the reform process through the NRM/Landscape Partners advisory group.

We have welcomed the strong sense of unity and common purpose from a range of interests through the NRM reform consultation period. There is a strong commitment from all the NRM/Landscape Partners, including ourselves, to identify common ground and work in partnership.

Overall vision

Our vision is a co-designed model for landscape management in SA that empowers people to love and protect natural assets for the long term benefit of our wellbeing, our economy and our biodiversity.

Priority areas

Our specific Landscapes/NRM priority areas include:

- Community empowerment, which means shared ownership and involvement in decision making and increased funding support to deliver
- Biodiversity/nature outcomes delivered at the landscape scale with a focus on improving connectivity and climate change adaptation
- An increase in overall government expenditure in SA's environment and NRM outcomes accessible at all levels beyond the levy.

Re-empowering regions

While welcoming the intent to increase the sense of community ownership and control over the new Landscape Boards, we acknowledge a range of challenges with an elected board process, including:

- cost of running an election process
- challenge of maintaining diversity
- regional representation (risk of concentration of representatives from more populated areas)
- potential for politicisation of landscape management
- appropriate skills mix

We believe some sort of oversight of membership by the Minister should be retained to ensure the Landscape Boards can reach their potential.

Landscape resilience at scale

We strongly welcome the focus through the reform process of a 'whole of landscape' approach and the acknowledgment that to ensure that practical, on-ground works achieve the best outcomes, we need to think and operate at landscape levels, beyond the scale of individual patches or properties.

We again emphasise that a landscape approach requires commitment to landscape scale programs which:

- Follow international standards of nature conservation planning – the Open Standards for Conservation is one example methodology;
- Are multi-partner, multi-year projects with multiple benefits (social, economic & ecological);
- Are driven by local community and partners aspirations and leadership;
- Are adequately resourced and supported to achieve the outcomes over realistic timeframes;
- Cross boundaries and borders;
- Focus on managing for climate change impacts;
- Are outcome-driven and evidence-based with monitoring, evaluation, learning for change and improvement embedded into programs;
- Are adaptable and efficient with transparent governance and delivery;
- Are at scales that are meaningful to ecosystems or species;
- Have multiple participation pathways where all interventions (from small to large)
- Link to landscape outcomes (Landcare focus); and,

- Evolve out of community-led processes such as Conservation Action Plans, where the science suggests strong partnerships between organisations would be beneficial for threatened species recovery or the protection and extension of under-represented ecosystems.

We acknowledge and recognise the vital importance of water, soil and pest plants and animals to effective landscape management. In addition, there are a number of other key threats and assets that should be integral to the work of the Landscape Boards and new Act, including climate change, biodiversity and people.

To ensure appropriate recognition, these elements must be made Objects of the Act. The ongoing stewardship and restoration of our natural, biodiverse ecosystems is at the heart of building landscape resilience at scale, and essential for ensuring productive farmland and healthy natural assets.

There has been some discussion about the potential for the creation of a new Biodiversity Act. We see this as sitting alongside the new Landscapes Act, not replacing the importance of biodiversity in the Landscapes Act. There needs to be a specific reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in both legislative instruments. We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in further consultation about what a Biodiversity Act could look like and achieve.

As has been recognised through the consultation process, climate change must be central to the landscape approach adopted by the new Landscape Boards. We need living landscapes, and climate change remains the single biggest threat to that.

In support of the MERI reporting methodology, a legislative commitment to align with the Australian Government's commitment to accountability, reporting on program outcomes and adaptive management in natural resource manager and biodiversity conservation is welcomed.

We recognise the importance of all aspects of compliance and applaud the engagement approach currently being utilised. Whilst we recognise the limited resources available in this area it is our desire that compliance matters be maintained with a consistent approach state-wide.

State-wide coordination

We welcome the recognition that there needs to be state-wide coordination, alongside regional empowerment.

The suggestion of an appropriately resourced cross-sector advisory body makes sense, and we would welcome the opportunity to participate in that. Ensuring the Department of Environment and Water has the capacity to provide a range of support services to the Boards, such as policy and legislature support, monitoring and evaluation and cross regional coordination is also needed.

The new Landscape Priorities Fund is a tremendous opportunity to ensure cross regional and state-wide priorities have the funds to create impact. To support

greater community input and ownership the Fund should not just be limited to projects that include the Board as a prerequisite.

Community capacity building

The Nature of SA Principles provide an excellent reference point for the reform process. This includes investing in the community capacity building and social infrastructure, e.g. leadership development.

While the Landscape Boards can facilitate planning, the reforms underway should formalise opportunities for the environment non-government sector and other community partners to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decisions. There are a range of locally tested and successful planning approaches such as Conservation Action Planning that are a viable mechanism for achieving enhanced outcomes and community buy-in.

We strongly support the recognition that Aboriginal peoples should have a greater leadership and implementation role in landscape management. This needs to include appropriate representation in decision making bodies, viable partnerships and devolved delivery of on ground outcomes.

Appropriate resourcing

Through NRM reform Conservation SA would like to see appropriate levels of government investment made available for all scales of endeavour that complements current public investment (via levies). This will unlock the community driven approach to landscape scale conservation that the reform is intended to achieve.

A core operating principle should be an increase in the proportion of NRM levy revenue dedicated to on-ground works. Devolving delivery to efficient community partners is an opportunity to stretch levy funds further.

The reforms underway must increase the ability to seek national and international funding through co-benefit, shared value methodology including dollar matching collaborations; strengthening collaboration across boundaries with all levels of government, business and philanthropy sectors. An advantage of including biodiversity as a specific reference in the Act is an increased ability to leverage other funding opportunities from outside the state.

We would encourage the State Government to consider matching the Grassroots Grant program dollar for dollar to ensure greater leveraging of the enormous contribution of time, energy and expertise committed by volunteers, community and no-for-profit groups.

Green Adelaide

The creation of Green Adelaide is an exciting opportunity for city-focused ecological restoration and enhancement. It will also deliver significant liveability and economic benefits to our biggest city.

The Nature of SA process has identified a range of principles and approaches that should underpin Green Adelaide.

We would urge you to consider a high level of developed delivery and community ownership through the governance and operating approach of this new initiative.

The London National Park City is a fascinating example of a community driven approach to city-wide landscape protection and enhancement. Increasing the sense of ownership by the community of Green Adelaide will significantly increase the opportunity for positive change. That sense of ownership needs to start at the governance and decision-making level.

There are a number of member organisations who have the capacity to deliver urban corridors, urban engagement in novel ecosystems and urban peri-urban community capacity building in support of a similar vision, and are poised to assist.

We look forward to consulting more thoroughly with our sector on the NRM reform.

For more information or to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au or (08) 8223 5155.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Wilkins

Chief Executive

KESAB *environmental solutions*

celebrating 50 YEARS 1966–2016

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Response: **Managing Our Landscapes**
Conversation for Change
Discussion Paper July 2018

Prepared by: **John Phillips OAM**
Executive Director
KESAB *environmental solutions*

Date: **15th October 2018**

About KESAB

KESAB *environmental solutions* is a leading South Australian NGO environmental sustainability education service provider with significant expertise and experience delivering targeted water, waste and biodiversity partnership initiatives in collaboration with the community.

Partnerships embrace all levels of government, commerce and industry and community sectors, value adding tens of millions of dollars to environmental improvement, action based programs, education and learning through professional development and hands on participation.

KESAB was announced Winner of United Nations Australia Association Environmental Sustainability Education Award in 2015. This outcome reflects the significant community education engagement and reach achieved through long term partnerships including Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, Green Industries SA, EPA, SA Water, Department for Education and Corporate Stewardship programs.

Initiatives developed and facilitated by KESAB and respective stakeholders engage Adelaide Metropolitan, Regional and Rural areas and remote APY Lands aboriginal communities. Resources and professional development and training have extended globally in recent years with projects in India, Indonesia, Mongolia, New Zealand and Kiribati.

KESAB partnerships focus on developing and delivering education and engagement underscoring community capacity building through action and participation encouraging voluntary effort, student voice and learning, meeting mutual objectives of protecting, restoring and valuing our natural assets.

In context of community and natural resource management KESAB has developed a skilled natural resource management and environmental sustainability education Team demonstrating leadership influencing and empowering the South Australian community.

Education and engagement with community is core to successfully transforming a new natural resource management framework which will evolve from discussion and consultation embracing "Managing Our Landscapes" Discussion Paper.

Enviro Method™ teaching resources for a sustainable planet · JUNK Craft creating art from waste · WOW Wipe out Waste · NRM Education · Clean Site® BUILDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT · Butt FREE · CLEAN MARINE LITTER FREE FISHING · sustainable COMMUNITIES

Discussion Paper July 2018 Feedback

Question 1.

What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

South Australia has demonstrated environmental leadership over the past two decades of Catchment Management and NRM Boards driving community culture and willingness to engage in environmental natural resource management and sustainability actions. This effort has been collaborative and led at the grass roots level building local capacity and ownership. The most important component of any reform is consistent community collaboration with ability to lead from ground up and not from top down, ensuring any reform process recognises localised natural resource management issues and community engagement.

Question 2.

What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

KESAB has demonstrated leadership in environmental sustainability education and community engagement for over 50 years. Education and learning has underpinned community, understanding and changing behaviour during a time of evolution in terms of balancing the built and natural environments during significant growth via urbanisation and modernisation. Community has largely responded to sustainability issues by actively playing a role supporting change, albeit at times mandatory options have been required to strengthen desired outcomes. Overall management of our natural resources is reflected through balance and ability to deliver and support an integrated community underpinned by resources, education and engagement. Whilst reform is always an ongoing agenda Managing Our Landscapes reform must ensure that we retain transparency and balance recognising the complexities of natural resource management and identifying priorities associated with long term aspirations of community.

Question 3.

What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

KESAB has identified a number of common issues relative to managing natural resources and reform change impacts including;

- *Ensuring equity and integration in terms of curriculum based and holistic education and learning and support resources are linked to community scale planning, engagement and strategic outcomes*
- *Understanding catchment boundaries and potential cross over (what are processes to determine new boundaries?)*
- *Education and community engagement is imperative ensuring transition does not impact on progress and accessibility undoing all the good work achieved to date*
- *Rigorous structure and governance of Boards and assurance of community representation ensuring protection of volunteers and project partners and participants*
- *Ensure reform reflects a bottom up approach and reduces the current top down view (reality or perception!)*
- *Equity in social, economic and environmental objectives in terms of willingness or ability to pay and allocation of funds (Levy) recognising respective geographical areas have significant variances in population, geography and natural resource management priorities.*
- *Prioritising issues with doable solutions and developing of transportable case studies will achieve an improved scale of economy maximising return on Levy and community effort.*

Question 4.

How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

Consultation, collaboration, social, economic and environmental balance will ultimately determine landscape scale restoration outcomes. Importantly there must be recognition that not all projects are seeking to achieve the same outcome and research and due diligence must underpin ultimate decision making that demonstrate achievability. There will be instances wherein regional boundaries may require cross over; planning and regulatory obligations may need flexibility, albeit ensuring goals remain constant. On the premise the reform process will embrace balanced community, business and government partnerships projects should be enabled through an agreed priority schedule and ability to fund consideration.

Question 5.

How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples land, water, economic and cultural interest?

Managing Our Landscapes provides a gateway to better integrate first nation people into social, cultural and economic values through engagement and recognition. KESAB has worked with APY Land communities for many years delivering environmental sustainability education embracing waste management and water quality and quantity sustainability. Core to all aboriginal peoples engagement is collaboration and understanding of tradition and cultural impacts that must be embedded into project delivery and resources.

Question 6.

How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Landscape Boards can best facilitate management through transparency, autonomy, proportionate funding and governance underpinning respective community and stakeholder partnerships. The approach being proposed through the reform process seeks to embed the good from existing NRM Boards and strengthen community input value adding to the bottom up approach. Landscape Boards should re-invent the original Catchment Board model of community interface wherein stakeholders were invited to make representation and presentation directly to the Board encouraging discussion and input to overall catchment management plans and strategies. This approach achieved great outcomes leading ultimately to where we are today as part of ongoing natural resource management. These outcomes have embraced strong interface with whole of school and community education and action, especially in regional and rural areas. Communities provide a value add and scale of economy that cannot be sustained through the current top down approach.

Question 7.

What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Modern Boards and Governance practices embrace membership (appointed or elected) with an appropriate skills set to manage and deliver to a Strategic Plan or Business Plan. Membership terms should be staggered ensuring flow of knowledge and history is maintained over the years ie; 50% Board replacement (alternate periods 2 or 3 years).Interested persons must provide a detailed CV against a schedule reflecting capability and experience in governance. Community elected Members should not be exempt from specific skills and understanding ie, local government, natural resource management, education, economics, communication, volunteers and project management experience. One option is to establish a "Bank" of persons or peak body representation to draw from.

Question 8.

How would Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

We need to understand "Adelaide" and the "Green Adelaide Plan" in the first instance ie; Does the question relate to City of Adelaide and/or Metropolitan Adelaide?
The Adelaide region outside the CBD area is a large geographic footprint eg; Gawler to Aldinga in length and Coast to Hills in width. The footprint is inhabited by 1.4 mill people from many different cultural and traditional backgrounds governed through multiple layers of administration (Federal, State and Local) and rules and regulations with increasing complexities. Many may argue a lack of consistency between State Government Agencies and Local Councils regulations and planning processes is a major inhibitor.
This scenario becomes more complicated at a time of transition and cost impacts associated with water management, drought, renewable energy, transport, planning and urban sprawl and density.
Where is the long term plan one may ask?
In short there needs to be considerably more cross Agency collaboration and determination in terms of planning, strategic thinking about long term impacts on Adelaide's ecological and social footprint, local government consistency in deliverables and governance and a willingness of the community to better understand how we can collaboratively achieve the goal of "make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city" which at this point of time is somewhat a motherhood statement.

Question 9.

How can regional planning be streamlined?

This a separate issue to NRM reform albeit discussion provides a perfect opportunity to open a broader community debate in terms of future streamlining options, planning framework and long term regional planning objectives integrated with NRM Plans and assessments. Economy of scale is the big issue.

Question 10.

How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

Accessibility is one aspect for consideration. However KESAB is of the view planning is about consistency, transparency and collaboration. In a rapidly changing and dynamic built and natural environmental context format and terminology is difficult to understand and define as we look to the future of regions which have many complexities such as transport, energy, water and overall community health and well-being. Adopting a more consistent and long term approach underpins clarity by community encouraging improved accessibility and ownership through a collaborative decision making process.

Question 11.

How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Measurement can best be quantified through the level of community engagement and connection with respective natural resource management learning, planning and action across the range of issues embedded in respective Strategic and Action Plans.

Question 12.

How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the State

Levies (Land, Water) should be applied for the purpose they are raised recognising that some regions or sectors do not have capacity to raise the level of funding required to underwrite all projects or actions embraced in the regions respective Business Plans. Based on this premise there should be consideration relative to "ability to pay" or a policy reflecting that total levy funding maybe amortised across the State allowing cross subsidisation for smaller or disadvantaged regions. An example would be the Green Adelaide NRM Plan would embrace the ability to facilitate funding outside its region as proportionately significantly more funds would be captured. The rate of Levy adjustment increase should be fixed over a 2 or 3 year period and regional Business Plans built around said fixed budget and reviewed against performance meeting KPI's. Increasing the Levy must be justified based on performance outcomes of Boards and community.

Question 13.

How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

High priority landscape projects should be identified and costed at the front end of regional NRM planning process allowing amortisation of funds to be allocated against such projects or optional funding to be considered eg; Private Public Partnership (PPP) depending on the project scale.

Question 14.

How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

The key is to identify the effort required at the front end and ensure that respective Boards and Community persons have the skills and knowledge to coordinate and deliver. By establishing 3 to 5 year Business Plans clearly identifying priority issues and ensuring funding consistency KESAB believes better outcomes and effort will be achieve.

Question 15.

How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

Grassroots Grants achieve great community outcomes. Such outcomes can be demonstrated by the level of community effort and participation, sense of ownership and pride and local capacity building. A small Grant can go a long way and often achieves value adding which may be measured through level of community engagement with local business, council support and the building of case studies which can be applied in other regions or with other community groups.

The respective NRM Board should administer an annual Grassroots Grant budget allocation with clear guidelines and purpose working directly with the community.

KESAB experience in managing or delivering small grants funding over the years highlights the following;

- *Grants programs require considerable monitoring to ensure projects are delivered to terms and conditions demonstrating the project has met objectives and been delivered in a timely manner.*
- *Community groups want to get things done and often find the process of applying for funds both difficult (subject to expertise in the group) and long winded with too many conditions/questions sometimes leading to disinterest by the group to complete the application*
- *Whilst a small Grant ($500 - $3000) goes a long way in the hands of a community group the reporting required by the group back to Board can be onerous and overwhelming for the applicant Group.*

The option to engage a lead NGO to facilitate a Grants program could be a consideration. KESAB has considerable understanding and capability to manage such programs.
However it is important to note that managing community group Grants and ensuring all deliverables are achieved and reported is a significant task in itself and administrative cost recovery must be embedded in any Grassroots Grants program no matter which body takes on the function.

END

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Monday 15 October 2018

Re: Managing our landscapes: conversations for change (repeal of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 and replacement with Landscape South Australia Bill)

Dear Ms Hirst,

The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the 'Managing our landscapes: conversations for change' reform process, entailing the repeal of Natural Resources Management (NRM) Act 2004 and replacement with the Landscape South Australia Bill. Since 1962, the NCSSA has been a strong advocate for the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity in South Australia with particular attention being paid to nationally and state listed threatened plants, animals and ecological communities and the management of protected areas.

In summary, our response to the Discussion Paper for this reform is:

- We strongly support the aim of this reform to achieve 'vibrant biodiversity' as a key component of healthy, integrated landscape management. To achieve this, we believe it will be necessary to:
    - Retain the protection of biodiversity as an object in the new Act, and to specify a duty of care for biodiversity;
    - In addition to soil, water and pest plants and animals, specifically include biodiversity as an asset to be planned for and monitored by the new Landscape Boards, and therefore retained as a target for investment in its own right,
    - Integrate the new Act with other pieces of relevant environment-related legislation, particularly with land-use planning under the *Planning and Development Act 2016* but also the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, and
    - Include provisions for specifically encouraging and rewarding good landscape management and innovative stewardship in relation to biodiversity as a part of integrated landscape management.
- We strongly support the proposal for landscape scale restoration projects to be enabled through the new Bill, funded from a state-wide Landscape Priorities Fund,
- We support the establishment of a Grassroots Grants Program as a means to support greater community participation in integrated landscape management,

- We support the focus of this reform on ensuring that the new Landscape Boards enable collaborative planning that facilitates the delivery of services through partnerships between key stakeholders including local community groups, landholders, state and local government and non-government organisations. We suggest that there is scope for the Community/Conservation Action Planning process (or similar, using Open Standards for Conservation) to be more widely used by the new Boards, as it would assist in establishing shared community visions for integrated landscape management as well as establish relationships that would support the outsourcing of on-ground works,
- Similarly, we suggest the increased use of formal agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding, between the new Landscape Boards and various key stakeholders in the region would enable stronger partnerships to be established,
- We support the establishment of Green Adelaide, and suggest it could establish itself as a world leader in the emerging field of Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design, and
- We support simplified landscape planning, provided transition arrangements are in place for planning that has been undertaken to date and that future planning is at an appropriate temporal and spatial scale and we strongly support efforts to improve monitoring of program/project activities to ensure they are achieving the desired outcomes and are value for money.

Please refer to the following pages for our specific comments. If you would like to clarify or discuss any of the points raised please contact me on (08) 7127 4633 or via email at julia.peacock@ncssa.asn.au.

Yours sincerely,



Julia Peacock
Nature Advocate

NCSSA comments on 'Managing our landscapes: conversations for change' Discussion Paper

Overall comments

NCSSA has long standing, strong working relationships with a number of the NRM Boards established under the current NRM Act. For example:

- NCSSA is a stakeholder in the Mid-North and Southern Yorke Peninsula Community Action Planning groups supported by the Northern and Yorke Board, undertaking collaborative, landscape-scale planning for biodiversity conservation as well as soil and water resource management in these sub-regions. We have also been engaged by the Northern and Yorke Board to develop a monitoring framework and establish Bushland Condition Monitoring sites to assess the condition of native vegetation in the region and monitor the impact of management actions undertaken by landholders.
- NCSSA oversees the long-term monitoring of woodlands birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges, which is supported by the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Board. This program was instigated in 1999 by Professor Hugh Possingham of the University of Queensland, and is unique in that it is high quality scientific research undertaken by local experts who conduct the surveys and therefore help ensure the program is cost-effective. Worryingly, the data are showing that over the past decade some birds are becoming less common including the Superb Fairy-wren, Scarlet Robin, Eastern Spinebill and other small birds that eat insects and need healthy woodland understorey to thrive. Conversely, larger generalist bird species more suited to fragmented and modified landscapes, such as the Little Raven and Laughing Kookaburra, have been increasing.
- NCSSA is a partner of WildEyre, a landscape scale conservation program involving individuals and local, regional and national groups who are working together to restore and conserve the unique and diverse ecosystems within central northwest Eyre Peninsula. The program is being undertaken together with the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and a range of other partners.

We believe that managing specifically for biodiversity, alongside other landscape priorities such as improving soil condition and ensuring water conservation, is a fundamental component of effective integrated landscape management.

The current NRM Act has enabled us to develop the partnerships needed to deliver the outcomes described above, and therefore to contribute to the successful management of South Australia's precious and unique natural resources, and we see this reform process as an opportunity to extend on this solid foundation.

In addition to targeted pest plant and animal control (which is a key component of many biodiversity conservation programs), we would also like to see the new Act continuing, and extending support for, the following types of integrated land management activities:

- the strategic revegetation of landscapes, particularly in areas where they have been heavily cleared, for both productive and biodiversity benefits, including through collaborative, landscape-scale restoration projects,
- targeted use of fencing, for example to protect remnant vegetation where needed and to prevent the erosion of waterways,
- expanding on the planting of the next generation of paddock trees, both for shelter and as habitat, and
- rewilding, involving re-introducing locally extinct native species in key areas to restart natural processes.

In order to achieve this, we believe it will be necessary to retain the protection of biodiversity as an object in the new Act, as well as to specifically enshrine duty of care provisions in relation to biodiversity more clearly, as per the suggestions in Appendix 1.

Further, in addition to soil, water and pest plants and animals, the new Act should specifically include biodiversity as an asset to be planned for and monitored by the new Landscape Boards, and therefore retained as a target for investment in its own right.

To achieve maximum benefit, the new Act should also be integrated with other relevant environment-related legislation, including:

- land-use planning under the *Planning and Development Act 2016*, so that plans made under the new Act are consistent with (or complementary to) land-use planning,
- reference to the schedules of endangered, vulnerable and rare species maintained under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* which identify species of particular conservation concern, and
- require planning that identifies landscape restoration requirements in the region, for example areas that if restored would better connect protected areas in the region, that could then guide investment, for example from Significant Environmental Benefits Grants collected under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

We also suggest the new Act include provisions for specifically encouraging and rewarding good landscape management and innovative stewardship in relation to biodiversity as a part of integrated landscape management. This could be in the form of stewardship payments to landholders who modify their land management practices to support biodiversity, for example by reducing stocking rates at times where native species are flowering in order to allow the next generation of plants to set seed.

Another important aspect of the reforms will also be improvements to monitoring, in order to be able to evaluate the impact of the investment made by the community in the management of our landscapes, ensuring it is effective and that results can be used to inform future efforts.

We note that a challenge of the reformed system may be defining a "landscape", since its precise definition will vary according to the spatial and temporal context. Effort may need to be directed to ensure a shared understanding between stakeholders of the concept before planning and action is undertaken.

We offer the following comments against the questions in the 'Managing our landscapes: conversations for change' Discussion Paper:

Question 1: What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

The sustainable use of our natural resources is most important, particularly managing them in a manner consistent with the principle of intergenerational equity, so that future generations can also be supported by and benefit from healthy soils, water and a stable climate. It is essential that an ecologically based systems approach be taken in managing natural resources. This is because an understanding of the links between the various components of the landscape (water, soil, agricultural practises, native vegetation and fauna, climate, humans etc) is required to attain self-sustaining management to maximise benefits for all ecological components.

We strongly concur with the statement in the Discussion Paper that "landscapes that contain **healthy biodiversity** underpin sustainable agriculture and make local production and farming more productive and profitable" (emphasis added).

Managing our natural resources with a view to adapting to, and where possible mitigating, the likely impacts of climate change is also of key importance.

Question 2: What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

We believe having a specific levy dedicated to natural resource management is a strength that should be maintained, and that the expertise of dedicated personnel, collaborative partnerships and goodwill that has been generated by the current arrangements should be carried through into the reformed system, wherever possible.

We support the objects in section 7 of the current NRM Act for the protection of biological diversity and the adherence to the principle of ecologically sustainable development.

We also believe that the current planning framework comprising an overarching state-wide NRM Plan and specific Regional Plans that identify priorities and targets for their achievement is working well.

Question 3: What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

We believe there is opportunity to place a greater emphasis on biodiversity conservation as part of this reformed system for integrated landscape management. We also support the focus of this reform on ensuring that the new Landscape Boards enable collaborative planning that facilitates the delivery of services through partnerships between key stakeholders including local community groups, landholders, state and local government and non-government organisations.

Question 4: How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

We strongly support landscape scale restoration projects as a priority action under the reformed Act.

Landscape scale restoration projects, which involve multiple partners, seek multiple outcomes (social and economic/agricultural production, as well as environmental) and endure over multiple years, are an effective way of supporting conservation, particularly in light of likely climate change impacts.

There are a number of successful examples of such programs already operating, or in the planning stages, in South Australia and beyond, including:

- WildEyre, a landscape scale conservation program working to restore and conserve the unique and diverse ecosystems within central northwest Eyre Peninsula SA (www.wildeyre.com.au),
- Habitat 141, a long term initiative to protect, restore and reconnect the iconic landscapes that straddle the SA and Victorian borders to the NSW rangelands (www.habitat141.org.au),
- Bounceback, a landscape scale conservation program that aims to protect and restore the semi-arid environments of the Flinders, Olary and Gawler Ranges in the South Australian Arid Lands NRM region (www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/plants-and-animals/native-plants-and-animals/bounceback), and
- Gondwana Link, working to achieve 1000 km of continuous habitat, from the dry woodlands of the interior to the tall wet forests of the far south-west corner of WA (www.gondwanalink.org).

Landscape scale restoration projects could be best enabled by the new Act firstly by supporting the use of **Community (or Conservation) Action Planning** (CAP, or an equivalent process, as per regional preference, based on Open Standards for Conservation[1]), where this has not yet been pursued. CAP is a widely used conservation planning tool developed by The Nature Conservancy that involves identification of environmental features of interest, their current condition and the desired condition, as well as threats and their causes, and is used to develop strategies to abate threats, maintain or restore condition, implement action and monitor outcomes to feed into the next cycle of planning and activity.

Where such planning has not yet been undertaken, it would be a suitable method for systematically identifying the community's aspirations for the landscape, and for exploring alternative options regarding how desired ecological and social outcomes can be achieved. It would help to integrate local, Traditional and scientific knowledges in building shared visions, as well as engendering trust between participants, resulting in long-term planning and action, as well monitoring to measure impact and make adjustments as needed.

[1] http://cmp-openstandards.org/

Where this type of planning has already taken place, and/or where landscape scale restoration projects are already underway, the best way they could be further enabled is through adequate, stable funding, which we address against Question 13.

Question 5: How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

NCSSA strongly supports the recognition of Aboriginal people's interests as being central to successful landscape management in South Australia. Over 6 million hectares of land within South Australia's terrestrial protected area reserve system (around 6%) is currently managed as Indigenous Protected Areas by Traditional Owners, who protect their land's plants, animals and cultural sites. This includes Australia's first Indigenous Protected Area, Nantawarrina that adjoins the Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges National Park. There are also an increasing number of National Parks and reserves with Co-Management Agreements that enable co-management arrangements between the Minister for Environment and the relevant Aboriginal groups.

We defer to the representative bodies of First Nations peoples and Co-Management Boards to provide advice and specific guidance on how the promotion of Aboriginal people's interests can be better achieved.

Question 6: How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

We support the focus of this reform on ensuring that the new Landscape Boards enable collaborative planning that facilitates the delivery of services through partnerships between key stakeholders including local community groups, landholders, state and local government and non-government organisations.

One way that Landscape Boards could better facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities would be to enter into formal agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding, with interested parties. NCSSA has such an arrangement with the current Northern and Yorke Board, and this has facilitated our participation in both decision-making processes as well as service delivery, and therefore has led to better outcomes, for example in terms of resource condition monitoring in the region.

As mentioned above, the CAP processes is one method for establishing the shared visions, as well as supporting the collaborative working arrangements, that could also underpin the outsourcing of service delivery, where appropriate.

We note that this part of the Discussion Paper refers to the Boards "continuing to partner to facilitate funded delivery of natural resource management services on behalf of the Australian Government, such as through the National Landcare Program". We suggest that including biodiversity as a specific target for investment in the new Act, in addition to soils, water and pest plant and animal management, would enable greater access to such programs.

Question 7: What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Whilst we do not advocate for any particular methodology for the election of Board members, we note that there is a risk that elections could become populist, and that they could be administratively costly. NCSSA supports an approach to determining Board membership that results in the final make-up reflecting a mixed cross-section of the community and relevant skills/knowledge base.

Question 8: How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

NCSSA supports the creation of Green Adelaide, with a particular focus on urban ecology and in supporting Adelaide residents to live more sustainably. We suggest that the 5th focus listed in the Discussion Paper could be

expanded to "Fauna and flora in the city", as there are many unique flora species and assemblages that remain, including native grasslands within the Parklands. The 7th focus could be expanded to "Nature education and wellbeing" since connecting residents with nature confers a range of mental and physical health benefits.

There is an opportunity for Green Adelaide to pioneer Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design, which is an emerging field of thinking and research that seeks to incorporate existing ecological knowledge into a framework that can be used by land-use planners (see Garrad et al. 2018 and Parris et al. 2018) and landscape architects. Unlike Water Sensitive Urban Design, which is relatively well-established as a modern land-use design principle, Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design is in the early stages of development, and Green Adelaide has the opportunity to establish itself as a world leader in this field by experimenting with novel approaches to supporting biodiversity in the city, measuring their impact and sharing these findings.

The remit of Green Adelaide should also reflect that the Mount Lofty Ranges (and Kangaroo Island) are recognised as one of 15 biodiversity hotspots in Australia[2], and therefore particular attention must be paid to development planning and land use in order to protect these biodiversity values.

Question 9: How can regional planning be streamlined?

NCSSA recognises the challenges involved with developing a plan to guide the management of natural resources across large regions, particularly given the complexity and range of issues that are important to the large number and wide range of stakeholders involved.

Broadly, we support the simplification of both the planning process and the plans themselves, and for a manageable number of priorities to be identified in each plan. We don't advocate for a particular method for achieving this, other than to include biodiversity as an asset to be planned for, together with other landscape priorities. We do, however, recommend that the Landscape Plans build on the foundation of achievements made through existing Regional NRM Plans and advocate for transition arrangements to be put in place, given the considerable effort and time that has been spent on planning under the current arrangements.

Question 11: How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

NCSSA strongly supports measuring and reporting on outcomes from investments in natural resource management using accepted robust methods & standards. For example, under the current arrangements, we have assisted with determining the condition of native vegetation through our Bushland Condition Monitoring (BCM) in various regions, and we support long-term monitoring of birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Similarly, WildEyre implemented a Revegetation Performance Monitoring Framework by assessing performance against Society for Ecological Restoration Australiasia (SERA) national restoration standards. We therefore advocate for a rigorous and transparent monitoring and reporting framework for each region that demonstrates how project management activities/programs are addressing identified priorities and targets within the NRM/Landscape Plans.

At the same time, we acknowledge that it can be difficult to explicitly demonstrate change in natural resources as a result of management actions, and that outputs (such as number of kilometres of fencing or number of people participating) can be easier to measure that outcomes (the improvement in the condition of native vegetation that resulted from fencing it or changes in behaviour that resulted from that participation). We acknowledge the work that the current Boards have undertaken to measure and report on investments, including the Eyre Peninsula Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework and the progress reports produced by the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Board[3].

[2] http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/conservation/hotspots/national-biodiversity-hotspots#hotspot7
[3] https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/about-us/our-regions-progress#Report%20cards

One way of improving measuring and reporting on outcomes would be to require information to be collected in a way such that it could feed into larger information gathering and monitoring processes and therefore allow for meaningful aggregation. For example, it may be appropriate to require the new Boards to collect information in a format that could be:

- used to feed into updates or improvements on the "trend and condition report cards" recently released by the Department for Environment and Water[4], which we believe are a step in the right direction however we suggest that the information they are based on needs to be updated more regularly,
- used for 5-yearly State of the Environment reporting, and
- fed into national reporting under the "Environmental Economic Accounting: A common national approach strategy and action plan"[5].

In the international context, consideration could be given to how reporting could support measuring progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, or even a Sustainable Wellbeing Index which is a more integrated, overarching measure (Costanza et al. 2016).

Question 12: How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

NCSSA supports a levy system that is transparent, accountable and fair, and agrees with the Discussion Paper that levies should primarily deliver public benefit. We also support the current system that allows for an annual CPI increase for regional land-based and water-based NRM levies and investment by industry and other resource users to support delivery of priorities. We strongly recommend that the system of natural resource management should be underpinned by investment directly from the State budget in addition to these levies.

Question 13: How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

As noted under question 4, we strongly support landscape scale restoration projects as a priority action under the reformed Act. There are several existing projects that are currently seeking ongoing support to maintain the achievements made to date and, as mentioned earlier, in areas where no projects currently exist, potential projects could be enabled through greater use of Community/Conservation Action Planning (or a similar process, adapted for regional conditions) to identify priorities.

We strongly recommend that a robust and transparent framework for assessing the feasibility and merit of potential projects is developed to identify those of 'high priority' based on a range of principles, including:

- their scientific robustness, level of local community support and integration of Traditional knowledge
- the benefit to natural resource assets and likelihood of achieving multiple outcomes (e.g. environmental, social and economic via improved production), and
- potential to monitor the project to identify successes and failures, so that other parties may learn from the project

To fund these projects, a competitive grants process could be established, but a key to its success would be awarding **long term grants** (5 years or more), a timeframe that would enable early successes to be detected. At a minimum, and if required by the particular set of circumstances of the applicants, each grant should support the salary for **one key individual**, embedded in and trusted by community, who can act as an anchor point for the project. It should also include sufficient budget for **one component** of the overall project to ensure a base level of on-ground action. This grant could then act as seed-funding, a basis for attracting other funding to the project, for

[4] https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/Trend-and-condition-reports/Pages/default.aspx
[5] http://www.environment.gov.au/science/environmental-economic-accounting/publications/environmental-economic-accounting-strategy

example from the Significant Environmental Benefit fund, federal funding programs, and/or the philanthropic sector.

NCSSA believes the application process should be fully open and transparent, and that given it is supported by public funds, the Minister for the Environment should make the final decision regarding what projects are funded. Boards may or may not be involved directly in the project (unlike the NRM Fund, where they were required to be a partner). Advice on what to fund should be sought from an appropriately resourced cross-sector advisory body, and the decision of what to fund should be fully merit based rather than a "one project per region" approach.

Question 14: How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

NCSSA believes it is extremely important to co-ordinate natural resource management efforts across regions. This is particularly true where pest plants and animals cross regional borders, and where similar landscape types are shared across regions, and is already being done in some areas for example control of feral Goats across the SA Arid Lands, Northern and Yorke and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Regions. The State NRM Plan, and the now disbanded NRM Council, provided a degree of higher-level co-ordination which will still be required in the new system. As mentioned above, we suggest that an appropriately resourced cross-sector advisory body be created under the new Act, with a remit to provide State and cross regional co-ordination, as well as providing advice on expenditure from the Landscape Priorities Fund, as mentioned in our response to Question 13.

Question 15: How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

We support the establishment of a Grassroots Grants program to support volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups. In terms of its operation, we would suggest a simple, short application processes with a level of reporting and acquittal that is commensurate with the funds being made available. Whilst support for on-ground environmental work is always needed, we suggest there is a lack of programs to support the basic operational costs of small groups and the regional coordination of project activities, such as those relating to threatened flora management. There is also an ongoing and significant void in terms of support for advocacy on environmental issues both at State and National levels that assist in achieving better outcomes for natural resource management. We therefore suggest the guidelines for this program be open enough to support the full range of ways that the community wishes to engage in landscape management, whether that be through direct or indirect action.

Question 16: What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

In deciding on priorities for pest and plant animal control under the new Act, the environment must be considered equally to agricultural or other impacts (e.g. trade, health, amenity).

NCSSA suggests that strategic, evidence-based interventions should be the basis of pest plant and animal control. Effort should be targeted firstly toward preventing incursions of new pest species, and then responding to reports of pests in the early stages of establishment, as this is the most efficient use of resources. For already established pests, effort should reflect an asset protection approach (i.e. what are we trying to protect and why?), use a scientific risk assessment of the pest species' likely impact and be based on an understanding of the ecology of the system. Where action is deemed necessary and feasible, it should be sustained long enough to be effective and co-ordinated at a meaningful scale.

As mentioned under Question 14, there is scope for the new Act to include mechanisms specifically for co-ordination between landholders in undertaking pest plant and animal control, since co-ordination is often key to effective control.

Question 17: Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes? & Question 18: What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

NCSSA believes the requirement to ensure adequate environmental watering should be strengthened in water management processes. This could include a requirement to establish a Sustainable Diversion Limit, based on the best available science, for all prescribed water courses. As the driest state in the driest continent on earth, South Australia faces significant challenges in the management of limited water resources and ensuring the long-term protection and management of our precious wetlands but particularly those with national and international conservation significance such as the Great Artesian Basin Mound Springs, Coongie Lakes and the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.

Question 19: What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

NCSSA advocates for management and monitoring to be best practice, undertaken based on the available scientific evidence and utilising an integrated, adaptive management approach. Literature documenting the success, failure or unexpected outcomes/learnings of a wide range of integrated land management activities is currently available and should be reviewed prior to projects being undertaken.

Question 20: What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

We concur that stewardship activities, such as the protection of native vegetation and in particular areas that provide habitat for nationally and state listed threatened species should be enabled by the new Act, in addition to revegetation, rewilding and fencing to protect important remnants and critical habitat. As mentioned earlier in this submission, we believe the best way to achieve this would be to retain the protection and conservation of biodiversity as a specific object of the Act, and to specifically enshrine duty of care provisions in relation to biodiversity more clearly, as per suggestions in Appendix 1.

Further, the new Act should build on and expand existing stewardship arrangements that have been funded though the Australian Government and Regional NRM Boards. As mentioned earlier, it should also specifically include biodiversity as an asset that must be planned for by the new Landscape Boards, and therefore retained as a specific target for investment in its own right.

As mentioned earlier, we also suggest the new Act include provisions for specifically encouraging and rewarding good landscape management and innovative stewardship in relation to biodiversity as a part of integrated landscape management, which could be in the form of stewardship payments to landholders who modify their practices to support biodiversity, for example by reducing stocking rates at times where native species are flowering in order to allow the next generation of plants to set seed.

Question 21: How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

NCSSA supports compliance that is risk-based, strategic and targeted however contend that adequate resourcing and training of suitably skilled compliance officers continues to be a limiting factor. Anecdotally, we understand that Authorised Officers have not always been able to access properties where they believe Declared Animals or pest plants are present since they can require the assistance of police if property owners refuse them entry, and such activity may not be a priority for police.

We also believe the community should be more empowered with respect to compliance and suggest that provisions similar to those in Part 18 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* be included, including the right of anyone to seek enforcement of the new Act.

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Appendix 1

In drafting the new Act, NCSSA supports the EDO recommendations of broadening the criteria in section 9 (2) of the current Act for interpreting the duty of care provision to include protection of biodiversity, as set out below:

a) the need to act responsibly in relation to the management of natural resources**, including the protection of biodiversity,** and the potential impact of a failure to comply with the relevant duty; and
b) any environmental, social, economic or practical implications, **including the current state of matters pertaining to biodiversity**, any relevant assessment of costs and benefits associated with a particular course of action, the financial implications of various measures or options, and the current state of technical and scientific knowledge; and
c) any degrees of risk that may be involved **including risk to the environment and the state of biodiversity**; and
d) the nature, extent and duration of any harm, **including harm to biodiversity**; and
e) the extent to which a person is responsible for the management of the natural resources; and
f) the significance of the natural resources, including in relation to the environment **and its biodiversity** and to the economy of the State (if relevant); and
g) the extent to which an act or activity may have a cumulative effect on any natural resources **and the environment including a loss of biodiversity**; and...

