

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
MURRAY-DARLING  
BASIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
Annual Report 2010-11**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL .....	1
FOREWORD.....	2
1. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES .....	4
1.1. VISION .....	4
1.2. GOALS .....	4
1.3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR NRM IN THE REGION .....	4
1.4. SOUTH AUSTRALIA’S STRATEGIC PLAN.....	5
1.5. STATE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	6
1.6. LINKS BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE STATE NRM PLAN .....	7
2. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES .....	9
2.1. REGIONAL NRM PLAN .....	9
2.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL NRM PLAN .....	9
3. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE.....	13
3.1. OBJECT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT .....	13
3.2. ROLE OF THE BOARD.....	14
3.3. FUNCTIONS OF THE SA MURRAY DARLING BASIN NRM BOARD .....	14
3.4. MEMBERSHIP.....	15
3.5. MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL.....	17
3.6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES.....	18
3.7. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS .....	18
3.8. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE .....	19
4. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.....	22
4.1. EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS .....	22
4.2. LEAVE MANAGEMENT .....	23
4.3. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY .....	23
4.4. VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS .....	25
4.5. PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT .....	25
4.6. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT .....	25
4.7. ACCREDITED TRAINING PACKAGES.....	26
4.8. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS.....	26
5. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT- ..	27
6. FINANCIAL REPORTING .....	29
6.1. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE .....	29
6.2. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	29
6.3. ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE .....	29
6.4. FRAUD .....	29
6.5. CONSULTANTS .....	29
6.6. OVERSEAS TRAVEL .....	29
7. OTHER REPORTING MATTERS.....	29
7.1. DISABILITY ACTION PLANS.....	29
7.2. ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS .....	30
7.3. URBAN DESIGN CHARTER.....	31
7.4. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.....	31
7.5. WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION .....	31

7.6.	<b>ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLANS .....</b>	<b>31</b>
7.7.	<b>GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>32</b>
7.8.	<b>REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>36</b>
7.9.	<b>RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
7.10.	<b>STATEMENT OF FACT-SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES</b>	<b>37</b>
7.11.	<b>STATEMENT OF FACT - FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY MINISTER .....</b>	<b>37</b>
8.	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>37</b>
9.	<b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OR UPDATED DURING 2010-11 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
10.	<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>38</b>
11.	<b>RIVERLAND NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>39</b>
12.	<b>RANGELANDS NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>48</b>
13.	<b>RANGES TO RIVER NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>59</b>
14.	<b>MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>69</b>
15.	<b>APPENDIX 1 - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES LISTING .....</b>	<b>78</b>
16.	<b>APPENDIX 2 – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AT 30 JUNE 2011.....</b>	<b>1</b>
17.	<b>APPENDIX 3 – FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011 .....</b>	<b>1</b>

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Mr Andrew Inglis AM  
Chair  
Natural Resources Management Council  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE  
South Australia 5001

Dear Mr Inglis

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 38 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2011.

The Boards Annual Audited Financial Statements have been finalised and approved but a signed copy has not been received to date by the Board and this will be provided on receipt. A draft is attached to this document.

On behalf of the Board I commend this report to you, the NRM Council and our partners and stakeholders.



Sharon Starick  
**Presiding Member**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**

## FOREWORD

On behalf of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board it gives me great pleasure to present our 2010-11 Annual Report which show the progress that the Board has made towards achieving natural resources management targets in our region. In doing this, the Board works with the community, key stakeholders and individuals to integrate the management of our key natural resources of caring for the land, our water, plants, animals and balancing people's needs with those of nature. To achieve effective natural resources management the Board relies on the involvement of our communities in participating in our programs, projects and activities including the successful collaboration with Local Government, Local Action Planning Groups and our Committees and Advisory Groups.

The Board again this year had a busy year with many key achievements being attained which are highlighted within this report. The Board is proud to report that it has assessed its performance and believes that 66% of the targets within the NRM Plan are on track. During the year investments of over \$20m were secured for the Australian Governments Water for the Future Program which will benefit landholders and the environment and will generate water savings of around 6.6 gigalitres. The Aboriginal Learning on Country initiative was very successful in the region with the Board engaging aboriginal people to allow them as trainees to gain TAFE SA qualifications while working. The Board engaged 8 trainees between Calperum Stations and Monarto Zoo.

This year saw both Board members and staff involved in many Working Groups to support Regional Integration. The new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) combines environment and natural resource management in the one agency to create a single workforce to support Natural Resource Management (NRM) Boards, the community, DENR and other government agencies. The integration will occur over a two year period to December 2012.

The goal is to increase support for NRM Boards and provide integrated, easy to access services to the community. Natural resources management activities will be combined under one management structure with integrated support services. A new regional delivery structure will bring regional NRM staff previously working for NRM Boards together with regional DENR staff to create a single, integrated workforce.

The role of NRM Boards will be strengthened with a clearer focus on support for community engagement in planning, decision making and delivery.

As part of the integration process the Board welcomes Hugo Hopton as its Regional Manager with a Leadership Management Team in the process of being appointed.

The Board would like to sincerely thank John Johnson its previous General Manager who has recently retired. The commitment, involvement and dedication of John is greatly appreciated by the Board and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Along with the retirement of John, the Board this year lost several of its long standing Board members in Bill Paterson, Joanne Pfeiffer, Joe Keynes and Frances Simes whose terms expired during this reporting period. On behalf of the Board we acknowledge the contribution and commitment that all of these members have made, particularly Bill Paterson as Presiding Member for the past three years. New members will be appointed during July 2011 to fill these vacancies.

I was honoured to take up the role of Presiding Member following Bill's departure early in the year and have the privilege of working with such a passionate community, a committed Board and a dedicated staff team.

The Board would like to thank the River Murray Advisory Committee, both the outgoing members and our new members for their time, commitment and input. This Committee provides advice to the Minister for the River Murray and the Board on water allocations, environmental and flow entitlements and best management practices and hopefully the outlook for the future is more encouraging and less challenging with improved inflows and outlooks.

We acknowledge the extensive contribution that the Mallee and Marne Saunders Water Resources Committee members have made over many years of dedicated and committed input in development of water allocation plans and policies. These two Committees were disbanded this year when the Plans for their areas were finalised.

I would also like to thank the members of all the other Committees established by the Board including our Water Resource Advisory Committees, Water Allocation Planning Committees, Local Government Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups for your time and contribution.

The Board has four Natural Resources Management Groups and thanks the Chairs Monique White (Ranges to River NRM Group), Ken Stokes (Riverland NRM Group), David Lindner (Rangelands NRM Group) and Alan Piggott (Mallee and Coorong NRM Group) and all their members for their valued input, time and commitment that they have given as members of our NRM Groups. These Groups have supported the Board and staff in addressing community issues such as water allocation, land management, consultation and animal and plant control matters.

A special thank you also goes to our dedicated and committed staff for their valuable assistance in supporting the Board in managing the regions natural assets and the Board commends them for their involvement in working towards a new integrated organisation. The 2010-11 Annual Report highlights a lot of achievements for the year for which much of the thanks go to the dedicated efforts of our past General Manager, our new Regional Manager and the staff. I would like to express my appreciation and commend all the members of the staff for their contribution and productivity throughout the year from the members of the Board.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Hon Paul Caica, the Minister for the River Murray, State Government Agencies, Local Government and the community that the Board has been involved with throughout the past year for their ongoing support and input. It is only possible for the Board to achieve its goals with the support, partnership and active involvement and input of all these people. The Board looks forward to continuing these close working relationships in the future.



**Sharon Starick**  
**Presiding Member - SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board**

## 1. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

Natural Resources Management activities undertaken by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity* and with the State Natural Resources Management Plan.

### 1.1. Vision

The vision for the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is:

*'A healthy living landscape meeting the social, environmental and economic needs of the community and ensuring the rights and wellbeing of future generations'.*

### 1.2. Goals

The SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board has identified four goals as part of its Regional Natural Resources Management Plan to address natural resources management within the region. These are:

Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems

Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits

Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way

Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.

### 1.3. Guiding Principles for NRM in the Region

In addition, the Board has designed the guiding principles, below, to achieve the goals.

- Work together for success—partnering with the community, government and industries to reach goals and targets for our region.
- Build knowledge—sound decision-making in natural resources management is supported by increased awareness and knowledge that is valued by the region.
- Strive for balance—undertaking natural resources management activities that support a healthy economy that is meeting social and environmental objectives.
- Think innovatively—using creativity and leadership to manage our natural resources for the future.
- Manage holistically—ensuring integrated landscape management by managing landscape components and processes together rather than dealing with issues in isolation.



- Learn from results—using an adaptive management approach to natural resources required to drive and support the long-term goal of ecologically sustainable use.
- Work within limits to ensure the future—working within sustainable limits to protect the capacity of our resources to provide services upon which the wellbeing of current and future generations depends.
- Prevent rather than cure—preventing the degradation of natural resources by dealing with causes is preferable to rehabilitation and treating symptoms.

Both the vision and goals are long-term 50-year statements that describe the Board and community's aspirations for NRM in the region.

#### **1.4. South Australia's Strategic Plan**

The SA MDB NRM Board completed the development of a new —comprehensive Regional NRM Plan as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The Plan was approved by the Minister for the River Murray on the 28 April 2009 and became operational on 1 July 2009. Through the development of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Plan, the Board has been cognisant of aligning the organisation to the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity*.

The six strategic objectives from South Australia's Strategic Plan are:

- Attaining sustainability
- Growing prosperity
- Improving well-being
- Fostering creativity and innovation
- Building communities
- Expanding opportunity

The Board currently works under program areas and the table below outlines the links between the Board activities and the objectives and targets of the South Australian Strategic Plan and the State Natural Resources Management Plan.

**Table 1: How the Board’s Regional Plan targets contribute to the SA Strategic Plan**

		SA MDB Regional Resource Condition Targets													
		W1	W2	W3	L1	L2	B1	B2	B3	A1	A2	P1	P2	P3	
State Strategic Plan Targets	T3.1	Lose no species													
	T3.2	Land Biodiversity													
	T3.3	Soil Protection													
	T3.5	Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduction													
	T3.9	Sustainable water supply													
	T3.10	River Murray – flows													
	T3.11	River Murray – salinity													
	T3.12	Renewable energy													
	T3.14	Energy efficiency – government buildings													
	T5.6	Volunteering													
	T5.8	Multiculturalism													
	T6.24	Aboriginal employees													
				Primary Alignment											
			Secondary Alignment												

The Board’s Regional Natural Resources Management Plan came into effect on the 1 July 2009 and takes account of all regional responsibilities of the NRM Board specified in the South Australian Strategic Plan. Target Action Plans developed by State Agencies, and the Board align the regional NRM Plan to the sustainability targets of the State Strategic Plan. During this year the Board aligned its current resource condition targets and program-level reporting, as appropriate, to the SA Strategic Plan sustainability targets.

