

**Northern Water
Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting
10.00am Wednesday 1 May 2024
Via MS Teams / Tumby Bay Office**

Meeting Presentation – Appendix A

1. Welcome and introductions – Josephine Telfer

Josephine Telfer welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

There were no declarations of interest. It was noted that any members who are or become involved with consortia for the project should advise the project team immediately.

2. Review of meeting notes from previous meeting

The minutes of the SRG meeting held on 15 February 2024 were accepted.

3. Review actions from previous meeting

1. *Provide speaking points in relation to the media releases for Council.*
Complete.

2. *Provide contact details for State assessment process.*

Jo Telfer read a statement summarising information received 20 February 2024, and noted it was an oversight of the team not to pass on this information to members. The root cause for the missing information has been found and addressed:

Northern Water has sought advice from DIT-Planning and Land Use Services. They have advised that the Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the Northern Water EIS during the public notification period. There is currently no State-based process for public consultation on the Assessment Requirements. Stakeholders can also lodge a submission on the EPBC referral. They also advised that stakeholders (with concerns regarding the protection of the Great Artesian Basin) may wish to write to the State Government separately to raise their concerns and suggestions. Such correspondence may be more appropriately directed to Minister Koutsantonis as Responsible Minister for the Indenture Act, rather than Minister Champion as Planning Minister.

An SRG member noted that the planning legislation does not preclude Plus from engaging on the assessment requirements and is disappointed that there is not a formal process to this to occur.

Members were encouraged to provide feedback through the publicly available channels such as contact details on departmental websites.

Further, it was discussed and agreed that the EIS Assessment Requirements will be circulated to members when available. A SRG member felt that it was important that these be circulated to enable the SRG members to ascertain what assessments the government intends to undertake and whether these cover the needs of all stakeholders and elements of the project. This information can be made available on an FYI basis and that there will be an opportunity to provide comments on the acceptability of requirements at the draft EIS phase.

3. *Members to advise of any groups or events not already identified who may like a presentation or presence at an event.*

Several requests received and members may consider this an ongoing invitation.

4. *Members interested in a Cape Hardy site visit to advise their preference for 30 April or 26 June 2024.*

It is proposed that the next SRG meeting be held at the Cape Hardy site on 26 June 2024.

4. Project Update – Jo Telfer on behalf of Mike Morgan, Lauren Gardner

Jo Telfer provided a Project Update including the following key topics:

- Procurement process and status
 - Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been received and are currently being evaluated. At the end of this process two consortia will be selected to submit proposals, with the outcome of the EOI process to be announced publicly.
 - It is intended that the consortia will have some direct engagement with the community, noting there are some sensitivities to be worked through.
- EIS Assessment Requirements yet to be released
- Option agreement with Iron Road
- Community Grants launched
- On track for draft EIS to be released in Q4 2024 for consultation

Lauren Gardner provided an overview of the Geotech investigations in four key areas which are scheduled to commence in Area A (upper north-west from Whyalla) in mid-May pending consultation with landowners. Local communities will be advised in advance of the investigations in each area.

5. EIS Engagement – Steph Hensgen

Steph Hensgen provided an overview of the upcoming EIS Engagement in accordance with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, 2016 and the Community Engagement Charter:

- The Minister for Planning will own the engagement process once the EIS is released through the PlanSA portal for a minimum of 30 business days.
- During this time, the Minister may request Northern Water to undertake additional engagement activities.
- There is a wide range of online and in person engagement activities being considered, noting the importance of being on the ground across the region.

Jo Telfer advised that, in order to optimise the input from SRG members in the development of the approach for EIS Engagement, it is proposed to hold a separate workshop for interested members, similar to the Multi-Criteria Analysis workshop. Members supported this approach and an email will be sent to members seeking nominations.

6. Regional Development – Josephine Telfer

Jo Telfer presented an update on activities to support regional development including partnering with local education and workforce development groups; collaborating with local councils, business and industry; and offering community grants.

Following a review of the Regional Australia Institute's 'Regionalisation Ambition 2032', which indicates a clear alignment between this framework and the regional development objectives as part of the NW project, the team is proposing to use the framework as a basis for the ongoing work in this area.

Members were supportive of this approach and provided the following comments:

- Unlike other states, South Australia does not have large regional cities (Whyalla third largest at 22k population), so it is difficult to attract strategic investment into regions and achieve the scale needed for many aspects of regional development. Local councils must instead rely on Adelaide based support and services to build capacity in the region. So, while supportive of the approach, SA does have this particular challenge.