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15th October 2018

Minister Speirs
Minister for the Environment and Water
GPO BOX 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister,

RE: Landscape reform

Zoos South Australia (Zoos SA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Managing Our Landscapes conversation.

We are actively delivering a range of projects that span six of the current eight NRM Boards.

Zoos South Australia is a charitable conservation society that exists to connect people with nature and save species from extinction. We are dedicated to landscape conservation and are driving a range of local, national and international conservation programs.

I would be happy to expand further on our input if you would like to meet to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Bensted
Chief Executive

Royal Zoological Society of South Australia
ABN 38 750 470 952

Back to basics

We recognise that the intent may be to achieve biodiversity, given the Discussion Paper itself describes "Vibrant biodiversity: Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change". The proposed priorities of water management, soil quality and pest plant and animal control require a strategic approach, implemented with effective on-ground action that is coordinated across boundaries (albeit Region, Council or different tenures).

In the discussion paper, landscapes are described as "the natural systems and resources that make up our surroundings". The back to basics focus on three priorities does not take into consideration a whole of system approach, which should at least also consider native vegetation and fauna, along with climate, and the fundamental interaction of these. Without this addition, the back to basics concept could see a return to the independent Pest Control, Soil Conservation and Water Boards of the 1990's.

Zoos SA is supportive of the strong focus on pest plant and animal control and is actively involved in this work already. We are also supportive of the focus on effective water management and soil quality. However, the interdependence of soil, water and biological resources is not well recognised in the Discussion Paper and in some ways describes a simplistic utilitarian approach, rather than an integrated landscape approach. 'Back to basics' does not describe what appears to be the intent of 'strengthening the foundations' and contradicts the reform's proposition of providing a forward approach to long-term ecological sustainability.

Board Membership

Good board composition and effectiveness will be essential to ensuring the effectiveness and function of the Landscape SA Boards. Whilst the value of community representation and engagement is essential to functioning of a successful board, a voting process could hinder the board's strength and protract board establishment.

There is a risk that through an open election process there could be an overrepresentation of an interest group or the voting in of 'friends', which could be deleterious to effective and timely decision making. There is also a risk that the representation attained through a voting process will not achieve the diversity and quality representation required to deliver on Landscapes SA. Furthermore, voting can also be a very costly process that may take resources away from on-ground activities.

The membership needs to include a range of skills, expertise and experience, and there should be careful consideration of:

- The percentage of the board that is allowed or asked to change at any one time, to ensure knowledge and experience is maintained within the board, and to provide continuity.
- The length of term needed to build strong knowledge and capacity
- Diversity of membership in the board's composition
- Expert's do not always live in the region of their expertise (membership should not be region limited)
- Clear roles and responsibilities

Board nominations should be open to community members, but to ensure that diverse and operationally functional boards are formed, the selection process and membership should be appointed with Ministerial guidance (through a fair and transparent process). This could be facilitated with a selection panel, with representation from the peak bodies in the region.

Board Accountability

Given the majority of Board funding is originating from the community, there should be transparent and consistent reporting on how the funding is being used (ie Annual Report). The requirement for reporting would necessitate that effective monitoring and evaluation methods are in place, from board management to on-ground delivery.

Landscape Boards should support the basic pillars and concept of their namesake. Planning should be integrated at all levels, and ensure regional, State and National targets and strategies are aligned. If the new Act is to deliver at the intended scale, Board's should also ensure that delivery takes into account cross-regional and state-wide coordination. Soil, water, fauna and flora (albeit native or pests) are not limited by regional or tenure boundaries.

Whilst the importance of 5 year plan for regions is recognised, further continuity and targets should be guided by a 10-20 year vision.

Green Adelaide

Green Adelaide is an opportunity for South Australia to be visionary in developing a strong urban ecology by supporting both environmental and people's health. Zoos SA is supportive of Green Adelaide and the outcomes it could deliver.

There is some inconsistency with the appointment of the Green Adelaide Board, and whilst recognising the difference in role and delivery of this board to the regions, the election of members and transparency of such should nevertheless be maintained.

Levies and funding

Zoos SA is supportive of improved transparency and consistency within the levy system. Reporting on levy collection and expenditure should provide transparency in the operational outcomes and financial performance.

The capacity for regions to deliver on-ground outcomes should be resourced appropriately and equitably. Some of the regions have a small levy base but require significant resourcing for critical projects. There is current inequality between the regions and this also needs to be considered.

Nature education

Over the past 40 years in Australia nature-based environmental education has deepened to encompass social, political and economic complexities, critical thinking and problem solving honed in real world action; now referred to as Education for Sustainability (EfS). Over recent years South Australia has developed a rich tradition in EfS with schools and pre-schools supported to connect themes such as saving biodiversity through their learning programs and community action. This support is provided by a small group of government and non-government education-based organisations who focus on positive and achievable social and environmental actions that promote a sustainable and prosperous future for our State.

Compared with the Eastern States, who boast comprehensive networks of EfS facilities, South Australian resources are spread thinly however the strength of SA's approach has been a tradition of collaboration and long term support provided to schools, preschools and their communities. Zoos SA has worked closely with NRM Education and others, sharing and promoting resources and facilitating numerous on-ground school and community biodiversity-focused actions in the community.

When reviewing the impact of EfS in our State the benefits derived from long-term community engagement

and established relationships should be considered carefully. Hundreds of schools, preschools and their communities across South Australia undertake EfS actions through youth clubs, gardens, citizen science initiatives, environment management plans, revegetation and habitat initiatives, recycling, and the list goes on. This network of organisations needs to be supported to ensure that two decades of efficient and effective community conservation work continues.

Gawler Environment and Heritage Association Inc.

[redacted]

C/- 42 Finniss St Gawler SA 5118

15 October 2018

Hon. David Spiers
Minister for Environment and Water
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide, SA, 5000

Dear Minister

Proposed NRM changes

Gawler Environment and Heritage Association (GEHA) is a community group which supports the natural environment and biodiversity. GEHA has been in operation since 1980. Over many years we have been active in monitoring native vegetation and undertaking management of remnant vegetation and revegetation activities. This has included activities in and around Gawler but also extending to the northern Adelaide Plains and the Barossa and Light foothills area. Over the last 3 years we have been active in monitoring the effects of the Pinery Fire on remnant vegetation and involved in a number of management plans and restoration projects in fire affected areas of both private and public land. Our members have contributed thousands of volunteer hours in community NRM projects, including a local native plant nursery.

GEHA members have attended the regional discussion forums held in recent months. GEHA is a member of the Conservation Council of SA and is in broad agreement with the draft submission which has been developed by CCSA. We also have some involvement in the AMLR Northern Coast and Plains NRM Advisory Committee which is making a submission. We are also in broad agreement with that submission.

Overall GEHA submits that more resources are need to tackle the natural resource issues facing private and public landholders. The ongoing issues of biodiversity decline and now significant climate change as well as issues for soil, water and weed management need to be addressed in a coordinated way. This requires sound science based planning. It is vital to involve landholders and volunteers but the complexity of the issues and solutions also requires significant funded staff and resources from the state government and NRM boards. We trust that the results of any changes to current NRM legislation and administrative arrangements will be positive in terms of more resources available and more well directed programs and projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to the results.

Yours faithfully

David Ferguson, Convenor

TreesForLife

Take Action for the Land you Love

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12 October 2018

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs

Re: Trees For Life feedback on Landscape Reform

Trees For Life is a community-based conservation organisation that works to protect and regenerate native vegetation to restore ecological function and productivity in South Australia's landscapes. We have a supporter base of 6000 members including 2000 active and passionate volunteers. We work to help urban and regional communities take action for the land they love and connect people to nature particularly in their local environment.

Trees For Life is significantly engaged in managing natural resources in South Australia through our on-ground programs, community and volunteer training and urban community engagement. We are well-known for our inclusive and practical approach and high technical expertise.

We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Landscape Reform and the principles and goals as outlined in the Discussion Paper. We also participated in the eNGO NRM Reform consultation session hosted by Conservation SA and the NRM Partners Forum held at the Science Exchange Centre which have helped shaped our views.

We support wholeheartedly the premise outlined in the Discussion Paper that natural resources are absolutely critical to the State's future. Healthy water, soil, air and nature (biodiversity) underpin the wellbeing, prosperity and way of life for all South Australians and warrant high levels of care and investment. Effective landscape-scale conservation and restoration, enabling communities to take action for the land they love in both urban and rural areas, contributing to partnerships that lead to strong natural resource and ecological outcomes, and accessing resources to support our work, are priorities for us in this process.

The SA Natural Resource Management (NRM) system has delivered many wins. It attracts federal funding through the Commonwealth's regional investment framework, introduced consistent regional natural resource planning, and engages many thousands of community members in action. These strengths are all important to take into the next iteration. However, the existing system has always struggled to coordinate cross-regional, statewide and/or cross-boundary collaboration, to manage the tension between facilitating a community voice and NRM's close relationship to government, to promote its good work effectively to the community, and over time has seen a lessening of funds directed to community and eNGO delivery partners. These are significant areas for improvement we would like to see come from the reform.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these comments further and can be contacted on 8406 0500.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Gellard
President

Vicki-Jo Russell AM
Acting CEO

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Reform commitments

Boards and Membership

Trees For Life supports the establishment of a network of Landcare Boards with community representation and agency ex officio members. We don't oppose community election for some of the Board membership; however, it is vital that the final membership reflects a mixed and relevant skills base, that elections do not become political or populist, and that administration costs are kept to a minimum to ensure we maximise the flow of levy funds to the ground where it is needed.

Funding and Regions

Trees For Life supports the collection of levies to continue the work on managing the state's natural resources and also advocates for an increased State allocation. Like any other essential community service, government has a responsibility to invest significantly in its delivery. When NRM was first established there was a state allocation to each Board to ensure it had sufficient funds to operate its core function and legislative responsibilities irrespective of grant or levy funding. Trees For Life would be in favour of reinstating this funding safety net especially for the smaller regions.

Referring applications to an independent body to assess an increase in levies beyond CPI would be an improvement, as long as the body has membership with sufficient understanding of natural resource management and is apolitical. Decisions need to be based on the need, merit of proposed investment and likely impacts. We are not in favour of an outright cap of the levy because of the levy's importance and the value of having a legislative framework that can be responsive. In most cases the previous levy increases have been well justified on technical grounds but communicated poorly to levy ratepayers.

We support the notion of directing a portion of regional levies to fund priority landscape/cross regional projects on the grounds that the operations of smaller regions are not jeopardised by the size of their contribution and that non-government NFP entities are allowed to apply. In keeping with this we are strongly in favour of the proposed annual grassroots grants program. The community grant program that ran when NRM was first initiated played a significant positive role in maintaining capacity and engagement while leveraging significant in-kind contributions; all for minor government investment. It was a huge retrograde step when it was abolished. It would be useful to review the former program to understand its success – keeping it simple, matching the application and reporting requirements to funds received and community representatives on the panel were all useful. We would encourage the State Government to consider matching the grassroots grant program dollar for dollar with the levy contribution to ensure greater leveraging of the enormous contribution of time, energy and expertise committed by volunteers, community and no-for-profit groups.

Trees For Life believe future governance and funding arrangements should maximise the percentage of on ground investment. We are concerned that dividing up the AMLR region into three separate Boards will exacerbate the challenge of working across regions and break up several catchments. In addition it may create an additional administration burden and isolate the two peri-urban regions from vital levy revenue. We strongly encourage you adopt a governance model for the AMLR region where the three new Landcare Boards share administration services and the larger levy base to avoid these risks.

We support the proposed scope of the Green Adelaide Board and believe there are unique opportunities to be explored by its metropolitan focus. Adelaide has the opportunity to lead the world in the areas of city greening including WSUD, urban engagement with nature and sustainable living principles, establishing a low carbon lifestyle, and ensuring we remain one of the world's most liveable cities even in a changing climate. We are comfortable for this Board to be responsible for the grassroots grants program but believe it is important that this group does not work beyond its remit and should not have any directive role with other Boards or regional programs.

TreesForLife

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Given the Board is unlikely to have community-nominated membership it would be useful to consider community representation in deliberations associated with the grants or for the grant to be administered by a community organisation such as Conservation SA which has successfully administrated grants of this nature before.

Partnerships and Collaboration

We believe it is vital that Landcare Boards work more closely with the private sector, non-government organisations, and local and federal government to deliver landscape programs where willingness and capacity exists, and where it is lacking, invest to build it. We believe the role of Landscape Boards is to facilitate collective planning but largely deliver through others. The non-government sector has an excellent track record and models for delivering this kind of work including in partnership with landholders. The sector's capacity to trial new approaches and respond quickly to change or circumstance are additional strengths. Landscape Boards should work closely with the non-government sector to develop opportunities to engage these strengths.

Community Engagement

We support the Green Adelaide initiative and its strong focus on engaging South Australia's urban population. Success was variable under the former model and a Board with a specific focus may prove more successful. With our excellent track record engaging urban communities it is vital non-government bodies such as Trees For Life are engaged as a priority by this group and that eNGOs are heard around the Board table.

Trees For Life has a strong interest in engaging the urban population in the natural resource management story, both in their backyard and by highlighting the important efforts of regional communities. Our longest-running program - the Tree Scheme - pairs urban volunteers to grow seedlings for regional landholders and community groups. This has been successful by delivering millions of low cost seedlings to revegetation projects across the State and also by enabling urban volunteers to develop relationships with their regional counterparts. In a recent survey of volunteer growers we were told their main reason for growing was to help the environment and to help landholders in equal measure. Our Bush For Life program which pairs volunteer bush carers with local urban remnants across the Mt Lofty Ranges (and surrounds) is responsible for improving the capacity and engagement of thousands of urban people in their local environment. Our recent program - Growing Communities - employed co-design methods to better understand how residents in Onkaparinga and Tea Tree Gully value local nature and what opportunities exist to strengthen this relationship often starting with their backyards. The project has prompted Trees For Life to offer a series of new activities aimed at encouraging people with little experience in bushlands to get out and have a go and gain more confidence. We are taking a similar approach to encouraging more people to plant native plants in their urban gardens to create urban refuges and corridors.

Conserving, enhancing and connecting with nature must be at the heart of all we do, and reference to nature and the community's relationship with nature is largely silent in the Discussion Paper.

Landscape Management

Trees For Life believes that integrated landscape management is most effective. Actions that improve soil quality, manage water resources effectively and address threats such as pest plants and animals and the impacts of climate change are essential to address further loss to the nature (biodiversity) of our State and optimise sustainable production.

The new Landscape SA Act would be improved if this connection between threat abatement (climate change impacts and pest plants and animals) and the condition of our natural assets (soil, water and biodiversity) is made more explicit.

TreesForLife

Take Action for the Land you Love

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We strongly support 'vibrant biodiversity' as one of the government's priority outcomes as outlined in the diagram on page 7 but recommend that nature conservation as a stream of work is also included in the lower half of the diagram as a means to achieve it. To be clear, when Trees For Life refers to nature or biodiversity in the context of the Landscape Act it is not referring to wildlife or threatened species management which are matters best served by specific legislation and focused investment. In contrast we are talking about biodiversity in the landscape which contributes to ecological health. Without recognising nature in the landscape the new system runs the risk of failing to attract streams of federal funding, it will not maximise the opportunity to build ecological connectivity and health in the landscape critical for both ecological and productive outcomes, and it could create unintended outcomes where management actions ultimately work in conflict. To achieve vibrant biodiversity, actions need to be taken at both the fine scale such as threatened species recovery and coarse scale such as extensive multi-purpose revegetation or landscape threat management which is strongly aligned with the proposed remit of the Landscape Boards as outlined in the Discussion Paper. Soil, water and pest management alone won't achieve vibrant biodiversity and we recommend adopting the additional pillar of landscape biodiversity or nature to the framework.

It is important we recognise what contemporary research is revealing about the importance of a more nuanced approach to pest and weed management. Many introduced species are now naturalised and landscapes are so modified in favour of colonising species that no amount of money will lead to their eradication or even control. Managing outbreaks and outliers is likely to be a better spend. To complicate matters further, in some landscapes weeds provide the only suitable habitat left, such as blackberries for bandicoots or pines for cockatoos. Instead of a rigid system of 'weed/pest control determined by declaration' we need to have an Act that encourages us to consider weeds and pests on their risk and/or merit in context and to prioritise management actions accordingly. It would strengthen the 'back to basics' approach by recognising the importance of risk, merit, feasibility and value for money when determining priorities for investment.

Legislative Reform

We support the government's approach in its first phase of NRM reform to limit its scope and avoid rolling in other complementary Acts prior to further consideration and consultation. In future phases, we would support exploring the suitability of integrating the Coast Protection Act and Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act into the Landscape Act. We are not in favour of integrating the Act with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act but believe Planning should have more regard for natural resource management to ensure sustainable decisions are made. It was intended the State NRM and regional NRM plans would influence their Planning equivalents, but for the most part they have remained subordinate under the previous system and there is significant scope to improve this post the initial Reform.

Principles

Trees For Life recognises the value of VKR-based decision making; that is decision making that takes into account communities' **values**, existing **knowledge** and evidence, and the broader **rules** or context norms in which decisions are being made. When one of these elements is missing or dominates poor decisions are made. Regional community-based Boards are useful instruments to facilitate the first of these but ensuring expert involvement, research, strategy and policy in decisions is just as important. It is also critical that decisions get made at the right scale which is why the new system must explore mechanisms to facilitate cross-regional collaboration to manage threats and assets that exist at landscape scale. Making decisions within the context of separate regions and then trying to align them retrospectively is not as effective as planning collectively for the entire landscape. We commend the coastal MOU as an example of how collaboration was facilitated under the former model. We also support the development of document that outlines the State's landscape priorities and how it sees natural resource management best serving the future interests of the State to further guide the regions.

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We are keen to see greater partnerships develop and community participation in priority setting and on-ground activities. We welcome the opportunity to work through delivery options to deliver regional priorities with each of the Boards and to partner to prototype projects where the right response needs further investigation. The NRM Business Plans provided a line of sight between the regional plan targets and project investment; what could be more transparent is how delivery partners are selected.

Trees for Life strongly supports the landscape approach promoted in the NRM Reform commitments and Discussion Paper. Trees For Life was a founding member of the South Australian NatureLinks Alliance that worked to partner and deliver landscape scale action across the State's NatureLink corridors and National Wildlife Corridor Strategy. The contemporary science behind landscape scale conservation including the establishment of ecological corridors is globally compelling. The model also engages community because it is visionary and makes sense of what individuals are doing and how their efforts contribute to a bigger picture. The former NRM system failed to implement either the NatureLinks principles or strategies and ultimately dropped the ball on this approach despite strong community support. The new government's NRM Reform is a tremendous opportunity to get it right.

We believe landscapes are best managed with an integrated approach that recognises the prospects of water, soil and nature (biodiversity) are inextricably linked. We believe management must be tenure blind and that effective landscape projects will need to improve connectivity and deliver multiple outcomes, with multiple partners and operate over multiple years. These criteria should be at the heart of the landscape scale fund and should not exclude the possibility of a major urban corridor akin to the London National Park http://www.nationalparkcity.london/.

The Discussion Paper is almost silent on the future impacts of climate change although we understand the Minister recognises the significance of this threat. Trees For Life believes the reforms should be future focused; able to adapt to climate change and new knowledge in the years to come. We know from research undertaken by the University of Adelaide that temperatures have increased over much of the State and already there are impacts on productive and remnant systems. While it is impossible at the scale of State NRM Reform to mitigate the source of these impacts there is a lot we can do to respond or adapt. The Nature of SA project has taken a deep look at this and we recommend that work to you. It will be critical to build community, sector and landscape resilience and we must be prepared to learn as we go, because the Landscape Boards will be planning in a highly uncertain environment. Building in this capacity to learn and adapt in a planning framework will need to be supported by the proposed Act.

Trees for Life recognises the unique role, knowledge and relationship to country inherent in South Australia's first peoples as outlined in the Discussion Paper and supports directions to ensure this is embedded in Reform governance, landscape activities and Board investment.

As a final response to the Discussion Paper we recommend a review of water un/bundling for the new Act to ensure the provisions are fit for purpose and that all water assets can be managed as required. Unbundling can work for water assets in a large system like the Murray River but not necessarily for other systems. This is currently an issue on the Adelaide Plains.

From:
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Your Say Community feedback

This response has been compiled by the South Para Biodiversity Project Inc (SPBP) Committee responding to the NRM reform Discussion Paper. Some background: the SPBP in its previous incarnations was formed in 1998. Historically has been an independent body, an NRM reference Group and community voice. Its membership has changed over the years but it continues to have representation from a cross section of government agencies, NGO's, friends groups, council representatives and local landholders and volunteers. The major focus is to ensure the Biodiversity and the Natural resources of the South Para region is managed effectively.

Q1: What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Most important is the management of Biodiversity. Biodiversity seems to be missing in the discussion paper. There is a statement that mentions that one of the reform aims is to achieve vibrant biodiversity, but there is no mention on how the reforms will address this. In order to enhance biodiversity need to invest into weed control, pest control, revegetation and regeneration

Q2: What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

In the South Para region the ability to share information and work collaboratively across all land tenures results in excellent on ground outcomes. There is a lot of information sharing and the established relationships/networks enable access and a point of contact when further information may be needed.

Q3: What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

Ensure that there is a mechanism that incorporates long term planning / equitable collection of levy.

Broadening the focus, greater compliance incorporating firewood, rubbish dumping and other lesser considered threats to biodiversity and Natural resources in general. Continued investment on public lands, with less red tape, for example a direct allocation from the levy rather than relying on volunteers to find funding or deliver the on ground works. Public lands are available for everyone to enjoy and are given the greatest protection from threats.

Q4: How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

There have been many government initiatives over recent years aimed at landscape scale focus and / or restoration (Yurabilla, NatureLinks, No Species Loss). While these concepts are sound they were not supported by on-ground funding to achieve outcomes-only glossy reports. There is enough scientific information available to direct funding to on-ground priorities to achieve landscape scale objectives but the process needs to utilise existing networks already in place and not create a new program. For example,

funds can be directed through public land agencies and existing community groups who understand the local processes to achieve results. Consistent long-term funding of contractors and volunteers under the umbrella of a regularly reviewed management plans.

Q5: How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

By asking the aboriginal people what they want and assisting them with the skills and or opportunity to develop these interests.

Q6: How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Support for existing networks is critical rather than trying to create new ones. There many strong active local groups who just need support both financially for on ground works and for administration. Direct funding to these groups instead of grant applications would eliminate a lot of red tape.

Q7: What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Electing representatives should be done by the community, so that the representatives are true links to the community. It is essential that a strict criteria is developed which represents the use/needs of the landscape and the skills, knowledge and experience of each representative.

Q13: How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Provision of funding that can provide for long term planning and funding streams, weeds and other threats don't work in funding cycles.

Q15: How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

Give funding to existing long established groups with landscape objectives in mind. Reduce red tape for grant applications and ensure reporting and monitoring is simplified so that more funds are used on the ground.

Q16: What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Compliance is critical, commitment to enforce and follow up. Employment of staff whose sole role is to deliver compliance based activities and enforcement is essential. Compliance and extension officers need to be different people to ensure that the personality and the job requirements are specific people working in that area. Enforcement of the Act needs to be made much more efficient, less red tape, currently it is difficult to gain momentum with enforcement i.e. on the spot fine.

Long-term funding of dedicated pest plant and animal control teams guided by Expert staff

Brownhill Creek Association Inc.
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SA 5062

The Friends of Brownhill Creek
8 Kays Road
Torrens Park SA 5062

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
C/O Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001
LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

15th October 2018

Dear Minister,

Brownhill Creek Association Inc. (BCA) was formed in 1997 and is a not-for-profit volunteer community group, conserving and enhancing environment and heritage in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and environs. The Friends of Brownhill Creek (FOBHC) was formed in 1985 and is a member of The Friends of Parks, volunteers working for conservation. Both groups are closely aligned and partner with other community groups, schools, government/DEW/NRM and private landowners to deliver practical, on-ground works, using traditional and local knowledge. These projects are relevant to the communities and ecosystems of our landscape and focus on the environmental, cultural, social and economic aspects of this landscape. Our *Connecting Communities: Wirraparinga Loop Trail Project* aligns well with the proposed Natural Resources Management reform objectives, which aim to achieve 'vibrant biodiversity, sustainable economy and resilient communities'.

Key feedback points:

- We support renewal of community involved landscape management and welcome more funding opportunities for local community organisations to deliver on-ground works.

- Regional Landscape SA boards that have committed local ownership and involvement should be more effective, since they will have strong vested interests in maintaining and improving their natural assets. Their operations need to be guided by well-developed short, medium and long term plans. These plans should provide direction rather than prescription to enable adaptation

to inevitable changes in these complex social-environmental systems. Boards and associated management should be encouraged to seek and engage with a wide range of information from local, regional and national sources. Ideally they need to be locally managed, socially informed, knowledge directed and implementation driven.

- Transparent funding arrangements and transparent decision-making should increase understanding of and support for the NRM Levy within communities across the landscape.

- Funding: At the moment the DEW ranger for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park has responsibility for four other parks and has no operating budget for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. There needs to be adequate funding for DEW assets, so that funding from the NRM Levy can be used in community-driven land management projects. There is currently a lack of clarity regarding DEW/NRM funding.

- NRM Volunteer Support Officers play a vital role in grass-roots/ on-the-ground volunteer community projects. For example, Kat Hill has provided The Friends of Brownhill Creek and BCA with expert advice on site restoration and plant selection, while helping with essential contacts, practical logistical support and avenues of funding. Kat sits on BCA's Education and Revegetation Committee, along with teachers from our local schools, two NRM Education Officers and the DEW park ranger.

- NRM Education Officers, Jeremy Gramp and Steve Walker, are also vital for our volunteer works. They are key members of the BCA Education and Revegetation Committee and not only work closely with individual schools, but are able to coordinate professional educational programmes across schools and the community. NRM Education Officers Jeremy and Steve mentor community volunteers and students, help organise annual schools/community events and provide unique skills and connections.

- We believe that it is vitally important to retain NRM Support Staff and NRM Education Officers, as they are one of the keys to delivering the objectives and benefits outlined in the *Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change Discussion Paper | July 2018.*

Yours sincerely,



Professor Wayne Meyer
Chairperson: Brownhill Creek Association Inc.
The Friends of Brownhill Creek



Rod Ellis
Secretary: The Friends of Brownhill Creek
Brownhill Creek Association



Ron Bellchambers
Community Liaison Officer: Brownhill Creek Association Inc.
The Friends of Brownhill Creek

From: Ross Oke <...>
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 5:00 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Comments on NRM reform

To the Landscape Reform team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed reforms to NRM in South Australia.

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) is a community-based NGO focussed on NRM delivery in the south-eastern Mt Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula, Lower Murray Lakes and Coorong and adjoining regions.

The GWLAP was formed in 1998 as one of a number of regional landcare / NRM / local action planning organisations in the SA Murray Darling Basin Region. Our western boundary is the watershed that runs along the spine of the Mt Lofty Ranges and forms a shared boundary with the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Region.

GWLAP is a highly regarded and very successful organisation that is managed by a board comprising volunteers from the local and regional community. We have undertaken many successful and very cost effective projects in our region, the core of which is formed by the catchments that flow to Lake Alexandrina.

GWLAP is very well placed to successfully deliver NRM projects and programs in our community – particularly on-ground and engagement projects in all aspects of NRM including pest plant and animal control, vegetation management, revegetation, involving residents of urban areas and primary producers and a range of other activities. We are not set up and do not see ourselves as an organisation that would undertake compliance but can certainly undertake natural resource management planning, delivery and monitoring.

The GWLAP recognises the need for improvements in region NRM. From our perspective, the dire lack of funding severely threatens our organisation's viability. We have worked very hard to diversify our sources of revenue and have an excellent relationship with the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and other state, federal and local government bodies.

We are very aware of the disparity between the available funds in the AMLR region and in other regions, having worked closely with the AMLR NRM Board on a number of cross-regional projects. Measures to ensure a more equitable spread of funding throughout SA are welcomed.

The GWLAP also welcomes a focus on community delivery but would like to see this given significant prominence in the reform process / legislation. This extends to both the composition of the boards, how the members are appointed and in particular, how the funds are distributed and how delivery arrangements are determined.

At community and NGO forums in relation to this reform it has been suggested that the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges – principally the area covered by GWLAP might be better situated as part of the proposed Hills and Fleurieu Region. The GWLAP is willing and keen to work positively within the framework regardless of where the boundary lies between this proposed new region and the SAMDB. We re very concerned however, that if the GWLAP region becomes part of a new Hills and Fleurieu region, the 20+ years of GWLAP's experience and goodwill within our region is supported, we are proactively engaged to play a major role in the delivery of projects, programs and activities and we are not displaced by alternative arrangements.

A new board for this proposed region would be in a position to easily harness our expertise and well-recognised quality of delivery. It would be a very negative outcome for a new board in the proposed Hills and Fleurieu region to appoint a large number of staff and duplicate, subsume or replace existing, well performing and highly regarded community-based programs, organisations and expertise as has occurred in some instances in the current AMLR region. Such a situation would be a perverse outcome and should be avoided through the establishment of strong

guiding principles and legislated requirements for boards to use and supporting existing, successful community-based delivery structures and organisations.

The GWLAP also strongly believes that a focus on assets and threats is by far the most appropriate approach to NRM. To this end, focussing on water, soil and vegetation / biodiversity as key assets and pest plants and animals, erosion, salinity and climate change as key threats will enable Landscape Reform in SA to deliver on its objectives. We are concerned that a focus on the assets of soil and water and the threats of pest plants and animals will create a significant gap in the framework that would be a real pity given this rare opportunity to make improvements in our sector.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments.

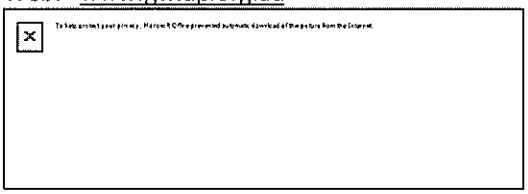
Ross Oke

General Manager

Goolwa to Wellington
Local Action Planning Association Inc.

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The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001.

To: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Submission to the Landscape SA Reform Process

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on NRM reform in South Australia and the proposed new Landscape South Australia legislation. We are very encouraged by the depth and extent of consultation that has been brought to the process.

The Landcare Association of SA supports the guiding principles for the new legislation that have put forward, especially:

- decentralised decision making
- a simple and accessible system
- community and land owners at the centre
- whole of landscape approach.

Our priorities for the reform process include:

- community empowerment, which means shared ownership and involvement in decision making and devolving delivery and associated funding to the community wherever possible.
- an integrated landscape-scale approach to natural resource management, recognising that this requires consideration of our natural assets of biodiversity, soil, and water and the threats, particularly pest plants and animals and climate change.
- an increase in state government expenditure on SA's environment at all levels, separate to the NRM levies, including the State-wide Landscape Priorities Fund. This will be particularly important to enable the delivery of future landscape-scale projects.

Community Empowerment

We welcome the commitment to empowering local communities and land managers through the reform process. We would like to see a system that:

- engages and empowers community at the local level
- is accountable to the community
- supports robust regional decision making balanced with centralised input
- contributes to the viability and vitality of regional communities.

Achieving this will require a change in culture and practice at the State agency and Regional Board level, in addition to any legislative changes. Boards will also require more local autonomy in decision making, staff management and budget management.
Putting the community and land managers at the centre of NRM so that they are directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources will take genuine community engagement and empowerment. This will be reflected in shared ownership and involvement in decision making and the devolvement of delivery, with associated funding, to community organisations wherever possible.

Devolving project delivery would include on-ground action as well as other projects such as monitoring, communications etc. An open and inclusive community-based planning process will identify where Landscape Boards are a project leader and where they are a facilitator or enabler.

Boards will have the role to inspire, facilitate and enable community planning, decision making and delivery. This will include building and facilitating community leadership and strengthening the capacity of land managers and community, volunteer, industry, environmental and Aboriginal groups and organisations. A successful empowerment process should raise the standing of the Boards and lead to people actively seeking to become members of the Landscape Boards.

The Landcare Association of SA acknowledges that community empowerment does not diminish the role of the Department for Environment and Water and other State government agencies in:

- The development of state-wide policy and coordination across the regions
- Provision of scientific expertise, evidence and knowledge, monitoring and evaluation and custodianship of state databases
- Policy, legislature and compliance support
- Communications
- Facilitation of good planning/governance.

Integrated landscape-scale approach
We are very heartened to see that a landscape scale and integrated approach underpins the reforms, recognising that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of our landscapes.

We strongly support this approach. An integrated landscape approach that leads to a vibrant biodiversity and sustainable economy will also require an understanding of the impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation strategies. It will also need to be based on robust science and evidence combined with local knowledge.

An integrated landscape approach will involve achieving a balance that provides for productivity and development, social well-being and the environment. To be successful this requires consideration of our natural assets of biodiversity, soil, and water and the threats posed, particularly pest plants and animals and climate change, and their interrelationships.

A return to basics approach that places a renewed focus on soil, water and pest plants and animals without equal consideration of biodiversity will not achieve an integrated landscape

outcome. Further, regional communities and land managers place a very high value on biodiversity conservation and management, as reflected in the enormous amount of time, effort, and funding they have invested in these outcomes for many decades. This should be clearly recognised in the reform process. A return to a basics approach that does not include biodiversity would be inconsistent with community values and is not supported.

A Landscape approach and vision needs to include biodiversity conservation and management from the outset, not as a secondary or incidental outcome. Accordingly, it is our view that the new Act should:

- Require that biodiversity conservation and management be one of five priorities in each of the simple, 5-year plans the Boards will be required to prepare.
- Provide a focus on supporting nature stewardship – the Act should recognise that biodiversity conservation and broader landscape restoration are of benefit to all South Australians including primary producers.

The new Act should also include the Objects from the current Act that refer to ecologically sustainable development and the intrinsic values of natural resources, and the protection of biological diversity. An advantage of including biodiversity as a specific reference in the Act is an increased ability to leverage other funding opportunities from outside the state.

We welcome the recognition that an integrated approach will also require state-wide coordination, planning and prioritisation to support coordinated regional effort. The suggestion of an appropriately resourced cross-sector advisory body makes sense and is supported.

An increase in state government expenditure on SA's environment, including the state-wide Landscape Priorities Fund

We note that investment by the State government in SA's environment has declined significantly since 2008/9, despite an overall increase in the State budget. An increase in State government expenditure on SA's environment at all levels, separate to the NRM levies, is therefore a priority. This will be particularly important to enable the delivery of future integrated landscape-scale projects.

We support the establishment of a state-wide Landscape Priorities Fund to provide stable, on-going funding for landscape-scale projects. The Fund would require decision-making criteria and an oversight body with interests beyond the Boards represented. Also, to support a greater community role, a requirement that the Fund not be limited to projects that include the Board as a prerequisite.

Ideally the Fund would receive annual State Government contributions. This could be based on an amount that matches the levies raised by the Landscape Boards from the community, or a proportion of them.

We are very pleased to see the reform process will establish the Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million state-wide annual fund (in addition to existing NRM grants programs), administered at a Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access. However, through the reform process it is proposed that the Grants program would be

funded from the levies. The Grants program should be funded directly by the State government, as with the past NRM Community Grants scheme.

The Minister's foreword to the *Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper* acknowledges that the state does not come to a halt at the Tollgate, at Gepps Cross or at the bottom of Anzac Highway: distance should not mean disadvantage. Currently the budgets and programs undertaken by Boards in several regions are constrained by their levy base. The new legislation should enable some of the levy funds from Green Adelaide to be available to the Landscape Boards to help correct this inequity.

Kind regards,
Sheree Bowman
Chair, Landcare Association of SA

15 October 2018

15th October 2018

Hon Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street,
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister Speirs,

I am writing on behalf of BirdLife Australia, in particular the Coastal Birds team, to thank you for the opportunity to comment as part of the NRM Reform process.

BirdLife Australia and Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NRAMLR) work collaboratively on the *Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project*. This project focuses on a range of coastal wildlife, including migratory shorebirds, beach-nesting birds such as the Hooded Plover, Red-capped Plover and Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, and seabirds such as the endangered Fairy Tern.

The project seeks to improve conservation of coastal habitats and raise community awareness through iconic coastal flagship species to engage community support and facilitate stewardship to mitigate species decline.

Coastal biodiversity conservation is imperative to coastal management and should be a critical element included in NRM Reform.

While we appreciate your desire for change and a back to basics approach we feel a lot is being lost with the name change from NRM to Landscapes SA. 'Landscapes' has a direct connotation to the land and could be misleading for the community –implying work will be terrestrial only, not coastal or marine - a key natural resource! We believe the term NRM was more wholistic and helped to bring awareness to the work that is being done, i.e. management of our Natural Resources. It is recommended that research is undertaken into where terminology such as "Seascapes" is used in other organisations and plans.

Kind regards,

Dr Grainne Maguire
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Question 1
What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

- Coastal biodiversity conservation. We understand there is a focus on Coastal Management however it is critical to ensure that coastal biodiversity conservation is included as part of this, and ensuring localised NRM meets national priorities.
- Management of coastal birds including migratory shorebirds, resident shorebirds, beach-nesting birds such as the Hooded Plover, Red-capped Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, tern species including Fairy Terns and Little Penguins.
- Threat mitigation on the coast to halt declines in coastal bird species.
- Management of coastal biodiversity linkages with marine environment and land-based impacts on the coastal environment.
- A standardised approach to NRM that is science and evidence based.

Question 2
What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

The **Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project** in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Region is effectively managing natural resources, in a collaborative way, between NRAMLR and BirdLife Australia. The project draws on local knowledge and where there are gaps bringing in expert knowledge and ensuring all partners are involved in an effective collaboration. The **coast is a connection point** for the community, the wildlife that uses it, the marine environment and the connection of the land with the coast.
The Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project is:

- A collaborative project between Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (Seascapes Program) and BirdLife Australia.
- Funded by Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board levy funds.
- Externally hosted staff at BirdLife Australia, based in Adelaide.

Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project Aims:

- Maintain and increase condition of **coastal wildlife habitats** with a focus on flagship indicator coastal bird species (and supporting benefits for other species):
    - **Migratory and resident shorebirds** (including EPBC listed Eastern Curlew) through BirdLife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program,
    - Beach-nesting birds including **Hooded Plover** (EPBC listed), Red-capped Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher,
    - Re-terning our islands Seabirds Conservation e.g. **Fairy Tern** (EPBC listed), and
    - **Little penguin**.
- Improve community knowledge and stewardship for coastal habitat through engagement in **citizen science, community arts and events.**
- **Mitigate key disturbance threats** to coastal habitats and wildlife through local **community action** approaches.
- Working closely with all **project partners**: Federal, State and Local Government, Industry, Universities, Natural Resources Centres, Birds SA, volunteers and the wider community. Building on partnerships through the previous Aboriginal Learning on Country program to look at future initiatives that can increase training and involvement of traditional owners in coastal wildlife management. Including Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri traditional owners in Fleurieu sites.
- Coastal habitat restoration for **butterfly recovery projects** (Yellowish Sedge Skipper and Bitter Bush Blue recovery plans).
- Improve coordination of local community and local government actions to implement the national **Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds** across the region.
- Continue to work **cross-regionally** with Northern and Yorke, Kangaroo Island and SA Murray Darling Basin NRMs, and right across all South Australian NRM Boards through the **Shorebird Alliance of South Australia**.
- Maintain momentum and corporate knowledge of previous Australian Government Samphire Coast Icon Project and implement learnings across the region to improve coastal habitat and community stewardship.
- Maintain technical support for **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Flyway Site** within Gulf St Vincent (AMLR and NY).
- Scope the utilisation of Phone Apps and other technologies such as drones to improve community monitoring and **pest management activities**.
- Improve community awareness of the need for **coastal habitat retreat planning** to ensure resilience of coastal habitats and wildlife in the face of **climate change**.
- Focus on engagement with tourism industry to increase sustainable **nature-based tourism opportunities**.