### 1.5. State Natural Resources Management Plan

The State NRM Plan identifies a 50-year vision for natural resources management in South Australia. The State NRM Plan contains four goals:

1. Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.

2. Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.
3. Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.
4. Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.

**1.6. Links Between The Board And The State NRM Plan**

The Board’s Strategic Goals, Strategies and associated Actions are guided by the State NRM Plan goals at all levels.

The Board has developed a vision for the region. *“A healthy living landscape meeting the social, environmental and economic needs of the community and ensuring the rights and wellbeing of future generations”* and adopted goals for the new Regional NRM Plan consistent with those of the State NRM Plan.

To ensure consistency, the Regional NRM Plan was developed in close consultation with state agencies and has many critical links to the State NRM Plan. The Regional NRM Plan’s vision aligns well with the State NRM Plan’s vision by encompassing the environmental, social and economic aspects of natural resources management. Its guiding principles reflect the same intent as those of the State NRM Plan and the overarching goals provide a regional perspective of the State NRM Plan’s goals. There is also natural alignment between the two plans at the target (RCT), milestone (MAT) and strategy (action) levels, recognising the differing terminology between the two plans.

**Table 2: Alignment of RCTs in the Regional Plan to the State NRM Plan**

		SA MDB Regional Resource Condition Targets												
		W1	W2	W3	L1	L2	B1	B2	B3	A1	A2	P1	P2	P3
<b>State NRM Plan Resource Condition Targets</b>	<b>L1</b>	By 2011, land condition will have improved compared to 2006												
	<b>W1</b>	By 2011, all ecosystems dependent on prescribed water resources have improved ecological health compared to 2006												
	<b>W2</b>	By 2020, all aquatic ecosystems have improved ecological health compared to 2006												

	<b>W3</b>	By 2015, no further net loss of wetlands or estuary extent or condition compared to 2006												
	<b>W4</b>	By 2011, an increase in net water quality compared to 2006												
	<b>B1</b>	By 2020, 50% of species and communities in each of the 2006 risk categories have moved to lower risk categories												
	<b>B2</b>	By 2011, no species and ecological communities have moved to a higher risk category from 2006												
	<b>B3</b>	By 2011, no further net loss of natural habitat (terrestrial, marine and aquatic) extent and condition below that of 2006												
	<b>B4</b>	By 2020, a net increase in ecological connectivity across all terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems compared to the 2006 values												
	<b>P1</b>	By 2011, the capacity of people in the community to sustainably manage natural resources will be greater than in 2006												
				Primary Alignment										
				Secondary Alignment										

## 2. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

### 2.1. Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan was developed through an extensive process of consultation and engagement with the regional community, and was adopted by the Minister for the River Murray, the Hon. Karlene Maywald, on 28 April 2009. Following adoption by the Minister, the Regional NRM Plan was presented before the Natural Resources Committee of the South Australian Parliament for endorsement of the regional NRM levy proposed in the Business Plan (Volume Four). The Regional NRM Plan came into full operation on 1 July 2009.

#### **The Regional NRM Plan comprises four volumes:**

**Volume One - Strategic Plan (2009 – 2019):** The Strategic Plan provides direction and sets challenging targets for NRM in the Region. It includes the vision, goals, guiding principles, resource condition targets, management action targets and the actions required to achieve these targets.

**Volume Two - State of the Region:** The State of the Region describes the natural resources of the Region, and reports on their current state and condition, as well as trends in state and condition.

**Volume Three - Regulatory and Policy Framework:** The Regulatory and Policy Framework includes the statutory requirements for water affecting activities, pest control, soil conservation and land management. It also aims to achieve alignment between the Regional NRM Plan, local government development plans, and NRM objectives.

**Volume Four - Business Plan (2009 – 2012):** The Business Plan outlines the actions to be undertaken by the SA MDB NRM Board in order to implement the Strategic Plan and meet the requirements of the Regulatory and Policy Framework.

This volume is a three-year rolling plan which is updated and extended annually. The current Business Plan runs from 2011-2014.

The Regional NRM Plan has an asset-based structure, with five asset-classes of People, Water, Biodiversity, Land and Atmosphere. For each asset class there is an asset vision, long-term resource condition targets, medium-term management action targets, and actions.

The development and documentation of the targets and actions was assisted by the use of a program logic approach, a planning tool that is used to help design and evaluate plans or programs, and aims to record the expected cause and effect relationships between the components of the plan (e.g. between goals, RCTs, MATs and actions).

### 2.2. Implementation of the Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan sets the direction for natural resources management in the Region for the next 10 years. Importantly it is the sole NRM plan for the Region and seeks to guide the NRM planning and investment decisions of all regional stakeholders. Through implementation of the Regional NRM Plan, the Board seeks to:

- Strengthen its existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with organisations directly involved in the management of the Region’s natural resources
- Mutually develop and co-invest in innovative new strategies and actions to achieve the goals and targets of the Regional NRM Plan and thereby the better management and/or protection of the region’s natural resources
- Support individuals and organisations to increase their participation in NRM in the Region.

The Board will report back on a regular basis to stakeholders and the regional community on progress in the implementation of the Regional NRM Plan. This will include an Annual Review of the Regional NRM Plan as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, as well as regular reporting and publication of outcome information.

The implementation of the Board’s Business Plan is delivered via a package of 12 programs:

- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Sustainable Irrigation
- Water Quality & Local Government Engagement
- Land Management
- Atmosphere
- Capacity Building
- NRM Education
- Communications
- Operations
- Water Allocation Planning
- Regional Planning

Key achievements for these programs include:

### **2.2.1. Aquatic Biodiversity**

- Nationally threatened Southern Bell Frogs surveyed at 115 sites
- The removal of barriers and/or opening of structures during high river flows allowed for the re-inundation of 10 wetlands, across 359 hectares, which were previously closed during the drought to achieve evaporative water savings.
- Monitoring of the Markaranka wetland, in collaboration with local landholders, recorded the ecological benefits of inundation such as regeneration of River Red Gums and tree health improvements. Results will help improve wetland management and development of a wetland management plan for landholders.

### **2.2.2. Terrestrial Biodiversity**

- 338 landholders committed to on-farm activities to improve biodiversity

- The Woorinen Recovery Team and landholders in the Bakara area have taken the leap from traditional conservation to habitat restoration. The project, the first on a large scale, aims to improve deep sand and dune habitat for Mallee bird species with restoration completed on 150 hectares in 2010/11.
- Attracting \$4.6 through the Australian Government’s Environmental Stewardship Program will enable landholders to be paid for up to 15 years to conserve threatened vegetation communities as part of their farm’s taxable income.

### **2.2.3. Sustainable Irrigation**

- Upgrade of the regional weather station network
- Significant investment of approximately \$20 million was secured from the Australia Government’s Water for the Future Program. The benefits to landholders and the environment will include irrigation infrastructure and efficiency improvements that will generate water savings of around 6.6 gigalitres a year
- Salinity tolerances of potato varieties were investigated through a new funding partnership with Woolworths. Tolerance to salinity can vary significantly and the results will be valuable in assisting commercial potato farms to assess varietal selection at individual planting sites.

### **2.2.4. Water Quality and Local Government Engagement**

- Worked with 11 Councils on urban and rural planning to ensure Council’s development policy and guidelines reflect best practice in aspects such as water and wastewater management. Board staff have successfully facilitated a cross-Council commitment, without the need for Ministerial intervention, that will result in Councils strengthening development plans and provide a critical preventative mechanisms to protect natural resources

### **2.2.5. Land Management**

- 3,790 hectares of land protected from soil erosion
- Soil moisture trial sites have been established, which enable dryland farmers to see real time calculations of millimetres of plant available water. This saves growers having to manually log data on a site by site basis.
- Eudunda Robertstown Sheep Connect group supported to continue on-farm grazing trials. The demonstration sites and a study tour allowed sheep producers to share results and knowledge on reducing soil loss without compromising productivity.

### **2.2.6. Atmosphere**

- 20% increase in efficiencies of the Board’s vehicle fleet since 2009
- Development and promotion of case studies on local champions and early adopters of alternative energy generation such as the installation of a solar farm on a

Taylorville property and exploration of methane capture from the piggery's settlement pond.

- Collaborative work with the Regional Council of Goyder has resulted in the development of a Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Plan. The plan provides a model for all Councils to ensure climate change planning can be integrated with Local Government's Strategic Management Plans
- A Carbon Forum was jointly coordinated with Regional Development Australia and the Murray Agro-Forestry Working Group. The forum attracted more than 100 people to hear from local experts about carbon trading and measurement.

### **2.2.7. Capacity Building**

- Support to more than 2,700 volunteers to be involved in NRM
- 15 Aboriginal trainees completed Certificate II Land Management and Conservation through the Aboriginal Learning and Working on Country programs. The hands-on practical training includes pest control, revegetation and monitoring activities to help protect threatened species.

### **2.2.8. NRM Education**

- 78% of the region's schools are engaged in the Board's NRM Education Program
- Junior Youth Environment Forums have become well established and are held every term with student participation from Robertstown, Burra, St John's Lutheran Eudunda and Farrell Flat primary schools. Collecting and identifying the macro-invertebrates have proved to be popular activities.

### **2.2.9. Operations**

- 152,842 hectares protected from rabbit damage
- Key pest species mapped along 400km of the Lower Lakes shoreline
- Early detection in a local garden nursery of the noxious and prohibited water weed, *Salvinia*, alerted retailers to the potential serious damage that can result from this aquatic plant being spread into the environment where it can carpet an entire water body.
- 2,287 goats were removed with control and vegetation protection occurring across 11,600 hectares. Aerial and land based surveys, cameras, tracking devices and the use of Judas Goats were valuable activities to confirm numbers and location and, ultimately, improve landholders' ability to manage goats.

### **2.2.10. Water Allocation Planning**

- 16,735 fish monitored at 57 sites in Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges



- After five years of development, the draft Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan was released for comment. Extensive targeted and public consultation included 25 information sessions with more than 450 people, the majority being water users or landholders, commenting on the draft plan.

#### **2.2.11. Regional Planning**

- Data from 37 stream monitoring groups made accessible online
- Successful completion on the inaugural Regional Outcome Reporting process
- Adoption of the 2011-12 Business Plan.

#### **2.2.12. NRM Volunteers**

- The successful completion of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Volunteer Strategy.
- There are currently 128 NRM community volunteer groups registered with the SA MDB NRM Board and supported through the volunteer support project.
- NRM Volunteer Small Grants in 2010-11, with \$51,923.21 of funding going to 57 local volunteer groups for a range of projects linked to the Volunteer Strategy objectives.
- Volunteer celebrations, organised by the NRM Groups in partnership with the Local Action Planning groups, were held at Cambrai, Meningie, Strathalbyn and Berri, to thank local volunteers for all their hard work.
- A range of training opportunities for volunteers and volunteer managers was also provided across the region, including Senior First Aid, In Safe Hands (OHS&W), Volunteer Management, Engaging Gen Y, Low Scale Chemical Use, Monitoring Water Quality, Frog Monitoring and Pest Plant Control.