- SA also does not have the framework to investigate and assess the social impact of large projects such as NW, and therefore the coordination of service delivery to support these projects is generally not well managed.
- An example of this is the project's potential impact on the region's health services and health care providers, which should be included in a social impact assessment and framework.

7. SRG Review – Bek Ciui

Bek Ciui provided a summary of the process and outcomes of the review of the SRG's membership and purpose conducted in April 2024. Based on the feedback received, the SRG Terms of Reference have been updated and will be circulated to members for endorsement.

Members were invited to share any further feedback. Members shared that, despite the efforts of the team and members' respective networks, there appears to still be many in the local communities who do not understand the project and/or the benefits to the region. It was suggested that the team speak with the regional Chambers of Commerce to assist with this, and to engage with Whyalla Council to promote engagement activities.

8. Other Business

Alan Hall, RecFishSA, raised an item of business (provided to the team following this meeting) in relation to the potential for Northern Water to supply the Renascor project in Arno Bay.

The team provided this response:

It is intended that the Northern Water project would reduce the need and justification for multiple smaller scale desalination plants in the gulf. However, in this case the timing does not align with our project timing.

MEETING ACTIONS

1. NW Team to speak with regional Chambers of Commerce and Whyalla Council regarding promotion of project and engagement activities.
2. NW Team to email SRG members seeking nominations for a NW Engagement Planning Workshop.
3. NW team to send out link to the EIS Assessment Requirements once published.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26 June 2024** at the Cape Hardy Site.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