Strategic linkages:

The Sharing our Shores project is based on the best available information and quality of evidence which guides the aims of the project. Including but not limited to:

- Australia's Threatened Species Strategy commitment to **improve trajectory of 20 Australian birds by 2020** (Eastern Curlew, Hooded Plover, potential Orange bellied parrot habitat).
- The **Australian Government's Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds**.
- **EPBC and SA National Parks and Wildlife** listed species and habitats.
- **AMLR Regional Plan** – Strategic Plan (T8, T9, T10, T11, T13).
- The project contributes to the **NRM Act 2004 requirement, sub-section 75(3) (b)(iv)** to "*ensure proper management of wetlands and estuaries, and marine resources, with particular reference to the relationships between catchment, wetland, estuarine and marine systems*".
- **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary** Collective Plan and Draft Management Plan (technical support).
- AMLR Coastal Action Plans (Adelaide and Northern Coast and Southern Fleurieu CAPs).
- BirdLife Australia reports: Gulf St Vincent Shorebird reports, Annual Breeding Success Reports – Hooded Plover, Guide to Managing Beach-nesting Birds in Australia etc.

How is the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project (AMLR NRM Board and BirdLife Australia) managing natural resources well? Examples include:

Example 1: Changes to Council by-laws to improve Hooded Plover breeding success.
Collaboration with local councils is key to mitigation of key recreational impacts which are managed at a local level through by-law awareness and compliance which is especially relevant to beach nesting bird and migratory shorebird conservation. AMLR NRM, BirdLife Australia and volunteers have worked closely with each of the Councils in metro and the Fleurieu region to change the by-laws to have dogs-on-leash surrounding Hooded Plover breeding sites. Years of threat data collection and research shows that off-leash dogs cause disturbance to breeding Hooded Plovers and declines in breeding success. Beach-nesting birds volunteers install and move the signage as required. Please see the following local examples of by-law changes:

City of Victor Harbor signage and by-law information:

City of Victor Harbor have signs that state "You are entering a designated Hooded Plover nesting site – all dogs must be on leash".

City of Victor Harbor signage (photos: David Thorn)





Photos above: City of Victor Harbor by-law signage relating to Hooded Plover breeding sites requiring dogs to be on leash (photos, David Thorn).

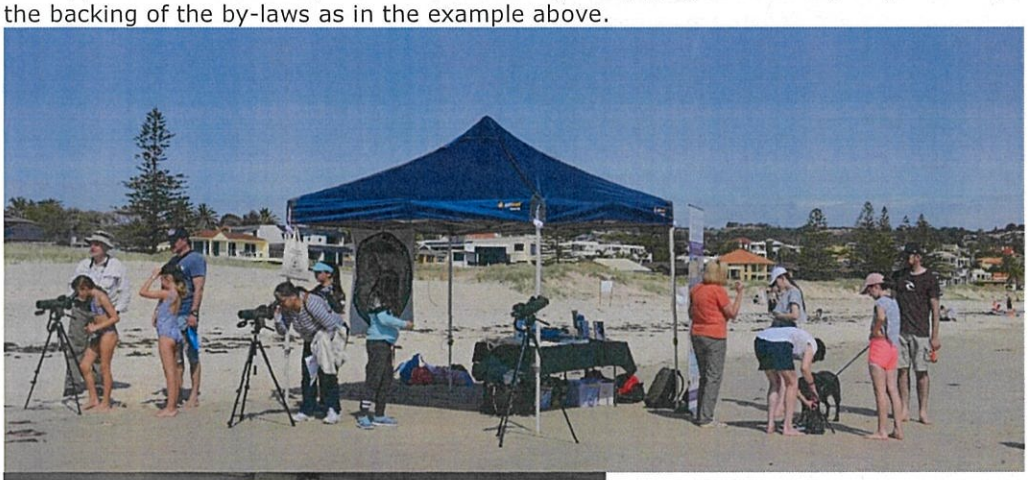
Alexandrina Council signage

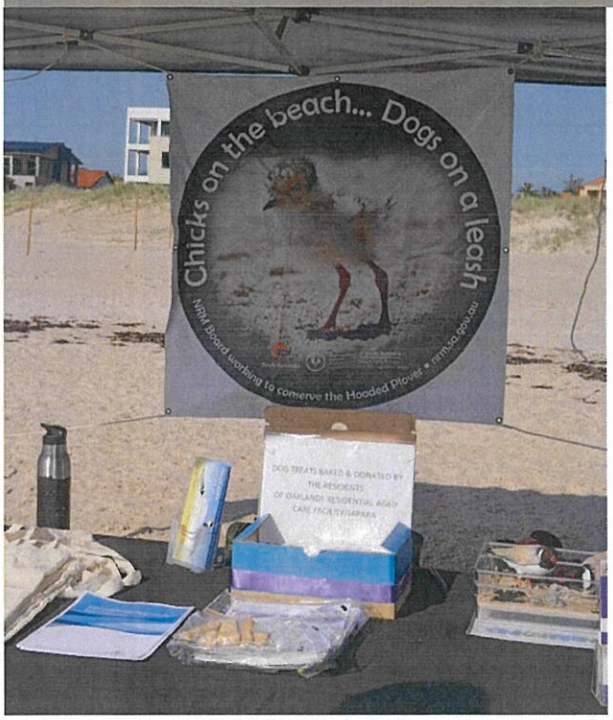
Alexandrina Council have signs that state "Dogs on leash at all times within 50m of signed breeding area". http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=2593



Photo above: Alexandrina Council by-law signage relating to Hooded Plover breeding sites requiring dogs to be on leash (photos, Lisa Kirwan).

Example 2: AMLR staff, Council, and volunteers working together to raise awareness of Hooded Plovers amongst beach-goers at a Dog's Breakfast Workshop at Seacliff (October 2018) for the adult pair and chick. The approach to community awareness is through engaging in a friendly way with dog owners, but also having the backing of the by-laws as in the example above.





Photos above: Seacliff Hooded Plover Dog's Breakfast Workshop, October 2018 (photos: Sue Read).

Example 3: a wide network of Friends of Hooded Plover groups, including Friends of Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula across eastern Australia. This nation-wide collaboration results in fantastic outcomes, sharing of information, data and management techniques. Collectively across **SA and Victoria over 10,000 number of Hooded Plover breeding and threat records were collected over the 2017/18 season alone for Hooded Plovers**. The Friends of the Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula contributing approximately 2500 of these records (approx 25%)

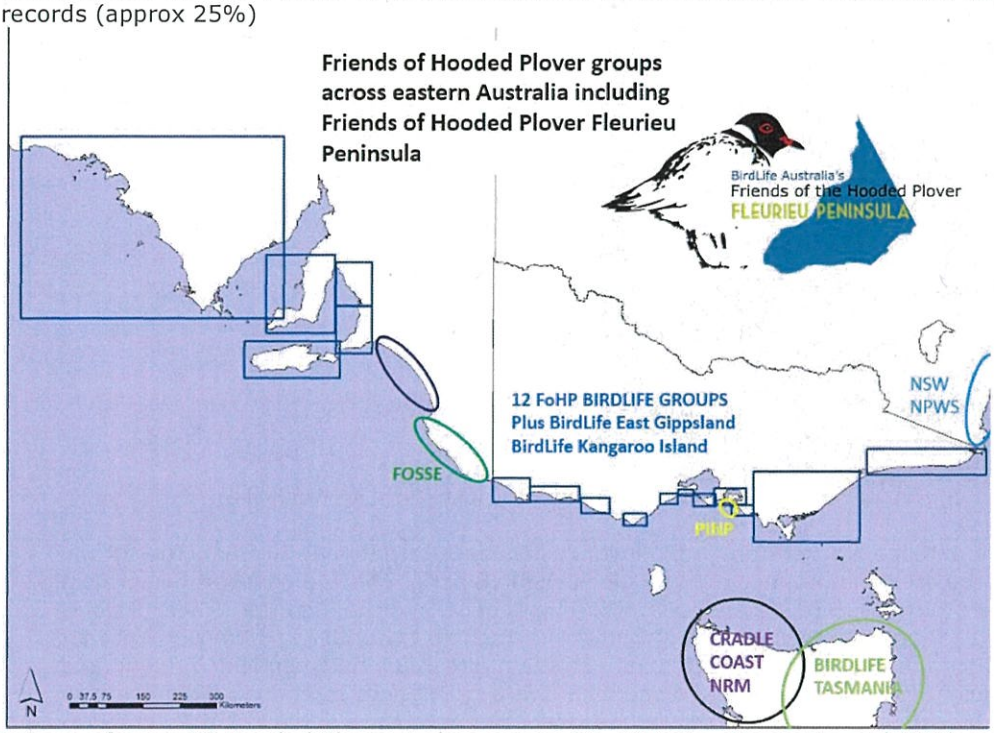


Image above: 20 Hooded Plover groups across SA, Victoria, Tasmania and NSW, one of which is the Friends of the Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula (BirdLife Australia).

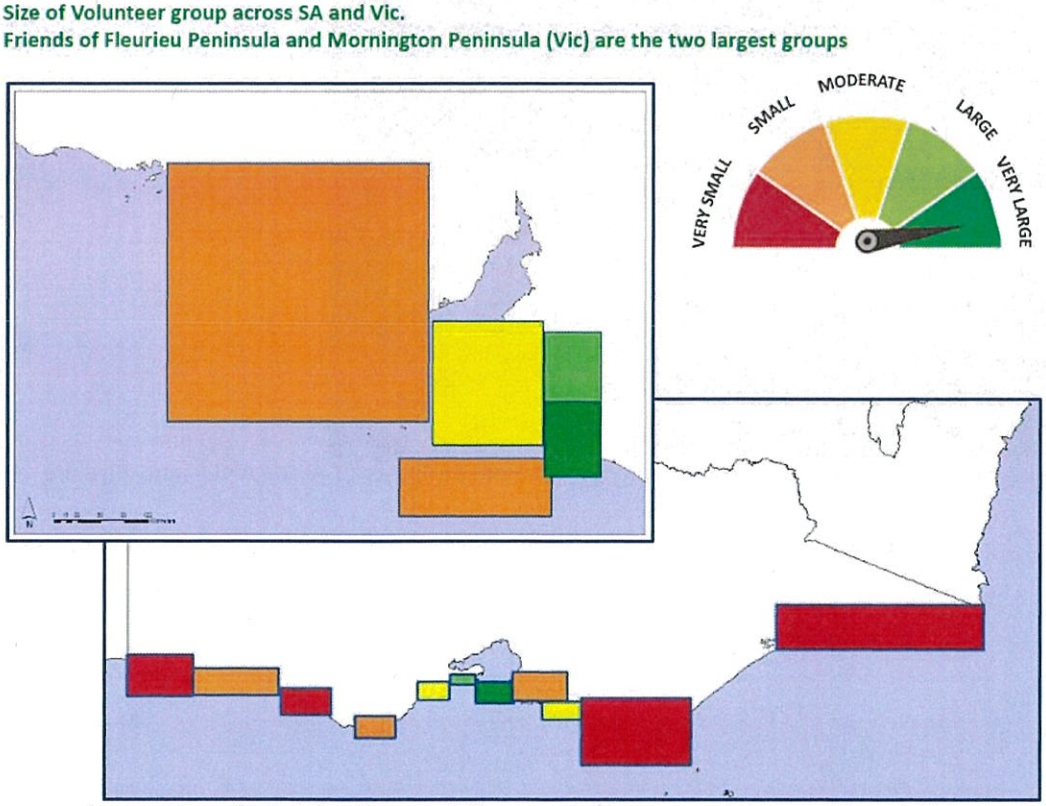


Image above: Size of Friends of Hooded Plover volunteer groups across SA and Victoria. Friends of the Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula and Mornington Peninsula (Vic) are the two largest groups in SA and Vic (BirdLife Australia).

Example 4: The federally funded Samphire Coast Icon Project (AMLR NRM and BirdLife Australia) is the basis for the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project. The community have been engaged through the Shorebirds 2020 project and as a result **6,000** people were engaged in project activities with **4,138** being new participants.



Photo above: One of the many shorebird ID sessions on the Samphire Coast (BirdLife Australia).

Example 5: AMLR NRM-funded satellite trackers on Grey Plover (Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary) and tracking of their movements to the breeding grounds on Wrangle island in Siberia. This is a collaborative project between AMLR NRM (Seascapes program), BirdLife Australia, Shorebirds of SE and the Victorian Wader Studies Group. This and other satellite tracking examples have captured the community's wonder and amazement that these birds feed on our local shores, and enable the community to see a direct link between NRM funding and important scientific research which leads to community ownership and a willingness to change behaviours to benefit such fragile species.



Photo above: Grey Plover with Satellite tracker being attached. Thompson Beach, SA (NRAMLR and BirdLife Australia).

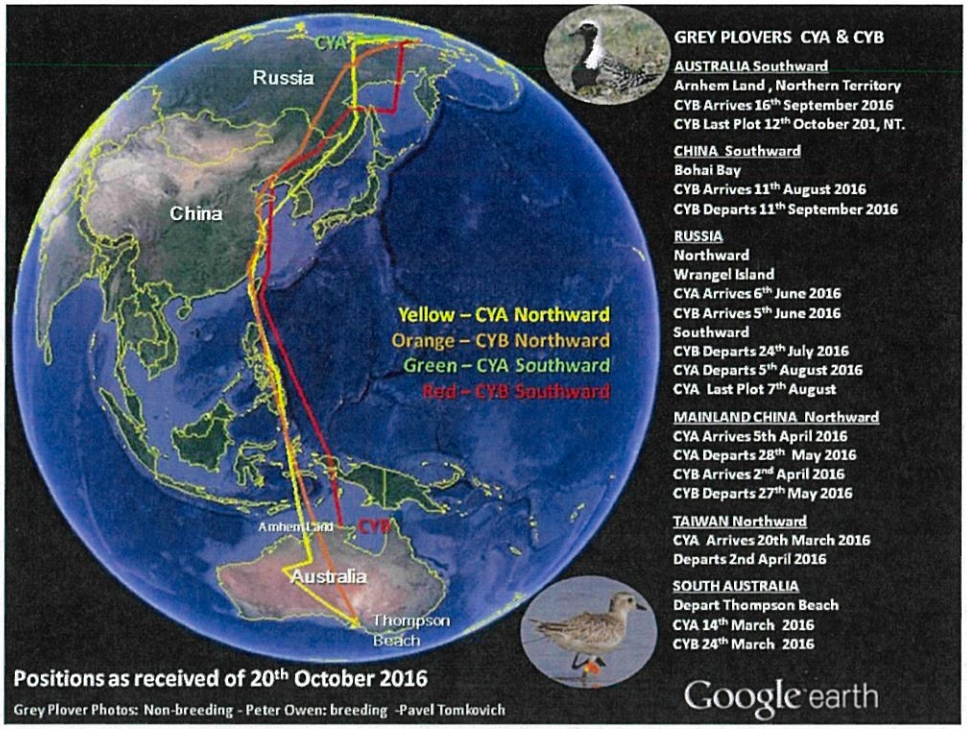
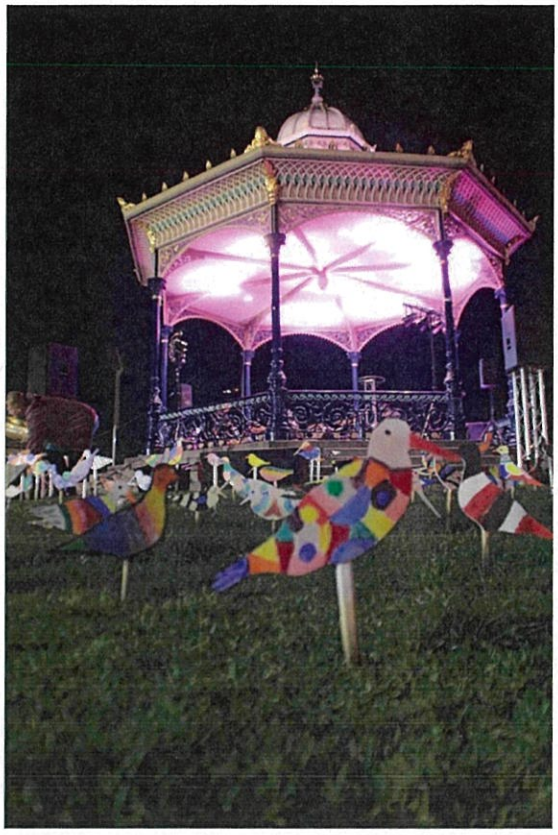


Image above: Grey Plover migration routes from Thompson Beach, SA (NRAMLR and BirdLife Australia).

Example 6: In New Zealand, Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre created 'The Flock NZ' to help spread the message about the threats facing our resident and migratory shore birds. With their support, the concept migrated to South Australia as part of Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and BirdLife Australia's conservation work. "Flock Oz" involves local community, wood groups, Men's Sheds to produce life size wood cut outs which are then brightly decorated by community groups and schools. The Flocks migrates to raise awareness of shorebird conservation including stopovers at the Adelaide Shorebird Festival, Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the OzAsia Festival. With the help of A Wader's Life, Flock Oz has also migrated to Broome. We hope to assist other groups to initiate flocks across Australia with templates of Australian bird shorebird species, information and advice.
A large shorebird lantern is paraded at the Moon Lantern Parade at the OzAsia Festival along with many small lanterns made at a community workshop.






Welcome
the
Starlings



Photos above: The Flock and the shorebird lanterns at the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide – raising awareness at a major community festival (photos: Tony Flaherty and BirdLife Australia).

The Future:
Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project (AMLR NRM and BirdLife Australia) and NRM Reform:

- The project **engages everyone who visits the beach**.
- **Coastal biodiversity** is a great way to **engage and connect with the community** in natural resource management.
- The project is all about **coexistence between coastal wildlife and beach-goers**.
- The project is about building support and leadership within the community, through **training and satisfaction** from being involved with a program which has **tangible and measurable improvements for coastal wildlife**.

Linkages of the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project (AMLR NRM and BirdLife Australia) to the guiding principles for NRM Reform:

Decentralised decision making:

- "We will build and encourage greater participation in priority setting and on-ground activities and create more opportunities to broaden and deepen partnerships":
    - The Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project priorities are based on Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) that are produced through community consultation. These priorities form the project aims.
    - The Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project is all about Citizen Science, where the local community gets involved with on-ground action, monitoring the coastal birds, their breeding success, threats and implementing practical on-ground management to improve breeding success.
    - The nature of the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project ensures varied partnerships across land managers and the wider community. Further partnerships are facilitated through the guidance of the national program under BirdLife Australia and connecting with other NRM regions across South Australia to work towards coastal bird

conservation (eg. SA Shorebird Alliance), across Australia and internationally with regard to the migratory shorebird flyway.

- "Support greater flexibility and responsiveness to local issues":
    - Bird and threat data collected by volunteers involved in the Shorebird 2020 and Beach-nesting Bird programs guides on-ground management. Local issues are captured through this data collection, and also through interactions between staff and volunteers with beach-goers on the beach. Face to face dialogue with the community about the local issues gets fed back into the program and guides adaptive management on a site-by-site basis. Common themes are also approached in a more regional context, for example amendment of dog leashing by-laws to enable protection of beach-nesting birds during nesting/chick stages.
    - The Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project also undertakes volunteer surveys to ensure training needs are met and are always being improved.

A whole of landscape approach:

- "When the efforts of many individuals and organisations are combined across a wide area, the results are more substantial, visible and long-lasting".
- "Large-scale combined efforts require strategic prioritisation and investment and must complement local efforts to maximise effectiveness".
- "A landscape scale restoration approach must also consider interactions between natural systems and people, to improve resilience to change".
    - Examples of this include BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds program where data, collected on a national scale, informs management and how best to undertake the project aim of 'improving coexistence between beach-nesting birds and beach-goers".

A simple and accessible system:

- "We need a transparent system that draws a clear line of sight between funding sources and on-ground action":
    - The community can actually see the benefits of funding from AMLR for the coastal bird projects including, but not limited to:
        - Fencing, signage, banners for nests and chicks and chick shelters,
        - training for volunteers,
        - new findings from scientific and community based research such as satellite trackers on migratory shorebirds from our coastline being tracked to Siberia where breeding occur. The community join the experts catching and banding the birds (under strict ethics guidelines),
        - dogs breakfast events on the beach to engage with the beach-going community,
        - banding and flagging of Hooded Plovers – community ownership of a locally identified endangered species.

Back to basics:

- "....soil, water and pest plants and animals":
    - All of these play a significant role in mitigating the decline of coastal bird species. Thousands of records of threat data collected over more than a decade by hundreds of volunteers contribute to an evidence-based approach to managing these threats for coastal birds. AMLR NRM also partners with BirdLife Australia and Universities to undertake research to better understand the relationships and management of threats. A back to basics approach is welcomed however with the focus being on tangible benefits to coastal (and other) biodiversity outcomes.

Community and land owners at the centre:

- "The reforms will build on strong partnerships with land users, valuing their knowledge and understand of the landscape".
- "It is the role of government to work alongside land managers, providing support, advice and a helping hand where needed".
    - The Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project draws on local knowledge and where there are gaps bringing in expert knowledge and ensuring all partners are involved in an effective collaboration

Question 3
What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

- The current system is working well and is enabling effective programs to take place as described above.
- Allocation of resources is based on human population rather than based on the environmental needs. Perhaps there could be some funds allocated across state-wide projects, or more cross-collaboration across regions which could enable sharing of funds.

Question 4
How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

- Prioritisation of species, sites and actions based on Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process. Such as the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan, Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan and the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds.
- Greater collaboration across NRMS, more opportunities for each NRM to come together and share their local expertise towards landscape scale projects.

Question 5
How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

- By ensuring that an Aboriginal person exists on each working group etc.

Question 6
How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

- BirdLife Australia would like to see a board representative have a biodiversity background, particularly with coast and marine biodiversity expertise.

Question 8
How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

- The coast is a very important part of Green Adelaide. When you consider how many of Adelaide's population visit the coast, particularly during spring and summer, who strongly value it, then it is a great and easy opportunity to make the coast a connection point with natural resources. And to show the community that it is more than just 'sand and seagulls'. Already long-established programs such as the Hooded Plover and Shorebirds 2020 program connect strongly with the community at the coast.

Question 10
How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

- Conservation Action Planning where the community are be involved from the start. The process involves looking at the region as a whole, analysing the conservation and threat data, then providing prioritisation of sites and actions at a local level in a regional context. Coastal Conservation Action Plans already exist for each of the NRM regions, and do an excellent job of guiding on-ground works. The CAPs also outline focal species and actions, for example for Hooded Plovers and Shorebirds. There are also national CAPs (Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds) that can be linked into on a state and regional basis.

Question 11
How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Establish targets and measure against them. For example the AMLR NRM Regional Strategic Plan has the following targets that relate to the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project. Targets: T2, T10, T11, T12, T13. This project supports the strategic increase of community, local government and agency stewardship of coastal habitats using charismatic coastal wildlife species as a focus. This will be done through collaborative research programs, monitoring and providing advice to inform on-ground conservation and coastal management.

Question 13
How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

- Prioritise through Conservation Action Planning, EPBC listed species etc. In the case of the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project it focuses on flagship and indicator species, such as the Hooded Plover, and building programs around those species that the community can get involved with and make an actual, tangible difference. Ensure that projects receive long-term meaningful funding. Another way is to take an holistic view of threats across the state and prioritise projects this way.

Question 14
How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

- BirdLife Australia and AMLR NRM are doing this already through the Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife project. As the projects (Hooded Plover, Shorebirds etc) fall under overarching national BirdLife Australia projects, our projects function in a similar way across the regions, using the same data portals for data entry etc. We work closely with the regions sharing information at workshops, meetings, site visits etc. Examples include doing a "Peninsula Swap" between Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula and also the Shorebird Alliance which brings together all regions across SA along with representatives from BirdLife Australia and the community.

Question 15
How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

- It will work best if we're making sure it doesn't reinvent the wheel, however as long as it informs and advances our current efforts that would be beneficial. Connects with broader programs with broader aims, ensuring it is linked beyond the region.

Question 16
What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

- Pest management must be wholistic and well-researched prior to undertaking management, prioritised and focussed. For example nest cameras are used to gather direct evidence of nest failure before undertaking pest control.
- Network that shares between the NRMS across SA.

Question 19
What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

- Targeted fox control and monitoring indicators to measure success.
- Consider expanding the definition of pest animals to include domestic animals e.g. pet cats that roam and dogs off leash brought into sensitive areas.

Question 20
What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

- Connect with EPBC Act. Monitoring compliance and actually ensuring enforcement happens.
- Connecting with national plans e.g. the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds.

Greening Australia

Greening Australia South Australia NRM Reform questions response

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

People are central to the effective management of natural resources. Greening Australia believes that when nature thrives, people thrive. Our economic and community wellbeing is inextricably linked with the ecological health of our environment. We believe that the facilitation of community engagement in natural resource management is therefore essential in achieving water, soil and biodiversity conservation outcomes. By restoring our ecological systems, we restore our economies and communities. Economic tools that measure the value of ecosystem services and impact on human wellbeing provide a means of setting targets, monitoring and attracting investment that integrates ecological and economic prosperity.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

Relatively speaking, the Natural Resource Management sector is still in its infancy when compared with the health or education sectors. That said, NRM has matured over the past 30 years and the level of expertise and experience has never been better. Now more than ever, we know what needs to be done and how to do it. The challenge for the sector is how to develop the financial resources, infrastructure and technology to achieve our goals. Collaboration will be key in progressing a shared vision for NRM. Conservation Action Planning led by Greening Australia and existing programs including Wild Eyre, Northern and Yorke and Living Flinders are good examples of what is working well in natural resource management.

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Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

Biodiversity protection and enhancement should be implemented alongside soil and water conservation and pest control. Proactive local targets for our priorities in biodiversity, water and soil conservation and pest control linked to national and international targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity are necessary to monitor, adapt and achieve progress. MERI reporting should be an integral part of project delivery.

Strengthening the connection between communities and their natural environment will facilitate responsible management of natural resources. A greater proportion of revenue and DEW budgets should be dedicated to on-ground works. This should be delivered through collaborative landscape scale programs including Wild Eyre, Northern and Yorke and Living Flinders with multiple partners at landscape scale over multiple years. This devolved model would formalise opportunities for the non-government sector to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decisions. Capacity building for the non-government sector will assist in facilitating this transition.

Projects should be principally guided by science and include conservation action planning that accounts for climate and other changes combined with local knowledge. New technologies such as drone technology and DNA sampling should be employed to support this process and achieve more effective and efficient outcomes. Community engagement is of great importance and needs to be supported for growth and increased capacity.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

To be effective, a landscape scale restoration will require a co-design planning approach to enable a collaborative, transparent and adaptive model for delivery of landscape biodiversity outcomes. This has been achieved over the past 5 -10 years through Conservation Action Planning lead by Greening Australia. Funding should be directed to existing well-functioning programs such as Wild Eyre, Northern and Yorke and Living Flinders. Underpinning this approach will be the core principles of biodiversity benefits based on scientific evidence that accounts for climate change impacts and forward planning. It will involve contributions and ownership from Indigenous and local communities, industry and scientific institutions. Large scale interventions will be critical for meaningful landscape change and they will need to be supported through smaller but socially significant contributions from community.

Governance and implementation principles focused on biodiversity benefits and maximising on ground delivery should be led and delivered at a regional level to empower local communities and improve capacity. Effective landscape projects will involve multiple partners operating over multiple years that deliver holistic outcomes. Landscapes are best managed by considering all their natural components; the prospects of water, soil and biodiversity are inextricably linked.

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Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

The unique role, knowledge and relationship to country inherent in South Australia's first peoples should be appreciated and respected through genuine consultation in the planning and delivery of NRM programs. It is essential that Aboriginal people are engaged in landscape planning and program delivery so that their interests are represented.

Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

A committed board with an accountable, positive culture and a strong governance framework will provide a climate for successful outcomes. Landscape Boards are there to plan together and deliver through others. This includes the facilitation of planning and delivery of programs that enhance conservation outcomes at landscape scale and minimise climate change impacts while highlighting evidence to attract investment in conservation. They should oversee monitoring and evaluation with a focus on improvement. Governance and funding arrangements must maximise the percentage of on ground investment with a priority on local community knowledge and delivery.

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

Local community members should meet eligibility requirements so that they are suitably qualified with relevant experience for a role in local NRM governance as well as being respected members of the community. It is important that board members are independent of government and as such a suitably qualified and independent panel should be involved in an election process.

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Question 8 How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

Adelaide's ecological system can be enhanced by linking the initiative to innovative processes happening at the national and international level such as Greening Australia's Nature in Cities program. Holistic solutions to amenity and biodiversity should underpin planning. By creating access to green natural areas for all residents and important hotspots for biodiversity, providing increased canopy cover to provide cooling and improve climate resilience.

Biodiversity planning should adopt a resilience approach that involves connectivity modelling for priority species and habitats that accounts for climate change impacts. The Adelaide CAP and its stakeholder support should be used to inform and underpin Green Adelaide.

Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

Conservation and Action Planning lead by Greening Australia for government and community to set agreed priorities for landscapes will facilitate the streamlining of regional planning.

A scientific evidence-based landscape plan should provide the basis of local prioritisation actions. This will streamline priority planning actions at the regional and local levels.

Question 10 How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

A consistent format and terminology can be established at a state level in language that is accurate but accessible, that can then be applied to regional planning.

Plans should have a focus on commonly agreed goals and targets and be 'jointly owned' by groups in the sector to improve ownership and delivery. The focus should be on practical on-ground action involving a variety of groups.

Question 11 How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) should be applied to all NRM programs with results collated and presented publicly for effective communication of outcomes and increased transparency. This could be linked to the Atlas of Living Australia and the Federal Government's MERIT reporting system, with publicly available evidence of project outcomes.

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Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Co-investment through co-design of projects that are attractive to investors. This can happen through Investigating alternative income streams such as carbon credits, the application of government green bonds or similar financial instruments. Greening Australia can provide incentives for landholders to engage in landscape scale restoration through attracting financial investment through our carbon aggregation model.

Question 14 How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions/ How could this best be achieved?

Coordination of natural resource management across regions is necessary to achieve outcomes in biodiversity, water and soil conservation, as well as pest control as these management issues cross regional boundaries and require cross boundary solutions.

This can be addressed through a high-level strategy with broad support and involvement of delivery against that strategy of all groups and organisations towards common goals and targets. The strategy should be based on adaptive management principles to ensure lessons are learnt and plans are updated over time.

Question 15 How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

Under an agreed strategy with clear contributions towards that strategy and achieving clear outcomes. Grassroots stakeholders should be engaged in strategy development that then informs project proposal development and delivery fostering community ownership.

Question 16 What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Land restoration should be prioritised to establish priority vegetation and ecological communities, increasing resilience in priority areas under pressure from pests and reducing the need for pest plant control which is a more sustainable solution than simply investing directly in pest control. Where pest control is necessary, it should be targeted with realistic goals. For example, pest species may be controlled in an area for a limited time to establish desirable species and increase resilience so that they are sustainable once the inevitable return of pest pressure returns.

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Repeal of the SA Native vegetation Act (prepared by Cliff Hignett for Friends of Private Bushland)

The SA Minister for the Environment has announced that the "new state government is committed to a significant reform program that will change the way that natural resources are managed". Part of those changes involve the repeal of the Native vegetation Act.

There has been a 'consultation process' operating around the state for several months and there is ongoing consultation via www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/landscape-reform. CLOSING DATE 15th OCTOBER 2018. The replacement act will be introduced to SA parliament in January and will be voted soon after. There will be no consultation allowed at that stage.

Oh, you missed all that? Not surprising! The 'public consultations' were run by a consultant who had no information about what is being proposed – his job was to gather general opinions about whether the environment was being managed well or not. I attended the meeting at Bordertown, and like most others, found the exercise unfocussed and pointless. We could all find minor gripes about how the environment is managed but the consensus seemed to be that DEWNR was doing a good job with the resources it had and that more resources would produce better outcomes. I doubt this will emerge in the summaries.

Should this concern FPB members? I think so. We spend significant time and resources on bush blocks which are protected from development by a heritage agreement which has its basis in the native veg act. It is likely that repealing the native veg act makes all our heritage agreements void. Voluntary heritage agreements will probably be reinstated in the new act. what will change is continuance of clearance controls on farm areas, council reserves, parks and roadsides. Like golf courses on remnant bush land and tourist centres in national parks.

If it aint broke , why fix it? There is still a significant minority of people who want to clear land in SA. Eg Those with heritage agreements forced on them by the Act as a condition of clearing other land. Those who want to knock over that big old gum which is sitting in the middle of a field just perfect for a centre pivot irrigator. Adelaide's green space is also included – Adelaide oval developers had a lot of inconvenience in getting clearance to clear trees for the car park as I recall – now there are plans to put a soccer oval on the north Adelaide golf links.

Both NSW and QLD have recently repealed their native vegetation clearance laws. QLD lost half of its remaining bush in just 12 months and had to reinstate their legislation quickly. These farmers tend to be big operators, are very wealthy and make big donations to the liberal party. I believe this is the lobby that is pushing for these changes in SA. One SA farmer has paid over $140,000 in fines and has stated that he has every intention to clear bush as he wishes. (A big centre pivot can recoup these fines in a single year)

But that's not all! While it is not written down, (but was in the consultation presentation) the Native Veg Act and DEWNR is the is just the first of a whole range of environment related legislation and departments due for wholesale 'reform'. If I am reading the discussion papers correctly, then the new landscape boards (the NRM replacement) will be managing new privatised versions of the planning, environment, water resources, fisheries, and coastal protection departments.

All of this will be regionalised and the (former) departments will be reduced to office workers hiring private contractors and volunteers, to do all the on ground work. The stinger? All these regional departments are to be regionally funded (if the region wants it done then it had better be prepared to pay for it!) via a new NRM levy. The levy will be 'capped' at CPI, but (I suspect) not until it has risen to a level suitable to fund all of these formally state funded functions.

What can you do about this? I suspect very little. Until Oct 15th you can have a say at the yoursay website (see above) , but the questions are phrased so that it is difficult to comment on the things that matter. Unfortunately, the environment is no longer an election issue so they can get away with just about anything.

Nature Foundation SA Inc.
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Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide, SA, 5000

10th October 2018

Dear Minister Speirs

Re: Managing Our Landscapes – Natural Resources Management Reforms
Submission to the Government of South Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Natural Resources Management system in South Australia and the proposed new Landscapes approach and legislation. We wish to congratulate you on your personal involvement from the outset, and the wide array of opportunities for interested people, organisations and sectors to make comment. We see it as a once in a generation opportunity.

The current system is built on a tremendous legacy of many thoughtful and pioneering people, going back to the 1800s. The world is changing a rapid and seemingly increasing pace. It is timely to review the system, with a view to retaining strongly needed and performing features, to contemplate omissions and to address deficiencies.

In making comment, we have taken a multi-generational view, on the expectation that the new legislation will be fundamental to the well-being of our natural assets into the long term future.

1. **The desired result?**

   The following outlines the results of an effective Landscapes system:

1. Well-planned, with plans co-designed with communities, industries and all three levels of government, legally strong and science-based. Plans from local through region and state to national, even international scale, complement each other.
2. Monitoring enables all those interested, affected or investing to track trends of improvement or decline.
3. Soil, water and nature assets are in good condition and improving, sustaining the communities industries and ecosystem services they provide.
4. It is truly community-lead, demonstrated by the knowledgeable commitment of individuals, businesses and governments to avoiding harm to the soil, water and nature assets through their actions, attitudes and investments of time and funds.
5. A strong and versatile community and not-for-profit sector delivering strong results in partnership with business and government. Wrong-doers are discouraged and if necessary penalised. Those doing the right thing prosper.
6. Investment by government, businesses and households is what is needed to sustain and improve the condition of the three assets.
7. Threatening processes such as pest plants and pest animals, salinization or soil acidification are tackled.

2. How to get there?

To achieve the above results, the following are thoughtfully suggested:

1. Skills, knowledge, expertise-based boards to lead active management of the soil, water and nature assets of our State – collectively worth billions and providing life-sustaining ecosystem services.
2. Boards and their staff and finances, including bank account, independent of State Government agencies.
3. Boards being the authority to set budgets and deploy all funds raised in their name.
4. Funding and resources from a range of sources being deployed on the highest priority issues. Included is the levy. Respectfully recommended is that State Government funds for Landscapes initiatives being set at 3 to 5% of the state budget given the critical importance of the soil water and nature assets to our society, regional communities, and primary industries-based economy. Commonwealth funds continue to be of critical importance. The private resources and the endeavours of individuals and businesses are significantly important the householders and landholders.
5. Devolved or outsourced delivery. This is expected to have the effect of growing the number of people, groups and organisations involved in Landscapes management. They in turn will contribute more expertise and private resources, amplifying the effort, stimulating regional jobs, innovation and enterprise, and sustaining regional communities.
6. Projects that range from multi-year, multi-region to short term and local.
7. Aboriginal cultural heritage central, with Aboriginal people and communities engaged throughout and managing their own lands well.
8. Public lands are managed with public funds to the goals within the regional plan – not as islands within on-government land. Incredibly important protection to the

natural assets in all their diversity, cultural assets, nature-based tourism and community-health.

3. **Responsibilities**

For the system to work to its optimum, the following responsibilities are recommended:

1. The Boards are accountable to the Minster and the Parliament.
2. Their main emphasis needs to be on inspiring and mobilising the community for on-ground results – preventing degradation and expanding restoration.
3. Boards employ staff, who do not remain employees of a state agency
4. Boards are responsible for performance excellence in their governance, systems and financial management.
5. Boards keep a keen eye on landscape condition, and threatening processes such as pest plants and pest animals, climate change and soil and water degradation, changing societal attitudes and growing demand for resources as populations grow.
6. A State-level Board comprising non-government of high standing for their skills ensure complementarity between the regions, and support the Minister with advice and problem solving.
7. Regional planning is done with and for the regional community including businesses, landholders, Aboriginal people, all three levels of government, science organisations. Recommended are approaches that meet or exceed the Open Standards for Conservation
8. Landholders, to meet the obligations of the Act.
9. The planning system, enhancing soil, water and nature assets condition.
10. State agencies in providing support and expertise eg science and information, legal advice, compliance
11. Auditor general oversight of Boards' good governance of their responsibilities including finances.

Again thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to make contact if we can assist further. We wish you well in anticipation of the new Landscapes approach.

Yours sincerely



Hugo Hopton
Chief Executive Officer

15 October 2018

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs

Re: Nature of SA feedback on Landscape Reform

The legacies of European colonisation such as vegetation clearance and species introductions; the growth and globalisation of the economy; and the impacts of climate change, mean our landscapes are changing rapidly and potentially irreversibly.

The scale is larger, more complex and less predictable than we have previously planned for and to meet the challenge the South Australian sector formed the Nature of SA partnership to explore and articulate a constructive approach for conserving nature in the 21st century in SA.

The Nature of SA has facilitated many workshops, training opportunities and consultation sessions across the sector over the past two years including a 200-strong summit of sector leaders to reflect on what we had heard and what global and national best practice was emerging. Out of the summit the Nature of SA developed a number of recommended **shifts** in practice and also identified existing practices that will serve us well in future.

Of particular importance are the central ideas that we need to facilitate South Australians to connect to everyday nature as well as to nature everyday, that our view of nature needs to be more inclusive and include novel environments such as urban spaces and farm land, values need to be reflected in decision-making alongside knowledge and rules, and that we need to set up systems where we continuously learn as a matter of course as we expect the goal posts to keep changing and we will need to test new approaches as new challenges emerge. Many of these ideas align strongly with the outcomes and principles of the NRM Reform Discussion Paper. I welcome the opportunity to provide comment through the reform consultation process and the opportunity to discuss these comments further.

I am pleased to provide these comments on behalf of the eNGO members of the Nature of SA steering group and believe they highlight a strong complementarity between the two initiatives.

Yours sincerely

V-J. Russell

Vicki-Jo Russell AM
eNGO Chair, Nature of SA

Shift 1: We need to understand that our landscapes and wildlife co-evolved with Aboriginal people. By understanding this we recognise that the Australian landscape has been shaped by people and their relationship with the land for many years and that their knowledge, practices and culture are highly valuable to understanding how the land works and how to live more sustainably.

We commend the Discussion Paper for recognising the critical skills, knowledge and interests of South Australia's Aboriginal nations in natural resource management and the importance of ensuring they are well represented in governance, decision making and leadership.

Shift 2: Strengthen our State narrative around nature to encourage the community to enjoy the benefits of nature in their everyday lives as part of their lives as South Australians and Shift 9: To remember what we love about nature and start there.

South Australia is a particularly wonderful place and Adelaide is one of the world's most liveable cities. We have the best of both worlds! We are able to enjoy the best of culture, technology, services etc but with nature on our doorstep in every direction and in our city's heart. We need to understand that caring and enjoying nature is critical to our wellbeing and adopt this as typical of our lives as South Australians. It is just one of the many great aspects of being a South Australian.