### **3. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-110 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

#### **3.1. Object of the Natural Resources Management Act**

The objects of the 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—

- (a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and
- (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
- (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

- (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
- (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
- (f) promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.

### 3.2. Role of the Board

The Boards' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

### 3.3. Functions of the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Board are—
  - (a) to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region; and
  - (b)
    - (i) to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with this Act; and
    - (ii) to implement that plan; and
    - (iii) to keep the plan under review to ensure that the objects of this Act are being achieved; and
  - (c) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources; and
  - (d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the Board under this or any other Act; and
  - (e) to resolve any issues that may arise between any NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region; and
    - (ea) to undertake an active role in ensuring-
      - (i) that any Development Plan under the *Development Act 1993* that applies within its region promotes the objects of this Act; and
      - (ii) insofar as is reasonably practicable, that those Development Plans and the Board's regional NRM plan form a coherent set of policies,

- and, in so doing, when a Development Plan amendment under the *Development Act 1993* that is relevant to the activities of the Board is under consideration under that Act, to work with-
- (iii) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a council-the council; or
  - (iv) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a Minister-that Minister's department; and
- (f) at the request of the Minister or the NRM Council, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within its region, or on the management of those resources, to conduct any inquiry or audit, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
  - (g) such other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a regional NRM Board may act with respect to a particular matter despite the fact that the matter may not fall within the scope of its regional NRM plan.
  - (3) However, if a regional NRM Board acts with respect to a particular matter in the circumstances described in subsection (2), the Board must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament (unless the matter is not, in the opinion of the Board, significant).
  - (4) In performing its functions, a regional NRM Board should (as far as is reasonably practicable) seek to work collaboratively with—
    - (a) the other regional NRM Boards whose regions adjoin the region of the Board; and
    - (b) other State agencies, agencies of the Commonwealth, and agencies of the other States and Territories, that have functions that are relevant to those of the Board; and
    - (c) NRM groups with areas that fall (wholly or partially) within the region of the Board; and
    - (d) the constituent councils for the region, and other councils as may be relevant; and
    - (e) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations; and
    - (f) persons who own or occupy land within the region of the Board (insofar as may be relevant).
  - (5) A regional NRM Board will, with respect to the performance of its functions, report to the Minister.
  - (6) If the Minister assigns a function to a regional NRM Board under subsection (1)—
    - (a) the Minister must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament; and
    - (b) the regional NRM Board must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.

### 3.4. Membership

Section 25 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises 9 members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Each of the appointed members of the Board is a person who, in the opinion of the

Minister, meets the standards stipulated by section 25(4) of the Natural Resources Management Act for the appointment of members:

- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister must (as far as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances)—
  - (a) give consideration to nominating 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 administration;
    - (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) nominate 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.
- (5) In addition, the Minister must, before finalising his or her nominations for the purposes of this section, consult with the designated Ministers.
- (6) At least 1 member of a regional NRM Board must be a woman and at least 1 member must be a man.
- (7) At least 1 member of a regional NRM Board must be a member or officer of a council at the time of his or her appointment, unless—
  - (a) the Board's region does not include any part of the area of a council; or
  - (b) the Minister cannot, after taking reasonable steps, find a member or officer of a council who—
    - (i) in the opinion of the Minister, is suitable to be appointed as a member of the Board; and

- (ii) is willing and available to be a member of the Board.
- (8) The Governor must appoint a suitable member of a regional NRM Board to be the presiding member of the Board.
- (9) The Governor may appoint a suitable person to be the deputy of a member of a regional NRM Board.
- (10) A deputy may act as a member of a regional NRM Board during any period of absence of the member in relation to whom the deputy has been appointed.
- (11) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, authorise a person or persons to attend any meeting of a regional NRM Board in order to represent the interests of the Commonwealth, the State or local government.

The membership of the Board during 2010-11 was:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Basis of Appointment</b>	<b>Term of Appointment</b>
<b>William (Bill) Paterson</b>	Presiding Member	14 April 2005 to present 15 December 2010
<b>Joanne Pfeiffer</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to present 13 April 2011
<b>Joe Keynes</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to present 13 April 2011
<b>Frances Simes</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to present 13 April 2011
<b>Anne Hartnett</b>	Community Member	2 November 2006 to present
<b>Colin Milburn</b>	Community Member	14 February 2008 to present
<b>Emily Jenke</b>	Community Member	14 April 2008 to present
<b>Sheridan Alm</b>	Community Member	24 July 2008 to present
<b>George Lovegrove</b>	Community Member	22 July 2010 to present
<b>Sharon Starick</b>	Presiding Member	24 February 2011 to present

#### Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Gerry Davies (Primary Industries and Resources SA)
- Merridie Martin (Environment and Heritage)
- Sonia Dominelli (Environment and Heritage)
- Rachel Barratt (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation)
- Mandy Rossetto (Department for Water)
- Brenton Erdmann (SA Water)
- Peter Scott (Environment Protection Authority)
- Rodney Ralph (Local Government Association)

### **3.5. Meetings: general and special**

A total of 12 general Board meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

No special Board meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	No. of Meetings Attended	No. of Meetings Not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
<b>W Paterson</b>	6	0	Term expired 15 December 2010
<b>J Pfeiffer</b>	10	0	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>J Keynes</b>	8	2	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>F Simes</b>	9	1	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>A Hartnett</b>	12	0	
<b>C Milburn</b>	12	0	
<b>E Jenke</b>	9	3	Other commitments
<b>S Alm</b>	10	2	Other commitments
<b>G Lovegrove</b>	8	4	Other commitments
<b>S Starick</b>	4	0	Appointed 24 February 2011
<b>Government Representatives</b>			
<b>R Barratt</b>	4	0	Membership ceased November 2010
<b>M Martin</b>	5	0	Membership ceased December 2010
<b>S Dominelli</b>	6	1	Commenced December 2010
<b>P Scott</b>	11	1	Other commitments
<b>R Ralph</b>	10	2	Other commitments
<b>G Davies</b>	9	3	Other commitments
<b>M Rossetto</b>	8	1	Other commitments

### 3.6. Relationships with other Agencies

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* works closely with the Department for Water, (DfW), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), SA Water and Primary Industry and Resources SA (PIRSA) to improve sustainability and achieve improved health and productivity of our natural resources.

The Board also works closely with the NRM Council, the other regional NRM Boards, regional organisations, and community and non-Government organisations to develop the Regional NRM Plan and implement its works programs.

The Board also has a strong relationship with the Australian Government to ensure national priorities are addressed with planning processes and through investments.

The Board has signed Service Level Agreements with Government Agencies to assist in the delivery of its programs and injury management services.

### 3.7. Governance Arrangements

No new governance policies or arrangements were developed in the reporting period but all the Board's current policies have been or are in the process of being fully reviewed to ensure compliance with current legislation, Agreements and Awards. The Board's Finance Committee assists the Board through the oversight of these policies and procedures to ensure that the Board meets its statutory obligations, particularly in respect of audit and financial

management. The Finance Committee has reviewed all the current Board level policies including delegations and procurement procedures. A risk management policy is being finalised.

### **3.8. Organisational Structure**

The Board's current organisation structure can be seen as Attachment 1.

### **3.9. Delegated Functions And Powers**

Section 36 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* allows the Board to delegate functions or powers of the Board to members of the Board, Committees of the Board, Council, members of staff, NRM Groups or other persons or bodies. The Board has delegated the functions and powers of the Sections of the Act shown below to the General Manager of the Board, with the authority to further delegate to members of staff or NRM Groups:

The delegations are relative to the following Sections of the Act:

- S31 Special powers to carry out works
- S34 (3);(4);(6) Appoint staff
- S67 Appoint Regional Authorised officers
- S122 Special provisions relating to land
- S123 Implement Action Plan
- S127 (3)(d);(5)(a)-(h) Water Affecting Activities
- S130 Notice to rectify unauthorised activity
- S131 Notice to maintain watercourse or lake
- S179 Offence to release animals or plants (Recovery of costs for capture/collection)
- S182 Owner of land to take action to destroy or control animals or plants (Power to provide exemptions)
- S185 NRM authorities may recover certain costs from owners of land adjoining road reserves (Invoicing only)
- S188 Permits
- S192 Protection of certain vegetation and habitats
- S193 Protections orders
- S195 Reparation orders
- S199 Registration

- S230 Recovery of technical costs associated with contraventions

These powers and functions were subsequently delegated to the Regional Manager although the Minister limited the ability to on-delegate these authorities.

### **3.10. Board Committees**

Under the Act, the Board is able to create committees to provide advice in specific areas of expertise or NRM activity. The following Committees operated in 2010-11:

- Finance Committee
- Executive Committee
- Regional Integration Committee
- Communications Committee
- Policy Committee (disbanded March 2011)
- River Murray Advisory Committee

Membership of these Committees is provided in Attachment 2

### **3.11. Other Committees**

To facilitate local input into the development of Water Allocations Plans, address local government issues, water resource management and the Living Murray Program management, a number of Planning/Advisory Committees and Groups are established. Those operational during this year were:

- Mallee Water Resources Committee
- Marne Saunders Water Resources Committee
- Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Water Resources Committee (2 Committees)
- Angas Bremer Water Resources Committee
- Riverland, Ranges to River, Mallee and Coorong Local Government Natural Resources Advisory Committees (3 Committees)
- River Murray Water Allocation Planning
- Chowilla Community Consultative Committee
- Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth and Coorong Icon Site Consultative Committee.

### **3.12. NRM Groups**



The Board supports four community based NRM Groups in the Riverland, Rangelands, Ranges to River and Mallee and Coorong areas of the region. The Groups assist and support the Board in planning, land management, animal and pest plant control, water related issues, biodiversity protection and community engagement at the local level.

A report from each of these NRM groups of their achievements is attached.