1 May 2024

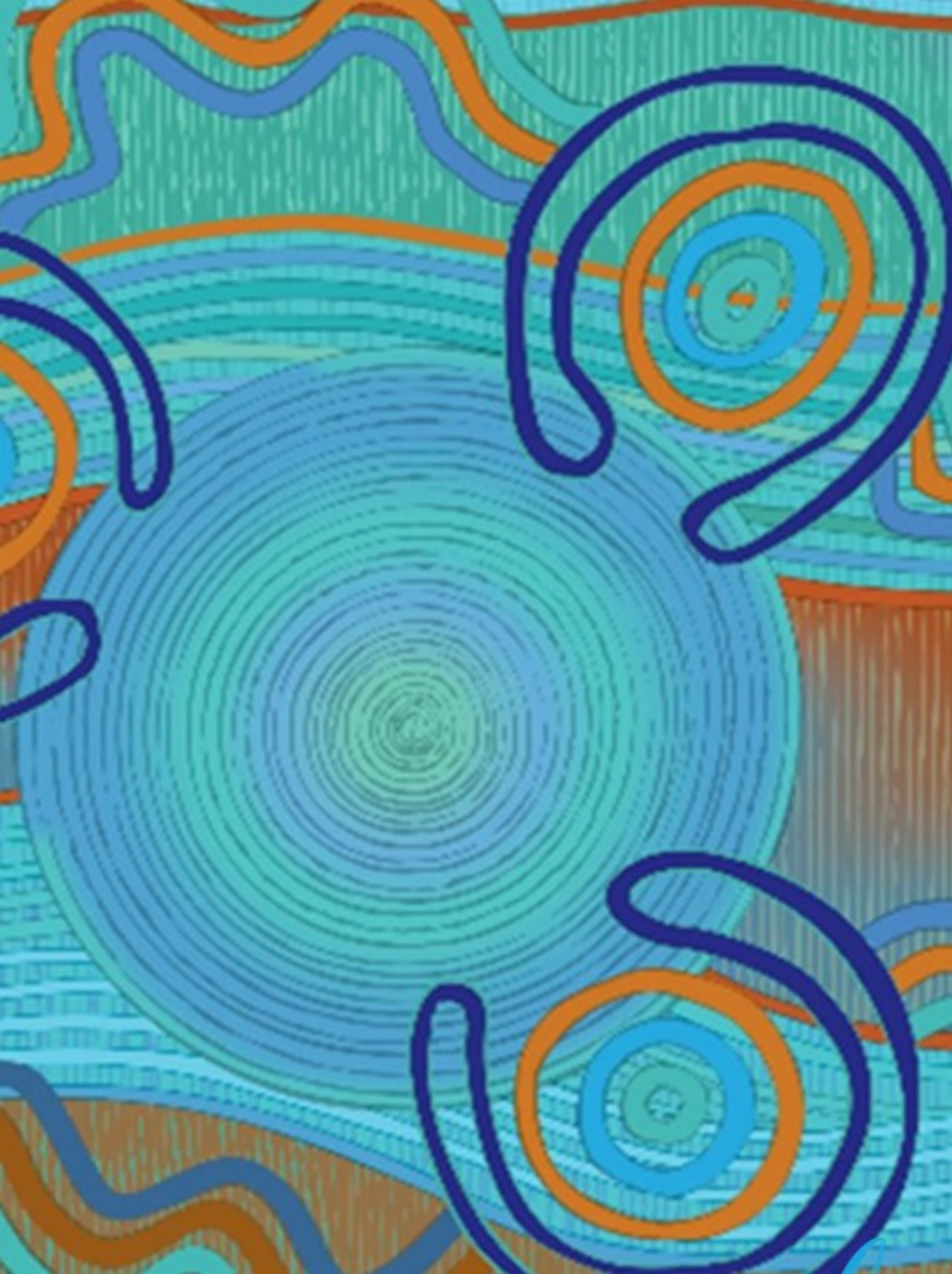
Stakeholder Reference Group



**NORTHERN
WATER**



**Government of
South Australia**



Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respects to
Community, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the unique place held
by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
as the original custodians of Australia's
lands and waterways,
with histories of continuous connection
dating back to the beginning of the Dreaming.



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Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome and Introductions - Acknowledgement of Country - Conflict of Interest	J Telfer
Review of meeting notes from previous meeting	J Telfer
Review Actions from last meeting	J Telfer
Project Update	M Morgan
Engagement	L Gardner S Hensgen
What have we been doing to support Regional Development	J Telfer
SRG Evaluation	B Ciui
Next meeting – site visit	B Ciui

Project update

Mike Morgan





General Project Updates

Mike Morgan



- Project Update
 - Progressing procurement process
 - EIS Assessment Requirements to be released
 - Option agreement with Iron Road
 - Community Grants launched
 - On track for draft EIS to be released in Q4 2024 for consultation
- Upcoming media announcements
 - Country Cabinet



Geotech investigations

Lauren Gardner



- **Area A**
 - mid May to late May
 - late June to mid July
- **Area B**
 - late August
- **Area C**
 - Late June
- **Area D**
 - Early August

Offshore Geotech
July – September (indicative)



General Project Updates

Mike Morgan



- Project Update
 - Progressing procurement process
 - EIS Assessment Requirements to be released
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Upcoming EIS Engagement

Steph H



- Engagement in accordance with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, 2016 and the Community Engagement Charter
- Additional engagement to align with Northern Water's commitments





Image courtesy of Ben Goode

EIS Engagement

Steph H



Engagement activities being considered:

- Local and State-wide social media and media promotion
- Staffed office at nominated times at Tumby Bay and Whyalla
- EIS static displays (posters, fact sheets, copies of the EIS) at key locations in cities and townships across the project area
- Large-scale drop-in Open Days at Tumby Bay, Whyalla, and Port Augusta
- Pop up engagement opportunities at key towns close to the project including Port Neill, Ungarra, Tumby Bay, Cleve and Cowell
- Presentations and meetings with key groups
- School visits
- Online information sessions