This shift supports the formation of Green Adelaide and its focus on metropolitan Adelaide, focusing on the city's urban ecology, sustainable design, enhancing nature education and investing in the natural environment to improve overall community wellbeing. We strongly support Green Adelaide's mandate to work towards Adelaide being the most ecologically vibrant city in the world. The *Amongst It* project tested through the Nature of SA which facilitated a range of community discussions and activities around this narrative has much to offer Green Adelaide's approach and we are keen to progress our common ground.

It will be important to foster and reflect a deep and diverse relationship between the urban community and nature, leveraging a rich tapestry of opportunity for people to take action through partnerships. To be successful we will need to adopt the lessons learned from the global 'Love not loss' campaign. This approach encourages people to take action through messages of wonder and hope rather than fear and loss. When we use evocative words and images and simply reflect the very things about nature that enchant us, instead of wrapping up our statements in facts and projections, we are much more likely to motivate people to take action. The whole process becomes more uplifting for us too. This does not mean we simply 'spin' positive stories. We still need to be honest and communicate the problems and threats to help people understand; however, we need to couch this in a way that people feel motivated and empowered to engage.

Shift 3: Hold onto what is working; protected areas, landscape and corridor scale action, biosecurity, targeted pest and weed management, and collective planning exercises are all powerful future management tools and we should continue to invest in them.

We commend the strong focus in the Discussion Paper on landscape scale management, biosecurity and pest and weed management where it is targeted. We support direction to develop five-year landscape plans in partnership with community, to work at a scale where the sum of the impact is greater than the individual efforts and to work through partnership to achieve this. We support the notion of a Landscape Fund and the Grassroots Community Grants to work across boundaries. We strongly support landscape scale restoration as a critical tool to achieve vibrant biodiversity, a sustainable economy and as a consequence resilient communities. The Landscape Boards will however need to improve ecosystem function and landscape biodiversity as a key outcome of restoration to achieve this; working on soil, water and pest management alone will not achieve this.

Shift 4: Value nature in all its forms, urban and novel. We need to recognise the benefits of our everyday relationships with nature even in highly modified environments and understand that nature offers value wherever it is. Ultimately our view of nature needs to be more inclusive and include novel

environments such as urban spaces and farm land and value the work of its custodians in these landscapes.

This shift again supports the Green Adelaide initiative and its focus to engage urban communities in the nature in their own backyard. It is also recognises the important role of land users to sustain the environment. This shift does not promote the importance of modified land over natural areas instead it recognises the value of both within the landscape which sits well within the landscape approach adopted by the reform.

Shift 5: Plan for the future not the past. The nature of South Australia's landscapes is not static. Dramatic shifts are likely to continue in the future, driven by landscape modifications such as extensive clearance and the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. All this means that restoring our landscapes to a historic state is likely to become a less viable option in future, especially at the landscape-scale. This doesn't mean that historic templates are not useful as a guide. But we need to think deeply about what we are trying to achieve, beyond 'what was there', with increasing focus on conserving the things we value and can sustain, as well as on ecosystem function and processes. What we can produce in the landscape will also be central to this.

This shift supports the notion that we need to encourage greater participation in priority setting and on-ground activities with community and partners to ensure that community values strongly reflected in landscape planning. The shift also aligns with the notion that a landscape approach must also consider interactions between natural systems and people to improve resilience to change. Our relationship to and with the landscape is impossible to ignore and planning that fails to recognise this will fail.

It also challenges the idea that pest and weed management of non-indigenous species in isolation will have the desired impact. Biosecurity and early pest and weed management to avoid new incursions offers the best value for money and outcomes. Once established though pest and weed management needs to be linked strongly to protecting assets including ecosystem services and productive assets to be worthwhile. This shift encourages us to be very clear on why we are managing pests and weeds, what we hope to achieve and whether it is feasible with the methods and scale we are working at.

Shift 6: Decision-making requires consideration of values, rules and knowledge. Decisions that do not build on an existing evidence or logic base, do not reflect what is meaningful to people and ignore broader social norms will not work and will be short-lived.

This shift supports the importance of community involvement in decision making, their participation in priority setting and decision making and the need to remain flexible and responsive to local issues, priorities and culture as outlined in the Discussion Paper. It also supports the notion that governance models need to be flexible and adaptive to ensure they remain fit for purpose. While maintaining accountability and transparency around the levy it will be important that the new Act can remain as flexible as possible to serve its role over time.

Strong decisions are made with a view to high level shared goals combined with local know-how to ensure they are interpreted and implemented successfully in the local context. We encourage the government to develop a set of shared priorities or landscape vision for the State to help guide local decision-making and ensure the State as a whole benefits from the individual efforts of the Landscape Boards.

Good governance can help to invigorate groups and organisations by making people feel genuinely engaged, ensuring resources are used effectively and reducing conflict. Focusing on how decisions

are made can improve how willing people are to be involved or support particular causes or organisations. These principles are reflected in the Discussion Paper.

Shift 7: We have to learn to change and move from reporting to intentional learning frameworks.

A world of less certainty and less control requires a different approach. Working in complexity means there are many challenges and surprises – expertise alone is not sufficient– we need a different mind-set, one based on learning our way forward. It also means we have to admit we don't have all the answers without fear of reprisal. We have to be prepared to be surprised, to fail and to accept other points of view about some of the 'truths' we hold dear in traditional conservation and natural resource management. With a learning mind-set, every action becomes a mini experiment, one that can fill a knowledge gap, check an assumption, test a new approach or reveal where our evidence is strong and where it is weak. Building a learning mind-set means a shift in the way we think about, plan and implement actions at every scale.

The Discussion Paper is largely quiet on the subject of learning frameworks. We understand it would be government's intention to build these into the proposed Landscape Plans. It will be very important to build this kind of learning methodology, known as triple loop learning, into the monitoring and learning frameworks for these Plans, as well as investment planning and Board processes.

Shift 8: We need a resilient sector to get the job done. Ultimately our people are our greatest asset.

This shift supports the intent of the NRM reform to empower and reinvigorate urban and regional communities and build and empower their participation in managing the State's landscapes. Community capacity building and leadership, workforce capability and peer learning opportunities are important targets for ongoing investment.

From: Stephen Rogers
Sent: Thursday, 26 July, 2018 12:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: NOTICE: NRM Reform Process 2018

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your email. It is good to discuss the best way forward.
We will adapt and mold our organisations to best use the benefits and also overcome the problems.
There are changes but also opportunities as part of those changes.

FOCC organisation can be used as a model on how to develop community custodians. We reach into levels of government and down to the weeds in the parks. We have established meetings with stakeholders. We have plans for Work for the Dole, Youth Environment Council, Kaurna Youth, Rotary Clubs and local schools.
We rely on grants to pay for the activities we do. Grants provide a big "bang for buck" as the people involved also work as volunteers.
The area of Cobbler Creek is used extensively for many community events such a mountain bike riding and FOCC events. Therefore the natural space has economic potential when visitors are introduced. People could offer tours.
Cobbler Creek is used by local residents to briefly escape the pressures of urban lifestyle (like Central Park NY). It can be used to connect people with nature to assist in health benefits.
Politicians who regularly turn to nature have clearer visions for the future. The park systems are great places to develop ideas.
Maybe carbon credits could also be included in the new framework?
Collectively the Friends of Parks groups represent an opportunity to mold or evolve into the Landscape Councils.
When we work together, good things happen.
Warm regards to all
Steve Rogers
President FOCC.

From: Friends of Parks SA inc <contact@friendsofparkssa.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 July 2018 6:34 PM
To: Stephen Rogers
Subject: NOTICE: NRM Reform Process 2018

Notice

Dear Volunteer Group Coordinators,

I strongly encourage you to be involved in the below community consultation as you are important stakeholders in natural resource management. Please circulate this email to your members and encourage them to have their say and/or register as soon as possible to attend a public forum. Apologies if you have already received this email from another source.

You may be aware that the new State Government is reforming the management of natural resources in South Australia. There will be a state-wide engagement process to help shape the future of how natural resources are managed in our State. The following information summarises how the general public and community groups can be better informed and can be part of the government consultation process via the link "We're changing NRM in South Australia" on the "yourSAy" website.

In order to fully engage in this NRM reform consultation process, follow the four steps below:

1. Register:

Register on the "yourSAy" website then open the "We're changing NRM in South Australia" Engagement link.

2. Read:

Executive Summary
Discussion Paper
Frequently Asked Questions

3. Provide feedback (by 5pm Monday 15th October 2018):

Respond to the 21 questions in the Discussion Paper and/or provide general comment to:
o LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au or mail *The Independent Facilitator, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide, SA, 5001*
Engage and provide comment via the On-line Discussion Forum.

4. Attend a Community Consultation Forum:

Open the Community Workshop Forums link to register for community workshops planned in August and September 2018.

§ If you are interested in attending a forum, please do this as soon as possible as **numbers are limited**.
§ Forums are to be held across the State with the closest venues at:
o Gawler
o Glenunga
o Mawson Lakes
o Mt Barker
o McLaren Vale

For additional background information, the following links are provided to relevant State Government plans and policies:

§ 2036 State Plan
§ Policies of the New Government
§ NRM Empowering Local Communities
§ NRM Levies
§ Greener Neighbourhoods
§ Sensitive Development in National Parks
§ Coastal Environment
§ More Park Rangers
§ Glenthorne Farm

You may also be interested in learning more about the new southern suburbs National Park, Glenthorne Park at the Glenthorne National Park Website, where you can also provide feedback.

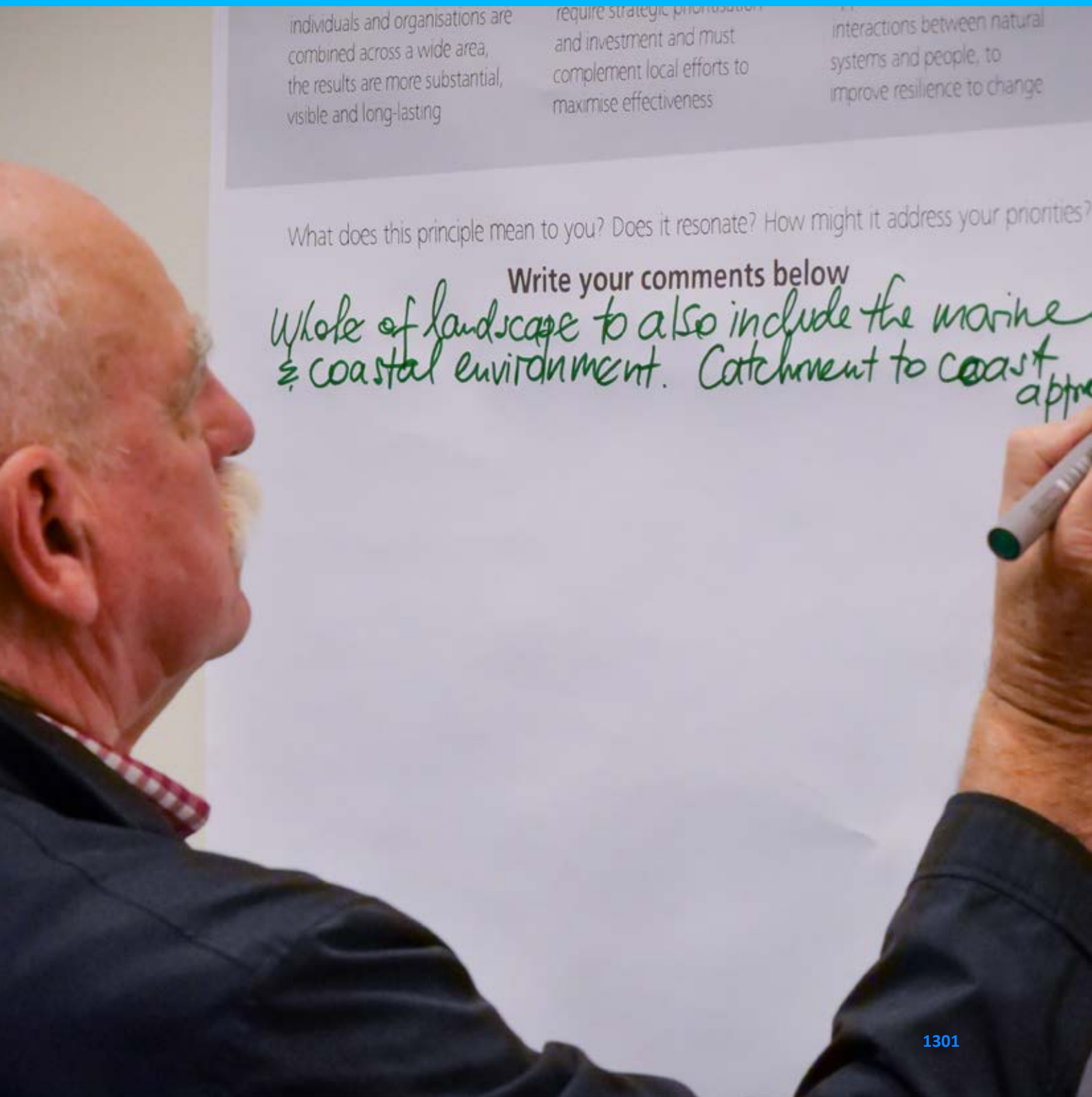
If you need any more clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

Steph Cole
Volunteer Support Officer, Adelaide and Central Hills
Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges | Parks & Regions
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Unsubscribe

1300

8.12 | Written Submissions From Other Groups And Organisations



Register of written submissions from other groups and organisations

Date Received	Given name	Family name	Organisation
2-Aug-18	David	Hitchcock	Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
8-Aug-18	Heidi	Unferdorben	Department for Education
12-Jan-18	Dierdre	Wood	Bibaringa Water Association
21-Aug-18	Richard	Olesinski	South Port Surf Life Saving Club Inc
8-Oct-18	Chris	Grant	National Trust South Australia
10-Oct-18	Emily	Jenke	DemocracyCo
15-Oct-18	Sally	Bolton	Australian Institute of Landscape Partners
11-Oct-18	Deane	Crabb	The Electoral Reform Society of South Australia
11-Oct-18	Nick	Harvey	Australian Coastal Society Ltd
12-Oct-18	Jo	Podoliak	Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland
15-Oct-18	Peter	Schultz	Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association
15-Oct-18	Emily	Jenke	Native Vegetation Council
15-Oct-18	Heather	Miller	SA Wild Dog Advisory Group
15-Oct-18	Cecilia	Woolford	Outback Communities Authority
15-Oct-18	Adrian	Shackley	Northern Coast and Plains NRM Advisory Committee
15-Oct-18	Kym	Pryde	Planning Institute Australia
15-Oct-18	Marianne	Nicholas	Department for Education
15-Oct-18	Andrew	Raymond	Kaurna AMLR NRM Advisory Group
15-Oct-18	Andrew	Dyson	Kensington Residents Association
15-Oct-18	Sarah	Davel	SACOME
15-Oct-18	Kerri	Muller	Kerri Muller NRM
16-Oct-18	Sharon	Starick	SA NRM Partners
16-Oct-18	Keith	Thomas	SA Native Title Service
17-Oct-18	Geoff	Miller	Pastoral Board of SA

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
266 Seacombe Road, Seacliff Park, SA 5049

Website: www.gawler.sa.gov.au/grfma

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform,
GPO Box 1047,
Adelaide SA 5001

By email NRMreform@sa.gov.au

2/8/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Landscape South Australia Act - Rivers, Creeks and Waterways

I write in response to the invitation to engage in the discussion regarding replacing the Natural Resources Management Act with the proposed Landscape South Australia Act.

With respect to the proposed Landscape South Australia Act it is requested that consideration be given to facilitate provision, within the proposed Act, of specific powers for Councils or other agencies to manage and/or maintain levees (Rivers, Creeks and Waterways) constructed on private land, where no easement or legal agreements are in place.

Rivers and creeks in South Australia are perennial and, in most years, carry what are referred to as environmental flows. To sustain this environmental condition the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 imposes a specific duty (S133) on '*the owner of land on which a watercourse or lake is situated or that adjoins a watercourse or lake to take reasonable measures to prevent damage to the bed and banks of the watercourse or the bed, banks or shores of the lake and to the ecosystems that depend on the watercourse or lake.*

Less frequently rivers and creeks in South Australia are also required to carry flood flows which are not defined.

Councils are required to prepare flood mitigation plans that in many cases must include the natural creeks and watercourses as part of the design. The maintenance of a defined creek or watercourse as a fit for purpose flood way becomes a critical element of the sustainability of the plan. More importantly when the river or creek is on private land, the responsibility of the Council to maintain the fit for purpose flood condition of a river of creek is unclear.

An example is management of the Gawler River where almost its entire length is on private land.

The Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) was formed as a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999 on 22 August 2002. The Constituent Councils are the Adelaide Hills Council, The Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council, The Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council, and the City of Playford.

The Authority has been established for the following purposes:

- to co-ordinate the construction, operation and maintenance of flood mitigation infrastructure for the Gawler River. This purpose is the core business of the Authority;
- to raise finance for the purpose of developing, managing and operating and maintaining works approved by the Board;
- to provide a forum for the discussion and consideration of topics relating to the Constituent Council's obligations and responsibilities in relation to management of flood mitigation for the Gawler River;
- upon application of one or more Constituent Councils pursuant to clause 12.4:
    - to coordinate the construction, maintenance and promotion and enhancement of the Gawler River and areas adjacent to the Gawler River as recreational open space for the adjacent communities; and
    - to enter into agreements with one or more of the Constituent Councils for the purpose of managing and developing the Gawler River.

In early October 2016, an estimated 1:20 year flood event inundated high value food cropping land in the Angle, Virginia and Two Wells areas causing an estimated $50 million dollars in damage to food crops and property.

Following this event the GRFMA immediately initiated the 2016 Gawler River Flood Review Report which subsequently recommended implementation of a body of flood mitigation initiatives referred to as the proposed Northern Floodway Project.

There are three primary elements forming part of the overall proposed Northern Floodway Project:

- Levee improvements (immediate and long term) and ongoing maintenance
- River channel works – including strategic sediment and vegetation removal and revegetation – and ongoing maintenance
- A new levee and floodway system downstream of Old Port Wakefield Road to contain floodwaters within a defined floodway system on the northern side of the river (The Northern Floodway)

The cost of the proposed Project has been estimated at $27 million.

A critical aspect of progressing the project will be addressing land tenure considerations to enable the proposed works to be completed/constructed, and to enable the river and levees to be maintained long term in accordance with the endorsed recommendations of the 2016 Flood Review report.

Recommendation 1 of the 2016 Flood Review project report provided "*River and levee maintenance should be the responsibility of a single authority that has the necessary resources and access rights to maintain the river in good condition from a flood conveyance as well as biodiversity perspective*."

With the river currently under private ownership, a change to the land ownership and/or tenure will be required to afford the GRFMA these rights.

Options are likely to include:

- outright purchase and freehold tenure of the main river channel and land required for flood mitigation works ('subject land') with potential lease back options
- establishment of an easement over the subject land
- establishment of land management agreements over the subject land
- a combination of the above.

Outright purchase is likely to be the costliest option, but will afford the GRFMA the greatest control over the land long term. Conversely, establishment of a land management agreement whilst less costly, may not achieve the rights required by the GRFMA for long term management of the river and any associated assets.

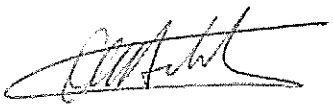
Clearly any compulsory acquisition proposal is a challenging process for both the affected land holder and the organisation proposing acquisition.

Any compulsory acquisition process is seen as a last resort and it would be preferable if other suitable powers enabling flood mitigation development / maintenance and associated land access on private land was provided.

It is suggested that formulation of the proposed Landscape South Australia Act should include such provisions.

I would be pleased if this matter is given consideration in the proposed range of reforms to the natural resources management system.

Yours Sincerely



David Hitchcock

Executive Officer

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

Submission to the reforms to the natural resources management system

The volunteer unit in the Engagement and Wellbeing directorate, Early Years and Child Development, Department for Education submits the following for consideration and noting to the reforms of the natural resources management system.

Curriculum of giving – student volunteering

Background

On Thursday 31 May, more than 100 delegates from public, independent and Catholic education sectors, volunteering and not for profit organisations, business, local government, and state government agencies attended the Curriculum of Giving – student volunteer workshop. At the workshop delegates:

- learnt about strategies to encourage student learning and improve wellbeing through student volunteering
- heard about the benefits of student volunteering
- insights into how to run a successful student volunteer program at a school.

Keynote speakers included Dr Thomas Nielsen, Associate Professor, University of Canberra and Tracey Wallace, Service Learning Coordinator, Scotch College (previously Community Engagement Coordinator, Ocean View College, Taperoo).

Dr Nielsen shared his research that shows giving and service to others increases wellbeing and resilience, something much needed in a western world with high youth depression, anxiety and suicide rates.

The workshop was a partnership between by the Government of SA (Department for Education and Department of Human Services), the Volunteering Strategy for SA 2014-2020, and Volunteering SA&NT.

As a follow-up to the workshop the department's Engagement and Wellbeing directorate:

- has released resources to support teachers to implement student volunteering in every day classroom activities
- is working with the volunteering sector to develop a guide for them to support student volunteering. This includes NRM education.
- offering training to school staff to implement student volunteering programs
- are embedding student volunteering into the whole school approach to engagement and wellbeing.

Encouraging volunteering by children and young people and embedding it in the curriculum is also priority for the Volunteering Strategy for SA 2014-2020.

1306

NRM reforms supporting student volunteering

The reforms proposed relating in particular to Green Adelaide and the Grass roots grant program will be a benefit to supporting school student volunteering programs. Schools will be grateful for the opportunity to apply for grants and the students will be provided with ongoing volunteering opportunities to support their learning, engagement and wellbeing. This will help to build strong connection between schools, students and their natural environment.

It is important for the NRM to continue to use a whole-school approach when working with school or preschool communities to plan and manage ongoing sustainability initiatives, student volunteering and education programs. We support the current model of NRM education working together with schools to help provide students with opportunities to take action to improve our local environment and live more sustainable lifestyles, leading to improved educational and environmental outcomes linked to the Australian Curriculum and the Early Years Learning Framework.

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the broader consultation and we welcome an opportunity to continue to be part of the discussion.

Submitted by

Heidi Unferdorben
Senior Policy and Project Officer, Volunteers
Engagement and Wellbeing directorate
Department for Education

Approved by Sophie Takmaki
Assistant Director, Policy Development and Strategy
Engagement and Wellbeing directorate
Department for Education

8 August 2018

18INV0149 PROPOSED AMENDMENT to Natural Resources Management Act 2004

Division 2 - Levies into water

5100 - Interpretation

Add - "the taking of water for domestic purposes or for the watering of stock," under Section 101(1)(a) includes the taking of water by Community Bore Schemes

that are not subject to intensive farming

- "Community Bore Schemes" means Not for profit [redacted] organisations which supply water to members for domestic purposes and/or the watering of stock that are not subject to intensive farming

Christine Wood

[redacted]

12/1/18

Attended @ Tony Piccolo's office asked him to make these amendments into law.

Our ref:Bibaringa Water Inc.
Your ref: Customer ID BIB001

17 September 2015

The Chairperson,
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Management Board
Upper Level,
Cnr Mann & Walker Streets
MOUNT BARKER SA 5251

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: **Bibaringa Water Incorporated**
Objection to Water Levy dated 7/7/15 payable by 5/9/15
Water Licence Number 112872
Application for Exemption from payment of Water Levy

Bibaringa Water Incorporated is a Community Organisation which supplies its members who are landowners who own small acreages principally on the Hills Face Zone south of Gawler, with bore water.

The relevant history is that:

In the 1970's a farmer subdivided his land into small allotments and sold them. At that time he provided water to the land being sold by way of bores and pipework which ran over various parts of the land he subdivided. The only other source of water was rainwater which has to be captured.

A Water Co-operative was established to supply bore water to the new landowners. The new landowners who had bores, tanks or pipes running over their land granted leases to the Co-operative which then entered into agreements to supply bore water from the bores with all new landowners who wished to be supplied with it.

In 2000 the Water Co-operative was transformed into an Incorporated Association and new Agreements were entered into between it and the landowners. However, the objective of the Association did not change. Refer to Clause 2. Of Bibaringa Water Incorporated Rules (enclosed).

Then as part of a government initiative the Association was informed that it could apply for a Water Licence which it duly did.

The Association does not own the bores. These are owned by the landowners where they are situated. The landowner's who have bores,

tanks, pipes and other infrastructure running over their land do not own the Water Licence or the Water Allocation.

There is no commercial purpose in these arrangements.

The members of the Association are prohibited from using the water supplied for commercial purposes. Refer to Clause 11. of Member's Agreement (enclosed).

Thus the water supplied is used for domestic and stock watering and none of the stock are intensively farmed.

Accordingly, the Association submits that it is entitled to an exemption from the payment of the Levy pursuant to Section 101 (13) of the Natural Resources Management Act which says:

"A levy cannot be imposed under this section with respect to the taking of water for domestic purposes or for watering of stock that are not subject to intensive farming."

Alternatively, the Association seeks an exemption from the payment of a levy pursuant to Section 114 (10)(a) of the Natural Resources Management Act which says:

"The Minister may also grant a refund of, or an exemption from, the whole or part of a levy (or a component of a levy)-
(a) as a condition of a water management authorisation."

Even though a Water Licence and Water Allocation are personal property and can be traded this has very limited value to the Association because it does not own the land upon which the bores are situated, it does not operate as a commercial organisation and does not make a profit. It merely holds investments deemed by it to be sufficient to maintain the scheme and in the event of the Association being wound up its members are not entitled to the distribution of any surplus which must be distributed to another incorporated association with the same purpose or in accordance with an Order of the Supreme Court. Refer to Section 43 of the Associations Incorporation Act.(enclosed)

For your information, I enclose photocopies of:
1. The Rules of Bibaringa Water Incorporated;
2. Member's Agreement and;

3. Section 43 of the Associations Incorporation Act.

Please grant an exemption from payment of the levy and provide a written reply to this letter before our next meeting on 14 October 2015.

Yours faithfully,

Sandra Davies
Chairperson
Bibaringa Water Association Incorporated
PO Box 794
GAWLER SA 5118
Enc.

Received by DCW via letterbox 7/10/17

Government of South Australia
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Natural Resources Management Board

Our Ref: F0000110503

Eastwood Office
205 Greenhill Road
Eastwood SA 5063
Tel 08 8273 9100
Fax 08 8271 9585
ABN 91 779 541 621
www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au

21 September 2016

Mr John Sculfer
Chairperson
Bibaringa Water Association Incorporated
PO Box 794
GAWLER SA 5118

Dear Mr Sculfer,

RE: ADELAIDE & MOUNT LOFTY RANGES NRM WATER LEVY ENQUIRY

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August 2016 regarding the NRM Water Levy charged in relation to Water Licence 112872 in the Western Mount Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resources Area (WMLR PWRA).

The sustainable management of water resources within the WMLR PWRA is the responsibility of the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (the Board), and as I am sure you will agree, is a matter of significant importance due to the high value of primary production in the area as well as its contribution to the water supply for metropolitan Adelaide. The NRM Water Levy, payable by all water licence holders (other than those with Stock and/or Domestic water allocations only), contributes to this management.

In relation to your enquiry, I note your request for an exemption from the NRM Water Levy, under Section 101(13) or Section 114(10)(a) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. While a levy may not be imposed on water taken for Stock and/or Domestic purposes, the NRM Water Levy is charged on the 'right' to take water for irrigation or other commercial purposes.

I have been advised that although the water allocation issued on Water Licence 112872 is used by Bibaringa Water Association Incorporated members for stock and domestic purposes, each member is charged a one-off joining fee and an ongoing charge per kL of water provided. As such, this constitutes commercial water supply by Bibaringa Water Association Incorporated, as the holder of Water Licence 112872, and under these circumstances the Board is not in favour of endorsing an exemption from the requirement to pay the NRM Water Levy. It is therefore requested that payment is made for both the 2015/16 and 2016/17 NRM Water Levy invoices issued on behalf of Water Licence 112872.

I have been informed that should you wish to negotiate a payment plan, you may contact the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources water licensing team on 8463 6898. Thank you for your time in writing to me to clarify this issue.

Yours sincerely

Professor Chris Daniels
PRESIDING MEMBER

DRAFT

Received by DCW via Interlaxx 9/1/17

Addresses as appropriate.....

Photocopy

Bib. water Registered Member of Charities + Non-for-Profit.

* Service & fire points.

Dear Professor Daniels,

RE: Your letter to Bibaringa Water Association (BWA) dated 21 September 2016

The Water Licence (112872) was never originally requested by BWA and in fact we advised that we believed we were exempt before it was issued. It was issued by NRM staff "in case" it was needed. It is therefore of concern that you are now discussing "granting an exemption" to the licence when the act itself grants us an exemption and there should be no licence.

We understand your distinction between what we actually do and a "right" to take water for irrigation, however that "right" is also conferrable on any other water user who is currently exempt but chooses to take up irrigation, as such, it is a red-herring. Since we do not want the "right" to take water for irrigation etc., have repeatedly advised NRM staff of that fact, and require each member to sign to the effect that water will only be used for stock and domestic purposes we believe that we are exempt from licence requirements under the act (we are not "requesting an exemption" to the license). Consequently, while laudable, your statement "The NRM Water Levy, payable by all water licence holders (other than those with Stock and/or Domestic water allocations only) contributes to this management" is not relevant.

You state that we are a commercial enterprise on the basis that we charge a fee. The one-off joining fee is no different to each individual purchasing tanks and pipework and having them installed, and the ongoing charge per kilolitre is simply the equivalent of the cost of electricity for each individual to pump their own water. The "fee" is simply a recovery of the costs an individual would face anyway.

As you acknowledge in your letter, the water is used only for stock and domestic purposes which are exempt under the act, and since any "fees" would be payable by individual properties, the fact that they are collectively paid instead of individually paid does not make BWA a commercial enterprise. Additional facts which mitigate against BWA being a commercial enterprise include the fact that there are no paid staff, no offices and no "profits" from the enterprise.

PTO

Unless you can definitively show where in the act it defines a commercial water supplier as being relevant to BWA we will continue on the basis that not only are we exempt under the "spirit" of the legislation we are exempt under the wording of the legislation.

Please reconsider this matter and acknowledge the Association's exempt status under the wording of the legislation

Yours etc.....

1313

(*)

what was said in its letter to the Board dated 17 September 2015

The Association reiterates that it is an Incorporated Association. It has one object under paragraph 2 of its Rules which says

"2.1. The primary object of the association shall be to operate a water system to supply bore water to members in the absence of a mains supply.

(Refer to Rules enclosed in our letter of 17 September 2015)

2. It does not operate as a commercial organisation and does not make a profit.
3. It merely holds investments deemed sufficient by it to be sufficient to maintain the scheme.
4. In the event that it is wound up any surplus funds which must be distributed to another incorporated association with the same purpose. its members are not entitled

It further wishes to inform the Board that it has a listing as a Charities and Not-for-Profit organisation.

(Refer * (list number))

B. It performs a valuable community service by providing and maintaining eight (8) fire watering facilities.

(1) Draft revised by Deirdre Wood 11/1/17

Original received on Jan Dennis @ Jan 2017 meeting

Division 2—Levies in respect of water

100—Interpretation

(1) In this Division, unless the contrary intention appears—

accounting period means a financial year, or part of a financial year, in respect of which a levy is payable under this Division in accordance with a notice served under section 105;

consumption period in relation to an accounting period means a period of approximately the same length as the accounting period that commences or terminates during the accounting period and in respect of which the quantity of water taken is measured by meter readings;

imported water permit means a permit required under section 127(3)(e) with respect to the use of water in the circumstances described in section 127(5)(i);

to irrigate land includes to water land by any means for the purpose of growing any kind of plant or plants;

levy includes an instalment of a levy.

(2) For the purposes of this Division, water will be regarded as being allocated under the terms of a water access entitlement even if the right to the allocation is held by a person who is not the holder of the water licence.

101—Declaration of levies

(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, declare a levy or levies (a *water levy or levies*) payable by persons who—

(a) are the holders of any water management authorisation granted in relation to a water resource within a specified NRM region; or

(b) are the holders of imported water permits; or

(c) are authorised under section 128 to take water from a water resource within a specified NRM region; or

(d) are the holders of forest water licences granted in relation to commercial forests within a specified NRM region.

(2) A levy declared by the Minister under this section must be set at a level that will return an amount that is near as reasonably practicable to the amount stated in the relevant regional NRM plan as the amount to be raised by way of that particular water levy under this Division.

(3) A levy is not invalid because it raises more or less than the amount referred to in subsection (2).

(4) A regional NRM plan may include proposals for money raised through the imposition of a levy in 1 or more years to be expended in a subsequent year or years (and a levy may be declared on this basis).

(5) Without limiting the operation of any other subsection—

(a) levies under subsection (1)(a) may—

(i) in respect of a levy with respect to a water licence or water allocation—be declared with respect to 1 or both of the following:

(A) the right to an allocation of water under the terms of a water access entitlement or IWETS;

(B) the allocation of water under the terms of a water access entitlement or IWETS;

(ii) in respect of a levy with respect to a water resource works approval—be declared with respect to 1 or both of the following:

(A) the potential use of the relevant works for the purposes of taking water;

(B) the use of the relevant works for the purposes of taking water;

(iii) in respect of a levy with respect to a site use approval—be declared with respect to 1 or both of the following:

(A) the right to use water;

(B) the use of water; and

(b) levies under subsection (1)(c) may be declared with respect to 1 or both of the following:

(i) the right to take water;

(ii) the water taken.

(5a) Levies may be declared, applied or imposed even if water is yet to be made available under the terms of a water access entitlement or IWETS.

(6) A levy may comprise of 1 or more components based on 1 or more of the following factors (in any combination):

(a) a fixed charge;

(b) the quantity of water allocated;

(c) the quantity of water received or taken;

(d) the quantity of water passing through any works;

(e) the size, type or capacity of any works;

(f) the quantity of water used;

(g) the share of the water that makes up the relevant water resource;

(h) the area of land where water may be used, or the area of land where water is used;

(i) the effect that taking or using water has, or may have, on the environment, or some other effect or impact that, in the opinion of the Minister, is relevant and that is capable of being determined, measured or applied.

(6a) A quantity of water may be determined according to a unit, percentage, volume or proportion of water.

(7) Without limiting subsection (6)(i), in the case of the River Murray, a factor on which a levy may be based is the effect that the use of water may have on salinity levels associated with the River Murray.

(8) Different levies may be declared in respect of the same water resource based on 1 or more of the following factors:

(a) the part of the water resource from which the water may be, or is, taken;

(b) the place or location where the water may be, or is, used;

(c) the purpose for which the water may be, or is, used;

(d) the manner in which the water may be, or is, used;

(e) when the right to take or use the water was granted;

(f) any other factor prescribed by the regulations.

(9) For the purposes of subsection (6) or (7), the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, determine a method or methods by which the effect that the taking or using of water is having may be determined, measured or used.

(11) The Minister may, in declaring a levy, fix a minimum amount payable by way of a levy under this section (despite a preceding subsection).

(12) If a levy that relates to the River Murray has a component based on the effect that the use of water may have on salinity levels associated with the River Murray, money raised from the levy that is attributable to that component must be applied towards reducing salinity levels associated with the River Murray.

(13) A levy cannot be imposed under this section with respect to the taking of water for domestic purposes or for watering stock that are not subject to intensive farming.

(14) A notice under subsection (1)—

(a) has effect in relation to the financial year specified in the notice; and

(b) subject to subsection (15), must be published in the Gazette on or before the first day of that year.

(15) A notice under subsection (1) with respect to a watercourse, lake or well, or surface water taken from a particular area of the State, may be published in the Gazette within 1 month after the watercourse, lake or well became a prescribed watercourse, lake or well or the area became a surface water prescribed area.

103—Special purpose water levy

(1) If, in the opinion of the Minister—

(a) it is necessary or desirable to raise money for a particular purpose related—

(i) to the management of a prescribed water resource; or

(ii) to the management of any effect that the taking or using of water may have; or

(iii) to the restoration or rehabilitation of any part of the natural resources of the State, on account of the taking or using of water; and

From: Landscape Reform
Sent: Tuesday, 11 September, 2018 11:46 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Email Submission - Coast and Marine emphasis [redacted]

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Ecomarketing
Sent: Tuesday, 21 August, 2018 3:53 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: Coast and Marine emphasis

Please accept this as comments in regards to the current NRM review process.

I did attend a community forum recently held at McLaren Vale, however, thought it was worthy to also forward my thoughts on issues particularly associated with the coast and marine environment.

I was previously a member on the NRM Board's CEMAC (Coast Estuarine and Marine Advisory Committee) where I represented general community views. I was a 'final filter' and ensured anything proposed of a scientific nature, etc, could be understood by the community - if I could, we surmised they could!

Much of the discussions when the NRM process was reviewed whilst CEMAC was still in place, and I get the feeling similarly with this review, focused strongly on terrestrial issues and not on the effects of what happens up in the catchment, impacts in many cases negatively on the coast and marine environment.

Of all NRM regions proposed, only one does not have a geographic boundary that includes the coast.

I strongly suggest that the coast and marine environment carries as much weight in regards to this review as any other cultural, economic, evironmental, coomercial, industrial, agricultural, tourist, etc, etc element within all regions.

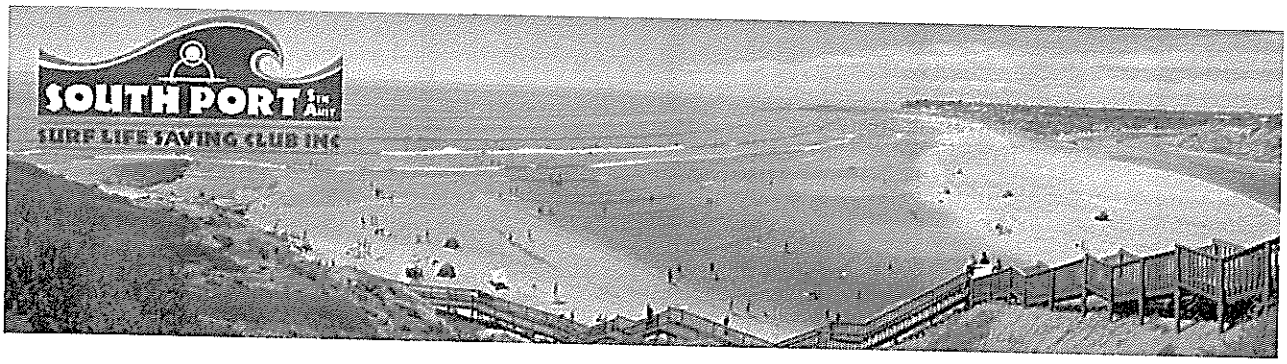
As the Surf Life Saving Club I represent, South Port, is at the end of the Onkaparinga River, rest assured our community is the first to be affected by what happens up catchment!

I'll leave it in your collective most capable hands and look forward to more than just sand replenishment being part of what this government contributes to protection and enhancement of the marine and coastal environment.

Regards Dick

Richard Olesinski OAM

Club President



Also representing the South Port Noarlunga Coastcare group, Surf Life Saving SA ECOSurf Working Party and Mid Coast Surfing Reserve Steering Committee

Coast Protection Board submission on Natural Resources Management reform (Landscape SA), September 2018.

Shortcomings and issues with the NRM system

- The localism of the old district arrangements for soils and pest plants and animals were lost and not regained by the regional arrangements.
- The integration of regional staff from boards and government, driven by budget constraints, was seen as a government takeover – the sentiment was partly driven by board and board-staff ownership and a reluctance to embrace a different arrangement.
- Farmers felt that they had lost traditional services when NRM was created. Coincidently, the state was withdrawing from its agricultural extension services.
- The planning and accountability arrangements were overly bureaucratic and difficult to navigate and understand.
- Loss of funding was attributed to NRM even though this was a government budget choice.
- The city-country divide was seen to be exaggerated by the NRM arrangements.
- Local government opposition to the levy promoted discord and antagonism.
- Not enough emphasis was given to the provision of extension staff at the local or district level.
- Some NR functions have not been integrated into the NRM model.

Not all of the complaints and concerns are attributable to the NRM arrangements and not all of these shortcomings are universal. Some relate to shifts in government policy – governments no longer funding agricultural production extension activities and other services now seen for private rather than public good. Some are attributable to local circumstance. The reduction in funding to natural resource management at both a state and Commonwealth level is independent of NRM arrangements. The broader cultural issue of city-rural division is driven by many factors and this plays out in an antagonism towards government generally.