## 4. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

### 4.1. Employee Numbers, Gender And Status

Total Number of Employees		
Persons	77	
FTEs	71.5	(FTEs shown to 1 decimal place)
Gender	% Persons	% FTEs
Male	49.35	52.73
Female	50.65	47.27
Number of Persons During the 10-11 Financial Year		
Separated from the agency		16
Recruited to the agency		15
Number of Persons at 30 June 2011		
On Leave without Pay		4

### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY SALARY BRACKET

Salary Bracket	Male	Female	Total
\$0 - \$50,399	4	4	8
\$50,400 - \$64,099	18	17	35
\$64,100 - \$82,099	11	15	26
\$82,100 - \$103,599	4	3	7
\$103,600+	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>77</b>

### STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IN CURRENT POSITION

FTEs	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	12	9	16.7	0	37.7
Female	3	10.4	20.4	0	33.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71.5</b>
PERSONS	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	12	9	17	0	38
Female	4	11	24	0	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>

**EXECUTIVES BY GENDER, CLASSIFICATION AND STATUS**

Classification	Ongoing		Term Tenured		Term Untenured		Other (Casual)		Total				
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	%	Female	%	Total
<b>EXECOPS</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**4.2. Leave Management****AVERAGE DAYS LEAVE PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE**

<i>Leave Type</i>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
<b>Sick Leave</b>	5.9	4.35	7.15	5.739
<b>Family Carer's Leave</b>	0.38	0.64	0.726	1.34
<b>Miscellaneous Special Leave</b>	1.27	0.62	0.909	1.129

**4.3. Workforce Diversity****ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYEES**

<b>Salary Bracket</b>	<b>Aboriginal Employees</b>	<b>Total Employees</b>	<b>% Aboriginal Employees</b>	<b>Target*</b>
<b>\$0 - \$50,399</b>	0	8	0	2%
<b>\$50,400 - \$64,099</b>	1	35	2.86	2%
<b>\$64,100- \$82,099</b>	0	26	0	2%
<b>\$82,100 - \$103,599</b>	0	7	0	2%
<b>\$103,600+</b>	0	1	0	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2%</b>

\* Target from SASP

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY AGE BRACKET BY GENDER**

Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	2010 Workforce Benchmark*
15-19	0	0	0	0	6.4%
20-24	0	2	2	2.6	10.4%
25-29	3	8	11	14.29	11.0%
30-34	4	7	11	14.29	10.1%
35-39	4	9	13	16.88	10.3%
40-44	7	2	9	11.69	11.0%
45-49	5	5	10	12.99	11.5%
50-54	5	5	10	12.99	11.4%
55-59	5	1	6	7.79	9.4%
60-64	4	0	4	5.19	5.5%
65+	1	0	1	1.3	3.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Demographic Statistics, 6291.0.55.001 Labour Force Status (ST LM8) by sex, age, state, marital status – employed – total from Feb78 Supertable, South Australia at May 2010.

**CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY**

	Male	Female	Total	% Agency	SA Community*
Number of employees born overseas	2	1	3	3.9	20.3%
Number of employees who speak language(s) other than English at home	0	1	1	1.3	16.6%

\* Benchmarks from ABS Publication Basic Community Profile (SA) Cat No. 2001.0, 2006 census.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES (ACCORDING TO COMMONWEALTH DDA DEFINITION)**

Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
0	0	0	0

**TYPES OF DISABILITY (WHERE SPECIFIED)**

Disability	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
Disability requiring workplace adaptation	0	0	0	0
Physical	0	0	0	0
Intellectual	0	0	0	0
Sensory	0	0	0	0
Psychological/ Psychiatric	0	0	0	0

**4.4. Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements****VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BY GENDER**

	Male	Female	Total
Purchased Leave	0	0	0
Flexitime	37	39	76
Compressed Weeks	0	0	0
Part-time	1	15	16
Job Share	0	0	0
Working from Home	0	0	0

**4.5. Performance Development****DOCUMENTED REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Employees with ...	% Total Workforce
A review within the past 12 months	67.53%
A review older than 12 months	19.48%
No review	12.99%

**4.6. Leadership And Management Development**

Training and Development	Total Cost	% of Total Salary Expenditure
Total training and development expenditure	\$30342.00	0.005
Total leadership and management development expenditure	\$9060.00	0.001

#### 4.7. Accredited Training Packages

Classification	Number of Accredited Training Packages
ASO2	1
ASO3	2
ASO5	1
ASO6	1
OPS4	1
PO1	1

#### 4.8. Employment Opportunity Programs

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed.

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

**5. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT-****TABLE 1 OHS NOTICES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN**

Number of notifiable occurrences pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Part 7 Division 6	<b>0</b>
Number of notifiable injuries pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Part 7 Division 6	<b>0</b>
Number of notices served pursuant to OHS&W Act s35, s39 and s40 (default, improvement and prohibition notices)	<b>0</b>

**TABLE 2: AGENCY GROSS WORKERS COMPENSATION EXPENDITURE FOR 2010-11 COMPARED WITH 2009-10**

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2010-11 (\$m)</b>	<b>2009-10 (\$m)</b>	<b>Variation (\$m) + (-)</b>	<b>% Change + (-)</b>
<b>Income Maintenance</b>	\$0.00	\$5,856.82	(5,856.85)	(100%)
<b>Lump Sum Settlements Redemptions - Sect.42</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Lump Sum Settlements Permanent Disability – Sect. 43</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Medical/Hospital Costs combined</b>	\$433.80	\$2,086.35	(1652.55)	(77.9%)
<b>Other</b>	\$0.00	\$903.41	(903.41)	(100%)
<b>Total Claims Expenditure</b>	<b>\$433.80</b>	<b>\$8,846.58</b>	<b>(8412.78)</b>	<b>(95.1%)</b>

**TABLE 3 MEETING SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

	<b>Base: 2009-10</b>	<b>Performance: 12 months to end of June 2011*</b>			<b>Final Target</b>
	<b>Number s or %</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Notional Quarterly Target**</b>	<b>Variation</b>	<b>Numbers or %</b>
<b>1. Workplace Fatalities</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2. New Workplace Injury Claims</b>	4	2	4	-2	3
<b>3. New Workplace Injury Claims Frequency Rate</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>4. Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate ***</b>	-	-	-	-	-

<b>5. New Psychological Injury Claims</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>6. Rehabilitation and Return to Work:</b>					
<b>6a. Early Assessment within 2 days</b>	75%	100%	80%	20%	80% or more
<b>6b. Early Intervention within 5 days</b>					90% or more
<b>6c. RTW within 5 business days</b>	100%	0%	-	-	75% or more
<b>7. Claim Determination:</b>					
<b>7a. Claims determined in 10 business days</b>	50%	100%	75%	25%	60% or more
<b>7b. Claims still to be determined after 3 months</b>	0%	0%	3%	-3%	3% or less
<b>8. Income Maintenance Payments for Recent Injuries:</b>					
<b>2009-10 Injuries (at 24 months development)</b>		\$2,328.82	\$3,345.98	-\$1,017.16	Below previous 2 years average
<b>2010-11 Injuries (at 12 months development)</b>		\$0.00	\$1,263.14	-\$1,263.14	Below previous 2 years average
* Except for Target 8, which is YTD. For Targets 5, 6c, 7a and 7b, performance is measured up to the previous quarter to allow reporting lag.					
** Based on cumulative reduction from base at a constant quarterly figure.					
***Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate Injury frequency rate for new lost-time injury/disease for each one million hours worked. This frequency rate is calculated for benchmarking and is used by the WorkCover Corporation. Formula for Lost Time Injury frequency rate (new claims): $\frac{\text{Number of new cases of lost-time injury/disease for year} \times 1,000,000}{\text{Number of hours worked in the year}}$					



## 6. FINANCIAL REPORTING

### 6.1. Financial Performance

The Board's financial reports and audit statement are included as Attachment 3.

The Board also provided rent free accommodation to the Rural Financial Counsellor in the Murray Bridge Office under NRM Act Section 42 (4) and (5).

### 6.2. Contractual Arrangements

No contractual arrangements were entered into during the reporting period where the total value of the contract exceeded \$4 million.

### 6.3. Account Payment Performance

Particulars	Number of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by number)	Value in \$A of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by value)
<b>Paid by due date*</b>	3624	90.49	19,526,150	87.01
<b>Paid late, within 30 days of due date</b>	336	8.39	2,150,668	9.58
<b>Paid more than 30 days from due date</b>	45	1.12	763,249	3.40

\*Note: The due date is defined under section 11.7 of Treasurer's Instruction 11 *Payment of Creditors' Accounts*. Generally, unless there is a discount or a written agreement between the public authority and the creditor, payment should be within thirty days of the date of the invoice or claim. Some agencies receive invoices significantly later than the invoice date, due to supplier invoicing processes.

### 6.4. Fraud

There were no instances and nature of fraud detected in the Board during the financial year.

### 6.5. Consultants

No consultants were engaged during the financial year.

### 6.6. Overseas Travel

No overseas travel was undertaken during the financial year.

## 7. OTHER REPORTING MATTERS

### 7.1. Disability Action Plans

The Board does not have a specific Disability Plan, but wherever practicable the Board ensures that its services are accessible to people with disabilities.

Should an issue arise, the organisation is in a position to address a disability issue immediately and would implement measures to address the issue by either action or within its current policies and procedures.

*Promoting Independence – Disability Action Plans for South Australia* provides a framework of action for agencies to meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *SA Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

In performing its functions the Board:

- Ensures accessibility of their services to people with disabilities, both as a customer and employee
- Ensures information about their services and programs is inclusive of people with disabilities
- Delivers advice or services to people with disabilities with awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with disabilities
- Provides opportunities for consultation with people with disabilities in decision making processes regarding service delivery and in the implementation of complaints and grievance mechanisms
- The General Manager ensure that the Board has met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and Equal Opportunities Act
- The Board is aware of the South Australian Strategic Plan target —to double the number of people with disabilities employed in the Public Sector by 2014.

## 7.2. Asbestos Management In Government Buildings

### ANNUAL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT REPORT 2010-11

Category	No. of Sites		Category Description	Interpretation one or more items at these sites
	At start of year	At end of year		
1	0	0	Remove	Should be removed promptly
2	1	1	Remove as soon as practical	Should be scheduled for removal at a practical time – scheduled for 2011-12
3	9	9	Use care during maintenance	May need removal during maintenance works
4	2	2	Monitor	Has asbestos present. Inspect

			Condition	according to legislation and policy
5	8	8	No Asbestos identified/identified asbestos has been removed	All asbestos identified and has been removed or no asbestos present at this site.
6	0	0	Further information required	Sites not yet categorised

### 7.3. Urban Design Charter

The South Australian Government adopted the South Australian Urban Design Charter as a whole-of-government urban policy which was released in November 2004. The Urban Design Charter aims to promote the benefits of good urban design, embed the principles into government processes and record the South Australian Government's commitment to good urban design. The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board has not undertaken any activities relevant to the implementation of the Urban Design Charter during 2010-11.

### 7.4. Freedom of Information

It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that it complies with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*. The Board's Administration Manager, Stephanie Weinert, is the designated and accredited Freedom of Information Officer.

There were no formal applications for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during 2010-11.

### 7.5. Whistleblowers Protection

There were no occasions on which public interest has been disclosed to the Board under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*.

### 7.6. Energy Efficiency Action Plans

Performance against annual energy use targets is outlined below.

The Board has already achieved the government its target of a 25% improvement on the base year by 2014 as can be seen in the table below.

Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) aims to reduce the energy consumption of Australian Government operations with particular emphasis on building energy efficiency.