What we are doing to support Regional Development



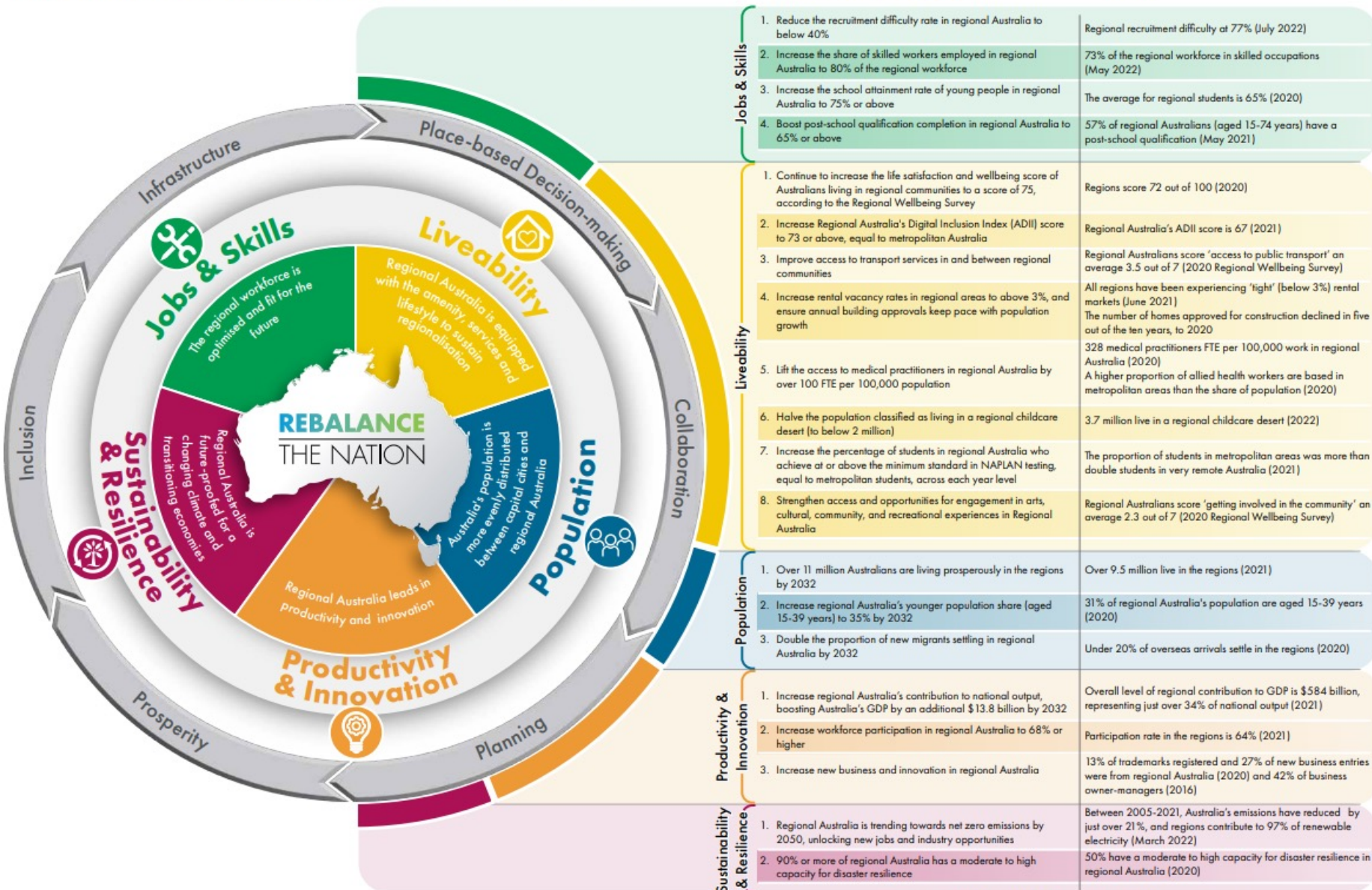
- partnering with local education and workforce development groups to develop purpose driven education pathways and post school training for regional people
- offering grants to support grass roots initiatives that provide genuine benefit to the local community



Regionalisation



Regionalisation Ambition 2032 - A Framework to Rebalance the Nation



What we are doing to support Regional Development



- Community grants
- Partnering with regional councils to assess and support local needs where possible
- Working with partners in the Spencer Gulf to support the planning and activation of the 'Goal 1000'
- Partnering with Department for Education to develop skills and training pathways for regional young people to access work in Northern Water and enabled projects
- Collaborating with local councils, business, and industry to help support housing needs in the region
- Investing in training programs to help small businesses in developing the necessary systems and capabilities to participate in the project (including Cultural Awareness; Recruiting Aboriginal Workforce etc)



SRG Review

B Ciui



Review of the SRGs membership and purpose in April 2024

The review focused on:

- Continuation of membership
- Review of Membership
- Strengths and weaknesses of SRG
- Future focus of the group.





Image courtesy of Ben Goode

SRG Review B Ciui



- 80% of SRG members responded to review calls
- Strengths of the SRG:
 - Transparent, organised, provides information well and listens to all concerns and feedback, members felt heard and understood.
- Areas for improvement:
 - SRG Admin to be improved
 - Members to be mindful of diverse range of input of others and open to hearing views of all
 - SRG group size is increasing – could pose a risk
- Membership was generally endorsed by the group



SRG Review

The focus and purpose of the SRG



Regional Development
and Social

45%



Marine Life

35%



Ongoing project
updates / Other

20%

Upcoming J Telfer

✓ Next SRG:

Cape Hardy Tour -
26 June 24



Thank You



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