Strengths of the NRM system

- Has operated for 14 years and slowly improved over time.
- Board members are generally respected and trusted in their communities.
- There are many practical achievements and successes.
- Water planning has progressed, and difficult water resource management issues tackled.
- The system has been accountable in terms of money spent and work done.
- Integrated NR planning provides the basis to make choices and set priorities.
- Unlike most other government services, a distributed staff presence has been maintained against many pressures.

There has been much to be positive about in the NRM system despite the bad press it has received over time. The challenge will be to retain the good and confront the shortcomings in the new arrangements.

Coastal Protection considerations in the new model

When NRM was established in 2004, a decision was made to retain the *Coast Protection Act 1972* and to continue with a centralised Coast Protection Board. To begin with, NRM boards were preoccupied with establishment and other issues of priority. However, over time NRM boards began to integrate coastal management into their planning and recognised the special role of the Coast Protection Board. This arrangement has worked reasonably well with NRM Boards working with local government on coastal management issues and jointly funding works. The Coast Protection Board, in concert with the department, has been able to fulfil a leadership role with policy advice, specialised technical support and expertise, and providing strategic leadership on state-wide issues.

In a resource-constrained environment there is no room for duplication or overlap in function. Clarity of role and responsibility are essential. As the new Landscape model evolves there is a strong argument to retain the best features of the old and fashion them into the new.

It is hard to see an alternative to having centralised state-wide coastal management policy and technical capacity. A board may not be essential although there is considerable value in a single-focus authority that has a degree of independence from the departmental bureaucracy of government. Green Adelaide could be given the Coast Protection Board role, but it is additional to its metropolitan focus and inevitably will be an add-on rather than the first priority. Green Adelaide as it proposed could take on a metropolitan coastal coordination role for integrating coastal management across Councils, but the highly technical domain of sand management should be left to a government agency with the required expertise, support and direct line to a Minister.

As the Landscape model develops, one could expect all coastal landscape boards to have a coastal dimension but not to the same degree as Green Adelaide where metropolitan beaches are a much more significant part of the community landscape. The relationship with local government is crucial for many reasons not the least being that councils often have care and control of many coastal reserves.

To conclude, there is a very strong argument to retain a centralised technical and policy capacity that covers the entire state and supports the new Landscape arrangements. There is also a sound basis to continue with a centralised coastal authority. It does not need to be the Coast Protection Board but there does need to be an authority that has those functions as a primary emphasis.

From: Chris Grant
Sent: Monday, 8 October, 2018 4:37 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Subject: NRM reform

Dear Landscape Reform Team

I would like to offer the following comments on the proposed NRM changes.

The proposed new legislation is likely to be a variation on the current NRM legislation. Many of the proposed objectives under the Landscape legislation could be simply achieved through amendment of the NRM Act rather than completely new legislation. Clearly what is needed before completely discarding the existing legislation is an assessment of the short-comings/successes of the current legislation. This would identify what has worked and should be maintained and what needs to be improved upon. The Discussion Paper doesn't provide evidence that this type of assessment has been undertaken.

Some of the successes and short-comings immediately apparent are:

- Successes
  - Integrated approach to management of soils, water and biodiversity;
  - Long-term planning;
  - Community input through NRM Groups (although more successful in some regions than others);
  - Increased funding through levies.
- Short-comings
  - NRM structures became far too enmeshed with the Department;
  - NRM regional plans and investment strategies seemed to be too general to give the community a clear indication of any project/funding priorities;
  - Far too little funding/prioritisation of resources trickled down to **on-ground works;**
  - Departure from "triple bottom line" objectives (social, environmental and economic) with environmental aspects ignored;
  - **Compliance** for landholders failing to control weeds has been very poor. This include land such as roadsides and DEW land. This weakens considerably the effectiveness of weed control programs and disillusions the "good" land managers.

It cannot be stated strongly enough how central on-ground works are to combat threats such as animal and plant pests. Importantly there should be landholder and community engagement/ownership of such on-ground activities. The proposed Landscape programs should seek to increase funding in on-ground activities, increase compliance work which has been neglected and get NRM staff out of offices and into the field.

It is true that landscape-scale approaches are needed. However, landscape-scale programs dissipated amongst a myriad of small-scale projects undertaken by separate volunteer groups/landholders is not truly "landscape scale". There needs to be a process to guide, coordinate and support small-scale projects that contribute to landscape-scale outcomes, and ensure the various groups are working efficiently and consistently.

Landscape-scale approaches are essential in terms of tackling the high degree of ecosystem fragmentation that exists over much of the agricultural areas of South Australia. Many of the State's

native vegetation remnants will progressively lose much of their biodiversity over time unless they are linked and/or expanded through revegetation programs.

The current NRM model is partly based on the concept of a regional board with responsibility for policy overview and development and overall program and investment planning, and sub-regional / district NRM groups that have a strong community focus and have close links with on-ground works. I think this is a good model and the sub-regional / district group approach can be an effective mechanism for community involvement – although in some regions there does not appear to have been enough effort to support these groups and to maximise their effectiveness. These sub-regional, community-based groups should be well placed to link and collaborate with local voluntary landcare / bushcare groups. I don't think the Discussion Paper clarifies what sub-regional structures might exist under the new arrangements but the current NRM group processes do have the potential to enhance community involvement.

Triple bottom line principles – meshing social, environmental and economic objectives – should be a fundamental basis for NRM / landscape programs. As mentioned above, there was a departure from this – with a focus on mostly economic considerations, and secondary attention to social and then environmental poorly represented. This imbalance needs to be corrected and environmental considerations should be paramount – without a healthy environment, social and economic objectives will suffer in the longer term.

While the focus on community engagement in landscape programs is valuable, decisions about program priorities by a community based board may tend to be subjective. Processes will need to be carefully managed to ensure that programs are **evidence-based** and informed by adequate scientific analysis. Accordingly, while the regional landscape boards may be at "arm's length" from government agencies and possibly research bodies, there will need to be good communication channels to foster information flow.

Historically, it has always proven difficult to strike the appropriate balance between regulation / enforcement and cooperation / encouragement (in other words, "stick and carrot") in dealing with landholders who have not complied with their land management responsibilities. As a general rule, it is considered that enforcement should be the responsibility of the relevant government agency rather than a regional landscape board and its staff.

The current NRM program has generally embraced the principle that levies collected in a region are used in that region. This seems fair at face value but arguably has disadvantaged some of the less populous regions. The concept of a Statewide Landscape Priorities Fund is supported has it may help to address the levy funding imbalance for iconic areas with a low population base.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide input.

Kind Regards,

Chris Grant
Natural Heritage Manager

E cgrant@nationaltrustsa.org.au
T
M
W nationaltrust.org.au/sa

631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont SA 5066

NATIONAL TRUST
South Australia

9th October 2018

Submission: Landscape Reform
Authors: Emily Jenke, CoCEO democracyCo

Dear Minister,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Landscape Reform currently underway. This submission has a specific focus on Board membership, and primarily how Board members are selected.

As you know, I have expertise and a vast amount of experience in governance approaches – both as a board member on various public and private boards, and also as a consequence of the work that I do.

Over the last 15-20 years, I have been a part of, and/or intimately known various board models. Plus, my expertise and role as a facilitator means that I know how groups work – intimately.

The work that I do, at its heart, is about allowing diverse perspectives, views and contributions to decision making and policy making. The reason I have built a business which centres on this philosophy has two origins – I know that diversity results in sound decision making. People make better decisions when they can see across all corners of an issue, and can understand the impacts and implications on all parts of a community. The second, and arguably the most personal driver for me in ensuring diversity – is one of trust. Put simply, people don't trust decisions which are made by 'elites' (those who have elite access to resources, power and people).

In 2018, trust in Australia continues to decline across all four key institutions: media, business, government and NGOs. This has resulted with Australia sitting just four percentage points above the world's least trusting country, Russia.[1]

I understand your commitments around the election of board members proposes 2 ways members can be appointed: One is appointment by you, and the other is election by communities. As you already know, I believe this model is inherently flawed and will lead to significant unintended consequences.

[1] https://www.edelman.com/post/australia-trust-in-tumult

The problem of equity

Having worked with groups as a facilitator for 25 years, I know that when a group comes together from inequitable 'sources', that inequity plagues them from the outset. Overtime, divisions and factions can start to appear – with people fighting in the corner of their issue or their mandate. Power plays emerge, splits appear and focus shifts from the role of the group (and its purpose) to who has the greatest say.

Your proposal to appoint some members through a process that you undertake and another through a community election will create an imbalance, and an inequity inside the board room. This will result in ongoing tension. Some members will believe they have a more powerful mandate as they have been appointed directly by the Minister. The others, elected by the community will (perhaps fairly) believe that their mandate and authority supersedes the Ministers' – as they have been elected by their community, and chosen to 'represent' the views of the community. This will ultimately become an issue the Board Chair will need to resolve – and from that resolution there will be winners and losers. It will almost surely cause unresolvable differences around the board table – which can lead to a spiral of resentment, deep frustration and ultimately in some cases, resignations.

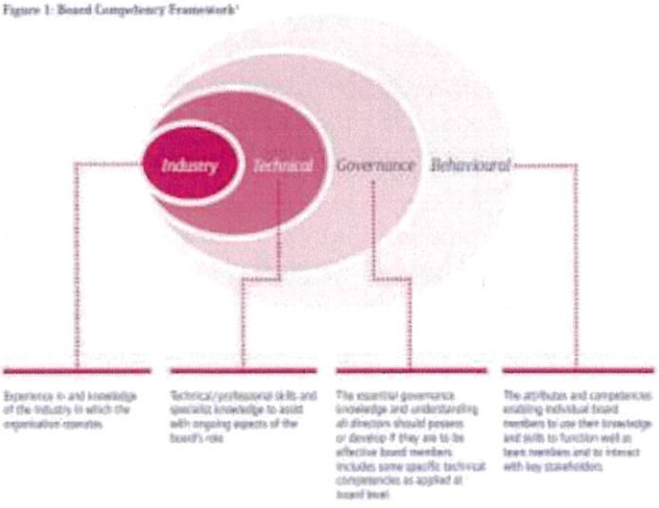
This undermines the role and purpose of the Landscapes Board – which is to *"facilitate effective management of natural resources, working in partnership with primary producers, conservation organisations, Aboriginal nations, Councils and Government Agencies".*

This also does nothing to improve the current lack of trust in boards and government structures – and in fact feeds it. Knowing how groups work, and knowing the power of equitable 'recruitment' of groups, I believe there is a better way, which I outline further in this submission.

A note on board composition

"Having the appropriate mix of competencies for a board to undertake its role is seen as the most important requirement of a modern board. In short, a board without the mix of competencies required to fulfil its task is a board which is bound to fail."[2]

Figure 1: Board Competency Framework[3]



[2] Australian Institute of Company Directors, Board Composition Framework

[3] Kiel G, Nicholson G, Tunny J A and Beck J, *Directors at Work: A Practical Guide for Boards*, Thomson Reuters Australia, 2012.

Cost and Participation in the election process

I am concerned about the cost and participation of the community in the proposed model which includes an election process. Who will pay for these community elections, where will the money come from and how much will they cost? And is this an acceptable investment of resources which should otherwise be focussed on pursuing environmental outcomes? As you would have seen globally, elections are becoming more contested, more divisive and the pursuit of power is seen by the public as being irrelevant and out of touch. Elections are about winners and losers. My understanding of your intentions of this new Landscape Act is to promote community, connection and fairness and the proposed election process undermines this.

In terms of participation, I am curious as to who will participate in these elections, who will vote? Given they will be voluntary, the answer is simple – those who have an interest. Regardless of the type of interest voters have, this will most certainly skew the outcomes, and will result in people being elected on the back of a position or agenda.

The model you are proposing, on its surface, seems to mirror local government elections – and I would implore you to observe, deeply observe, the community response to the elections currently underway. I see people jostling for power and control – wanting to be elected on a platform of change. We also know that everyday people don't care – they are apathetic & frustrated.

The environment is bigger than all of us. It requires board members who have their focus on the long term. It needs people who can rise above petty politics – and make brave and courageous decisions based on science and a collaborative view of what's best for the landscape of South Australia and its people.

So, is there a better way...?

Minister, when you worked in Government you and I spent many hours and days together running *Better Together* training for the public service for over 2 years. During that time, we told the story of the electorate of Indi – and how the community process for selection of their Federal MP changed politics in that electorate and modelled a better way. Since then, countless other communities and electorates have adopted this best practice model.

Below I will suggest the following four changes to the proposed election model:

- All members are appointed for their skills, not their popularity
- The Chair is appointed by the Minister
- A state-wide landscapes assembly or commission is convened and meets bi-monthly
- Bi-partisan endorsement for the appointment of all members, including the Chair

All members appointed for their skills, not their popularity
Inspired by the 'Voice for Indi' approach, I would like to put forward an alternative model for appointment of Board members. As you have repeatedly said before your promotion to Cabinet and since, you want to have 'locals making local decisions'.

As a previous NRM Board member for 8 years, I know the complexity and the importance of the decisions we made – and the skills we needed to make them.

As a shortlist, the skills a Landscape Board needs included leadership, negotiation, collaboration, EQ and IQ, analytical, creative, interpretive and strategic. The work is complex and requires nuanced approaches to ensure that money is invested in the right things, in the right way and to achieve the right outcomes. Our staff look to Boards for direction, leadership and support – and our environment requires that we undertake this role with a generational perspective. Achieving the right skill balance and makeup in a Board, is perhaps the most critical and fundamentally important outcome of this reform process, and of the new Landscapes SA Act.

"There is no room for passengers in the boardroom ... The board should have the self-awareness to look for and recognise groupthink and then find a way to address this."[4]

As I have also said, the proposed model of electing board members through two tracks is fundamentally flawed, so I suggest the following.

- **EOI Taskforce**: A diverse blend of stakeholders (relevant / peak stakeholders) & community members from all regions is convened to undertake the preparatory work to develop an expression of interest brief that defines the skills required for Board members and Board chairs and outlines the selection criteria. I suggest that the CE of the relevant departments and the Minister (you) and your shadow counterpart also sit on this group and work with it to undertake this work. Together, the Taskforce creates and agrees on the EOI document.
- The EOI document is released to the public, and **nominations requested**.
- **Regional Appointment Taskforce**: a selection taskforce is convened to assess nominations and provide recommendations to the Minister (you). For transparency, it is suggested that one taskforce is established for each Region. It would include regional stakeholders plus people (stakeholders or community) from an outside region with no previous involvement in NRM to ensure that appointments are based on the best, most suitable candidates (ie those which meet the criteria developed in the EOI). I suggest that this appointment taskforce has authority to recommend for appointment all members (except the Chair), and that the relevant agency (Department of Environment and Water) has no role in the appointment process. Upon completion of their process, the Appointment Taskforce would provide recommendations to you. If you are not willing to accept any of their nominees, you must explain why, and it must only be based on suitability against the criteria. In this

[4] Australian Institute of Company Directors

case, you would direct the Appointment Taskforce to recommend an alternative candidate.
- The **Minister** announces appointments.

The process outlined above, is designed to be used as the inaugural appointment process. The EOI document should be reviewed every 2 years to ensure it reflects the changing needs of Landscape Boards and adopts best practice governance. This review should include the development of a Board Skills Matrix to assess the suitability of board members around the board table. To do this the EOI Taskforce should be reconvened for a single day meeting.

If, during their tenure, a Board Member resigns or is removed from a Board (ie for misconduct etc), candidates would nominate as per the current EOI and an Appointment Taskforce (using a blend of existing Board members and regional stakeholders, including from other regions) would be convened to select a replacement.

Chair appointed by the Minister

The role of Chair is one which requires specific skills, expertise and most importantly strong working relationships with the government of the day.

In line with the process outlined above to select Board members I recommend:
- The EOI Taskforce would also develop an EOI for Board Chairs – outlining the criteria required for such a role.
- This EOI document is released to the public, and nominations requested.
- The EOI Taskforce would meet to recommend appropriate candidates – focussing on the Chairs of each Board and aiming to achieve a good balance of skills and expertise across all Chairs.
- The Minister receives nominations and in collaboration with the Ministerial shadow, appoints Board Chairs according to criteria listed in the EOI.

Landscapes Assembly/Commission

For a true Landscape approach, some decisions need to be made with a landscape in mind – in a way that elevates the decision above and beyond a regional boundary. Landscapes do not stop and start at boundaries which are adopted by governments – birds, fish, flora and pests traverse boundaries – so it's vital that the Boards you appoint have the ability to connect their work to a whole of Landscape, whole of state, approach.

Being the Presiding Member of the SA Native Vegetation Council, one of two 'state-wide' environmental boards, I understand perhaps more than anyone the importance of being able to plan Landscape outcomes, monitor change, and set policy direction at a whole of state level.

My role, as Presiding Member of NVC is a lonely one – being the only Board with a whole of state environmental mandate. In the absence of the old 'NRM Council', we try to ensure that our policy achieves NRM outcomes, however we can only operate within the bounds of our Act. For critical environmental issues such as water management/environmental flows,

flora and fauna protection, soils improvement and pest plant and animal reduction to be truly addressed, policy making must happen at both a regional and a state scale. (In fact I would argue that it also needs to happen at a national scale, but that's for another day!).

It is recommended that a state forum, comprising of all Landscapes SA chairs, plus chairs of other relevant boards (PPSA, CCSA, LGA SA, Aboriginal peak body, Native Vegetation Council) and senior Environmental Academics is constituted and has the imprimatur to oversee the state landscape health (monitor and evaluate), oversee the new Landscapes SA Act, forge new & required state policy directions, assess the appropriateness of the state's environment legislative frameworks (and suggest improvements / changes to government), and ensure strategic alignment of environmental / landscape work across government (ie Planning and Population initiatives).

Bi-partisan support for all members, including the Chair

To truly rise above the issue of trust and integrity, I would suggest that appointments of Landscape SA Board members and Chairs be a collaborative decision between the Government and Opposition – much like the appointments of Board Members to the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

A bi-partisan decision that strikes the right balance and ensures that the governance of regional budgets is trusted and sustainable. The community are frustrated and exasperated at political game playing, as you know. While difference on the political landscape is vital to our democracy, the community need to see its politicians, regardless of their party preferences, working together to achieve what's best for communities. Communities and people who live in them do not think in a 4 year cycle and do not view the world through a blue or red lens.

I know that your personal aspirations are to improve the way people view our democracy – and by extending a hand to work together with your parliamentary colleagues in this way will signal a new approach, and not only improve your standing in the public eye, but contribute to a new normal.

Summary

Minister, the process you are undertaking to reform the existing NRM system is brave and important. Supporting it with a well-functioning and transparent governance system is vital to its success.

You have an opportunity to leave a legacy that contributes to the health of regions by creating a structure that supports communities to excel at good governance. To truly trust the skills and capability of community members to make strategically sensible and scientifically informed decisions for their Landscapes, you need to find a way to put together boards that are equitable, workable and productive – and most importantly skilled in the right way to undertake the task at hand.

I am excited about the opportunity this reform offers to the sector. Getting the composition of Boards right will contribute to the success of this reform and the legacy it leaves our state.

Regards,



Emily Jenke
CoCEO democracyCo

Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

15 October 2018

Managing Our Landscapes - Discussion Paper | July 2018
Conversations for Change

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA)

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects SA Chapter (AILA SA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed natural resources management reform process. We have reviewed the Managing Our Landscapes Discussion Paper, the Summary of the Discussion Paper and the Frequently Asked Questions documents and offer the following comments and advice.

About AILA

AILA SA is the local chapter representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, the growing national advocacy body representing just under 4,000 active and engaged landscape architects across the country. We are committed to creating a better Australia that acknowledges the benefits that natural systems can provide for our physical and mental health.

Landscape architects have the skills and expertise to resolve a diverse range of complex issues with innovative, integrated solutions demonstrated in many award-winning projects across Australia.

We can contribute leadership, creativity and innovation as landscape architects collaborate with many varied disciplines and stakeholders striving to achieve better, healthier environmental, social and economic outcomes for the built environment. Projects include varying scales from citywide strategies to the redesign of local parks. Landscape architects within government and in private practice work alongside other government and allied professionals in building stronger communities through making places and spaces more sustainable, productive and enjoyable for all.

Introduction

AILA SA offers our support for the reform of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) structure and the introduction of a new Landscape South Australia Bill into Parliament in the first quarter of 2019. We acknowledge the great work that the NRM Boards have done in the past and see this reform process as a chance to consolidate and reset the direction for natural resource management in South Australia. In addition, the reform offers the opportunity to reduce red tape in administrative functions, whilst preserving the core values and services established by the NRM Act.

In particular we acknowledge the NRM's broader advocacy and educational role in natural resource management to the broader community and to schools. We anticipate this function will not be lost in this reform process.

AILA SA strongly supports putting communities and people central to managing the natural resources of their region.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – SA CHAPTER
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We understand the legislative reform will focus on establishing nine Landscape Boards across the State plus Green Adelaide to deliver metropolitan functions, and that practical programs and on ground works are envisaged to be delivered within the existing NRM resources structure. We support this and acknowledge the need for a state-wide strategic plan to sit above these practical programs to ensure the works are coordinated under an overall vision with direction and targets over time.

DETAILED RESPONSE

Whole of Landscape Approach

We support the acknowledgement that natural systems are not limited by arbitrary local government jurisdictions and use the example of the River Torrens for which cohesive approach is required across local government boundaries for its ongoing management and enhancement in the future. This "whole of landscape" approach is something that landscape architects understand and apply in their day to day projects balancing the capabilities of a site against how people use it or intend to use it and the greater context in which the site sits. Landscape architects are uniquely placed to operate across the built and natural landscape and hold positions in Local and State Government as well as in private practice.

Aims of reform

We support the 3 aims of this reform:

- Vibrant biodiversity
- Sustainable Economy
- Resilient communities

AILA SA is particularly excited by the prospect of Green Adelaide working towards Adelaide being ***"the most ecologically vibrant city in the world"*** but want to understand the assumptions and metrics which sit behind this statement. We believe this needs evidencing with data, a baseline and with targets to be delivered on over time.

We see aspirational parallels with SA Health in relation to resilient communities and believe a cross government approach should be taken to meeting this aim. There is increased focus too on the health and wellbeing of people in the planning reform process, in particular a focus on wellbeing of people in our communities and a connection to green open space. AILA advocates that Government policy must quantify and qualify the development of green open space that focuses on the health of our communities. Landscape architects are uniquely positioned to provide essential input into planning and design of quality open spaces. Whether it be early input into broad scale planning or the detail of specific sites, landscape architects can provide an integrated, holistic approach to the planning, design and development of successful, healthy communities.

Australian Institute of
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For your information, AILA SA has been pleased to co-sponsor (along with DPTI and ODASA) the *Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) - Public Open Space Action Plan* as part of the HPHP Framework. A collaboration between Department of Health and Ageing and Department of Environment and Water. More on this will be announced in the coming months and we welcome the opportunity to share this information with the Department at an appropriate time.

AILA SA looks forward to continuing to work with the State Government to develop appropriate policy change and new program directions that relate to the natural resources management reform.

Importance of Climate Change

AILA SA notes that Climate change is inferred but not strongly referenced in these aims and we believe this is an oversight which needs amending. Climate change mitigation / adaptation techniques should be considered in the objectives of this document and should be targets.

We see parallels with the current DPTI Planning Reform process and the targets set in the State Planning Policies (SPP) - particularly SPP 4: Biodiversity and SPP 5: Climate Change. We recommend meeting with the DPTI Planning Reform team to leverage opportunities for both agencies to the benefit of the community.

More people are choosing to live in cities and built up areas for employment, education and lifestyle opportunities. Increasingly, Landscape Architects are taking leading roles locally and nationally in the planning and redevelopment of urban and regional areas as well as major infrastructure projects. The liveability of cities, towns and suburbs will determine their long term economic success and resilience. Landscape Architects are champions for liveable cities, in particular through the professional respect of place and increasingly the integration of green infrastructure in advancing climate change adaption and mitigation.

AILA recommends that Climate Change mitigation / adaptation is given greater recognition as a critical element to the sustainability of cities, towns and suburbs and managing our landscapes.

Green Adelaide

AILA SA is particularly interested in Green Adelaide's 7 key priorities and note the work of landscape architects in designing and delivering projects directly related to the priorities, including urban rivers and wetlands, water sensitive urban design and green streets. We look forward to seeing the separate discussion paper on Green Adelaide when it is developed and providing feedback.

Landscape Boards

We suggest that landscape architects be included as participants on the Boards that are to be created. We have a strong understanding of natural systems and indigenous vegetation. We apply a tailored approach to development in sensitive areas balancing environment, culture and economics.

Landscape Architects conceive, reimagine and transform the outside world from streetscapes to parks and playgrounds, transport solutions to tourism strategies, new suburbs and even cities.

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Landscape architects shape project outcomes in a variety of ways by bringing a critical eye to the potential opportunities and constraints of a place, site, or landscape. Landscape Architects bring together other disciplines, in an integrated way to generate improved confidence in decision making relating to the built environment and planning. Landscape Architects lead design for the environment and people of all ages and cultures.

Finally, AILA SA supports the 5 year landscape plans for 9 boards. We recommend these need to be aligned with 30 Year Plan for Adelaide. They should also be aligned with a broader strategy, refer to the Green Infrastructure strategy below for more detail.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Green Infrastructure is defined by AILA as "the network of natural landscape assets, which underpin and provide for the economic, socio-cultural and environmental functionality of our cities and towns." Green Infrastructure, when planned well and integrated into the public realm can contribute to improving the comfort, quality and health of the city and its residents.

Urban heat is increasing during the days and nights as we lose local tree canopy cover and replace open green space with urban infill and increased paved surfaces. Rising urban heat directly impacts on the annual cost of living for local communities and at times of extreme heat can have fatal effects on the youngest, eldest and sickest in our society.

Green Infrastructure initiatives can include green roofs and walls, street trees and tree planting, greener open-space design and rain gardens, and can protect the community against the potentially life-threatening effects of flooding, excessive heat (urban heat island impact) and other climatic variables. It supports biodiversity and provides the critical connections within and between ecosystems. It is also considered a more efficient and effective means of managing stormwater, when compared with traditional grey infrastructure solutions.

We call for the Department for Environment and Water to prepare a green infrastructure strategy in collaboration with Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. The green infrastructure strategy should set the direction for broader regional landscape management and restoration in SA. Additionally, the green infrastructure strategy should inform the strategic landscape scale projects and the 5-year landscape plans being contemplated for each of the 9 Boards. From a land use perspective, it should articulate how and where green public open space should be provided in the future – building on the former Metropolitan Open Space System and documenting existing assets and planning status. The green infrastructure strategy should direct investment in development, infrastructure and open space and align the upgrade of existing public open space with targeted areas of infill development in our suburbs. It should also serve as a baseline for understanding our tree canopy asset and how resources can be best spent to meet our tree canopy targets to mitigate climate change. We refer to the NSW Draft Green Infrastructure Policy (Greener Places: Establishing an Urban Green Infrastructure Policy for NSW) which has been led by the NSW Government Architect as a benchmark document.

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Indigenous Recognition

AILA SA believes it is critical that Aboriginal people take a leading role in managing natural resources in our State. AILA has recently launched a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrating our commitment to creating an inclusive and diverse profession by encouraging and supporting our members to expand their cultural awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Click Here to read. AILA strongly supports indigenous people being recognised in the governance and planning processes, given their extensive history and connection to the land and their sustainable management practices honed over thousands of years.

Indigenous knowledge and ongoing cultural practice has much to offer other policies in development of mutually respectful and evolving processes for assessment and development of policy interpretation and outcomes. Cultural understanding will benefit our entire community and have a positive impact on the liveability of our city.

We note boundaries may shift in recognition of Aboriginal country boundaries which is great step forward towards reconciliation. An approach likely to be complimentary could be simultaneously considered and mapped based on natural systems, climate, topography, rainfall, landscape character and land use / industry.

AILA SA offers some other commentary based on our review:

1. We acknowledge the grassroots approach as desirable but it still requires a strategic lens for consistency, efficiencies and sharing of knowledge. We support the Grassroots Grants program as a means of delivering ready to go initiatives of environmental significance – revegetation, WSUD projects, urban heat island mitigation
2. We support the notion of levies being spent in the region from which they are collected except where other urgent priorities may be needed.
3. More could be done to support nature-based tourism and the economic opportunities this presents. We note that this needs to be developed and maintained in a sensitive manner.
4. Are there other opportunities to open up more green open spaces to the public for recreation and increased health and wellbeing outcomes?
5. Generally, the recreational use of landscapes / national parks for hiking, walking, riding and the physical (and mental) health connections need reinforcing in the discussion paper.

We look forward to ongoing involvement in the development of the Landscape South Australia Act and all the related work as part of this new direction. We are also very interested to learn more about Green Adelaide as this is developed.

Please contact me if you have any questions by email - sally.bolton@aila.org.au if you require any additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

Sally Bolton

Sally Bolton
AILA SA Chapter Manager on behalf AILA SA Executive

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THE ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

http://effectivevoting.wordpress.com/

President:
Mr Graham Pratt

Secretary:
Mr Deane Crabb

[redacted]

Email: [redacted]

En [redacted]

11 October 2018

Becky Hirst
Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Becky

The Electoral Reform Society of SA wishes to comment on the proposal to elect community members to the Landscape Boards.

If there are to be three elected to each Board, then it is essential that these are elected from across the whole of each region and definitely not subregions. The dividing of a region into subregions will create divisions in an otherwise supposedly united area. By electing from across the whole of each region, this means that all those eligible to vote have the same choice of candidates and will maximise the number of voters who find their votes actually electing the representatives of their choice.

Proportional representation should be used to elect the three community members, and while not perfect, for consistency the method of counting votes in local government elections should be used. This needs to be stipulated in the new Act.

Regardless of whether it is only levy payers or all residents who are eligible to vote, voting definitely should be voluntary.

Yours sincerely

Deane Crabb

ACS
Australian Coastal Society Ltd

11 October 2018

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Re: Discussion Paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change*

This submission is on behalf of the South Australian branch of the *Australian Coastal Society Ltd*, which is a national 'not for profit' organisation dedicated to healthy coastal ecosystems, vibrant coastal communities and sustainable use of coastal resources.

The SA Government's discussion paper *Managing our Landscapes: Conversations for Change* (July 2018) defines 'landscapes' in broad terms but appears to move away from a holistic approach to natural resource management. For example, under the paper's objectives it refers to landscapes as natural systems including;

the soil, water, plants and animals that make up our rivers, forests and hills, coasts and seas (page 6)

and later in the paper under 'stewardship priorities' it says that our landscapes comprise features such as;

our coastline, trees and wildlife (page 25).

These statements refer to our coast and seas as part of our natural resources but the discussion paper then makes no mention of the more than 5,500 km of the state's non-metropolitan coastal resources. The only reference to the coast in the paper is for the metropolitan division of 'Green Adelaide' where coastal management is one of seven priorities.

The previous *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* had underlying principles of ecologically sustainable development and integrated management which gave the Natural Resource Management Boards scope to produce some excellent plans for stewardship of coastal and marine resources across the entire state. These were achieved with support from the state's Coast Protection Board, which has responsibilities for the whole of the state's coast. The paper (page 28) discusses exploring future interactions between the proposed landscapes legislation and related legislation such as the *Coast Protection Act 1972*. It is important for any such considerations to maintain the important state-wide remit for the Board.

Minister Speir's foreword to the discussion paper comments that;

Our state does not come to a halt at the Tollgate, at Gepps Cross or the bottom of Anzac Highway

This sentiment is not reflected in the paper which gives the impression that our state does indeed 'come to a halt' when considering non-metropolitan coastal and marine resources. Minister Speir makes it clear that the emphasis for the new legislation is on 'soil quality, water management and pest and animal control' rather than integrated natural resource management. Such a restrictive approach does not allow scope for proper stewardship of coastal and marine resources.

Yours sincerely

Professor Nick Harvey
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15th October, 2018

Independent Facilitator Landscape Reform,
GPO Box 1047,
Adelaide SA 5001

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Management of Natural Resources in South Australia

Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR) is the key strategic economic development agency for the Murraylands and Riverland region and a major component of our role is to promote and facilitate growth. We do this by bringing together the efforts of all levels of government and the business community through advocacy, facilitation and delivery of economic development projects. We build alliances with many other organisations who are also seeking to improve the economic outcomes for our region.

The Murraylands and Riverland region spans 36,000 square kilometres, is home to approximately 70,600 people and some 6,120 businesses. Our major economic output is primary production which accounts for 34% of our gross regional product and contributed $3.7 billion to the South Australian economy in 2017. The region boasts several core strengths including:

- its proximity and access to the Murray River and underground water;
- fertile, flat and affordable land;
- a stable climate with strong biosecurity credentials; and
- access to Adelaide and East Coast markets.

Our vision for the region is to become "a vibrant resilient region that capitalises on change, embraces economic development and prosperity, and provides an inspirational living, investment and working environment". This vision is in line with what the South Australian Government has set out to achieve through the proposed Landscape Act reforms, specifically seeking to ensure that our landscapes as a whole thrive, and recognising the co-benefits across the environment, the economy and the community of managing landscapes sustainably.

Businesses are taking advantage of our regions core strengths with more than $800 million in capital investments planned for this financial year, through both private and government funding, new business operations and expansion of existing business. Business confidence in our region is high. The effective management of our natural resources is vital to ensuring this growth and confidence continues particularly due to the importance of issues such as pest control and water security to our industries.

The proposed reforms will help in continuing to unlock economic opportunity from the natural resources in our region by reducing red tape, encouraging a collaborative approach to landscape management and increasing autonomy at a local level.

Specifically, we offer the following observations and comments to the proposed changes the new Act sets out to achieve.

Landscape Boards

RDAMR welcomes the creation of Landscape Boards with a greater level of autonomy to replace existing NRM boards. We are interested to understand the composition of the new boards including the opportunity for youth representation. Participation in key regional based boards is an excellent opportunity to build capacity of those involved and in turn encourage growth in our emerging regional leaders.

We note the new Landscape Boards will have the power to set and manage their own levies, with any increases set by an independent body or according to the Consumer Price Index. This is vital to ensure transparency. We also note the key levy collection will occur in the metropolitan area, but the landscape issues are felt more broadly at a regional level. Distribution of funds to support State wide programs will be essential.

Grassroots Grants program

The establishment of the Grassroots Grants program to support volunteer, community and not for profit groups to enable local level action enabling stewardship of our natural environment is a good initiative. Volunteers, community and not-for-profit groups play a major role in managing natural resources. Their contribution of time, energy, expertise, equipment and resources is extremely valuable and often enables getting things done at volunteer rates.

Cross Regional and State-wide Coordination

Local and regional partnerships are vital to landscape management in South Australia. However, landscapes and the pressures affecting them don't stop at administrative boundaries. Many issues require cross-regional and State-wide coordination.

In the Murraylands and Riverland region the management of overabundant and pest species is an example that requires a coordinated approach. Social, environmental and economic impacts can be felt when a pest species is found, or a species is in overabundance in a particular area. The damage caused to business, industry, the environment and the community can be irreversible and have significant costs to all.

It cannot be underestimated the cost and impacts of an overabundant or pest species to the economy, particularly in agriculture output which is susceptible to environmental conditions outside of human control. The agriculture and aquaculture industries have been impacted in the past and in some instances continue to be by various introduced overabundance and pest species including, Fruit Fly, Little Corellas, European Carp, New Zealand Fur Seal, Branch Broomrape and Caltrop.

The Murraylands and Riverland contributes $1.2 billion to the State's economy in Agriculture output to local, national and international markets. The Riverland dominates in growing and exporting stone fruits, citrus and wine and the value of output this region contributes and is recognised as an area of economic significance by the status of a Pest Free Area. An outbreak in a pest species such as fruit fly can have devastating effects to the economy.

In addition, Tourism contributes $150m to the region through visitor experiences, domestic days trips and overnight stays. The Murray River which stretches through the Murraylands and Riverland is a great asset. Not only providing water for agriculture, including horticulture and viticulture it provides a unique tourism experience with a combination of the above emerging as a new market "Agritourism".

The Tourism industry relies heavily on a combination of economic activity and environmental factors in region to provide the visitor experience domestic and international tourists are seeking. An overabundance of a pest species or introduction or outbreak can deeply impact the visitor economy.

Implementing a partnership approach to address actual impacts, or risk should a species issue arise through shared resources, knowledge and action will achieve a greater outcome.

An example of a collaborative pro-active approach between a region and State Government is current in the Mypolonga area in South Australia. The risk of an outbreak of Fruit Fly given their agriculture output and access route to the Riverland (a Pest Free Area), warrants the ongoing monitoring of the pest.

Further to this, the introduction of abandoned orchard legislation should be considered. Whilst we do not have Abandoned Orchard Legislation in South Australia, in regions where a large number of properties previously commercially cropped with fruit have been sold for 'lifestyle blocks' and the new owners have little or no inclination to manage or remove the trees, it is a worthwhile program to be considered.

The owners of neglected fruit trees and vines are often unaware that poor maintenance causes plant stress which allows build-up of pests and diseases. These can affect nearby healthy trees in backyards and more importantly in commercial orchards. In neglected trees exotic pests and diseases may go undetected for some time and could develop into a major threat to the industry. Neglect can be destructive and lead to expensive control programs.

The proposed reform is very strong on feral control which is good. It is silent however on biodiversity aims and the objectives would be strengthened if this was reflected.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with our Landscape board to work on these issues and others, and to deliver environmental programs to create jobs and drive investment in our local communities.

In closing, we thank the State Government for the opportunity to provide feedback to the proposed reforms and look forward to hearing the outcomes of this consultation.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on (08) 8535 7170.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Podoliak
Chief Executive Officer

WESTERN ADELAIDE COASTAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

RE: LANDSCAPE REFORM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 15.10.18

The Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association (WACRA) is pleased to respond to the opportunity to comment on the proposed Landscape SA Act community consultation. We thank you for the number of opportunities to attend briefing sessions and several of our members have availed themselves of the opportunity at a few of the different venues.
Collectively, we make some general comments followed by:

- A set of answers to the 21 questions raised in the briefing paper for the 9 Landscape Boards excluding the Green Adelaide area.

- A second set of answers to the 21questions raised in the briefing paper for the Green Adelaide Landscape Board area which is quite different from the others.

GENERAL COMMENTS
We offer the following general comments on the whole process with some of our reservations about the information provided at briefing meetings and in the briefing papers. The briefing paper itself left us with many questions which were not answered at the briefing meetings. It is hard to grasp what the Government feels is wrong with the current NRM Act that needs to be corrected.

Continued reading provides a number of recommendations that were Government pre-election commitments such as capping levies and reducing red tape. There are lots of motherhood statements without evidence to support them. Examples include:-

- Increasing community well-being by enhancing urban ecology and environment.
- Sharper focus on the fundamentals of managing natural resources
- More funding opportunities for local community organisations to deliver on-ground works
- More focus on facilitating delivery through partnerships.
- Those who work on, live on and care for the land are well placed to sustain our environment.

For example, the last statement is true, but ignores the fact that while some landowners are environmentally aware and think long term sustainability there are many others who are not and who will put short term profit ahead of ecological responsibility. Motherhood statements are just gloss on the process that provide no substantive policy direction.

WACRA supports the listed Green Adelaide 7 priorities as all important, but as a Coastal Advocacy group WACRA we would stress the need for a stronger focus on Coastal Management. Current practice is failing to turn around the problems of past poor decisions. Sand on the beaches reduces year by year; storm water adds turbidity on every moderate and greater rainfall event and seagrass meadows are shrinking, stressed by nutrients and lack of light.

Many local wetlands such as Kirkcaldy Creek are anoxic due to organic overload and poor flow while daily for the last 9 years 82,000 Litres of usable, illegally extracted groundwater flows on to Henley Beach.

A major oversight of the documentation so far is the emphasis on landowner custodianship while the many relevant biological and geomorphic sciences do not get a mention.
Failure to use the science will lead to failure of Landscape SA.

Nothing in the information establishes the status of the staff at the new boards! Current NRM staff are public servants, some with casual status even after more than a decade in the same job. The existing staff are a resource that should be nurtured. Reading of the briefing papers does nothing to establish how the existing staff will be valued or treated by the managers appointed by each board.

WACRA is pleased to be able to contribute to the consultation process. For further information please contact

Peter Schultz
WACRA

cenvabc@adam.com.au

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Responses to the 20 Landscape SA Questions from the discussion paper dated July 2018

FOR ALL LANDSCAPE BOARDS EXCEPT GREEN ADELAIDE

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

- No future loss of biodiversity.
- An agency that listens to the community for guidance.
- An agency that listens to the science for guidance.
- Preservation of the better farm land from going to housing.
- Saving all old trees from developers in both urban and rural developments.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

- Collecting the levy.
- Assisting whole of farm plans being implemented.
- Environmental flows in some rivers.
- Treating water on a whole of catchment basis.
- The size of the current regional NRMBs is about right. This allows the management to be in touch with the staff and the progress on all projects.
- The experienced and dedicated staff.