**PERFORMANCE AGAINST ANNUAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS**

	<b>Energy Use (GJ)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>GHG Emissions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Business Measure<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>Base Year 2006/2007:</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>26.75</b>	<b>65.6 FTE'S</b>
<b>Base Year 2006/2007:</b>	MJ/business measure1/annum		
<b>Year Being Reported: 2010-11</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>25.16</b>	<b>71.5 FTE'S</b>
<b>Portfolio Target 2010-11</b>	MJ/business measure1/annum		
<b>Final Portfolio Target (for 2014)</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85FTE'S</b>

The Board will endeavour to work closely with agencies to progressively continue improvements in environmental performance in accordance with the key actions of its sustainability action plan.

**7.7. Greening Of Government Operations Framework****Greening of Government Operations Framework**

The Greening of Government Operations Framework (GoGO) Framework was approved by Cabinet in February 2006 to provide the implementation framework for South Australian Government agencies to progress greening programs.

GoGO Priority Area 1: energy management  
GoGO Priority Area 3: waste management  
GoGO Priority Area 5: travel and fleet management

The Board has developed an implementation plan that will give effect to the action plan addressing energy management, green buildings, travel and fleet management, green procurement, human resource management and sustainability (Green Team Plan 2008-2014)

Objective 3 in the South Australia's Strategic Plan (Attaining Sustainability) contains a number of targets that focus on protecting our biodiversity, securing sustainable water and energy supplies, and minimising waste. The Board will endeavour to work closely with agencies to progress improvements in environmental performance in accordance with the key actions of its sustainability action plan. The Board has developed an implementation plan that will give effect to the action plan addressing energy management, green buildings, travel and fleet management, green procurement, human resource management and sustainability (Green Team Plan 2008-2014)

A “Whole of Region” Green team was established in 2010-11. The Board’s intention is to lead by example and has increased its capacity amongst staff to capture carbon footprint information and to work toward internal carbon emission reductions.

2010-11 actions include:

- Implementing carbon accounting
- Baseline energy auditing and emissions profile for the SA MDB NRM Board operations
- Work with the SA MDB NRM Board Green Team to progress internal initiatives to reduce emission profile
- Establish a fleet vehicle policy
- Contribute to Board targets and State government

Liaison with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on a regional scale is ongoing. Finding an appropriate common model that will suit the future integrated management is part of ongoing discussion.

#### **ACTION PLAN GOALS:**

- BIODIVERSITY: *Improve biodiversity of office surrounds by 2014*
- WASTE: *Improve the reduction, re-use and recycling of office waste by 2014*
- ENERGY: *Increase carbon efficiency of offices by 20% by 2014*
- WATER: *Reduce “Mains” water consumption by 50% by 2014*
- FUEL: *Increase carbon efficiency of vehicles by 20% by 2014*
- PAPER: *Reduce consumption of office goods by 20% by 2014*
- AWARENESS: *Staff are aware and supportive of Green Team initiatives*

Action plan tasks	2010-2011 progress notes
1. Calculate carbon footprint quarterly to monitor usage on water/energy/waste audit.	Annual update completed as part of broader Board goal in reducing carbon footprint and meeting state strategic plan and regional NRM plan targets office efficiency goals. External auditor engaged over 2010-2011.
2. Revegetate around buildings this year and next year with natives. Purchased indoor plants to increase CO2 absorption.	Native plantings and negotiation with owners ongoing. New plants planted at Murray Bridge Office over 2010-11, selections by owners and some non native.
3. Replace halogen down lights with LED or CF when old globes have blown using less power/energy.	Ongoing action.

4. Set default double sided printing and print in black and white from computers and photocopiers.	Completed and ongoing.
5. Recycling Weekly pick up of waste paper, toilet paper towels, cardboard, plastics, bottles and cans for recycling and monthly pick up of documents disposed in secure locked bin.	Recycling occurs at all Board offices. Working with Zero Waste where possible on events and encouraging other event organizers in the region to establish recycling systems.
6. Staff turning off lights, computers, air conditioning, Piccadilly Urn when not in use and Friday afternoons to save energy.	Signs at air conditioning panels to advising of optimum temperatures for summer and winter.
7. Switched to 100% recycled copier paper.	Utilising 80% “Australian” Brand as decided by Green Team.
8. Trial using data sticks at Board meetings and other initiatives to save on paper.	Ongoing. The Board has an electronic records management system (2009-10) and work flow system implemented 2010-11 year. Both minimise paper usage for all staff.
9. Purchasing stationery items made from recycled materials where appropriate ie pens, erasers, pencils, notebooks, plastic rubbish bins, plastic desk tidy trays	Ongoing. Promoted to administration staff.
10. Hot desks available in NRM Board offices. Laptops use less energy than computers where suitable.	Established and ongoing.
11. Composting/Bokashi bins – Worm farm for waste.	New composting arrangements (Sept 09) continuing with – waste reduction demonstrated from the 2008 figures.
12. Car pool operational where possible between staff travelling to and from work and during work hours.	Promoted and ongoing. Fleet fuel reductions evident.
13. Order Fleet SA vehicles with dual fuel or 4 cylinders to maximise efficiency where possible.	The Board has been down-sizing from 6-cylinder Commodores to 4-cylinder Camry. Car pooling is being promoted. Reductions in fuel use have occurred over 2010-11 (see graph below). Fleet options paper prepared and submitted to management.
14. Install rainwater tanks for toilet and bathroom water use.	No new offices converted over 2010-11
15. Set air conditioning thermostats – higher in summer/lower in winter. Set to 21° Winter, 25° Summer for better efficiency.	Ongoing. Implemented at Strathalbyn office as part of relocation and air conditioning installation

16. Installed skylights in dark areas of building.	Ongoing. Strathalbyn offices retrofitted and lighting audit undertaken in 2011.
17. E-mail messages to save on copy paper consumption – Think before you print on emails and Be green and read from the screen	Promoted to staff.
18. Promote local produce – Food miles and support for local producers	NRM Local Produce Challenge held in Murray Bridge office and promoted to other offices and the broader community.

**Sustainability Highlights for 2010-2011**

**Vehicle Fuel Use:**

The Board has been able to demonstrate progress in meeting targets and achieving savings. Progress on fuel efficiencies recorded 20% reductions to July 2011. The Board’s target start point is April 2009 when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to approximately 5 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> mitigated over two years.

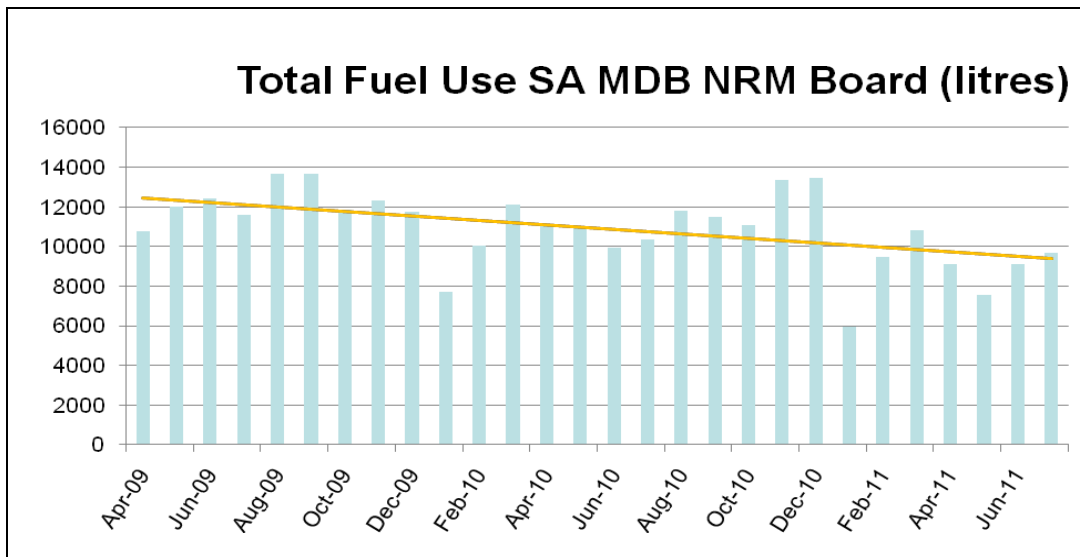
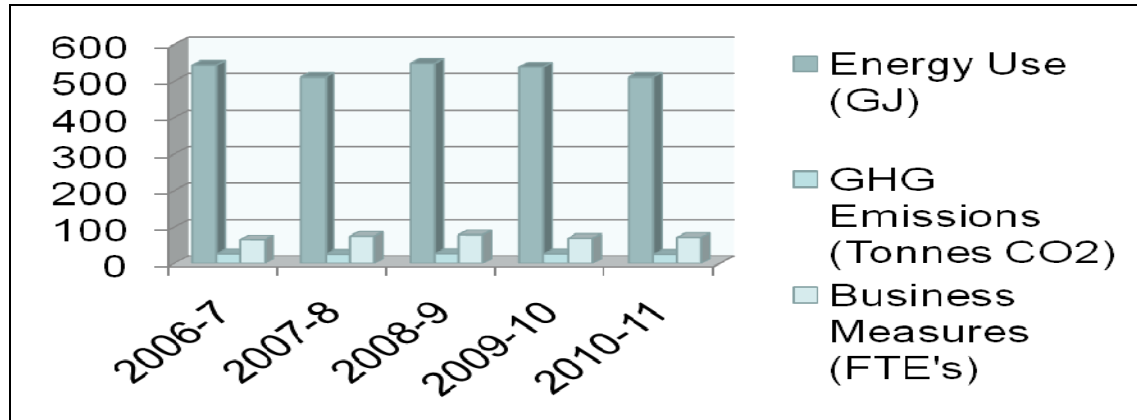


Figure 1: Shows a 20% fleet fuel use reduction to July 2011

**Office Power Use:**

SA MDB NRM Board 2010-11 – consumed 7,197 mj/person/annum Tenant Light and Power (TLP), meeting the target in the State EEGO policy (7,500 mj/person/annum for Office, TLP).



**Figure 2:** Power use / Staff numbers /Yearly comparisons shows that energy use reduced over 2010-11. Energy efficiency progress with 7% reductions in 2010-11 compared to the 2008-9 year. (Target start point April 2009) when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to 1.83 tonne reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2010-11.

All SA MDB NRM Board offices are being progressively moved toward 20% green energy as the electricity contracts fall due. Office energy efficiency is the first priority being address via the Green Team Plan 2008-2014.

Progress on energy efficiencies with 7% reductions in 2010-11 compared to the 2008-9 year. (Target start point April 2009) when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to 1.83 tonne reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2010-11 (See graph below).

SA MDB NRM Board 2010-11 – consumed 7,197 mj/person/annum Tenant Light and Power (TLP), meeting the target in the State EEGO policy (7,500 mj/person/annum for Office, TLP).

**7.8. Regional Impact Assessment Statements**

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2010-11 financial year.

**7.9. Reconciliation Statements**

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board acknowledges the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for Aboriginal people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Board also acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri, Ngargad, Meru, Ngadjuri, Peramangk, Danggali and Barkindji people as the custodians of the region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living people today.



In fulfilling its functions, the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

The Board has an indigenous representative, Mr George Lovegrove as a member of its Board.

The Board also has engaged the indigenous community in projects and committees wherever possible and has employed staff to actively engage with the aboriginal communities across the region.

#### **7.10. Statement of Fact-Significant Ministerial Directives**

No Ministerial Directives have been issued to the Board by the Minister in relation to Sections 24 and 30 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

#### **7.11. Statement of Fact - Functions Assigned By Minister**

Under Section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994* the ministerial functions and powers of the Minister for the Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board the following sections of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 were conferred on the Minister for the River Murray on 27 January 2005.

Sections 11; 23(2)(c); 23(3)(a); 23(4), (5), (6) and (7); 24(3); 25; 29; 30; 33; 34; 35; 36; 39; 40; 43; 44; 45; 46; 48; 49; 50; 53; 54; 58; 59; 61; 75; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 84; 88; 89; 171; 225; Schedule 1, Clauses 4 and 5; Schedule 4, Clause 54 (12) and (13).

There were no new significant functions assigned to the Board by the Minister in 2010-11.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Board would like to thank the Minister for the River Murray, Hon Paul Caica MP, and staff of the SA Department for Water, the staff of the SA Department for Environment and Natural Resources, SA Water Corporation, Primary Industries and Resources SA, Environment Protection Authority, Local Government and the community for the support and encouragement that it has received in 2010-11.

## **9. PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OR UPDATED DURING 2010-11**

Publications released or updated during the year were:

- 2011-12 Business Plan
- Regional Outcomes Report – November 2010
- Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resource Area and associated fact sheets on
  - Providing for Low Flows
  - Allocation and transfer policy overview
  - Consultation process

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Draft Mallee Water Allocation Plan and fact sheets on
  - Volumetric Conversion
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Adopted Peake Roby and Sherlock Water Allocation Plan
- SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Volunteer Strategy
- Aquatic Macro Invertebrate Identification Key
- Little things make a big impact
- Making every drop count
- Reflections and Learning Outcomes from 2009-10
- 2010-11 Regional Investment Report
- Working together on NRM – a snapshot of our progress – December 2010

## 10. GLOSSARY

<b>The Board</b>	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
<b>DEH</b>	Department for Environment and Heritage
<b>DENR</b>	Department for Environment and Natural Resources
<b>DfW</b>	Department for Water
<b>DWLBC</b>	Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation
<b>EEGO</b>	Energy Efficiency in Government Operations
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Authority
<b>FTE</b>	Full time equivalent
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>GJ</b>	Gigajoules
<b>GL</b>	Gigalitre
<b>GoGo</b>	Greening of Government Operations
<b>Group (the Group)</b>	Natural Resources Management Group
<b>MAT</b>	Management Action Target
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>PIRSA</b>	Primary Industry and Resources SA
<b>RCT</b>	Resource Condition Target
<b>SA MDB NRM</b>	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## **11. RIVERLAND NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **RIVERLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Ms Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.



Ken Stokes  
**Chairperson**  
**Riverland Natural Resources Management Group**

## **NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT**

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the Riverland Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

Achievements of the Riverland NRM Group during the 2010-11 period.

- Hosted a Riverland Group Volunteer Function.
- Met with Renmark to Border LAP and landholders to assess pig issues on Chowilla floodplain with a view to implementing a Control Program.
- Hosted a Community Science Forum in Renmark.
- Produced an Annual Rainfall Recording Chart for the 2011 calendar year for distribution to community.
- Received a number of presentations on natural resource management initiatives by agencies and community groups.
- Identified possible approach to landscape investment for NRM in the Riverland area.
- Met with the River Murray Youth Council.
- Discussed specific land management (Soil erosion) issues at Murtho with appropriate staff.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group was established on 21 February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### **ROLE OF THE GROUP**

The Groups' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues.
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM.
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE RIVERLAND NRM GROUP**

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group:

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Group are—
  - (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
  - (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
  - (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
  - (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
  - (e) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM Group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM Group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Riverland Group during 2010-11 was:

- Ken Stokes (Chairperson)
- Gavin McMahon
- Michelle Campbell
- Kate Thorn
- Bruce Hewett
- Tony Meissner
- Frances Simes
- Mardi Miles (resigned 27 September 2010)
- Dean Kerley (resigned 31 January 2011)
- Dave Reilly (resigned 31 January 2011)

#### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of nine general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

A total of zero special Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Reason for non attendance</b>
Ken Stokes	8		Other Commitments
Gavin McMahon	7		Other Commitments
Michelle Campbell	9		
Kate Thorn	9		
Bruce Hewett	4		New member
Tony Meissner	4		New member
Frances Simes	1		New member

#### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The Riverland NRM Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. See list of Group member's community links.

- Loxton to Bookpurnong LAP
- Berri Barmera LAP
- Renmark to the Border LAP
- Riverland West LAP
- Lake Bonney Management Group
- Central Irrigation Trust
- Riverland Futures Taskforce
- River Murray Youth Council



- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee (RMAC)
- Banrock
- Investment and Evaluation Working Group
- Regional Integration Committee (RIC)
- SA River Communities Group
- Riverland Horticultural Reference Group
- Berri Barmera Council
- Pig Project Steering Committee
- Mayor’s Forum
- Grant and Review Panel (GARP)

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

No Governance arrangements

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transaction are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES**

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Riverland NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

Under Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act the not significant functions are assigned by the Board to the Riverland NRM Group.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Not Applicable

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

Not Applicable

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (1) An NRM Group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.

- (2) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (1) An NRM Group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM Group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must-
  - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM Group, and
  - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

### **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM Board may, by written notice to a regional NRM Group, require the Group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM Group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

No specific reports were requested and provided to the Minister or the NRM Council under Section 39.

### **COMMITTEES LISTING**

**Committees that the members are involved in or represent the Group on:**

- Hotspots Evaluation Panel meeting.
- Riverland Group Volunteer Function Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Upper Murray NRM Education Group
- Chairman's Forum
- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Investment and Evaluation Working Group
- Regional Integration Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Riverland Futures
- Pig Project Steering Committee
- Mayors' Forum

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Riverland NRM Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

## **12. RANGELANDS NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **RANGELANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**

Mrs Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.



David Lindner  
**Chairperson**  
**Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group**

## **FOREWORD**

The Rangelands NRM Group has increased its effectiveness to work with the community by writing a concise strategic plan together with a communications plan that works within the 3 year rolling business plan of the Board which outlines the priorities that are required to achieve long term improvements in our natural resources which is often outside the focus of current projects. Furthermore, a whole of landscape approach which was started in October 2010 will be further massaged in the next financial year which will be presented to the Board as advice of issues emerging or requiring attention in our area of responsibility.

One aspect of Group function that is not often rated highly enough is the education of Group members and staff. It has been a deliberate plan to show both members and staff the land form and contrasting land systems whilst highlighting issues that are in our district such as the opuntia problem, together with the increase or explosion of noxious weeds which have become out of control in some areas. This type of education has given resolve to some that other areas which do not have these problems require extra attention to maintain a healthy landscape that is both of value for biodiversity and gives back to the community through being as productive as the land capability can achieve.

The employment of a capacity building person which works closely with our NRM Group and the Regional Council of Goyder has given numerous positive outcomes. As this Group area has very few community groups functioning to achieve on ground works, this person's ability to work with these organisations and the general public has greatly assisted in lifting the profile of natural resource management.

The members of the Rangelands NRM Group look forward to keeping close contact with the Board and to maintaining a good working relationship with Board staff and the community so that the SAMDB NRM Board's Regional Plan is realised and the natural resources of the district remain healthy and resilient.

**David Lindner**  
**Chair**  
**Rangelands NRM Group**

## **NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT**

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Presentations to the Group/and tours attended during the year included:-**

- Group members attended the Board/Group Annual Forum in Burra in July 2010, where the Board outlined its proposed Landscape Scale Focus areas concept.
- Group toured the "unofficial" 4WD and motor bike area south of Morgan to view land degradation.
- DENR Ranger from Burra Office continues to regularly participate in the Rangelands NRM Group meetings, providing informative updates on developments in the Region.
- Presentation on the "Australian Land Management Program" for landowners - by Co-ordinator of Mt Pleasant NRC.
- Group member attended the Board's Wombat Workshops at Cambrai and Eudunda on 6/10/10 and 20/10/10 respectively.



- Presentation by Capacity Building Regional Co-ordinator on Capacity Building projects and their potential to be involved with Worlds End and Ngadjuri ALOC project.
- Weed Mapping by Rangelands NRM staff for the Opuntia Program 2010/11.
- Mallee Eco Services Manager presented on the Riverland Biosphere integrated goat and rabbit control project.
- Tour of Hiles Lagoon (inundated with water), Mulga Valley Creek (unofficial motorcycle and 4WD area), Pandappa vegetation regeneration and the Board's Roadside Recovery Program for Wheel Cactus at Terowie.
- One Group member attended the Board run "Groundwater Workshop" 4-7/4/11 at Berri
- Tour of land west of Morgan to look at the colonisation and increase of native shrubs which is impacting on productivity, biodiversity and soil stability.

**Other achievements included:-**

- The Board's NRM Community Officer was instrumental in arranging attendance at and participation of Group members and staff at the Merino Field Day and Burra, Clare, Kapunda and Eudunda Shows and feedback from the community was very positive.
- A free standing 1.8m high banner which depicts the Group's focus and issues was produced and is used at shows, meetings, conferences and was displayed at the local Council office.
- Group has participated in workshops to develop a comprehensive Landscape Scale Focus map of the Rangelands area for consideration by the Board.
- The Group have developed a comprehensive Work Plan and Communications and Strategy Plan to help deliver outcomes of the Board Regional Plan.

**Issues of concern for the Group:-**

- Removal of water monitoring equipment in the Burra Creek and related loss of valuable water data.
- Monitoring and water quality in the Rangelands area (including sourcing opportunities to fund water monitoring and equipment in the Burra Creek)
- Completion of the Goat Management Options Paper and its implementation.
- Wombat numbers, survey and options
- Succession Planning (as there may be 4 vacancies on the Group in January 2012)

- Reduction in funding for Crown Land work on declared plants and animals

#### **Potential issues of concern for the Group:-**

- Redevelopment of the old Burra Mine including dewatering the Monster Mine by Phoenix Mine and its effect on groundwater.
- The wet summer has created an explosion of weeds that will have impacts on the land long term.