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

- More monitoring and reporting on progress and lack of progress via KPIs.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on every project. Funds for this are needed in the initial budgets. This ensures that good projects get repeated but dud schemes do not.
- Identified needs must be matched by adequate funding.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

- Adequately funded projects involving Boards, Councils and landowners. Each project needs a clear lead person, clear KPIs and a timeline for actions, evaluation and reporting. In many regions cross Board and cross Council involvement is warranted. For every project some funding must be set aside for follow up monitoring and feedback.
- The new Landscape SA Act must acknowledge that there will be landowners who do not want to support the work of the Boards and their neighbours on landscape scale projects. The Landscape SA Act should provide guidance on how to deal with this matter.

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

- Encourage aboriginal Positions on Boards.
- Listen to indigenous knowledge of what was there in the past and then get that information onto maps.

- Employ indigenous people on landscape projects wherever possible.
- Where skills still exist like indigenous food plant knowledge and tracking use those skilled persons to train the young.
- EG. Use tracking skills to track
    .1. rare native fauna to find breeding areas.
    .2. feral cats, rabbits & foxes to their liars to eradicate them.
    .3. Identify useful native plants and their uses
- Use these useful native plants in restoration projects

Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

- Identify regional problems and the needed solution options.
- Provide funding support.
- Listen to individuals about unique flora and fauna and seek protection at state and federal levels.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange.

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

- Publish the skills preferred, seek nominations then publish each nominees skill set and experience.
- Encourage all landowners, rural and urban to vote.

Question 8 How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

- This is answered in the separate Green Adelaide response below.

Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

- 3 steps
    1. Publish the problems that need to be addressed and get that message out in many ways.
    2. Listen to community responses.
    3. Involve the community in the planning solutions.

Question 10a How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

- Publish them and get that message out in many ways including on social media.

Question 10b How can regional plans become more consistent in format and terminology?

- We can assume that each Board plan will be consistent with the terminology of the intent of the new Landscape SA Act.
- Therefore forget this need for consistency between Boards as it is counterproductive to your thrust. You cannot get the eight regional plans to be both local for their area and have all 8 more consistent without setting restrictions on each Board.

Question 11 How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

- Set KPIs and the reporting timeline.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on every project. Funds for this are needed in the initial budgets. This ensures that good projects get repeated but dud schemes do not.
- Put evaluation reports on web sites, social media and emails to listed people.

Question 12 How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

- Not important.
- Why should they be consistent? Regional differences probably mean the levies need to be different.
- It is illogical to hypothecate levies to the region in which they are raised. This means that regions with low population but pressing landscape management needs, such as the the north of the state, are neglected.

Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

- State grants to important projects.
- Federal grants to important projects.
- A proportion of funds raised in the populous Green Adelaide and both Mt Lofty Ranges Boards need to be spread to the other 7 Boards.

Question 14 How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

- Of course there will be issues that cross Board boundaries. Weeds, catchment issues, feral pests and agricultural issues are obvious examples where coordination is relevant. For these things input and funding from State departments is the obvious way to go.

Question 15 How could a Grassroots Grants program best work?

- Not for profit environmental groups be contacted and asked to submit proposals. Boards and special contact staff can then make recommendations and award recipients with strict accounting and reporting conditions.

Question 16 What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

- Provide financial assistance to landowners.
- Mandate and enforce landowner responsibilities.
- Government reserves must set the example rather than be the source of pests through neglect that results from cost cutting.
- For feral goats, camels, horses, and donkeys control them sensibly. The current approach in SA National Parks of shooting but then leaving them on site is stupid for many reasons. There is a market for these pests and they can be rounded up as landowners do and sold. **The wasteful stupidity of leaving carcases is unsightly, very smelly and increases the population**

of feral foxes and cats. This then impacts on the smaller native animals with increased predation.

- Jointly fund research to find biological control measures for many weeds like onion weed in the Flinders.
- Accept the biological fact that totally protected species with no enemies will increase their populations exponentially. Eventually culling becomes necessary and should include using the culled animals. For kangaroos this is easy as it is currently culled and used for a healthy meat. Similarly goats, camels and equine species are viable food sources with existing markets. For other species a use needed.
- For koalas taxidermy is an obvious viable proposition, Japanese and American tourists will pay well for the real thing. Trust history, when totally protected and without predators koalas have always outgrown there food resource. Rare at European settlement, the first European evidence of this species occurred over two decades after Sydney was founded. Yet they always became a problem 80 or so years after settlement.

Question 17 Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

- Why "minor"?
- Limit the amount upstream landowners can take and store in dams.
- Mandate low flow bypasses.
- Guarantee environmental flows in once permanent waterways.
- Recycle street runoff where possible.

Question 18 What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

- Enshrine the rights of streams and rivers to a base flow.

Question 19 What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

- The present Act contains the actions needed.

Question 20 What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

- Make the Development Act and the Mining Acts subservient to the proposed Landscape Act rather than vice versa.

Question 21 How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

- Employ more compliance officers.
- Train and empower senior Council/Shire compliance officers to act as compliance officers under the Landscape SA Act.
- Warn only once seeking voluntary compliance. Failure to comply should be rapidly prosecuted using the maximum provisions of the Landscape Act. The message will reach the community quite quickly.

Advertise both the responsibly of people and landowners and the serious nature of non-compliance both for the environment and the persons failing to comply.

Responses to the 20 Landscape SA Questions from the discussion paper dated July 2018

FOR GREEN ADELAIDE LANDSCAPE BOARD

Question 1 What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

- No future loss of biodiversity.
- An agency that listens to the community for guidance.
- An agency that listens to the science for guidance.
- Preserve the better farm land from going to housing.
- Save all old trees from developers in urban areas. This is more important in the Western suburbs with the least tree canopy.
- Use e-TREE to set a dollar value on old trees.

Question 2 What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

- Collecting the levy.
- Environmental flows in the Torrens and Onkaparinga.
- Treating water on a whole of catchment basis.
- The size of the Green Adelaide Board will allows the management to be in better touch with the staff and the progress on all projects.
- The grants given to landscape project groups is very helpful

Question 3 What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

- More monitoring and reporting on progress and lack of progress via KPIs.
- Monitoring and reporting on the success or otherwise of every project. Funds for this are needed in the initial budgets. This ensures that good projects get repeated but dud schemes do not.
- Identified needs must be matched by adequate funding.
- I think splitting the AMLR NRMB into 3 is a good idea as there are too many management levels between the current Board and the actual project implementers.

Question 4 How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

- Adequately funded projects involving Boards, Councils and landowners. Each project needs a clear lead person, clear KPIs and a timeline for actions and reporting. In many regions cross Board and cross Council involvement is warranted. For every project some funding must be set aside for follow up monitoring and feedback.
- The new Landscape SA Act must acknowledge that there will be landowners who do not want to support the work of the Boards and their neighbours on landscape scale projects. The Landscape SA Act should provide guidance on how to deal with this matter.

Question 5 How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

- Some positions on Boards.
- Listen to indigenous knowledge of what was there in the past and then get that information onto maps.
- Employ indigenous people on landscape projects wherever possible.
- Where skills still exist like indigenous food plant knowledge use those skilled persons to train the young.
- Identify useful native plants and their uses.
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Question 6 How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

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- Listen to individuals about unique flora and fauna and seek protection at local, state and federal levels.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange.

Question 7 What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

- Publish the skills preferred, seek nominations then publish each nominees skill set and experience.
- For Green Adelaide the Council electorate base should be used.
- Consider community election for 50% of the greening Adelaide Board, why should this be solely the Minister's prerogative?

Question 8 How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

- Save old trees. Then replace understory plants in as many green spaces as possible.
- Use 'i-Tree' to place a $ value on old trees.
- Limit population growth.
- Put limits on urban infill so that some garden space is retained in all suburbs. Green spaces need a shrub layer as well as a canopy layer to provide food, habitat and breeding sites for biodiversity.
- Educate home gardeners and the landscape industry to plant for biodiversity.
- Use street tree and verge plantings to enhance biodiversity.
- Encourage local verge groups to care for planted verges.
- Change the definition of Significant and Regulated trees in the Development Act Regulations. The current list of species with protected status within 10m of a house or swimming pool included many unsuitable species but ignores many important and useful streetscape species such as red flowering gums, Norfolk Island pines and large Callistemons.

Question 9 How can regional planning be streamlined?

- While this will not be a major focus for Green Adelaide some catchment and pest issueswill interact across Boads. 3 steps are needed
    4. Publish the problems that need to be addressed and get that message out in many ways.
    5. Listen to community responses.
    6. Involve the community in the planning solutions.

Question 10a How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

- Publish the plans and get that message out in many ways including on social media.

Question 10b How can regional plans become more consistent in format and terminology?

- Green Adelaide is unique therefore this is irrelevant.
- We can assume that each Board plan will be consistent with the terminology of the intent of the new Landscape SA Act.

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- Set KPIs and the reporting timeline.
- Monitoring and reporting on the success or otherwise of every project. Funds for this are needed in the initial project budgets. This ensures that good projects get repeated but dud schemes do not.
- Put the reports on web sites, social media and emails to listed people.

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- Not important for Green Adelaide.

Question 13 How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

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- For feral goats, camels, horses, and donkeys control them sensibly. The current approach in SA National Parks of shooting but then leaving them on site is stupid for many reasons. There is a market for these pests and they can be rounded up as other landowners do and sold. **The wasteful stupidity of leaving carcases is unsightly, very smelly and increases the population of feral foxes and cats. This then impacts on the smaller native animals with increased predation.**
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- Limit the amount upstream landowners can take and store in dams.
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- The present Act contains the actions needed.

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- Make the Development Act and the Mining Acts subservient to the proposed Landscape Act rather than vice versa.

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- Employ more compliance officers.
- Train and empower senior Council/Shire compliance officers to act as compliance officers under the Landscape SA Act.
- Warn only once seeking voluntary compliance. Failure to comply should be rapidly prosecuted using the maximum provisions of the Landscape Act. The message will reach the community quite quickly.
- Advertise both the responsibly of people and landowners and the serious nature of non-compliance both for the environment and the persons failing to

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Native Vegetation Council

Our Ref: DEW-D0001092
DEW00061613

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12th October 2018

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Level 10
81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

RE: NVC Submission to Landscapes SA Act

Dear Minister,

The Native Vegetation Council of SA (NVC) is pleased to provide this submission to the Landscapes SA Reform Process. This submission has been developed by the Council and its Deputies over a special 3 hour meeting held in late August 2018.

The NVC is focussed on the protection and preservation of the environment. The NRM/Landscapes system is of significant interest and importance to the Native Vegetation Council. To undertake our work, we rely on strong regional partnerships with regional NRM staff to conduct assessment work, facilitate dialogue, provide intel and regional evidence for compliance and importantly to assist us in making sound decisions about how the Native Vegetation Fund is invested in regions.

Our overarching view is that reform to the NRM Act provides a good opportunity to improve the system and strengthen what's working. The Council wish to point out that operating a new Act of this magnitude will require a step change in the way government delivers NRM – predominately at the central agency level and with its staff.

In developing this submission, the Council opened its deliberations focussed on what it thinks the 'problem' is – that has instigated the reform. The Council noted this is not clear in the Discussion Paper.

The NVC believe that the community are concerned about the complexity of the NRM system, its transparency and are asking "are we getting value for money". The NVC also know that some communities have concerns about NRM's lack of connection to local communities – with much administration and many staff located in Adelaide. Subsequently the public are frustrated at the lack of autonomy of Regions.

These elements resonate for the NVC.

Strengths of the current system: what to keep

The NVC share a view that many aspects of the existing NRM system are strong, are working and should be retained.

Stewardship

Individual stewardship of landscapes must be at the heart of the new Act, as it is with the existing NRM Act. This means that landscapes must continue to be planned and managed in a way that promotes and encourages individuals to learn, adapt and change the way they intersect with a landscape.

Under the existing NRM Act, the concept of land stewardship is strong – at a regional and a paddock level. We know that communities and landscape managers, if equipped with the support they need, have the ability to manage their land effectively. When done well, this helps to enable individuals (at paddock level) to make real change to improve and protect their landscape. This individualised action must be supported by regions having a clear vision and strong plans in place to undertake their work, particularly in setting priorities for allocating resources. These plans have been developed over many years and encompass actions additional to what can be funded through the levies alone by leveraging those levies with Commonwealth, Local Government and industry funding opportunities.

Catchment level approach

The NVC are also of the very strong view that a catchment level approach to regions should be retained, which would result in a rethink of the proposed regional boundaries.

Ecosystem services provide a priceless value to our regions through the provision of oxygen, pollination, water and air purification, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, seed dispersal and waste assimilation, to mention a few. Managing landscapes as bio-regions is essential for these benefits to be realised. The NVC harbours concerns that splitting catchments based on size will make planning and management of ecosystem services more difficult. If the Act is to adopt a true landscapes approach then the most successful approaches will be where a single, whole 'landscape' is in the same administrative unit.

The NVC, as the only true State-wide Council with a whole of State view in the natural resources sector knows the value of being able to make 'whole of landscape' decisions and would be supportive of larger regions that cover entire catchments. Regional character must continue to be well defined in the new legislation.

Using levies locally

The NVC believes that, in the main, levy funds are spent wisely – directed by local, engaged and skill based board members and staff. While there is opportunity to put in place protections that ensure levies collected regionally stay in regions (and do not go into the central agency), the NVC is concerned about proposals to have a central auditing body for levy expenditure – for this system to work and be a true community based system, the buck must stop with the community and its Landscape Boards.

Collaboration

Existing NRM Boards have strong, established relationships with industry bodies, with board members also often having high-level industry appointments. The NVC knows this, as we work with Boards (to tap into their networks) when we want to connect with an industry sector. These relationships are of paramount importance to achieving shared outcomes. To improve trust, Landscape Board members must continue to be at the heart of facilitating these relationships and partnerships.

Education and 'Extension'

The NVC recognises the value of the NRM Education program and the NRM Boards ability to conduct outreach and extension. These must both continue to be central elements of the new Landscapes SA system. Supporting behavioural change is the core business of NRM, as it is for Native Vegetation Management.

Shortcomings of the current system: what needs to be changed

Chronic lack of aligned investment in the environment

Our natural capital base is at a tipping point.

We know that the quality of native vegetation is declining and the rates of native vegetation clearance are continuing at alarming rates, increasingly threatening the habitat of native plants and animals. *"Since settlement, hundreds of species have become extinct in Australia, including at least 50 bird and mammal, 4 frog and more than 60 plant species. It is likely that other species have disappeared too, without our knowledge. Many other species are considered to be threatened and are listed under Australian Government legislation as endangered or vulnerable. More than 310 species of native animals and over 1180 species of native plants are at risk of disappearing forever."* [1]

The NVC wish to take this opportunity to highlight the severe and concerning lack of State and Commonwealth investment in natural capital which impacts on NRM Boards' ability to achieve enduring NRM outcomes. As governments continue to focus on investment in jobs and growth, it cannot ignore the underpinning environment. Whilst the natural capital we have, could if improved, continue to sustain life in SA, this is increasingly being diluted and undermined by chronic underinvestment. The Landscapes system provides an opportunity to hone in on supporting people and businesses to continue to adopt best practice 'NRM', and indeed to search for groundbreaking ways to work sensitively and sustainably within our precious environment.

State funding must increase if levies are not increased and it must be targeted at those people in the landscape who can make the best, informed decisions based on science – and supporting them to implement to expand knowledge and skills. Additionally, adequate resources are required to support NRM compliance activities and investment in non-metropolitan areas of coastline.

The Council note that most Commonwealth and State programs set directions that are not aligned with regional plans or based on mitigating identified regional risks. As a result Boards find themselves changing form and shape of their plans to access much needed resources and funding. Additionally, when levy funds are invested in central activities (ie Water Planning and Management charges) this further applies pressure in regions to do more with less.

[1] Source: ABC news

Regional staff in regions

Subsequently, as investment has been taken out of the regions, this has led to a separation between NRM staff and land managers and communities. This must be restored as a central factor to the Landscapes Act – staff must work and be present in the regions they serve. There must be opportunities to spend time with regional communities. Relationships are fundamental to making the system work. Staff contracts must be long term – encouraging staff members and their families to set down deep roots in a community as well as within their region.

DEW restructured to support the success of the new system

The NVC has observed, through our own experience and also through the experiences NRM Boards are having, that silos and divisions in structure in the central agency DEW block innovation and do not facilitate sharing of information and knowledge. As part of the Landscapes Reform, the NVC recommend that DEW consider its structure through a lens of how well it supports the new approach to succeed. It also must improve and address the impenetrable wall that exists between DEW and other agencies such as DPTI to achieve environmental outcomes, and must promote greater collaboration of government agencies and government staff – at all levels. This is the only way that sustainable development will become a reality in South Australia.

A State-wide body looking across the entire Landscape

The NVC is deeply worried about the lack of a true 'landscape' view since the disbanding of the NRM Council. Presently, there is no single NRM body with a State-wide view across regions, and the NVC feel constant pressure to step into this role. Reinstalling an overarching Council that can look across the State and look across landscapes is the only way a true landscape approach will be achieved.

Equity in Board Membership

The Council is concerned about the proposal to have elected and Ministerial appointment of members on the same Board. This can lead to 'two classes' of people on the Board and make the Board unworkable. It also threatens the position of the Minister as elected members tend to play to their supporters and not the directions of the Minister of the day. The reinstallation of an overarching council would also allow the Minister of the day be at arms-length to the selection process whilst ensuring a skill based community Board.

Summary

Ensuring intergenerational equity is paramount for this reform. It must be founded in promoting and ensuring the wise use of our natural capital for the long term. It must establish the foundation that supports people interacting sustainably with landscapes, and it must have the long term view in mind.

The Landscapes Act must be framed at a Landscape level – recognising connectivity and the way catchments work, not reflect human boundaries. It must be visionary and strong, and enhance our natural capital – biodiversity, water, vegetation, land – by preventing harm and mitigating risks.

It also must promote the ability for local people to search for local solutions – that lead to innovation. Boards must be skill based, not populist based – as they will need to have a specialist skill base in order to manage the natural resources challenges which are coming our way – and we are arguably already experiencing. The new Act must be practical, achievable, and most importantly implementable.

Funding raised in the region should be spent in the region and where the funds are spent must be transparent to the community from which it is raised. All Acts must align and support each other, and the government agency should facilitate regional plan delivery. Staff must be present in regions and accessible and they must have the opportunity to establish roots in their local community.

At its core, the new Act should focus on natural capital, biodiversity health, ecosystem services and catchments – and their interaction with people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours sincerely



Emily Jenke

Presiding Member

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL

Heather Miller
Chair – SAWDAG
PO Box 283
Wilmington SA 5485

14 October 2018

Dear Minister Speirs

RE: South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) submission towards the development of the Landscape South Australia Bill

SAWDAG appreciates the opportunity to provide input toward South Australia's landscape reform process. SAWDAG's membership comprises stakeholders involved in wild dog management, whose Terms of Reference allow the group to provide strategic direction and advice to the Minister for Environment and Water and to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. It is this function that positions SAWDAG well in providing a contribution towards the reform process.

At the last meeting of SAWDAG on 6 September, we were given an overview of the Landscapes reform process by Mr Matthew Ward, Director, Conservation, NRM and Protected Area Policy. This then allowed us to make informed decisions to follow through on providing a submission to the process. SAWDAG appreciates the acknowledgement that pest animals do not adhere to borders and boundaries, and hence pest animal management requires a landscape, integrated approach.

Dingoes arrived in Australia about 4,000 years ago. At a Federal Government level, whilst an introduced species, the *EPBC Act 1999* determines the dingo as a native species. There is ongoing conflict between the extent of the value of their ecological role and the negative impact on pastoralism and continues to be an area of debate.

Importantly, for the management of wild dog populations in South Australia, under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, there is no distinction between a dingo or a hybrid of a domestic dog and dingo. The SA Wild Dog Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020, defines the wild dog as any wild-living dog (including dingoes, hybrids with domestic dogs and domestics that have gone wild).Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, if a wild dog is located outside (north of) the Dog Fence, it is listed as an unprotected wildlife species, and under the *Natural Resources Management Act* if it is located inside (south of) the Dog Fence, it is a declared pest, required to be destroyed by land managers.

SAWDAG recommends the current *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* declaration for a wild dog located inside the Dog Fence be retained in the Landscapes SA Act.

At the time of affecting the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* there were two key zones for wild dog management in SA (inside and outside the Dog Fence). In 2016 the SA Wild Dog Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 was endorsed, which identified a third zone for wild dog management,

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a 35km wide 'buffer zone' outside (north of) and immediately adjacent to the Dog Fence. This buffer extends along the alignment of the Dog Fence from the NSW border in the SA Arid Lands Region to the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Region border. The purpose of this buffer zone is to have the ability to reduce wild dog pressure upon the Dog Fence during times when wild dog numbers have built up outside the Dog Fence.

SAWDAG recommends the buffer zone be recognised in the Landscapes SA Act and extended along the entire alignment of the SA Dog Fence. It is also recommended under the Landscapes SA Act that a wild dog in the buffer zone has the same declaration as a wild dog inside the Dog Fence (required to be destroyed by land managers).

A major factor contributing to the reduction in the area in which wild dogs are controlled inside the Dog Fence is the decrease in land tenure being used for sheep production, for example, properties have been purchased for the sole purpose of conservation, tourism, Aboriginal cultural activities and mining, or producers have changed to cattle production. The lucrative organic livestock industry also imposes strict limits and guidelines on the producers' ability to control wild dogs. Add to this an aging and porous Dog Fence, and SA is now finding a wild dog population inside the Dog Fence estimated to be at its highest in decades.

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board recently released its Best Practice Guidelines for Wild Dog Control. The guidelines outline "best practice", but unfortunately these guidelines are not enforceable under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

There are opportunities to improve management by closing some of the legislative loopholes, exploited by many land managers to shirk their wild dog management responsibilities. SAWDAG understands that under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* a control activity such as baiting can be required under a Protection Order but this is a convoluted process that could be streamlined with a simpler method for enforcing a control activity.

SAWDAG recommends the new *Landscape SA Act* support the Best Practice control standard, requiring all land managers in wild dog impacted areas inside the Dog Fence to comply with the standard of control.

SAWDAG also recommends the new *Landscape SA Act* incorporate a simple process that allows Authorised Officers to require a land manager to carry out a control activity to a specified level and Landscape Boards and PIRSA have the ability to ensure compliance is undertaken.

Just as there are spatial gaps in our control programs, there are also temporal gaps, resulting from short term funding cycles for governance, support staff, and the investment required in wild dog management. Unfortunately, the parts of the State most heavily impacted by wild dogs, have a very small levy payer base, which is not adequate to fund wild dog management.

SAWDAG recommends wild dog management be prioritised under the "Statewide Project Fund", which will be funded using the Landscape SA Levy.

In closing, I would like to thank you on behalf of SAWDAG, for the opportunity to contribute toward the landscape reform process, and finish by saying that substantially reducing numbers of wild dogs increases the productivity and sustainability of our livestock industries and South Australia's regional communities. It allows us to be proactive to protect the livestock industry, rather than a reactive model that other states have followed. Appropriate wild dog control underpins the well-being of all livestock producers, and particularly improves the well-being of sheep pastoralists.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on

Kind regards

Heather Miller

CHAIR

SA WILD DOG ADVISORY GROUP

Government of South Australia

Outback Communities Authority

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15 October 2018

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Managing our Landscapes – Conversations for Change

The Outback Communities Authority is a statutory authority established by the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009.* It has a responsibility to provide for efficient and accountable administration and management of outback communities and to promote participation of outback communities in their administration and management. Its functions include articulating the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities.

With this in mind, the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) makes the following submission in respect to the South Australian Government's commitment to a range of reforms to the natural resources management system. These include:

- Replacing the Natural Resources Management Act with the proposed Landscape South Australia Act
- Creating a simpler, flexible and accessible system for managing natural resources, with decentralised decision-making
- Putting people at the heart of managing our natural resources, recognising that those who work and live on the land are well placed to manage and sustain it
- Creating nine landscape Boards and Green Adelaide to replace existing NRM Boards
- Making soil quality, pest plant and animal control and water management major priorities
- Capping annual land and water levy rises at a rate set by an independent body or according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Establishing a Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million statewide annual fund for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access

Although the area of operations for the OCA includes almost the entirety of the SA Arid Lands NRM area, the comments are inclusive of the small portions of the SA Murray-Darling Basin, Eyre Peninsula and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM areas that lie within the OCA's area.

For ease of reading the OCA's responses are contained under the five guiding principles for reform as outlined in the 'Managing Our Landscapes – Conversation for Change' Discussion Paper July 2018.

Decentralised decision making:
Regional South Australia is important to the South Australian economy, as such it is important to keep existing and generate new jobs in the regions. The OCA strongly supports local decision making and local employment outcomes from within the geographic area serviced by the Landscapes SA Board. This sentiment extends to locating personnel in communities so

that they are embedded within the community. In many cases this provides opportunities for local employment of young people who otherwise would not be able to find employment in their community. This thinking provides a sound foundation for greater participation and ownership for priority setting and on-ground activities along with creating more opportunities to broaden and deepen local and regional partnerships. Support for greater flexibility and responsiveness to local issues is at the core of this response.

A simple and accessible system:
The OCA supports a simple, straightforward system that is less encumbered by red tape and complex compliance requirements. To this end the administration of a Landscapes SA Board should be autonomous with government not embedded within it. Levies collected in the region and sourced program funds must remain in the region and administered by the Landscapes SA Board. The Landscapes SA Board will be responsible for the setting of the budget and business plan and engagement on the budget and business plan before Ministerial approval. This is similar to the model contained within *the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* that works well.

With particular regard to the arid lands region, this vast area is very big with a small population and levy base, therefore additional funds will need to be sourced from Green Adelaide and/or the Landscape Advisory Board to support this region. The arid lands is part of South Australia and it is fair and equitable that a horizontal fiscal equalisation process and principles are applied to ensure equity across landscape management and investment in the whole State.

Although not within scope of this reform, consideration should be given to reforming the pastoral tenure system that forms a large portion of the arid lands region. There are opportunities to strengthen the tenure system and redirect tenure rents to real on-ground action determined through the Landscapes SA model.

Community and land owners at the centre:
The OCA supports a structure and process for appointment of community members to a/the Landscapes SA Board which delivers on the key principles being put forward by the Minister; whilst different from the current proposal being suggested by the Minister, allows for a bottom up approach and representation across the region. However two observations that are particular to the Arid Lands region (and may be applicable to the other regions) are:

1. The balance of Community Membership must be half plus one, i.e four of seven Members should come from the community that is served by the Landscapes SA Board (this principle was sought and implemented by the Liberal opposition in 2009 when *the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* was being debated); and
2. Consideration for a larger board may be required due to the vast and diverse nature of the arid lands region, however the OCA acknowledges that the effectiveness of larger boards can be questioned.

This model would ensure the community is well represented across the region by embedding district groups (based on the old soil board boundaries that are communities of focus in their own right) at the core of the model. These district groups can then work at the local level with allocated staff to deliver against key priorities identified at the group level and approved by the Landscapes SA Board. It also enables the communities and staff across the region to work within their local area minimising extended travelling across the entire outback area.

Regional industry should also be central in developing community and regional partnerships, in particular mining and tourism. The Landscape SA Board needs to work closely with these

industries who are embedded in the region to encourage a broader spatial awareness of the sustainable use of the natural resources.

A whole of landscape approach:
The OCA supports the principles around a landscapes approach; on the ground projects must be determined by the community. The SA Arid Lands NRM Board has done a tremendous job in the development of its most recent, landscapes based, NRM Plan that has community values and landscape values at its core. It is essential that this work is not lost and continues to guide landscape management in the region.

With regard to the boundaries of the arid lands in particular, the OCA does not support the inclusion of the City of Port Augusta Council area being included in the region. Port Augusta issues are significantly different to the arid lands region and having them included may result in a redirection of funds away from the outback area to support the community with the strongest voice. The region should reflect the unincorporated area, as defined in the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Regulations 2010* with the addition of the local government areas of Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs and Nepabunna.

Back to basics:
The OCA support the principles around focussing on what matters most to regional communities, ie soil, water and pest plants and animals. However in the remotest parts of the State the things that matter are broader yet inclusive of the reform principles. These broader issues cannot be divested due to the small critical mass of people and must be considered collectively.

This 'single point of truth' thinking supports decentralised decision making, a simple and accessible system, community and land owners at the centre and a whole of landscape approach principles to effective and sustainable regional governance.

On behalf of the OCA, I commend the Minister on this bold reform and look forward to the outcome.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either myself on 0427 627 726 cecilia.woolford@sa.gov.au or Mark Sutton on 0427 001 969 or mark.sutton@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Cecilia Woolford
CHAIR
Outback Communities Authority

Objective ID: A3790905

Northern Coast and Plains NRM Advisory Committee

C/- AMLR NRM Gawler office

43 High St Gawler SA 5118

The Northern Coast and Plains NRM Advisory Committee currently has a membership involving Gawler, Playford, Light Regional and Adelaide Plains councils and local landholder and community members. The Committee provides input on priorities for NRM management in Gawler and the wider region. DEW staff are also involved in the Committee meetings and assist with administration.

The Committee has been in existence for some 10 years and has provided advice and input on NRM issues for both DEW and local councils. Following the release of Discussion papers and regional forums we provide the following input. Not all questions have been answered.

Yours faithfully

Adrian Shackley, Committee Chairperson

Objectives and Benefits of Reforms

Question 1
What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

Question 2
What do you think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

We are broadly supportive of the current NRM model with regional boards and a coordinated administrative system with DEW. The early experience of each board having its own separate administration created a lot of administrative work that is more readily managed with an integrated system. Providing for NRM staff to readily move between regions or work on cross region projects is also good.

Question 3
What do you think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

Question 4
How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects?

It is vital that we have a solid scientific biodiversity framework for approaching landscape management and restoration. The current content of the Discussion papers and regional presentations seem to lack the integration of biodiversity assessment and restoration to guide planning natural resource management and improvement.

Adequate funding and resources, together with cross-sector collaboration and an integrated approach to project management are critical to enabling successful landscape scale restoration projects.

The proposed landscape priority fund might assist with larger projects in terms of funding and provide a basis to leverage funding from non-levy sources. Splitting the current Adelaide NRM Board into 3 different areas will increase the issues with landscape scale projects creating new borders to cross. That will produce extra administrative work in developing and planning for larger, cross boundary projects in our region.

A way to overcome some of these risks could be the placement of Council hosted Board staff working across council boundaries to deliver on-ground projects along with a centralised project manager or team. An example of this type of management structure can be found in the current Adelaide based Seascapes Program or the NRM Education Program.

Question 5

How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

There has been ongoing interaction between AMLR NRM board and Aboriginal peoples of the region. In particular in our Committee discussion has occurred about involvement of Kaurna people in planning and some projects, for example recently with the Bird Sanctuary national Park and related activities. The northern hills area of our subregion is Ngadjuri country. The eastern hills area is Peramangk country. Another complex boundaries issue.

Having individual Aboriginal people on Committees is one approach but from the experience of our Committee having experienced NRM officers (and some of our Committee who have relevant experience or contacts) liaising with Aboriginal people and organisations is a more efficient way of engaging the limited time of Aboriginal leaders experienced with NRM issues.

It is important that this liaison is maintained and improved.

Question 6

How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

We are also sceptical of the thinking that more on-ground works and landholder input are an answer to what might be seen as the current arrangements where significant spending occurs on employing staff. Experience has shown that while the original launch of Landcare generated a lot of landholder activity and a lot of on ground work, much of the original enthusiastic volunteering and landholder input has dissipated as the realities of long term weed control, floods in rivers undoing some of the works undertaken and the complexities of natural and human-made ecosystems have defied straight-forward solutions. We are also faced with the rapid decline in the number of landholders in a region as farm size and management units have expanded rapidly. This is not to deny the essential need for landholder involvement and commitment, but it also shows the need for expert assistance and advice to assist good project development and implementation. Areas such as the involvement of indigenous groups and consideration of climate change impacts, fire risk and the like does not readily fit with a localised planning model.

We cannot see a return to a more informal volunteer or community based model being the answer to the complexities revealed by work in Landcare and NRM over the last 30 years or

more. While not the same it is worth noting that many of the institutions funded and involving government today such as hospitals and police forces started as essentially volunteer and community based efforts.

With environmental weeds - these weeds provide some opportunities for volunteer control, but come with challenges. Successful control programs usually require a multi-year strategy, and volunteer enthusiasm can be exhausted before the weed seed bank. An analysis of Trees for Life Bushcare activities and sites show a strong bias towards activities in the Adelaide Hills and generally in or not too far away from Metro Adelaide. More regional activities sometimes involve Bushcare Action Teams partly or mostly sourced from the same base. Getting an assessment from Trees for Life would be helpful.

We do see great opportunity for volunteers to GPS tag environmental weeds, or use drones to look for low frequency weeds, uploading weed locations to an app, so that professional bush carers can achieve more efficient eradication. The last few percent of a weed population is more difficult to locate. Some control strategies need to be recognised as beyond the capabilities of the average volunteer.

An important question to also ask is, 'What activities will motivate Landcarers to volunteer?' because it may be a waste of resources to pivot an organisation to increase volunteerism, if that refocusing is in an area which volunteers have no enthusiasm for.

Question 7
What do you think is the best approach for electing the three community members to the Landscape Board in each region?

We haven't seen a model of how this would work but if it is anything like the local council elections with provision of information on candidates needed to have an informed vote and postal voting, there would be a considerable expense and effort. Whether the system would work a lot better to justify this cost is obviously debatable. An application process similar to a job could be a useful model and help ensure that nominees have the appropriate skills, networks and knowledge required.

Question 8
How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?

In the same ways the current AMLR NRM Board is working for ecological sustainability. From our perspective the more we can combine rural and urban regions into NRM management the better. People in urban Adelaide benefit from what regional areas have to offer and impact both positively and negatively on our local natural resources. We see urban people as one of the main resources to help with sustainability and restoration activities in regional areas. It is necessary to ensure that urban Adelaide residents are ecologically aware both at home and when travelling throughout South Australia.

Landscape Plans and Green Adelaide Plan
Question 9
How can regional planning be streamlined?

The last few decades have revealed the issues of biodiversity decline and ecological disturbance need to be understood to ensure that projects and plans are effective. A criticism from quite a few community members at information forums was that biodiversity was not being seen as important as soils and water. The clear ongoing decline in the biodiversity quality of many areas of remnant native vegetation and associated fauna on farm, on roadsides and in many reserves is recognised and solutions need to be well researched and considered to avoid wasting resources. The integration of biodiversity and ecological perspectives with primary production has been occurring in a number of areas but is probably still in its infancy in many ways. The threat of relatively rapid climate change is making all of these issues more complicated.

There appears to be a clear need for more resources and better planning to produce anything like a stable ecological situation in most the region we are involved with. And the need for overall ecological priorities based on good science is also clear

We express a concern that major changes in the way NRM is managed may well mean a lot of effort to reorganise a system without any clear proof that better outcomes will occur. We certainly believe that a cautious approach is justified.

Question 10
How can regional plans be more accessible to the community, while becoming more consistent in format and terminology?

Question 11
How do we best measure and report outcomes from managing natural resources?

The existing mechanisms provide a basic mechanism. No doubt if more resources are available, the scope of measuring work could be increased.

Improving the Levy System

Question 12
How important is it to have more consistency in the way land and water levies are raised across the state?

Question 13
How can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

Depends if the projects are within regions of not. Probably by having more resources at a State level would assist.

One of the current problems with any cross region project is that resources allocated in different regions will be different depending on other priorities. As an example the Pinery Fire responses where AMLR and NY regions were involved. It has been very helpful when cooperation between Boards and local groups can be managed well.

If a landscape scale project is a high priority, it should be identified in regional action plans and Boards should fund projects appropriately against their priority status. Additional funding

should also be considered for endangered or threatened flora and fauna species and coastal regions as they are the vital as a barrier to possible changes or threats from climate change in South Australia.

Cross-regional and State Wide Coordination

Question 14

How important is it to coordinate efforts to manage our natural resources across regions? How could this best be achieved?

There will always be issues with boundaries based on catchments, local government areas or other criteria. If the change to 3 regions rather than 1 is to proceed with AMLR NRM then our preference is that council areas that are predominately rural rather than urban should be part of a regional rather than metro area. In our case this would mean Playford would be part of the northern plains and valleys area. That would reflect the work of our Committee and also assist with integration of projects involving the Gawler River catchment and work along the coastline. A small part of Adelaide Hills Council is in the Gawler River catchment but it probably would make more sense from an ecological and community of interest perspective for AHC area to be part of a hills grouping. On the northern boundary we have noted some discussion about a shift north to provide for all of the Light River catchment to be in the same region and similarly for the northern Adelaide Plains. It would result in Wakefield and Clare Gilbert Valley council areas being in 2 regions and would need to be carefully considered.

It is important to highlight the need for the coast to be managed as a whole to ensure that all the coastal issues are managed appropriately. There is a real risk for best practice coastal management if just taking a catchment or local government boundary approach. This requires either managing the coast with a cross-regional program or maintaining a centrally based coastal group coordinating coastal works across boundaries. Given the significant experience and benefit of the Coast Protection Board it would seem logical to maintain this structure to help ensure consistent policies. We will not be able to manage sea level rise with global warming without such consistent approaches.

Question 15

How could a Grassroots Grant program best work?

One important issue to keep a focus on is how to bring together the interests of rural landholders and other interested people in towns and urban areas. We don't have a blueprint but we can point to fairly successful work of our Committee over a number of years and the work of the Pinery Fire Vegetation Recovery Committee as examples having some success. Publicising these activities through local media, including through part subsidised projects such as "Living in the Catchment" in the Barossa Leader newspaper and Community Environment Page in the Gawler Bunyip are good examples. Equally the work of local community environment/natural resource centres at Mt Pleasant, Gawler and Nuriootpa contribute to building community understanding and involvement.

Clear Simple Priorities

Question 16

What are the highest priority ways we could improve pest plant and animal control?

Question 17
Are there any minor amendments that could be made in this Bill to current water management processes?

Question 18
What more substantial water reform do you believe should be looked at as part of subsequent reform processes?

Question 19
What should be included in the new legislation to enable more effective management of our soils, pest plants and animals?

Question 20
What should be included in the new legislation to enable better stewardship of our landscapes?

Related to a number of questions above. There has been a lot of historical and continuing damage to road verge native vegetation. Particularly significant in agricultural areas of the state where it forms a major part of remnant vegetation in many places. A lot of these issues are dealt with under the Native Vegetation Act and the Local Government Act rather than the NRM Act but there is a lack of understanding among quite a few people about the issues. Spraying and cultivating by adjoining landholders, road management practices by state transport department and local councils and impact from agencies responsible for utilities such as water, gas, sewerage, telecommunications etc. have been or are all contributors to degradation. The resulting weed problems generated by bad practices are becoming more obvious. Having a coordinated approach would be very beneficial – currently no-one owns the situation. Roadsides which showcase our native vegetation would be attractive to all road users which is a very high % of our population. There are some very good examples of strategies and benefits such as the USA Highways Beautification Act which has operated for more than 60 years.

Compliance
Question 21
How do you think the new legislation can best enable effective compliance arrangements?

From our perspective there has not been an undue focus on regulation under the current structure. In fact many landholders probably have a view that the more rigorous regulation of pest weeds under the old Animal and Plant Control Boards had a lot to recommend it

Planning Institute Australia

15 October 2018

Minister David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Via email: landscapereform@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Speirs,

Managing Our Landscapes – Conversations for Change: Discussion Paper Feedback

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the proposed reforms to the natural resources management system in South Australia. The Planning Institute of Australia is the planning profession's trusted voice in planning, and seeks to educate and improve the quality and effectiveness of planning in Australia, on behalf of the broader community.

The planning system is currently undergoing its most comprehensive review in 20 years, with the *Development Act 1993* being progressively replaced by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. As you would be aware, the current "Development Plans" will be replaced by a State-wide "Planning and Design Code" which will form the basis for development assessment decisions. The mechanisms and procedures for policy creation and assessment are also changing, with an anticipated reduction in referrals.

A unique opportunity exists to integrate the proposed Landscape SA legislative reforms with the planning system, to achieve the goals of the proposed reforms more effectively and to build on the learnings from what has worked and failed under previous NRM and planning systems.