### **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group was established on 16th February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

#### **ROLE OF THE GROUP**

The Groups' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF THE RANGELANDS NRM GROUP**

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group:

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Group are—
  - (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
  - (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
  - (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
  - (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and

- (f) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM Group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

## MEMBERSHIP

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM Group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Rangelands NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

### Members

- David Lindner (Chair)
- Harvey Neal
- Kevin Smith (Term expired December 2010)
- Jane Kellock
- Jacki Matthey
- Alicia Patten (resigned June 2011)
- Jo Gebhardt
- James Robertson

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 6 general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

A total of 1 telephone Group meeting was held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
David Lindner	7		
Harvey Neal	6		Personal commitments
Kevin Smith	3	Resigned 31/1/2011	
Jane Kellock	5		Family commitments
Jacki Matthey	5		Work commitments
Alicia Patten	2	Resigned 26/5/2011	Family commitments
Jo Gebhardt	7		
James Robertson	3	Appointed 1/2/2011	Work commitments

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. Attendance by DENR Senior Ranger at Group meetings has been highly valued by both parties.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Group formulated a Work Plan and Communications & Strategy Plan for 2010-11 which was revised and updated throughout the year.

The Group has provided input with staff on the Rangelands Operations Plan (declared plants and animal priorities).

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES**

- The Board directed the Group to define a Rangelands Landscape Focus area for 2010-2011 and beyond. A facilitator was engaged by the Board to assist the four NRM Groups achieve Landscape Scale Planning for their respective areas with initial discussions for RA commencing on 13/10/10 at Morgan.
- The Board sought Group member comment on the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board Business Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14.
- The Board sponsored a facilitator to support the four NRM Groups present a community Science Forum. The Rangelands NRM Group's Science Forum will be held next financial year (October 2011).
- The Board sought a nomination from the Group to participate in the Hotspot Evaluation Panel for 2011/12.
- Group members participated in numerous Workshops in relation to the Regional Outcomes Report including Terrestrial Biodiversity, Pest Plant and Animals, People, Land Management, Water Allocation Planning and Water Quality.
- The Group was consulted on how best to acknowledge NRM volunteer contributions. A "Volunteer Celebrations in the Rangelands NRM Group area" is being held at Redbanks CP next financial year.
- The Group was consulted on applications for NRM Volunteer Small Grants and NRM Education Grants and advised the Board of its recommendations.
- The Board set up a new committee, the Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP), to review grant applications, and required one representative and proxy from each of the NRM Groups.
- Group members participate in numerous Board committees including the Regional Integration Committee (Chair), Volunteer Strategy, Communications Committee, GARP and Hotspot Evaluation.

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

Not applicable

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Not applicable

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

Not applicable

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (3) An NRM Group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (4) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (3) An NRM Group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM Group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (4) The report must-
  - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM Group, and
  - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

**SPECIFIC REPORTS**

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1)The Minister or a regional NRM Board may, by written notice to a regional NRM Group, require the Group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.

- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM Group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

### **COMMITTEES LISTING**

Rangelands NRM Group members contribute to the following community committees:-

- BRAG (Burra Rangelands Action Group)
- Worlds End Gorge Community Consultation Group
- Chowilla Community Reference Committee
- Riverland Biosphere Feral Goat and Rabbit Control Steering Committee
- Rangelands Goats Strategy Working Group
- Feral Pig Steering Committee
- Grasslands Working Group

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

### **13. RANGES TO RIVER NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **RANGES TO RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



Mrs Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.



Monique White  
**Chairperson**  
**Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group**

## **NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD’S REPORT**

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Board’s Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Presentations to the Group/Tours attended during the year included:-**

- Group members participated in the Board/Groups Annual Conference held at Burra on 22-23/7/10, which focussed on the Board's concept of landscape scale change.
- The Board's response to the 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide and Mount Barker Urban Growth Ministerial DPA including issues such as transport linkages, remnant vegetation mapping, energy efficiency, Water sensitive Urban Design and Governance/Consultation.
- Principal Project Officer - Biodiversity, informed the Group about current projects including Bush Bids, Woodland Bush Bids, Environmental Stewardship, Fleurieu Peninsular Swamps, Threatened Flora in Easter Hills area, Southern Hairy Nosed wombat awareness, Habitat 141 and Nature Conservancy's plan to undertake a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) in the R2R area.
- Principal Project Officer (Land Management) spoke in-camera on the Management and Protection of Land.

- Group members visited the Aboriginal Learning on Country Project at Monarto Zoo, touring the areas worked on by the Project, gaining an understanding of future direction of Monarto Zoo development.
- An overview of the Land Management Program by the Central Service Area Manager of the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board was given, after which the SA Murray Darling Basin (SAMDB) NRM Board's Principal Project Officer (Land Management) gave a neighbouring Board overview.
- Water Allocation Planning Manager gave two consecutive monthly presentation updates to the Group on the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (EMLR WAP).
- Senior Project Officer/Environmental Engineer updated the Group on the Off-Road Strategy and Facilities Master Plan by Motorcycling SA.
- By invitation from the Mallee/Coorong NRM Group, three members attended a bus tour of the SE Drainage system.
- The Mannum to Wellington LAP Project Officer presented on the Pest Plant Control of Spiny Rush at Rocky Gully Wetland Murray Bridge.

**Other achievements included:-**

- Increased encouragement for interaction by the Group with the four Local Action Planning Groups (Mannum to Wellington, Mid Murray, Eastern Hills and Murray Plains and Goolwa to Wellington) within the Ranges to River area. This is being achieved by the LAP's being included on the Group meeting Agenda and providing written reports and/or attending to highlight local issues to the Group. Where possible, the Group has forwarded the issue to the Board for follow up and action. Some issues raised included Whites Road roadside vegetation clearance, expiry of Monarto Heritage Agreements and encouragement of landowners to convert to full Heritage Agreements, Terramin Mine, Ferries McDonald Road realignment and development applications.
- The installation of two Ferry signs on the Mannum downstream and Swan Reach Ferries, are updated monthly with River Murray flow data.
- The Group firmly believes in having an active presence in the community and attended local shows to promote NRM, which further built on previous years' attendances. This was achieved at the Mt Pleasant Show in March 2011, where cross boundary collaboration with the adjoining Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board and Groups and local NRM community groups occurred. Group members and staff disseminated information and advice for small property owners in the Hills.

Group members also attended the Mount Barker Show (26/3/11), Strathalbyn Show (4/10/10) and supported local Landcare group activities at the Callington Show and Wistow mini Show in October 2010.

- Group members actively participated in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level through their involvement with Murray Darling Basin Commission CAC Lower Lakes Consultation, EMLR WAP CAC, Lower Murray Drought Reference Group, Murray Plains Crop Competition, R2R Local Government Advisory Committee, River Murray Advisory Committee, Mt Pleasant NRC, Tungkillo Landcare Group.
- Group members attended the Board's Communication Committee meetings, MAT Workshops (Sustainable Irrigation and People), Hotspots NRM Evaluation meetings, Reflections and Learning Workshop, community consultation meetings for the EMLR WAP,

**Ongoing issues that continue to be highlighted to the Group include:-**

- Terramin Mine at Strathalbyn (currently, discharge of tailings water into Burnside Creek)
- Off- Road Vehicle use in inappropriate areas causing land management destruction. Further to this, the R2R Group Chair is now the NRM Groups representative on the SA Motorcycle Reference Group that plans to find a solution this issue.
- Various issues around Native Vegetation clearance in the area.
- One vacancy on the Group remained unfilled for the year, which prohibited the Group from reaching an official quorum on three occasions.

**New issues arising that required Group attention:-**

- The Rural City of Murray Bridge launched its "Imagine your Rural City Murray Bridge 2020- Our Place, Our future" on 2/2/2011. The community was invited to input their ideas including the NRM Group.

**Issue of concern:-**

- For the duration of the financial year, there has been a one membership vacancy on the Group that has not been able to be filled, despite advertising and considerable effort headhunting by group members. This resulted in increased workload for existing members, difficulty in achieving a quorum and decreased ability to capture community issues.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group was established on 21st February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### **ROLE OF THE GROUP**

The Groups' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE RANGES TO RIVER NRM GROUP**

The activities of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group are defined according to Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act:-

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Group are—
  - (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
  - (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
  - (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
  - (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
  - (g) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM Group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM Group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Ranges to River NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

- Monique White (Chair)
- Matthew Starick
- Deana Mildren
- Annie Atkinson
- Ceris Crosby
- Paul Barnes
- Peter Ward

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of 9 general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

A total of 1 special Group meeting was held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
M White	10	Chair	
C Crosby	8		Family commitments
M Starick	6		Work commitments
P Barnes	1	Resigned 16/1/10	Work commitments
D Mildren	10		
A Atkinson	4		Work commitments and illness
P Ward	5	Appointed to Group 8/2/11	

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. (See list of Group member community links).

### **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Ranges to River Work Plan 2010-2011 revised and updated.

### **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES**

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Ranges to River NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SAMDB NRM Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

- The Board directed the Group to define a R2R Landscape Focus area for 2010-2011 and beyond. A facilitator was engaged by the Board to assist the four NRM Groups achieve Landscape Scale Planning for their respective areas with initial discussions for R2R commencing on 21/9/10 with a special information session on biodiversity projects within the Group area.
- The Board sought Group member participation at stakeholder information sessions on the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board Business Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14.
- The Board sponsored a facilitator to support the four NRM Groups present a community Science Forum. The Ranges to River NRM Group focussed on "Sustainable Farming - the sciences and technology" with over 70 participants attending and 6 speakers, which was held at Mannum on 21/3/11.
- The Board sought a nomination from the Group to participate in the Hotspot Evaluation Panel for 2011.
- The Group was consulted on how best to identify how "Volunteer Celebrations in the Ranges to River NRM Group area" might be made. Celebrations are to be held in each of the four LAP Group areas with two being held so far at Cambrai and Strathalbyn.
- The Group was consulted on applications for NRM Volunteer Small Grants and NRM Education Grants and advised the Board of its recommendations.
- The Board set up a new committee, the Grant Assessment and Review Panel, to review grant applications, and required one representative and proxy from each of the NRM Groups. The entire group has continued to review proposals providing responses to the Grant Assessment and Review Panel member for discussion during panel meetings.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Not applicable

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

Not applicable

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (5) An NRM Group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.

- (6) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (5) An NRM Group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM Group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (6) The report must-
- (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM Group, and
  - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

### **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM Board may, by written notice to a regional NRM Group, require the Group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM Group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

### **COMMITTEES LISTING**

Ranges to River NRM Group members actively contribute to the following Committees:-

- Mt Pleasant Natural Resources Centre Management Committee
- Tungkillio Landcare Group
- Communications and Engagement Committee
- Hotspots Evaluation Committee
- Ranges to River Local Government NRM Advisory Committee
- Lower Murray River Drought Reference Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- EMLR WAP CAC
- Group Chairs Forum
- Mt Barker Bushcare Group
- Paiwalla Habitat Wetlands Trust

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.