There is a very real window of opportunity which should be pursued to connect development with your proposed landscape-scale goals of:

- Healthy native species and ecosystems that are able to adapt and persist in the face of change;
- Prosperous businesses now and in the future, able to adapt as the economy and primary industries transform over time; and
- Capable local people and groups leading stewardship of their natural environment, contributing to strong social networks that can cope with changing environments".

At a recent focus-group discussion, our committee identified a series of opportunities to improve natural resources management within the planning system, including a reflection on what has worked or failed and the past and why. These comments are attached, however key points to improve NRM in

the planning system, which should be considered during the creation of the Landscape SA legislation include:

- Interactions between the proposed Landscape SA Act and statutory referrals process in the existing and new planning system should be carefully considered.
- There is an opportunity in the new planning system for overlays in the Planning and Design Code (currently being drafted by State Government) that could incorporate landscape-related policies that move towards the goals noted above.
- Greening goals in Cities are unlikely to be as successful as hoped if there are not clear linkages to the Planning and Design Code. With infill and the increase in urban heat island effect in medium- and high-density zones in metropolitan Council areas, coupled with a loss of street trees, green canopy is diminishing rather than increasing. Recognition in legislation may be the only way to ensure the preservation of and increase in green space, as sought by the Government's "30 year plan for Greater Adelaide". Appropriate recognition in the Landscape SA reforms could help achieve these goals.
- NRM-related planning policies have often been very high level, and not prescriptive in non-regional areas, and difficult to apply. This has resulted in planners not applying them to assessment. There is a need for landscape-related policies applicable to individual developments that encourage and enable sustainable stewardship of natural environments.
- There is an opportunity to introduce more prescriptive criteria to the planning system to achieve NRM outcomes, which could be carefully considered during the drafting of the proposed Landscape SA Act and subsequently applied to policies in the Planning and Design Code.
- There is potential for greater alignment of NRM and land use planning goals in regional plans which can be applied in specific spatial areas and assist in attaining NRM-relevant targets.

In addition, there was a very strong theme identified about the need for greater education and training of planners about NRM, as well as training of NRM staff about statutory planning.

PIA's SA Division Committee encourages further interaction with the planning community to identify opportunities to contribute towards the goals of the proposed natural resources management reforms via the current planning reform process, and vice versa.

Should you wish to discuss our response in more detail, please contact Alison Cusack Committee Member, SA Division on 8203 7622 or via: a.cusack@cityofadelaide.com.au

Yours sincerely



Kym Pryde, RPIA
President, SA Division

Enc.

Managing our Landscapes – Conversations for Change

Discussion Paper July 2018

PIA SA Division Committee Meeting – September 2018

Committee members responded to the following questions:

1. What opportunities exist to improve natural resources management via the Planning System; and
2. What has been tried before and worked? failed? And why?

Responses:

1. <u>What opportunities exist to improve natural resources management via the Planning System</u>

- Better education of planners in NRM policy/skills and better education of NRM staff in the planning system
- Education and training of those involved in making planning and development decisions
- Review trigger for approval – either development or natural resources
- Improved mapping/data within the planning code with improved referral mechanisms – often these do not exist in Development Plans and limits opportunities to consult with NRM
- Improved training opportunities between environmental and planning professionals to increase understanding of 'Council wide – General' provisions and how to assess
- Planning system levers –
    - Joint Planning Boards $ and people
    - Regional plans – spatial priorities
    - DA = Code: Deemed to Satisfy/incentivise
- The systems need a legitimate link – i.e this cannot just be a 'nice to have' AND the practitioners need training
- P&D Code will need to direct the thinking down this path
- Prescriptive criteria in the P&D Code
- Triggers for "development" – resource depletion
- Referrals to agencies where needed
- Improve statutory mechanism
- Consideration of 'environment' overlay – see VPPs
- Ecological resources needed for local government
- Training for planners
- EMPs used
- Statutory referrals
- Overlays in the P&D Code to ensure capture
- Integration between the PDI Act and the Landscape Act to recognise biodiversity and environmental sustainability
- Capacity building of planners in NRM space
- Direction to assist planners on how to apply policy during regulatory planning and development assessment
- NRM policies are too 'motherhood' and not measurable and are therefore not often applied
- Better training of planners
- Capturing existing farms/forms (?) to create NRM triggers

- DA Planning – aside from regional areas, there are not real triggers for consideration of the NRM Act or policies in development assessment (unless through legislation) so it is not considered when assessing developments.
- In local metropolitan government, there is limited crossover between NRM directions and both high level strategic planning or detailed planning policy and assessment. It is very tokenistic and generally not considered relevant due to the highly urbanised nature of these areas.
- Greater alignment of NRM into regional plans with specific spatial designation and targets relevant to NRM – make hard decisions to guide funding @ NRM level.
- A PLANET session
- Ensuring an element of integration of P&D code policy with landscape/NRM policy
- Priority on ensuring LG Strategic Plans have a requirement to reference NRM – this will then link with Annual Business Plans.

2. <u>What has been tried before and worked? failed? And why?</u>
   - Ensuring the people involved in both sets of reform actually talk to each other!
   - Opportunity through current discussion papers
   - Merit and open approach to decision making – maybe need the big stick
   - Measurement of strategy
   - Water affecting permits – and not needing DA if have
   - Need to retain right for Minister for Water to amend Development Plans.
   - Worked: funding of local NRM officers/staff has worked and allowed for greater interaction on the ground
   - Failed: Centralisation of services has failed (e.g. removal of catchment boards) – less on ground involvement
   - Worked: local representatives on Boards to represent views of what needs to happen
   - Local decision making around budget setting and funding projects – needs to occur at a higher level to ensure sustainability.
   - Disconnect between planning and environmental legislation and policy – why? Lack of communication
   - Failed: Development refusal hasn't worked as lack of clarity about when referrals required etc. and no power of direction.
   - Strategic aspects of NRM/Planning have not been effective – this could be better handled.

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Adelaide SA 5001
DX 541

Tel: 8463 5829

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landscapereform@sa.gov.au

TO: Whom It May Concern,

RE: Landscape South Australia Bill.

I write in response for consultation on the new Landscape Bill currently undergoing development. I wish to draw your attention to the following comments in response to three of the consultation questions:

1. What is most important to you in managing natural resources?

2. What do you think is working well about how we manage our natural resources?

5. How do you think we can better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests?

Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board Education Programs

The sustained and strong success of the intended reforms to the South Australian natural resources management system, in particular to the aim to build communities that are proactive and engaged in 'leading the stewardship of their natural environment', relies on people who care about the environment. Actively and authentically involving young people in environmental projects, including the management of our natural resources is crucial if they are to be the future leaders of this. As technology and social change reduces the amount of time our young people spend engaging with the natural world, strong, relevant education programs are crucial to ensure our young people are connected and concerned with the environment.

NRM Educators have knowledge of and a passion for managing natural resources, native species, ecosystems, water and land management, and knowledge of sustainable practices such as energy, water and recycling. Furthermore they have built up positive working relationships with schools and preschools over many years and are already effective in schools, supporting to actively involve students and their families in a broad range of sustainability projects, providing them with the knowledge and dispositions that will have long lasting positive effects. The success of NRM educators with this work is supported by the number of schools who have engaged with them. For the last 10 years the NRM Education program has worked with 80% of the schools and preschools in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges including 86% of Department for Education schools and preschools. (report available at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/home)

The Department for Education and NRM Education have established a close and synergetic relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding. This ensures the school environmental projects are closely linked to the Australian Curriculum in ways

that enhance and enrich the effectiveness of building students content knowledge, General Capabilities and the understanding of the priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, as well as focusing on the NRM priority of building understanding and commitment to Sustainability. The result is that schools are given a clear and consistent message that links the priorities of both NRM Board and the Department for Education.

The relationship between the departments is highly valued by schools, and by the Department for Education, which has sponsored the delivery of the NRM's Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative-SA (AuSSI) and the Youth Environment Council of SA for several years. Both build our young people as leaders in environmental stewardship.

NRM Educators

Through NRM projects such as creating outdoor Nature Play environments, students are designing and building butterfly gardens and frog ponds, conducting water monitoring in local waterways and engaging in waste and energy reduction projects.

NRM educators connect schools with local councils to build students' connection to community, including as volunteers in projects such as litter clean ups and revegetation. Other projects give students authentic opportunities to develop skills and positive dispositions in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) learning areas and to understand how environmental sustainability community relies on this knowledge to make the best decisions. The Gonski 2018 report *Through Growth to Achievement: The Report of The Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools* Recommendation 8 emphasises the importance and relevance of school and community engagement as a means to enrich student learning. *'Strengthen school-community engagement to enrich student learning through the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate quality partnerships, including engagement in mentoring, volunteering and extra-curricular activities, between schools, employers, members of the community, community organisations and tertiary institutions.'* p. 15

It would be difficult for schools to continue to run these programs without the knowledge, expertise and resourcing from the environmental experts within the NRM board. This is particularly evident with the growing pressures on teachers to spend increasing amounts of their planning and professional development time on priorities of literacy and numeracy improvement. With support, improvements in both are not only possible, but mutually supportive. Educational research has found many benefits of engaging with nature, including positive mental health, motivation and higher test scores in maths, reading and writing, science and social studies.

NRM Education and Learning Improvement Division work with engaging Young Aboriginal Students

NRM Education is leading innovative work in collaboration with Department for Education Learning Improvement Aboriginal Project Officers, schools, and Aboriginal

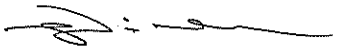
People within the communities (eg AEWs/elders etc) to access relevant indigenous knowledge around history of plants, soils, animal and/or insect migration etc. This work has the potential to better recognise and promote Aboriginal peoples' land, water, economic and cultural interests, and maintain a strong Indigenous identity alongside western scientific understandings for both current and subsequent generations.

The Aboriginal peoples' deep knowledge and relationship with Country is critical to sustainably caring for our lands and waters. Practical involvement in managing natural resources is vital for the future of Aboriginal nations and people. Consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal Communities is essential.

The collaboration has the potential to engage young aboriginal learners in understanding and caring for their local community and environment, participating in meaningful 'both ways' learning which includes indigenous content knowledge. This powerful recognition and promotion of the meaningful connection of Aboriginal people with their environment, helps them to develop a community of capable local people leading stewardship of their natural environment.

The work and contribution of NRM Education to the understanding our young people develop about environmental sustainability has been pioneering and effective. I am hopeful that the important work and contribution of NRM Education Officers will be considered in the reforms to the natural resources management system.

Sincerely



Marianne Nicholas
Project Officer, Australian Curriculum and Teaching for Effective Learning
Learning improvement
Department for Education

[redacted]

From: Raymond, Andrew (DEW)
Sent: Monday, 15 October, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Landscape Reform
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: NRM Reform Submission from Warpuli Kumangka [redacted]
Attachments: NRM Reform submission from Warpuli Kumangka.pdf

Security Classification: [redacted]

[redacted]

Good afternoon

Please find attached a submission to the proposed reforms of the NRM system in SA. This submission has been written by Warpuli Kumangka: the Kaurna AMLR NRM Advisory Group. Warpuli Kumangka is Kaurna language meaning working together.

The membership of Warpuli Kumangka is made up of both Kaurna miyurna (Kaurna People), Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges staff and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board members. The Kaurna members have been endorsed by their community to speak on behalf of Country, language and heritage. There are also two Kaurna youth positions on the group. Staff members of NR AMLR represent a cross section of programs and Board members provide a direct strategic link to the Board. The group is Co-Chaired by Kaurna and an NR AMLR staff member.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the Co-Chair of the group through my contact details below.

Thanks for your consideration.

Andrew Raymond
A/Manager NRM Communities

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges
P (08) 8273 9143 | [redacted]
205 Greenhill Rd, Eastwood SA 5063
environment.sa.gov.au | **naturalresources.sa.gov.au** | **envirodata.sa.gov.au**
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Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Helping South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

White Ribbon Workplace

green building council australia MEMBER

Reconciliation South Australia Inc

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Natural Resources Centre

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www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges

Ref: D0009864703

14 October 2018

Hon Minister David Speirs
Minister for Environment
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister Speirs,

We are writing on behalf of Warpuli Kumangka: the Kaurna AMLR NRM Advisory Group. Warpuli Kumangka is Kaurna language meaning working together. At Meeting 141 of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) in June 2018, the Board endorsed the recommendation to support, resource and seek advice from Warpuli Kumangka.

The membership of Warpuli Kumangka is made up of both Kaurna miyurna (Kaurna People), Natural Resources AMLR staff and AMLR NRM Board members. The Kaurna members have been endorsed by their community to speak on behalf of Country, language and heritage. There are also two Kaurna youth positions on the group. Staff members of NR AMLR represent a cross section of programs and Board members provide a direct strategic link to the Board. The group is Co-Chaired by Kaurna and an NR AMLR staff member.

The aims of Warpuli Kumangka are to enable the Kaurna community, through the group's representatives, to have greater input into the range of programs and projects that are delivered throughout the AMLR region. In addition, the advisory group will provide AMLR staff and Board members insight and knowledge into the maintenance and protection of Kaurna Culture and cultural sites and the natural resources of Country through Board and public lands (Parks) projects.

The group meets monthly and membership consists of:

Kaurna membership	AMLR NRM membership
Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch. Co-Chair. (Chair Kaurna Nation Cultural Heritage Assoc)	Andy Raymond. Co-Chair. (A/Manager Communities)
Uncle Lewis O'Brien Frank Wanganeen (proxy)	Tony Flaherty Damian Moroney (proxy)
Aunty Lynette Crocker Buster Turner (proxy)	Christy Spier Camille Jenkinson (proxy)
Tim Williams Justin Peisley (proxy)	Caroline Dorr Catherine Austin (proxy)

Tobias Turner Isaiah Turner (proxy)	Russell Johnstone (NRM Board member) Rachael Siddall (NRM Board member) (proxy)
Jannaya Williams Tiahna Silvy (proxy)	Allan Sumner (NRM Board member) Rachael Siddall (NRM Board member) (proxy)
Merle Simpson (Exec Support, Kaurna NRM Senior Advisor)	Michael Field (Exec Support, Aboriginal Engagement Officer)

Please find below a submission from Warpuli Kumangka to the content and questions outlined in the discussion paper entitled *Managing our Landscapes, Conversation for Change*. The group's response is written with the following section in mind 'Enabling great leadership by Aboriginal people' on page eight of the paper.

Whilst not currently part of the NRM legislation, the group would like to recommend that the new Landscape SA Boards and Green Adelaide Board recognise the importance of acknowledging Traditional Owners as the custodians of the lands on which the Boards will operate. This could be done through setting policy direction for the new Boards that has a direct link to the new legislation.

Acknowledgement of Country

Of importance is an Acknowledgement of Country recognising Kaurna as the Traditional Owners when operating in the area known as Kaurna Yarta (Kaurna Country) as recognised under Kaurna Native Title. As a part of the acknowledgement, the national protocol of recognising other Nations should also be considered. An Acknowledgment of Country should be undertaken at the beginning of all meetings/events/activities if Kaurna is not delivering a Welcome to Country. Whoever is delivering the acknowledgement should strive to make the content relevant to the meeting/event/activity and give it in Kaurna language if able.

Cultural Awareness Training

To support staff, Kaurna and Board members to continue to building cultural competency and ability to partner and work together, cultural awareness training should be mandatory for all Landscape SA staff and Board members. There should be three phases of this training; general cultural awareness training; Kaurna cultural awareness training; walking Country with Kaurna. The result of this will be staff and Board members with cultural understanding and increased capacity to be culturally respectful and aware during the delivery of Landscape SA business.

Governance between Kaurna and new Landscape SA Boards and Green Adelaide Board

Warpuli Kumangka is a new partnership and way for Kaurna and the AMLR NRM Board to work together. Membership of the group represents a strategic link between both Kaurna and Board structures. The group sees great potential in formally recognising the model of Warpuli Kumangka as a single sub-committee of the Landscape SA Boards that would service the proposed Green Adelaide, Plains and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu Landscape SA regions. That is, for the area recognised as Kaurna Yarta, there would best be only be one group with a multi-lateral agreement between these three Boards to work across boundaries. The group should be a sub-committee of the Green Adelaide Board with an arrangement in place with the Plains and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu Boards for cross boundary partnerships. Membership of the group would remain similar with individuals chosen for their authority to speak on behalf of Kaurna Country, language and heritage as well as staff and Board members from the two Landscape SA Boards and Green Adelaide to speak for various programs and projects. Youth would still be a focus for Kaurna with at least two positions dedicated to youth. As a formal arrangement under Green Adelaide, the group would have

delegated authority to make decisions and to plan and influence the priority for investment in regions. Kaurna members are currently funded for their time when participating in Warpuli Kumangka and this needs to remain under the arrangements of the Landscape SA.

Landscape SA Board membership

The likely boundary of the proposed Green Adelaide region will be exclusively within the area recognised as Kaurna under Native Title. Dedication of two Kaurna Board positions on the Green Adelaide Board will recognise Kaurna as the Traditional Owners of Country. It is recommended that these two positions consist of one male and one female representative. The Kaurna Board members will also be part of the Kaurna Green Adelaide sub-committee. Having Kaurna representation on the Board will be fundamental to Kaurna having a voice in governance and planning processes which will lead to better partnerships, inclusion of Kaurna spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices in Landscape SA plans and supporting Kaurna miyurna to take a leading role in managing natural resources.

As the Plains and Valleys and Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Boards will still cover the area recognised as Kaurna Yarta, Kaurna should also have one dedicated position on each of these Boards. The Kaurna Board members will also be part of the Kaurna Green Adelaide sub-committee which will work across boundaries.

Landscape SA Planning

The new Boards should have flexible structures and planning frameworks to enable inclusive and capable ways of engaging Kaurna for input of knowledge and guidance on planning considerations across the cultural landscape. This should be followed by opportunity for the Kaurna community to stay involved in projects on a more on-going basis which would enable the further development of capacity in natural resource management.

The Landscape SA and Green Adelaide plans should enable the inclusion of what the Kaurna cultural landscape means to managing natural resources. Without Kaurna participation and input into the plans and planning process, the aim of enabling greater leadership by Aboriginal people as stated in the discussion paper cannot be realised. During the development of the 5 year Landscape SA plans both Kaurna and Green Adelaide and the Landscape SA Boards could make a commitment to each other and outline a 5-year plan with guiding principles that strengthen their relationships and develop a vision together for the future of Green Adelaide and the regions. This could be done through a series of workshops.

Kaurna leadership has and will endure beyond government cycles. Inclusion in Landscape SA planning processes will be fundamental to driving and improving the way we manage natural resources.

The group supports the seven priorities of Green Adelaide and recommends the addition of an eighth priority- a sense of Kaurna Culture, Heritage and belonging for all. This eighth priority will contribute to the section within the discussion summary paper entitled 'Enabling great leadership by Aboriginal people'.

Repatriation of Kaurna Old People

The proposed Green Adelaide and Landscape SA Boards will have a role to play in supporting the repatriation of Kaurna Old People. As part of the Kaurna Native Title determination, Kaurna will be implementing a repatriation program which will see Old People returned to Country. Currently, the Board, Warpuli Kumangka, Kaurna NRM Senior Advisor and AMLR Aboriginal Engagement Officer are providing support to Kaurna and contributing to the collaborative effort with other government

agencies including Federal, state and local to ensure this important initiative can be implemented. Given the cultural authority, skills, qualifications and experiences of the membership of Warpuli Kumangka, it is recommended that the proposed sub-committee supports Kaurna in all repatriation works into the future.

Resourcing

Currently Warpuli Kumangka is resourced with all Kaurna members remunerated for their time and executive support provided, both funded by the NRM levy. Coordinating and facilitating the group requires commitment from the Board and allocation of time for staff to support this. This will need to continue for this model to be effective. An opportunity here could be to create a dedicated Kaurna engagement team as part of the Green Adelaide workforce to support the sub-committee as well as facilitate all engagement needs between Kaurna and the new Boards.

Twenty percent of the Landscape SA budget that goes to community and on-ground projects could be allocated via the Kaurna Green Adelaide sub-committee. This will enable the group to strategically plan and invest into projects to improve a sense of belonging, community wellbeing, ecologically and culturally vibrant region. The sub-committee will have a focus on building a strong connection between Adelaide residents and building a strong leadership role for Kaurna.

Consideration of Green Adelaide funding should be a contribution towards physical accommodation for Kaurna to create a place of belonging and to undertake business from (be it with government agencies or NGOs). The accommodation should include office space, meeting areas, storage, a gallery and space for interpretative displays and could provide a location for the sub-committee to function as well as a hub to service supporting staff, co-management and other relevant parties, programs and projects.

The provision of appropriate and adequate on-going funding and resources to Kaurna miyurna to contribute cultural knowledge, advice and input into Landscape SA business needs to be included in Landscape SA business. Currently, this is not resourced well with Kaurna miyurna regularly being called upon to contribute to NRM business without compensation for their time. This would include funding at a program level, not just individual projects to enable a link to succession planning and to integrate with non-Aboriginal elements of natural resources management.

Landscape SA through the existing network with Kaurna and work that it undertakes has a unique and important role to play in helping to reconnect Kaurna miyurna with Country. Realisation that disconnection to Country as a result of European invasion has resulted in gaps in knowledge and capacity which must be given adequate time and resources to nurture and re-establish.

The group would like to see a commitment from Landscape SA Boards that an outcome of their work will include a commitment to support Kaurna and Aboriginal business to grow and be involved in natural resource management. To realise this outcome, Landscape SA Boards will need to play a role in working with its networks and suite of service providers to mentor and support the development of a multi-faceted Kaurna workforce. This could include funding for job readiness in the NRM sector, traineeships and apprenticeships and will focus on all areas of employment, not just positions with an on-ground component.

Following on from this, the group would like to see an increase in procurement and contracting of Kaurna and Aboriginal businesses to provide services within the regions to develop business capability to meet the goals of Kaurna and Landscape SA programs and projects.

The way Kaurna and Aboriginal people are considered in the development of agreements and contracts need not always be related to direct engagement. For example, in the event that an Aboriginal service provider cannot be sourced, a non-Aboriginal service provider could be contracted with a set of conditions including:

- they have a working Reconciliation Action Plan
- they have or are prepared to undertake cultural awareness training
- they use Kaurna or Aboriginal people or businesses if labour or equipment hire is required.

These conditions could apply to all agreements, including those with local government and non-government organisations.

If you have any further questions about our submission, please contact either Jeffrey Newchurch or Andrew Raymond, Co-Chairs of Warpuli Kumangka.

jeffreynewchurch@hotmail.com 0458 973 692

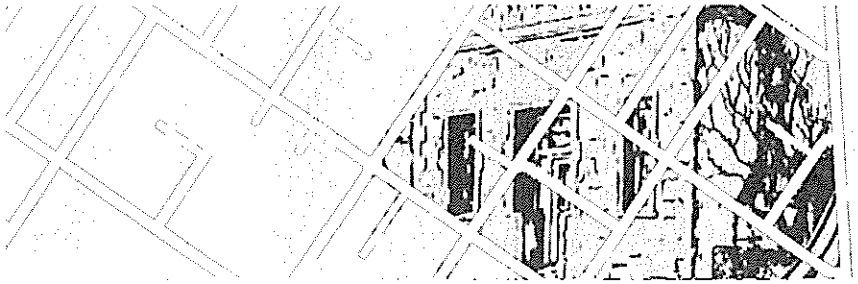
andrew.raymond@sa.gov.au 0429 670 074

We appreciate your consideration for our submission.

Yours Sincerely,



Jeffrey Newchurch and Andrew Raymond on behalf of Warpuli Kumangka



KENSINGTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED
Ph: 8331 9654
Email: contact@kra.org.au
Website: **www.kra.org.au**
Serving the community since 1977

The Independent Facilitator,
Landscape Reform,
GPO Box 1047,
Adealide, 5001.

The Secretary,
Kensington Residents' Association Inc.,
Mr A Dyson,
42, Regent Street,
Kensington, 5068.
15th October 2018.

Re: Landscape Reform

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed reforms related to natural resources management.

Since 2009, our Association has worked closely with the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board and the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters on revegetation and associated activities along the banks of Second Creek through Borthwick Park in Kensington, and throughout the whole park.

Our first plantings were carried out in 2010. Since then volunteers of the Kensington Residents' Association have strived to recreate the natural environment of Borthwick Park through a thriving biodiversity project. Working bees have seen volunteers plant over 4,500 indigenous species to provide biodiversity that is attracting new birds, animals and insects to the area. Since 2010, over 50 volunteers have contributed over 3100 hours of labour to the project.

We have relied upon the invaluable support provided by NRM in providing: advice; training; plants; plant guards and stakes; tools for major planting days; and also occasional use of NRM power tools. NRM has also provided grant funding for plant signage in the park to help educate users of the park about our locally indigenous species and more recently for the construction and placement of bird and bat nesting boxes in the park. Local children assembled the boxes under adult guidance and will be encouraged to find the boxes in the large gums and report their nesting occupants.

Without NRM's support, it is very unlikely that our project would have commenced nor would it have achieved such success. Accordingly, our Association supports any changes that will not jeopardise the existing level of support for our project but will instead maintain and increase the level of support for this project and other possible biodiversity projects within Kensington.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Dyson

Stewart Caldwell
President ('

Andrew Dyson
Secretary

cc The Premier, Mr Steven Marshall
Deputy Premier, Ms Vickie Chapman
Minister for Environment & Water, Mr David Speirs

SACOME

Managing Our Landscapes – Natural Resources Management Reforms

Submission to the Government of South Australia

October 2018

South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy
The leading industry body representing the resources sector in South Australia

SACOME

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1. Introduction

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) is the peak industry body representing companies with interests in the South Australian minerals, energy, extractive, oil and gas sectors and associated service providers.

The resources sector is a key stakeholder in the sustainable and strategic management of our natural resources with considerable obligations under various pieces of legislation and reinforced by community expectations.

South Australia's current natural resources management (NRM) arrangements are regulated under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act) which covers soil quality, water management and pest, plant and animal control.

The NRM Act intent is to provide an integrated and strategic framework from NRM based on regional empowerment, ownership and planning. However, over time, the criticism of the NRM arrangements has been its increased bureaucratisation and centralisation of resources.

SACOME notes that the South Australian Government has committed to a range of specific reforms to NRM systems with the aim of achieving five core principles:

1. *Decentralised decision making* – putting the focus on local issues and priorities that matter to regional communities.
2. *A simple and accessible system* – creating a transparent, flexible and responsive system that will allow people to get the job done more easily.
3. *Community and landowners at the centre* – recognising that people who live and work on the land are well placed to build enduring partnerships and make decisions about caring for our natural resources.
4. *Back to basics* – undertaking grassroots environmental projects that tackle soil and water management, weeds and pest animal control.
5. *A whole of landscape approach* – taking an integrated approach that complements grassroots programs with strategic projects to achieve restoration of entire landscapes.

SACOME is broadly supportive of reforms that aim to achieve an outcome driven, cost efficient, streamlined and transparent framework of the State's natural resources.

SACOME submits that reforms which aim to provide for the regional empowerment, ownership and planning of NRM need to balance the environmental and social considerations of the community with an economic objective that recognises the importance of the resources sector and industry to the ongoing prosperity of the State.

Economic, environmental and social factors need to be considered collectively to achieve positive NRM outcomes for all stakeholders.

SACOME and its members will continue to work cooperatively with the new Landscape Boards, just as they have with Natural Resources Management Boards (NRM Boards) to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

SACOME welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Managing our Landscapes - Natural Resources Management Reforms process.

2. Landscape Boards

SACOME notes that NRM Boards were established under the NRM Act with its members appointed by the Minister.

SACOME also recognises that the rationale of the Landscape SA reform process is to better achieve the regional empowerment intent of the legislation and assisting NRM Boards in directing and actioning on-ground activities.

SACOME broadly supports the establishment of nine Landscape Boards to replace the existing NRM Boards and the intent to foster local decision making on NRM issues that underpins this approach.

SACOME's support is provided on the basis that the concerns outlined below are addressed.

2.1 Establishing Landscape Boards

While SACOME broadly supports the establishment of Landscape Boards, it is important that Landscape Boards remain subject to the direction of the Minister.

This will allow the Minister to fulfil his accountability requirements to both the Parliament and the community.

It also establishes the necessary level of oversight over Landscape Boards while still maintaining their independence.

The ability for Landscape Boards to set their own budgets, employ their own staff and set and manage their own levies is an important step in empowering and providing greater autonomy to regional communities in the management of natural resources.

Greater autonomy for Landscape Boards also assists in removing the bureaucratisation and centralisation that these reforms are attempting to alleviate.

Increased autonomy needs to be coupled with greater transparency. The requirement for Landscape Boards to make publicly available plans and budgets annually will help to demonstrate accountability on the part of Landscape Boards in relation to their operational and governance responsibilities.

This contrasts with NRM Boards who were required to consult annually on their Business and Operational Plans until amendments to the NRM Act changed this to every three years, unless the increase to the Natural Resources Management Levy (NRM Levy) was greater than CPI.

These legislative amendments reduced the opportunity for local communities to understand the operations of NRM Boards and added to the removal of regional empowerment in the management of natural resources.

SACOME also welcomes the establishment of a regulator to oversee a cap on levy increases, however, this does not resolve the $6.8 million increase in levies that occurred in 2016 and the continual increases above CPI since.

SACOME submits that the decentralisation of NRM (subject to the appropriate expertise being demonstrably considered) coupled with a streamlined approach should lead to the more efficient operation of Landscape Boards and their activities, including a reduction in the NRM Levy for all ratepayers.

2.2 Landscape Board Boundaries

SACOME understands that the proposed establishment of Green Adelaide abolishes the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board and establishes the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Plains and Valley Landscape Board.

Outside of these changes the reform process proposes that the existing boundaries will largely be retained.

While the reform process proposes various factors to be considered when defining the landscape boundaries (such as financial viability; logical administrative boundaries; community connections and identity; and land use) SACOME proposes that consideration should be given to ensuring that each region, as near as practicable, has a similar number of ratepayers in it.

This will assist in creating an equal revenue base across regions, reflecting a state-based approach to NRM.

2.3 Membership of Landscape Boards

The reform process proposes that the Landscape Boards will have seven members with three members elected by the community and the other four members, including the Chair, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water.

The ministerially-appointed members must demonstrate they have the relevant skills to facilitate management of the region's natural resources, have local knowledge, strong connections with the local community and appropriately reflect the diversity in the community.

SACOME agrees that community elected members will provide communities with a greater say in their Landscape Board and reflect a decentralised approach to NRM in South Australia.

It is important that any mechanism that allows for elected officials requires those nominated for election to have the relevant skills to facilitate management of the region's natural resources. It is also important that those nominated have local knowledge and connections to undertake their responsibilities.

This requirement will ensure that those who nominate for election have the requisite skill-set to work in NRM and meaningfully contribute to the operation of their Landscape Board.

SACOME submits that the most appropriate way to implement this requirement would be for the Minister or his delegate to vet nominees against a prescribed selection criteria.

Another proposed mechanism to vet nominees is for Government to only source nominations from prescribed stakeholders such as NRM Groups, Local Government and Industry Groups.

Given that the reform process suggests NRM boundaries will remain largely intact, SACOME suggests that each region should be broken into three sub-regions.

Landscape Boards will represent vast regions. If each region were to be broken into three sub-regions, then each sub-region could be awarded one elected position each. This would assist the reform process towards achieving community "buy-in" to the decentralisation of NRM.

This would help towards ensuring the entire region is represented and guard against the perception that control of the region is vested in the regional centre. Such a perception could adversely impact the reform process as it could be seen as a type of centralisation of control and work against the aims of the reform process.

2.4 Green Adelaide

SACOME notes that Green Adelaide will be developed via a separate discussion paper and will assess this reform when it is released.

3. Landscape Plans and a Green Adelaide

Current NRM arrangements place few requirements for consistency across regions, which creates challenges for the resources sector.

Each regional NRM plan is unique, making them difficult to compare; reducing the ability of the Minister and regulators to provide oversight; and creating multiple operating environments for resources companies to negotiate.

SACOME welcomes the establishment of Landscape Plans and the strategic direction that is proposed in their content.

Of particular concern for the resources sector, however, is how the new Landscape Plans will integrate with the resources sector.

For example, the resources sector needs to ensure that future Water Affecting Activity policies developed as part of the five-year Landscape Plans considers the way the operators use and manage water under Mining Act related approvals such as Mining Lease Approvals (MLA) and Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation approvals (PEPR).

Previous NRM Plans have not taken into consideration MLAs and PEPRs resulting in confusion for the resources sector, Government and local NRM Boards due to the creation of policy that is incompatible with other Acts and regulations.

This incompatibility could be a potential source of future conflict should Landscape Boards have their policy overridden, or if industry becomes burdened with policy that is incompatible with or works against its practical operation.

Further, the decentralisation of NRM could result in policy development with less input from referral agencies and the resources sector. It is possible that a mining company planning new exploration activity or development may not be seen as a member of the local community and not have a say in the Landscape Plan.

The scale and frequency of these conflicts has the potential to be impacted by the make-up of the Landscape Board and the familiarity Landscape Board members in each region have with the resources sector.

For example, the South-East NRM plan makes minimal mention of oil and gas throughout its plan, yet there has been a prominent gas industry in the South-East for decades.

SACOME submits that the establishment of a statewide management body (potentially the same regulatory body established to regulate a cap on NRM Levy increases) could also coordinate and review Landscape Plans. This regulatory body could provide direction and ensure consistency across the State for the resources sector and industry.

While such a body could also improve efficiencies and NRM outcomes it needs to be balanced against the aim of the reforms to return to the original intent of the NRM Act and allow for regional empowerment, ownership and planning of natural resources.

4. Improving the Levy System

Two types of NRM levies are currently collected in South Australia:

- Land levies collected from ratepayers both inside and outside of Local Government areas; and
- Water levies, collected from entities who hold a water management authorisation.

Under the NRM Act, these levies are intended to share the cost of implementing a Regional NRM Plan across the region.

Levies are not quarantined specifically for land-based or water-based activities and the NRM Act allows NRM levies to be raised through a variety of mechanisms.

Land levies may be based on capital value, fixed rate or land area. Water levies may be based on a fixed rate; water allocations or water usage; the share of the resource; area of land; the effect that taking or using water may have; or for a defined special purpose.

In determining the most appropriate mechanism, NRM Boards must undertake a social impact assessment to minimise the impact on levy payers.

SACOME is of the view that the current NRM funding model in South Australia is flawed. It is structured in a manner that restricts funds to being spent in the region they are generated.

The model is effectively based on population and has created an inequity for regions with a small number of ratepayers. For example, Boards such as the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) have little generating capacity outside of the water levy.

Not all water users or beneficiaries of NRM are contributing (particularly through the water levy) which is disproportionately sourced from the resources sector.

This model is not appropriate to ensure sufficient funding to address the ongoing costs of NRM in regions like the SAAL.

SACOME submits that the reliance on a single source of stable funding to support NRM is not financially sustainable.

SACOME stresses that the resources sector is prepared to pay its fair share in supporting good environmental management and protection within the communities it operates, however, the sector cannot be expected to bear an ever-increasing water levy obligation while other users are exempt from contributing.

This continuously increasing cost burden on the resources sector can impact on investment decisions, not just for existing projects but also the development of new resources.

SACOME submits that the environment of each NRM region presents differential resource management challenges. If we are to take a state-based approach to natural resource management due to the economic and social benefits that natural resources provide for the State and not just the region, then the introduction of uniform pricing across the State may provide for a more equitable distribution of costs.

Alternatively, the development of a statewide management body will not only allow for greater engagement and collaboration across regions but also provide the impetus for a broader statewide levy collection method rather than the current regional approach.

This approach must be balanced against the aims of the decentralisation of the NRM process.

5. Cross-regional and Statewide Coordination

Consistency is an important consideration for the resources sector. Local and regional partnerships are important aspects of driving NRM in South Australia, however the economic, environmental and social considerations and pressures affecting our natural resources do not stop at administrative boundaries.

In some instances the resources sector has not been considered in NRM Plans. It is important that the resources sector is better integrated into Landscape Plans.

SACOME reiterates that a statewide management body with oversight for planning, prioritising and supporting coordinated regional effort for economic development (including coordination and management of environmental and social considerations) could assist in meeting cross-regional and statewide coordination objectives.

6. Grassroots Grants program

SACOME understands that the Marshall Government made an election commitment to establish the Grassroots Grants program, a $2 million a year statewide annual fund (in addition to existing grants programs), administered at a Landscape Board level for volunteer, community and not-for-profit groups to access.

SACOME recognises that volunteers, community and not-for-profit groups play a major role in managing natural resources across South Australia and that their contribution of time, energy, expertise, equipment and resources is extremely valuable.

Rather than fund projects outside of Landscape Board budgets to deal with the cost inequity between ratepayers, this fund could instead be used to subsidise small regions or be limited for use in such regions where there is a smaller revenue base.

Conversely, consideration should also be given to a statewide management body that administers a statewide collection funding model across regions.

7. Clear Simple Priorities

SACOME welcomes that many of the existing NRM Act provisions dealing with pest, plant and animal control, water management and soil quality are likely to be kept in the new Landscape South Australia Bill.

While decentralisation is an important step to regional empowerment, ownership and planning, soil quality, pest, plant and animal control and water management do not operate in isolation or silos.

A state-based approach to the management of these issues, and stewardship of the natural environment more generally, must be considered together to achieve landscape scale restoration.

SACOME again sees some value in a statewide management body, planning and supporting a coordinated regional effort for this aspect of NRM.

7.1 Pest, Plant and Animal Control

SACOME recognises that the aims of these reforms are to prioritise pest, plant and animal control.

This prioritisation has the capacity to adversely impact exploration and the development of new mines and petroleum projects in South Australia if too much weight is given to environmental and social factors compared to economic objectives.

SACOME therefore advocates for these reforms to consider economic, environmental and social factors to achieve positive NRM outcomes in a collective and holistic manner.

7.2 Water Management

As raised in section 3 of this submission, the resources sector needs to ensure that future Water Affecting Activity policies developed as part of the five-year Landscape Plans considers the way that resources operators use and manage water under Mining Act related approvals such as MLAs and PEPRs.

SACOME supports a statewide management body that can coordinate resources sector issues across administrative boundaries to improve consistency in water management at both a State and local level.

7.3 Soil Quality

The resources sector can deliver positive environmental outcomes for local communities. For example, landscape initiatives through Significant Environment Offset (SEB) requirements for new projects can be difficult to plan and implement and resource sector companies often pay into the Native Vegetation Fund.

A significant portion of this money is spent on consultants and research projects rather than on the ground offset works, counter to the main intent of the Native Vegetation Fund.

SACOME submits that a better alternative would be more community-based offset initiatives allowing for greater benefits to the local community achieved through assisting resource operators to meet their environmental objectives in a way that delivers greatest local benefit.

7.4 Other Stewardship Priorities

Mine closure planning is an important issue for the resources sector and local communities.

If the resources sector is to have greater coverage in NRM arrangements through these reforms, it may be of benefit to include mine closure planning under the reforms to allow for greater connectivity between NRM arrangements and post mining landforms in regions where mining occurs or could occur.

8. Compliance

SACOME supports effective compliance and submits that implementation should be risk-based, strategic and targeted to addressing issues of greatest concern.

Priorities must take into account economic, environmental and social considerations, supported by local and cultural knowledge.

Processes should ensure that compliance breaches are resolved in a timely, consistent and cost-effective manner. Penalties should encourage compliance and be proportional to the risks posed by breaches.

The compliance system for NRM arrangements should also provide local communities with an assurance that it will protect landscapes from wilful or negligent non-compliance by individuals and entities.

9. Conclusion

SACOME welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Landscapes SA reform process.

SACOME advocates for NRM reforms that achieve a risk based, outcome driven, cost efficient, streamlined and transparent framework for the management of the State's natural resources.

SACOME is supportive of NRM reforms that take an integrated approach to economic, environmental and social considerations and has sought to provide considered feedback on issues of relevance to the South Australian resources sector.

SACOME remains committed to ongoing dialogue with the State Government in identifying and implementing practical reforms to NRM.

The Independent Facilitator
Landscape Reform
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Delivered via:
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15 October 2018

Dear Independent Facilitator,

Re: Submission to the proposed Landscape SA Act

Please find following my comments regarding the proposed Landscape SA Act and my responses to the questions raised in the *Managing Our Landscapes* Discussion Paper:

What is the problem?

Although not clearly stated in the Discussion Paper, I feel that the central problem this reform is seeking to address is the loss of autonomy of regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) Boards and the associated reassignment of NRM levy money to State business in the running of the former Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (now Department of Environment and Water).

Loss of autonomy and funds for boards has had major impacts on NRM in SA. I was a Senior Project Officer for the River Murray Catchment Water Management Board (2000-2004) and enjoyed working closely with my community and board members to set strategic direction and implement our five-year catchment plan. At meetings, I was able to make decisions and allocate funds within my annual budget. This meant that actions were both strategic and readily implementable. We had few staff and were immediately accountable to the community we worked for, the leaders of which were often on our project Steering Committees. We did, however, only work on water issues and were well supported by staff and community members of soils boards, pest plant and animal boards, agricultural bureaus, research organisations and government agencies.

NRM legislation changes, reduced State funding for State NRM business, the aforementioned redirection of levies to cover State costs and consequent centralisation of decision-making has been detrimental to the NRM sector in SA since then. Commonwealth funding opportunities that had been used to leverage Catchment Board levy funds to achieve business plan outcomes (e.g. the Natural Heritage Trust, Land and Water Australia, the National Landcare Program and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality Program) have also either ceased or decreased to a pittance.

In short, we built an incredibly capable and expert NRM industry in SA in a very brief funding window that has been subsequently eroded. Successive regional NRM business plans have been developed but not fully funded. Many skilled NRM workers have left SA. Risks to our natural capital base have been identified and projects to mitigate them have been developed but these plans have not been fully implemented. Threats such as salinity, pests, habitat losses and inequitable water sharing have not been adequately addressed.

Our biggest problem is, thus, chronic underinvestment in our natural capital. We need adequate resources to get on with the job.

What is important to me in managing natural resources?

Intergenerational equity is the most important thing to me. I am a mother of two and I fear that we will be handing over our State in a more degraded state to successive generations. I want to see a well-articulated and detailed vision for our State to still be "diverse, productive and stunning" in the year 2100, when my boys will be 84 and 94 years old, underpinned by sound risk management and secure funding.

I want them and all South Australians to be thriving into the next century, and beyond, but I fear they will be struggling to survive if business continues as usual. Wise use of our natural capital should be of paramount importance to all of our political representatives.

What do I think is working well about how we manage natural resources?

The combined use of local knowledge and world-leading technical expertise in developing and implementing successive regional plans has been extremely well done in SA, on very tight budgets and insecure funding. We have developed regional action plans, initially through volunteers such as SA Communities for Rural Environment (CARE) groups, the first of which predate State legislation by several decades. The capacity of our communities to have high-level discussions about natural resource challenges and make decisions about management options has concurrently developed. This is mostly due to a real passion to 'do the right thing' that cuts across interest groups but is also due to a legacy of long-term contracts for key agency and research staff and a culture of public servants providing 'frank and fearless' advice to both government and communities.

One case in point is the combined skills, expertise and energy of the Scientific Advisory Group and the Community Advisory Panel for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth. Together we worked through the unfolding disaster that was the Millennium Drought although the 'solutions' divided the community quite literally. Thankfully, we were saved by major rainfalls in the catchment and did not witness acidification of the lakes. I am not sure we will be so lucky next time but I am confident that the strengths and partnerships forged during those tough times will enable us to make the best decisions we can in the future.

The SA NRM community is very strong, highly skilled, highly-experienced and willing to put in extraordinary effort to generate productive and resilient landscapes across all parts of SA. The energy and information exchange at the annual NRM Conference hosted by DEW is a prime example of this. The tempo is upbeat, collegiate and hopeful even in the current uncertain times for NRM in SA. Governments need to harness this expertise and passion by providing clear direction, adequate funding for projects, secure careers and support to achieve long-term, landscape scale outcomes.

What do I think should be changed about how we manage natural resources?

The biggest problem we have is chronic underinvestment in our natural capital driven by a lack of a sober, long-term vision for SA.

By vision I do not mean motherhood statements but a detailed evaluation of all existing knowledge to plot out what the different SA landscapes could look like in the long-term (e.g. 2100) with regard to natural ecosystems, productive systems, waterways, coastlines and urban areas. This vision would be based on our values, known risks and our conceptual understanding of ecological and production responses to environmental changes and the ecosystem services that we want our landscapes to provide for to underpin "diverse, productive and stunning" SA landscapes.

One very effective change would be to empower regional natural resources staff and communities, who already know what needs to be done, by providing them with the resources needed to get on with the job.

We simply need more funds directed to achieving on-ground implementation of (largely existing) excellent regional plans based on mitigating risks to our landscapes.

How do you think we can best enable landscape scale restoration projects? How important is it to coordinate efforts across regions and how could this best be achieved?

We are now in the Anthropocene. This means that our collective actions (and inactions) are driving ecosystem conditions and transitions, whether we like it or not. Furthermore, we do not fully understand the risks to our natural capital base and how those risk profiles are changing. It is, therefore, essential that we approach landscape scale restoration using iterative management systems (as done by the most successful global companies), if we want our collective actions to result in 'diverse, sustainable and resilient' landscapes.

I have developed the attached NRM framework over the last 25 years of actively working in NRM in South Australia (Figure 1). It is based on the scientific method and international standards (e.g. ISO 14001). I have used it for roadside vegetation management, Riverine Recovery Program business planning, constructed wetland design and residential developments with great success.

The management system operates at many spatio-temporal scales and across many partnerships. It coordinates actions across regions or within regions to best achieve stated outcomes. It is based on shared values, localised problem solving using best available knowledge and robust evaluation of assumptions, risks, benefits and trade-offs. Monitoring and evaluation of resource condition and management performance enables checking to see if we are on target. The iterative nature of this management system means that anyone can participate at any stage of the cycle, plans can be updated, and management issues can be addressed when they arise, whilst strategic plans are being actively and seamlessly implemented.

Under this model, Landscape Boards would develop regional plans and annual business plans that are implemented by a small team of regional staff, contractors and communities. Project reports come back to the Boards who evaluate management performance and progress towards targets, updating their plans and budgets, as needed.

It is unlikely that significant risks and mitigation actions will line up with Landscape Board boundaries, therefore, coordinated action across regions will be extremely important for addressing some risks.

The result is continuous improvement of how we collectively manage our natural capital. The proposed 'back to basics' approach to action would sit within a Statewide risk-based framework so that people can readily understand where their piece of the puzzle fits and find confidence that we are moving in the right direction together.

How can Landscape Boards best facilitate the management of natural resources by their communities?

Communities are central to NRM due to the high percentage of private land ownership in SA and high levels of engagement of community members in managing public space. Community grant programs are always over subscribed and should be continued and increased greatly to enable community action under a strategic umbrella determined by the Landscape Board plans.

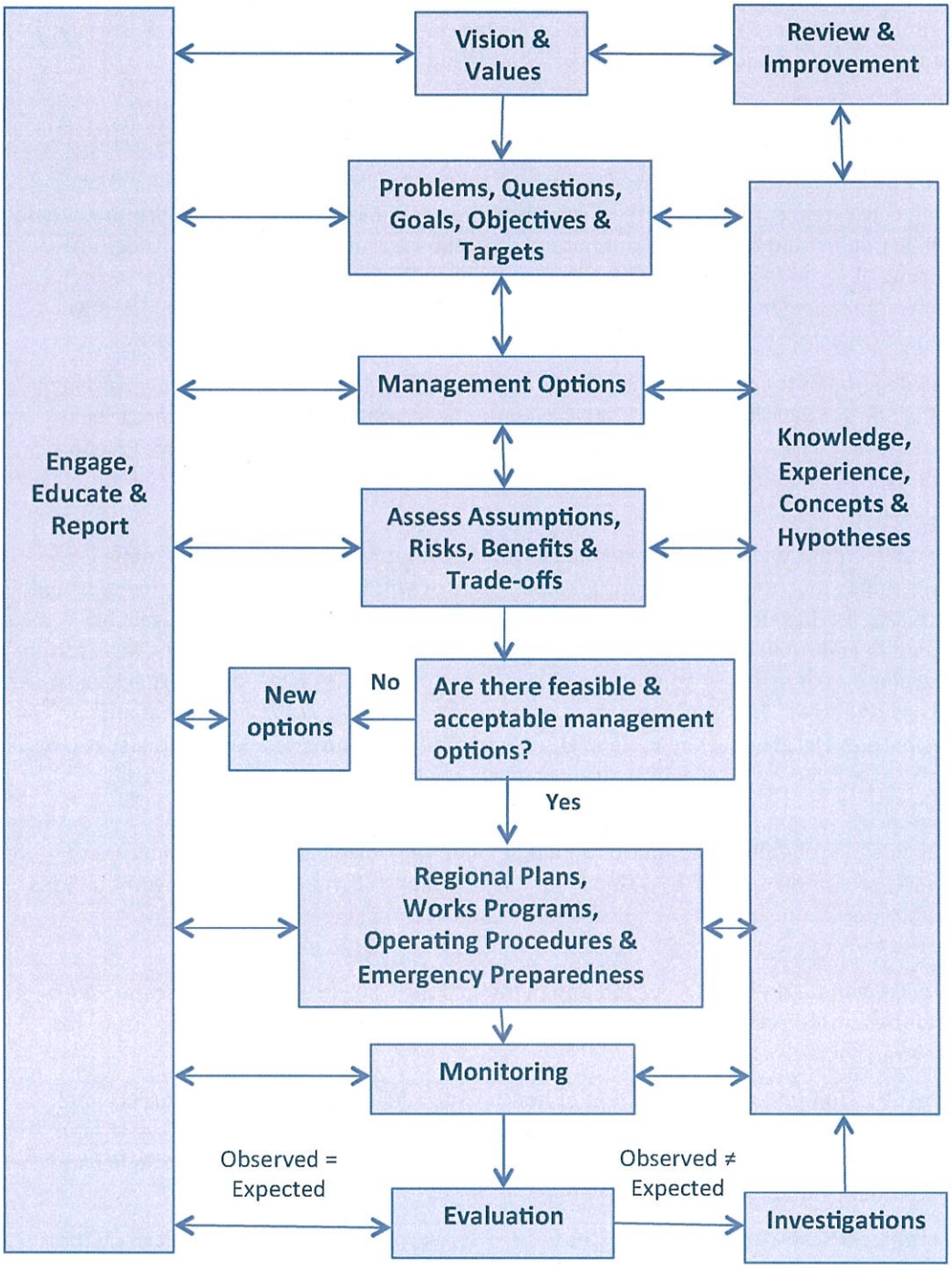


Figure 1:
Proposed SA Landscape Management Framework

Communities should also be encouraged to engage in landscape scale planning by identifying risks, taking actions, monitoring changes and evaluating outcomes (Citizen Science). There is enormous capacity and passion for robust NRM within our communities that can be harnessed for the greater good.

Green Adelaide, in particular, provides an opportunity to increase the level of understanding and engagement of urban communities. Connection to food production and better understanding of productivity cycles, seasonal cues, impacts of changing climate and other factors affecting our capacity to manage natural resources will increase the resilience of urban communities and strengthen partnerships with the primary production sector.

It should be recognised, however, that communities do not always speak with one voice and that divisions within a previously cohesive community can become more pronounced during challenging times. For example, during the Millennium Drought some irrigators in the SA Riverland were calling for construction of the Wellington weir and letting seawater into the lakes without an appreciation of the irreversible damage such action could cause. The lakes community itself became divided across the Clayton regulator, which some claimed was only installed to 'float boats' and not essential to preventing widespread acidification.

Furthermore, people do not typically seek information that will change their minds and thus changes in practice and viewpoints, where necessary to achieve collective action, require consistent messaging based on robust scientific information and the time and space to explore other points of view. Landscape Boards would do well to facilitate robust and open debates on the most contentious of NRM issues, preferably before emergency action is needed.

What do you think is the best approach for selecting board members?

I strongly believe that board members need to be selected based on expertise, that the expertise needs to be balanced across the boards and that we need to ensure that the board members and/or staff have the skill sets needed to successfully mitigate the risks to our collective vision for their part of the landscape.

Local knowledge is very important but it is not effective at achieving collective action if the collective skill set of the board is inappropriate or unbalanced. For example, if only elected representatives or popular/outspoken community members had been listened to during the Millennium Drought we would not have built the regulators and embankments that enabled us to contain acidification to a few 'hotspots' around the lakes. Lake Albert in particular would have experienced much higher salinities and lower pH across greater areas, if the Narrung regulator had not been built. This was a crisis with very rapid and direct consequences that demanded brave application of best available (unpopular) science. Many landscape issues are more opaque with slow response times and thus inappropriate actions may become embedded before the errors of those ways are realised.

If the Landscape Board plans are to be focused on achieving five actions in five years, then they need to base their plans on robust risk management. If not, there is a real chance that the loudest voices will determine the direction of the new plans, especially given the frustrated and under-resourced nature of the current NRM community. If this is coupled with elections to select board members, and not a skills-based approach, then the new plans will be driven by the views of popular people. This will not necessarily equate to plans that address the real problems that we are facing or achieve the stated aims of this reform (i.e. vibrant biodiversity, sustainable economy and resilient communities).

Fundamentally, we do not need another layer of popularly elected governance. We already have three layers (Federal, State and Local) of elected representatives making decisions for the community. The key functions of the Landscape Boards, like the Native Vegetation Council, the Coastal Protection Board and the former Climate Change Council, are to provide 'frank and fearless' advice and take sometimes unpopular actions with regard to

administration of State legislation, policies and plans, as such the new Landscape Boards will need to have a diverse range of experts as their members, which is unlikely to be achieved through an election process.

How could Green Adelaide help to make Adelaide a more ecologically vibrant city?
The urban environs of Adelaide are highly modified but there are many opportunities to improve the ecological function and ecosystem services provided by this part of our landscape, if well designed.

One aspect that could greatly improve Adelaide's ecological vibrance would be to better balance the 'blue, green, grey and brown' components of Adelaide's water resources. By this I mean that we need to convert brown water (sediment laden) and grey water (polluted) to clean and safe blue water (in our rivers, wetlands and ocean) by using the cleansing ecosystem services of soils, microbes and plants (green water).

This can be achieved through strategic and effective green infrastructure and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). At the moment, many of our WSUD features, such as the Botanic Gardens wetlands and suburban managed aquifer recharge facilities, are not operating as they should because of too much sediment in our waterways (too much brown water). This sediment is naturally mobilised during high rainfall periods but the quantities have greatly increased due to clearance, urbanization, construction, excavation, mining and operation of quarries.

We can achieve an ecologically vibrant Adelaide by:

1. Mapping risks to our water, land, biodversity and marine assets at a landscape scale,
2. Overlaying the ecosystem services we need to achieve our long-term outcomes,
3. Assessing the capacity of existing policies, plans and infrastructure to provide those ecosystem services,
4. Determining what gaps need to be filled through new policies, plans and infrastructure,
5. Providing the resources needed to strategically build novel ecosystems and enhance our existing ecosystems that can provide the building blocks of future SA landscapes.

Such ecologically-driven landscape management will enhance our environment by providing essential ecosystem services that are missing in Adelaide's landscape. For example, Torrens Lake could be an ecologically vibrant centerpiece if it is redesigned along ecological principles applied at a landscape and site scale (e.g. increasing cover of wetland plants in the lake, whilst reducing sediment loads from the catchment). An ecologically vibrant Torrens Lake would provide nature-based tourism and learning opportunities right in the heart of Adelaide and would compliment the significant investment in this precinct. Currently our only management option for preventing lake closures during the summer and autumn festival season due to blue-green algal blooms is to release water from Kangaroo Creek reservoir. Under low rainfall periods, which are likely to become more frequent and of longer duration as Climate Change progresses, this water may not be available or could only be released by increasing risks to our Water Security.

Lessons from redesigning and improved management of Adelaide's environs based on ecological first principles and best available knowledge can be readily transferred to the regions thereby supporting the whole state to be more ecologically vibrant. The increased enthusiasm for NRM thus generated will also drive greater investment by the private sector in achieving a well-defined vision for SA's future landscapes. In order for this to be collective and effective, protection and planning for ecosystem service provisions need to be built into our planning processes through the new State Planning Policies (e.g. including an ecosystem services overlay in decision-making processes).

How can regional planning be streamlined, more accessible, consistent, measured and reported upon?

The key to achieving this outcome will be the development and provision of a Statewide management framework and a series of templates for regional planning that can be tailored for the regions and scaled up or down, including management components such as:

- Community engagement plans and logs
- Developing vision, objectives and SMART targets (production and ecological)
- Assessing risks, benefits and trade-offs of various management options
- Preparing Regional Action Plans and Annual Works Programs
- Best Practice Operating Procedures (for common activities)
- Emergency Preparedness (drought, flood, fire)
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plans (MERI)

These templates would be applied within the framework shown in Figure 1. This would result in continuous improvement of our practices, meaningful partnerships between government, community, industry and experts and effective collective action.

How important is consistency in raising levies and how can we best fund high priority landscape scale projects?

It is essential that the Landscape Boards have the capacity to set and manage their own budgets, raise their own levies and leverage those funds against other private and public funding opportunities to implement their regional plans. The role of the independent regulator is important but that review needs to focus on whether the regional plan has identified risks and matched its levy raising to what is needed to mitigate the significant risks and achieve ecological and production targets rather than achieving 'postage stamp' levies.

It makes sense to have consistency in the principles and practices of raising levies but I believe that aside from accounting requirements, it is more important that sufficient monies are raised by the Landscape Boards to address risks to their natural capital than it is to have consistency in raising levies.

High priority landscape scale projects that are based on mitigating risks through application of best available knowledge should attract investment through competitive application for State NRM funds. Funds need to come from Treasury as well as through 'quarantining' a certain percentage of all levies for cross-regional or Statewide projects. Efforts should be made to increase available funds to meet all priority projects over time. To this end, private investment and longer term financial security of boards should also be encouraged.

I do not think the current levies are a significant cost to most households or businesses and I firmly believe that if the levies were transparently spent on achieving a clearly articulated, long-term vision for SA, then most people would be willing to pay more. Increased trust in wise expenditure of levies is essential for underpinning our communities, economy and wellbeing. Adequate State and Commonwealth funds also need to be found to fill the gaps to achieve our vision. If this reform is truly about achieving 'vibrant biodiversity, sustainable economy and resilient communities' then it needs adequate resourcing and clear direction. It is not clear from the current proposal whether adequate funds will be provided and where they will come from.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Kerri Muller, Principal, Kerri Muller NRM Pty. Ltd.

Submission to the Landscape SA Reform Process

Prepared by the SA NRM Partners

The SA NRM Partners, which includes the Primary Producers SA, Conservation Council SA, Landcare Association of SA, Local Government Association of SA, the Council of Presiding Members and most recently the Native Title SA, appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Minister's "Managing Our Landscape – Conversations for Change" discussion paper released in July 2018 and the impending new *Landscape South Australia* legislation.

The NRM Partners agree that the new legislation should reflect the natural resources assets of land, water and biodiversity; people being the enabler; and the threats of pest plants and animals, and climate change.

Establishing Landscape Boards

- The NRM Partners support the proposal to maintain a regional board model, with the new Boards have more autonomy than under the current arrangements.
- Enhancing regional Boards' responsibility for setting strategic direction, developing regional policy, budgets and staffing requirements will provide more autonomy.
- The NRM partners share concerns regarding the proposal for elections to elect board members and advised that caution is needed.
- Board membership that reflects the diverse range of skills and knowledge is required for strong regional leadership.
- The NRM Partners agree that there may be other mechanisms for the Minister to achieve the trust, transparency and connection to community in choosing Board membership. For example:
    - A community selection panel could be established for each region. Peak bodies could nominate regional representatives to be on the community selection panel. Criteria for skills and knowledge could be used to guide decisions. The community selection panel could provide the Minister with advice or choose the Board membership for a particular region.
    - Peak bodies could be involved in the current selection process and making recommendations to the Minister on appointments.

Boundaries

- The NRM Partners believe that a community's relationship to a region and landscape is critical to meaningful engagement on the management of our natural resources.
- Also supported are boundaries that are based on catchments and bioregions, ensuring that communities can contribute to planning and actions at a catchment/landscape scale.
- The NRM partners also believe that boundaries should be maintained that support current good working relationships should be considered.
- The NRM partners believe that boundaries should not be the tool for improving financial viability of Boards. Instead financial security for Boards should be achieved either through direct State government funding or Green Adelaide helping to support smaller regional Boards but not by changing boundaries

State-wide Coordination

- The establishment of a state-wide landscapes body is supported.

- The NRM partners agree that the NRM Partners forum is well placed to fulfil the role of a state-wide landscapes body, particularly given their membership, established relationships and willingness to work together on managing natural resources and our landscapes into the future
- This group could assist the Minister in providing advice on the priorities, coordination and management of natural resources across the state as well as assessing grant applications.

Partnerships

- The NRM partners support the principle that the community, Government, Boards, Non-Government Organisations and peak bodies all have a role to play and need to be involved to ensure that natural resources and landscapes are managed well.
- The NRM Partners agreed that there needs to be flexibility regarding what the most effective and appropriate partnerships are at the regional level.

Resourcing

- Resourcing to manage our natural resources should be through State appropriation as well as the levy; all South Australians benefit from healthy ecosystems.

Grants programs

- The concept of the grassroots community grants and the state-wide landscape fund is supported.
- The NRM partners are interested in exploring the proposed grants programs including how they are funded and how decisions are made.
- The NRM Partners suggest that given the feedback at the metropolitan consultations, which supported levy collected in the metropolitan area being used around the State, that consideration be given for the Statewide funds to be funded by Green Adelaide or State appropriation.

Areas requiring clarification

- The areas or issues that are non-negotiable in the Landscape reform should be clarified as a matter of urgency including water planning and management charges, resourcing for regional Boards etc
- The roles that Aboriginal people can play in managing landscapes under the reformed process.

16th October 2018

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Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

via email: LandscapeReform@sa.gov.au

Dear Hon David Speirs MP

Managing Our Landscapes: Conversations for Change – Discussion Paper July 2018

I am pleased to provide this submission on behalf of South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) in response to the proposed reforms to the *Natural Resource Management Act 2004* (SA) as outlined in the *Managing Our Landscapes* discussion paper (hereafter 'discussion paper').

SANTS is the Native Title Services Provider (NTSP) for South Australia performing all of the functions of a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) pursuant to Section 203FE of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). SANTS is a not-for-profit company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) as a public company limited by guarantee.

SANTS assists Aboriginal Nations to prosecute native title claims and protect native title rights and interests. This includes working with registered native title body corporates (RNTBC) and native title holders following the recognition of native title to support groups address their obligations and achieve their aspirations. Looking after country and active engagement in natural resource management (NRM) are key aspirations for many of the Aboriginal Nations we work with. We thus welcome the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper and to complement the direct engagement you attain from South Australian Aboriginal Nations in this process.

Our submission is structured around some broad themes which either respond to some of the proposed reforms or arise from our understanding and experiences of some of the key priorities and interests of Aboriginal Nations. We believe that the reform process offers an opportunity to improve natural resource management policy and planning through strengthening Aboriginal Nation engagement, leadership and participation in NRM policy, planning and program development and delivery.

Founding Principles

Aboriginal Nations are the First Peoples of South Australia and have custodial rights, interests and responsibilities in and to country. South Australia's lands and waters are embedded within, and embellished by, the cultural and spiritual beliefs of Aboriginal people. Lands and waters have been shaped by Aboriginal people's use, management and occupation since time immemorial. Cultural

practices sustained country and community and the importance of these practices, of people and country, and of the associated cultural knowledges and science remains undiminished.

The recognition and promotion of Aboriginal Nations inherent and continuing rights, interests and responsibilities to look after country must be a founding principle of natural resource management. Aboriginal Nations are not just another stakeholder group requiring consultation – it is, after all, the lands and water resources of Aboriginal Nations to which collectively 'we' now seek to manage through NRM frameworks and alike. The principles and obligations articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) need to be carefully considered and upheld through these reforms.

The leadership and engagement of Aboriginal Nations in NRM is also supported by a strong land ownership and growing rights basis. The three statutory Aboriginal land rights schemes provides Aboriginal ownership of almost 20% of South Australia. Further significant Aboriginal land ownership has been achieved through other land acquisitions, including those funded by Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and through negotiated settlements under the *Native Title Act*. The *Native Title Act* has also led to recognition of native title rights and interests in lands and waters over some 60% of the state (in addition to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Maralinga Tjarutja lands) with 17 Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) established to represent the interests of common law holders. Furthermore, Aboriginal Nations have also successfully negotiated co-management arrangements with the State Government over 60% of the national parks and reserves system.

As First Nations, as cultural custodians, as knowledge holders, as land and water owners, as native title claimants and holders, as land and water managers, as resource users and primary producers, the leadership role of Aboriginal Nations in landscape management must be addressed through the current reforms.

While there have been successful partnerships between NRM agencies and Aboriginal Nations, overall Aboriginal Nations generally feel that they are currently not in a leadership position, that their rights and interests are not being recognised or being valued, that they are being sidelined by NRM boards and processes, and that they are left out of key decision-making and program delivery. The reforms need to respond to and address these concerns of Aboriginal Nations.

Landscape Board Autonomy and Composition

The introduction of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* established an integrated regional basis for managing lands and waters. This decentralised approach provided some hope that regional communities including Aboriginal Nations would be in a position to influence NRM decision making. Over time and following reforms, regional NRM Boards were largely consumed by the machinations of government and a more centralised approach emerged. We support the proposed Landscape Board reforms to once again strengthen community leadership and provide more autonomy to regional boards, including with respect to staffing, budgets and funding, and planning and programs. However, this is on the condition that Aboriginal Nation representation, engagement and participation is a requirement for all Boards and suitable performance measures are established and monitored.

In regard to the proposed changes to the composition of the regional boards, we argue that Aboriginal Nation representation must be mandatory to ensure that Aboriginal perspectives are central to natural resource management and planning in South Australia. We propose that at least 1 representative (and preferably 2) on each Landscape Board be an identified Aboriginal position. The

boards will play a vital role in leading NRM policy, planning and programs and it is essential that Aboriginal Nations have a seat at the table and a direct voice.

Recent experience with NRM Boards also highlights that further Aboriginal Nation engagement and advisory mechanisms need to be implemented to support decision-making by the regional boards. There have been informal and formal arrangements put in place by different boards to strengthen Aboriginal engagement and participation. These have included regional Aboriginal advisory committees, focus groups and Aboriginal representation on NRM groups. These initiatives have strengthened Aboriginal participation in planning and decision-making and provided a supportive and corroborating mechanism for Aboriginal representatives on regional boards. We strongly encourage the government to consider how such additional intra-regional, sub-board Aboriginal engagement and advisory mechanisms can be formalised (including possibly regulations) through this reform process. The governance structures of native title groups may provide a basis for representative structures in most NRM regions.

The shift to a mix of ministerial appointed and community elected positions is generally supported. However, further consideration is required on how this might work with any Aboriginal identified positions. Certainly having levy payers vote on such a position would not be appropriate and ministerial appointments (and past nomination processes) have also been at times problematic. How a number of Aboriginal Nations in a particular landscape region might participate in a nomination or election process requires more focussed discussion.

Landscape Board Regions

We do not have a view on the proposed boundary changes to the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region. More broadly, we are aware that some of the current NRM Board regions have been a concern for a few Aboriginal Nations. The main issues arise when the country of an Aboriginal Nation straddles an NRM boundary, and thus a group has two or three NRM Boards to which they are required to engage and work with. We understand that such issues may be difficult to address, however, we encourage the government to consider whether some boundaries might be reviewed to address such issues.

NRM Levy and Funding

With a move to re-establish regional boards which have greater autonomy and are at arm's length of government, it is important that funding provide a sustainable basis for regional governance, staffing and operations. The NRM levy provides an important source of revenue for NRM Boards. Rather provide a comment on the proposed cap, we believe further thought needs to be given to addressing the disparities between the regions on the amount of revenue raised by each NRM/landscapes board. Our understanding is that some Boards generate 10-30 times the revenue of other Boards through the NRM levy. While this might be somewhat justifiable given population and resourcing needs, it does not represent the costs or priorities of managing landscape at a state level. We encourage the government to consider redistribution of NRM levy to provide a more equitable revenue stream across the NRM/landscape regions.

In relation to the Grassroots Grants program, we support any such additional funding which is made available to local communities and projects. Changes at both Commonwealth and State Government levels over the last 5-8 years have seen a significant reduction in funding opportunities available to local organisations, including Aboriginal Nations. Landscape boards and the Department need to engage with the Commonwealth Government to increase funding opportunities for natural and cultural resource management research, education, capacity development, programs and projects.

Importantly, such initiatives must recognise the rights and interests of Aboriginal Nations to be a project proponent or partner, regardless of whether or not the group holds the title or lease to the lands and waters.

Regional Landscape Plans

Regional planning is an important aspect of NRM and must be a priority in the reform process. Aboriginal Nations must be key partners for regional boards in jointly designing and driving planning processes. There are some positive examples of planning processes in natural and cultural resource management founded on high levels of Aboriginal engagement and leadership. These include the Murray Futures projects with Ngarrindjeri, the work of the Four Nations NRM Governance Group in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region, and numerous whole of country or country-based planning processes which have been undertaken by Aboriginal Nations and other partners. The planning framework implemented by Landscapes Boards must include the direct and active engagement of Aboriginal Nations. Outside of APY and MT lands, the native title claimants and holders should provide the basis for this engagement, including through the corporations established by the Aboriginal Nations (i.e., PBCs). These groups are well organised and governed and are accountable back to their members. We also encourage the government to consider how landscape boards may also support country-based planning for Aboriginal Nations within their respective regions.

We also support reforms to the regional plans to provide greater consistency across the state and to simplify content. The plans have become lengthy and overly complicated which has impacted on their accessibility and usefulness. The plans certainly need to be informed by the best science available at the time along with Aboriginal knowledges and other community and land holder perspectives, but the plans should focus on priority objectives, strategies and actions rather than detailing the lengthy knowledge base. Landscape boards should be encouraged to produce supplementary materials and resources to support the plans as might be deemed necessary. In terms of the proposed limit of five priorities per regional plan, we consider this might be overly restrictive and may lead to too broad, high level priorities being set. Nevertheless, we do agree with the principle of keeping things simple.

Landscape Approach

Aboriginal perspectives on looking after landscapes or country is not dictated by ridged administrative boundaries or hindered by complex tenure systems. Aboriginal people view 'country' with a cultural philosophy and belief that holistically embodies a sense of connectivity between people and the land and vice versa. There is a custodial connection and responsibilities to and from country. These beliefs and connections operate independently and in spite of western land ownership. NRM approaches have in recent times also taken on a landscape approach which seeks to manage lands and waters in an integrated manner regardless of land use and tenure. This provides greater opportunities for NRM activities to be more consistent with Aboriginal Nation approaches to caring for country. Such management philosophies must underpin the planning and programs delivered through these landscape reforms.

Landscape Priorities

In terms of priorities, Aboriginal Nations interests and objectives are broad. Without seeking to identify priorities, those matters we understand to be of interest or concern to Aboriginal Nations include:

- Management of feral animals and plants;
- Addressing over extraction and use of water resources (surface and ground water);
- Management of sea country;
- Management of visitation and visitor impacts;
- Management and protection of cultural heritage and cultural values;
- Impacts of mining and exploration;
- Impacts of residential and commercial development;
- Protecting landscapes (plants/animals and habitat) and restoring country;
- Sustainable primary production;
- Access to country and exercise of rights and interests;
- Education and understanding of the cultural values of landscapes;
- Relationships with other land holders and users;
- Fire management (including reinstating cultural burning practices);
- Co-management of conservation lands and reserves;
- Bush foods and medicines;
- Cultural intellectual property and cultural knowledges (application, transmission and protection);
- Climate change;
- Resources and funding;
- Training, employment and enterprise development;
- Waste management including nuclear waste and storage.

Across all these areas, the most important message we receive from Aboriginal Nations is being at the table with respect to decisions regarding these actions and strengthening opportunities to be engaged in the delivery of associated programs.

State Level Co-Ordination

The existence or role of the State NRM/Landscapes plan is not clear in the discussion paper. We support the continued existence of a state-wide plan to provide broad direction to the regional boards and planning processes or indeed to provide a consolidated picture of NRM priorities and activities at the state level. Strengthening partnerships between regions, with government agencies (State and Commonwealth), and with private sector (including business and community) are also important elements of NRM and these landscape reforms.

At a State level, we also encourage the government to consider re-establishing statewide structures to provide advice on and lead the resultant landscapes management framework. We are currently working with Aboriginal Nations to establish the First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation as a representative peak body. We believe that this body is best placed to provide appropriate statewide representation and leadership from Aboriginal Nations in, for example, state government policy and planning. This organisation may be appropriate in re-establishing statewide NRM Aboriginal advisory structures through these landscapes reforms.

Indigenous Employment and Procurement

A frustration and unmet opportunity for many Aboriginal Nations relates to employment and contracting in NRM delivery. Commonwealth funded programs including Working on Country (WoC) and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) have supported a number of groups to employ their own people to look after their lands and waters. Many other groups have not been able to secure such funding and thus have not enjoyed the same benefits. In terms of NRM services, many groups are

well positioned to provide contracting services (e.g., seed collection, revegetation, pest plant and animal control). However, such opportunities have not been forthcoming.

These landscape reforms provide an opportunity for the South Australian Government to further its commitments to reconciliation as outlined in the Department's Reconciliation Action Plan. The State's Indigenous procurement strategy must be promoted more strongly within the regional boards and targets and measures put in place at regional levels to increase contracting of Aboriginal businesses. In terms of employment, State Government needs to invest more in job creation for Aboriginal people in NRM including through partnerships with the Commonwealth Government. We encourage the government to make further commitments to Aboriginal Ranger programs, including looking to implement an Aboriginal Sea Ranger program.

Aboriginal Water Rights

Water is a key issue and worry for many Aboriginal Nations, whether the water is groundwater, collected in rock-holes, or in creeks, streams and rivers. Water is a fundamental cultural resource and supported Aboriginal Nations occupation and enjoyment of South Australian landscapes. The western separation of water from land has been problematic for Aboriginal people, largely denying them of their cultural rights and values. This has been compounded by over extraction and use of water resources which in turn has impacted on the health of country and culture.

Over the last 10 years or so, there has been an increasing understanding of these issues and steps to address Aboriginal people's inherent rights to water. An example is the National Water Initiative (NWI) endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2004 to improve water management. While Aboriginal people were not involved in the development of the NWI, it was the first time that Aboriginal people's rights to water were acknowledged in national water policy. Since then, there have been various responses by governments to the principles and requirements of the NWI, including the need for Indigenous representation in water planning and the incorporation of Indigenous social, spiritual and customary objectives and strategies for achieving these objectives in water plans. There has also been significant Aboriginal community led research and advocacy around water through bodies such as Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN).

In South Australia, some progress has been made with respect to inclusion of Aboriginal Nations interests in water planning. This has been mostly centred on the Murray Darling Basin and carried out by the Department in partnership with Aboriginal Nations. There remain issues in the implementation of these planning processes and influence on broader water resource management processes. Elsewhere in the state, Aboriginal engagement in water resource planning and management has been generally lacking. Particularly problematic has been the management of ground water allocations, including where there is connectivity to surface water artesian springs. Thus, as a whole the NRM framework in South Australia has failed to recognise, support and protect the rights and interests Aboriginal Nations to water.

This reform process needs to address the principles and requirements of the NWI, take note of the body of research that has since been generated around Aboriginal rights and interests in water, and develop a legislative response to embed Aboriginal Nations' rights and interests in water into water resource planning and management.

Strengthening Co-Management

National parks and reserves are key parts of country for many groups, and a focus for strengthening engagement and participation in looking after country. Co-management initiatives in South Australia have led to strong partnerships between the State Government and Aboriginal Nations and there have been many positive outcomes to date. While, as noted above, more than 60% of the conservation estate is under co-management, Aboriginal Nations want to see further improvements in the current arrangements while other groups are yet to negotiate co-management. For those currently with co-management agreements in place, some of the issues and aspirations include:

- progressing from an advisory committee to a co-management board;
- strengthening Aboriginal Nation input into planning processes;
- building cultural awareness, respect and competency of non-Aboriginal board members;
- increasing Aboriginal employment and contracting in park management;
- securing handback (ownership) of national parks;
- addressing power imbalances, including with respect board chairing, agenda-setting, decision-making and governance.

While we acknowledge that co-management and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (SA) do not form part of the current reforms, it is vital that the importance of national parks and co-management is not lost and that opportunities are not missed in making policy or legislative improvements. It is also essential that current reforms do not negatively impact on cross-tenure landscape management and the need for on-going partnerships between Landscape Boards and the co-managers of these conservation reserves.

Conclusion

The *Managing Our Landscapes* discussion paper outlines some board areas of reform for natural resources management in South Australia. We support the general intent of these reforms in strengthening regional delivery, simplifying NRM planning and engaging and working with communities. We acknowledge that the discussion paper highlights the need for Aboriginal Nations to be represented in governance and planning processes and the benefits of Aboriginal engagement and partnerships. However, the discussion on the proposed reforms rarely address how they will benefit Aboriginal Nations engagement, participation and leadership in NRM or better protect Aboriginal people's rights and interests.

Aboriginal Nations have rights and interests as the First Nations and custodians of South Australian lands and waters. Aboriginal Nations must participate fully in the development of policy and practices which relate to their cultural obligations and stewardship of their custodial country. NRM legislation, policy and planning must recognise the inherent right of Aboriginal people to undertake their cultural obligations and traditional stewardship of country as a human right. The legislative framework to manage landscapes must also provide mechanisms for Aboriginal Nations to fully participate in decisions and actions that effect their rights and interests and the development of their lands. The current NRM framework has fallen short in many areas, and these reforms offer the opportunity to address these deficiencies. Our submission has focussed on areas of reform to strengthen the NRM framework for Aboriginal Nations.

As we have outlined above, the representation of Aboriginal Nations needs to be mandated and further consideration given to how additional regional structures may also be requisite to strengthen Aboriginal participation in regional decision making. Aboriginal Nations need to be at the forefront of the design and development of regional plans working as partners with regional boards.

Aboriginal Nations also need to be supported to develop their own plans, based on their traditional jurisdiction of 'country'. Through these inclusive, engaging planning process, landscape priorities at sub-regional and regional levels will emerge. Moving to delivery, the State Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy needs to be implemented with regional boards working with Aboriginal Nations to identify and secure contracting opportunities in delivering NRM services. Reform is required with respect to water resource management to give meaning to the intent of the NWI and respect the inherent and recognised rights and interests of Aboriginal Nations to water. While there are many other aspects of land and water management which need to be addressed, we lastly bring attention to the need for continuous improvement in co-management across the state.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the proposed reforms to improve the use and management of lands and waters in South Australia. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely



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Pastoral Board

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Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Pastoral Board (the Board) to make a submission related to the reform of the NRM system in South Australia.

The Board has seen many evolutions of the NRM system and is optimistic that this planned reform will help to refocus the intent and operation of the broader system; and achieve the desired social, economic and environmental outcomes of both the government and the community.

The Board's submission focusses on the key considerations we believe are fundamental in designing and operating any future NRM system, with an emphasis on our experience gained across the SA Arid Lands NRM region in particular. The considerations we wish to highlight are as follows:

- Collaboration is critical. We acknowledge different statutory bodies and agencies have differing roles within and outside of the broader NRM system. But they also cover the same community and can have some overlapping roles and common goals, therefore exploring that collaboration of skills and effort across agencies and other statutory authorities is extremely important.

- It is also important to recognise the uniqueness of the pastoral landscape and its communities, and that a 'one size fits all' design that has been applied to previous state-wide NRM models should be better tailored. In particular this includes considerations around workforce design and service delivery and exploring the possibility to outsource some functions and establish delegations and MOAAs between other statutory authorities better placed to deliver, rather than apply another state-wide workforce model/service delivery model.

- Consideration also needs to be applied to the development of fit for purpose policy. Many state-wide polices cannot be effectively or efficiently applied, as the policy supports legislation that is sometimes in conflict with other legislation. The uniqueness of each landscape and its management needs must be considered. This is particularly relevant to the current native vegetation legislative and policy settings.

- There is limited funding able to be collected under the current NRM model for regions outside of metropolitan Adelaide to fund community driven NRM. Additionally there are multiple other statutory and non-statutory bodies with very specific functions to deliver who also draw funding (whether as a direct levy or a tax) from the same community for service delivery. The future Landscapes SA proposal provides an opportunity to streamline and pool existing expertise and resources to both collectively plan and deliver on regional priorities driven by the community, rather than those determined by individual organisations.

The Board would be more than happy to discuss any aspect of this submission further and participate in future conversations about the design and operation of the Landscapes SA model. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Kind Regards,



Geoff Mills
Presiding Member
Pastoral Board of South Australia

17 October 2018