## **14. MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **MALLEE AND COORONG NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon,

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Piggott  
**Chairperson**  
**Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group**

**NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT**

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

- Meetings are held in a variety of locations throughout the Mallee and Coorong NRM group area, with regular guests including:-
  - Coorong & Murray Mallee LAP – Graham Gates, Rowena Danks,
  - Operations Team Leader Mallee and Coorong – Paul Gillen, Steve Baltussen
  - Mallee Water – Joy & Rob Ziersch, Cameron Welsh, Sarah Kuchel
  - Soil Issues – Bernadette Lawson
 Other SA MDB NRM Board guests have included:
  - Bill Paterson Former Presiding Member SA MDB NRM Board
  - Jeremy Nelson – Land and Water management
  - Michael Cutting – Woolworths funded research project on potatoes in the Mallee
  - Jem Tesoriero and Miranda Leckie – Volunteer celebrations
  - Amy Goodman – Business plan review
  - Merridie Martin and Hugo Hopton – updates on DENR Integration
- The Group has undertaken a number of tours to better understand natural resource issues around the area. Tours have included:
  - Lower Lakes – Tauwitchere Barrages and the Narrung Bund
  - Box Flat area in Ngarkat Conservation Park
  - Woorinen Recovery Project, Mantung
- To further the knowledge of members and bring them up to date a number of guest speakers have attended and informed the Group. In the 2010/11 year they have been:
  - Students from Lameroo Regional community School presented the River health program they run at their school
  - Students from East Murray Area School spoke about the NRM funded East Murray Family Grove project
- In addition to these speakers, the Group has held meetings in conjunction with the Karoonda Farm Fair and a Silverleaf Nightshade control workshop (which it co-hosted) to enable members to participate in these events.
- Group members have supported Bernadette Lawson (Principal project Manager, Land Management) when dealing with properties in the area that have soil degradation issues.
- Group members participated in the Mallee Water Allocation Plan public consultation process.
- The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group held a Science Forum at Karoonda in October with approximately 20 people attending to listen to eight speakers on a variety of agriculture and climate related topics.
- In April 2011, the Group hosted a volunteer celebration to thank the many volunteers across the Mallee & Coorong region for their efforts. The day included the Coorong LAP and the Murray Mallee LAP speaking of different programs in the area and Lew Westbrook who elaborated on a Mallee fowl tour he attended in Western Australia. Participants enjoyed a bus tour in the afternoon.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### **ROLE OF THE GROUP**

The Groups' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Work collaboratively with NRM Groups who adjoin the Mallee and Coorong area
- Take an active role in the management of natural resources within the region
- Provide advice on natural resource issues
- Support the Board on natural resource management implementation
- Support committees and groups active in resource management in the area, through membership
- Promote public awareness on natural resource management in the area
- Preparing an annual work plan for the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP**

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group:

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM Group are—
  - (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
  - (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
  - (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
  - (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
  - (h) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM Group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM Group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

- Allan Piggott (Chairman)
- Keith Scobie
- Clem Mason
- Gordon Hancock
- Damian Berger
- Steve Murray
- Donna Nussio (resigned January 2011)
- Jenny Roberts (from February 2012)

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of nine general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Allan Piggott	9	
Keith Scobie	9	
Clem Mason	6	Work Commitments
Gordon Hancock	6	Council commitments
Damian Berger	7	Work commitments
Steve Murray	6	Work and personal commitments
Donna Nussio (resigned)	2	Personal commitments
Jenny Roberts	5	New member

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members regularly network with the committees listed on page 8 of this report. The Group also liaises with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff at Lameroo.

The Group have also been heavily involved with the preparation and content of, and public consultation for the Draft Mallee Water Allocation Plan, which is currently awaiting adoption.

### **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Mallee & Coorong Work Plan 2011

### **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transaction are completed by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES**

Nil

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members had input on the Draft Mallee Water Allocation Plan.

Damian Berger represented the Board on the State Mouse Working Party which met in Port Lincoln a number of times over 9 months.

The Group was also consulted on the following NRM Volunteer Small Grants, NRM School small grants and other NRM Grants:

- MM LAP – Monitoring programs
- Mantung-Maggea Land Management Group – Malleefowl and habitat conservation project
- Pangarinda Arboretum Committee – buy equipment to manage and continue current project
- Friends of Karoonda Nature Park – Create and print brochure to promote Nature Park
- Orana Incorporated – Lakes Alexandrina & Albert Community Revegetation program
- River Murray Urban Users - Indigenous heritage and culture community awareness /education
- Meningie Area School Community Garden
- Motorcycling SA off road Strategic Plan

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Nil

**STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

Nil

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (7) An NRM Group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (8) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (7) An NRM Group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM Group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (8) The report must-



- (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM Group, and
- (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

## **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM Board may, by written notice to a regional NRM Group, require the Group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM Group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

## **COMMITTEES LISTING**

- Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Group (LAP)
- Coorong Local Action Planning Group
- Group chairs forum
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Mallee Water Resources Committee
- Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee
- Communications Committee
- Grant review and Assessment Panel
- Mallee Sustainable Farming Group
- Mallee Coorong Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Community Reference Committee
- Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area Committee

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Board, the Murray Mallee LAP and the Coorong LAP for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

## **GLOSSARY**

LAP            Local Action Plan

## 15. APPENDIX 1 - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES LISTING

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board members contribute to sub-committees and working groups established to provide the Board with ongoing advice. The Board as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 had established the following Committees and its membership was :

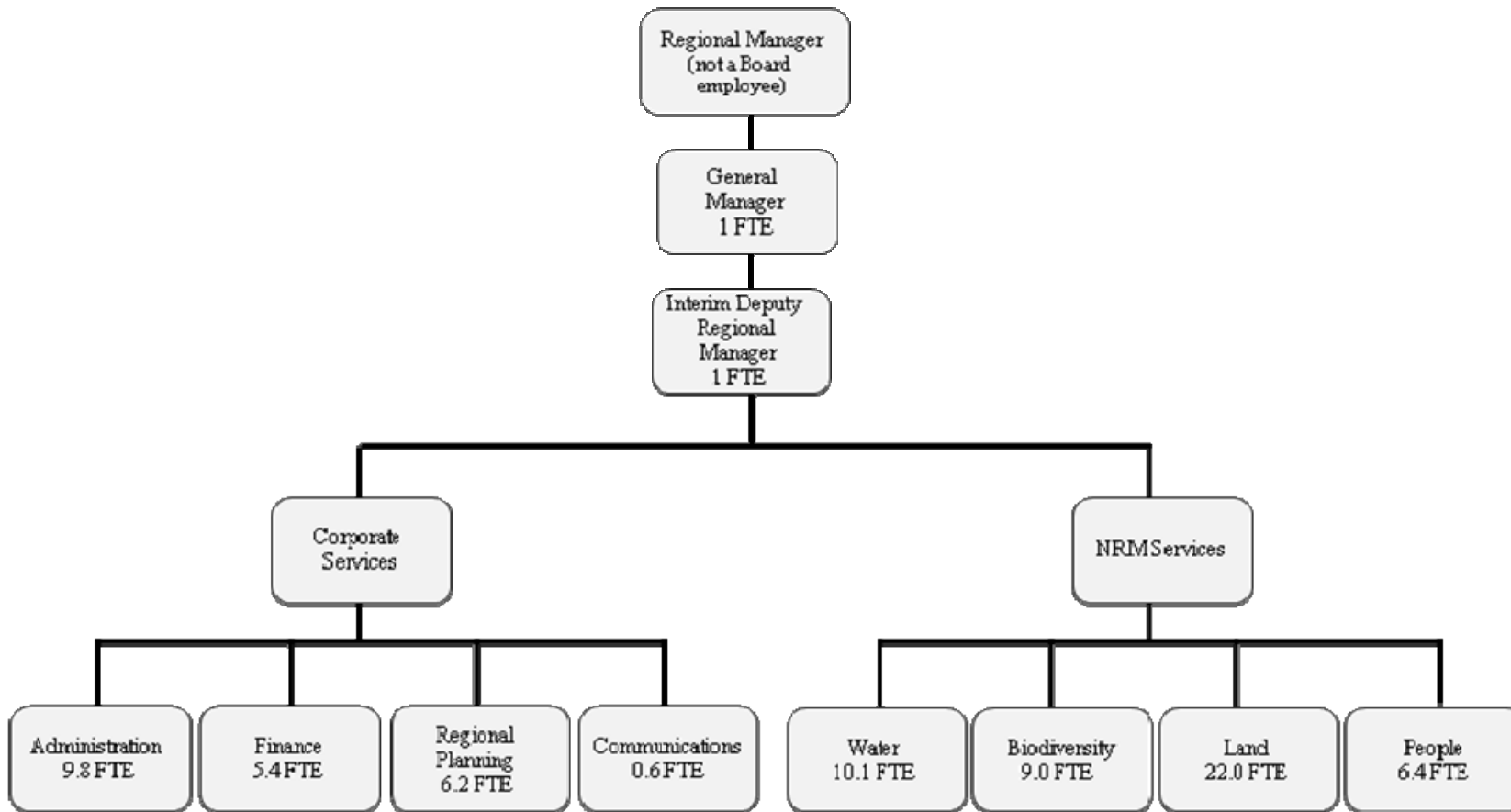
COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
<b>Executive Committee</b>	S Starick (Chair) S Alm A Hartnett E Jenke G Davies M Rossetto S Dominelli H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Finance Committee</b>	C Milburn (Chair) S Starick S Alm A Hartnett M Tschirpigg (Finance Manager) H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Regional Integration Committee</b>	S Starick (Chair) A Hartnett K Stokes – Chair Riverland NRM Group D Lindner – Chair Rangelands NRM Group M White – Chair Ranges to River NRM Group A Piggott – Chair Mallee and Coorong NRM Group H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) P Michelmore (Operations Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Communications Committee</b>	E Jenke (Chair) A Hartnett S Alm P Scott D Mildren M Campbell Kerry Rosser (Communications and Engagement Manager) K Smith (Administrative Support)

<b>River Murray Advisory Committee</b>	Sheridan Alm (Chairperson) Joanne Pfeiffer Clem Mason Michelle Campbell Henry Jones Greg McCarron Ray Najar Neil Schillabeer Darryl Webb Richard Wheaton Monique White Shirley Smith David Peake Brent Fletcher David Ludas Stuart Andrew Bruce Hewitt Robert Smyth Ken Stokes Trevor Twigden Graeme Thompson D Brown <b>Technical Support</b> Peter Waanders – Wetland Management – NRM Board Bianca Lewis/Cameron Welsh – River Murray WAP – NRM Board Hugo Hopton/Denise Fowles — NRM Board Kym Walton/Gerry Davies – PIRSA Jarrod Eaton/Julie Cann – Department for Water Jim Cawthorne – Drought until position expire L Schmaal – Administrative Support
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In addition to the formal sub-committees established by the Board as detailed above, members represent the Board on the Water Resource Planning Committees, Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committees, Lower Murray, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Community Reference Committees and Local Government Advisory Committees. These Committees all have representation from both the Board and NRM Groups.

**16. APPENDIX 2 – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AT 30 JUNE 2011**

For the period ending 30 June 2011 the Board had a total number of 71.5 FTE approved positions as shown on the organisation chart below.



**17. APPENDIX 3 – FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011**

See Attachment