SA MURRAY-DARLING BASIN
NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
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2. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA  5000

Dear Minister

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 South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Starick
PRESIDING MEMBER
SA MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NRM BOARD
3. **FOREWORD**

On behalf of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board it gives me great pleasure to present our 2015-16 Annual Report.

The endeavours by so many in our regional community contributing to the wise management and long term protection of land, water, biodiversity and community is a key theme of this report and should be commended. The year has been marked by the Board’s continued focus on community-based decision-making, enabling the community to have input into and influence decisions that will directly impact them. Two examples of this have been the deliberative panel on the NRM levies and the future funding of the Board’s programs, and the competition using crowd sourcing techniques to seek new and innovative designs for low flow devices on dams. It has been very challenging but extremely rewarding to see how the community has responded to these opportunities to contribute and to connect with the Board.

In partnership with the Board the staff of Natural Resources SAMDB deliver programs on behalf of the Board that benefit natural resources management, contribute to the Premier’s ten economic priorities and assist the Department of Water, Natural Resources and Environment (DEWNR) to encourage more people to explore and use our beautiful parks.

The Premier’s strategic priority of **production of premium food and wine from our clean environment** is a key priority for the Board and has been supported through expanded services that encourage sustainable production and support innovation. Recognising that farmers and irrigators are the region’s economic lifeblood, the Board provides access to services such as land management, weed and pest control advice; farm and irrigation improvement programs; Landcare; and agricultural production trials. In addition, the Board has secured funds to improve uptake of technological innovations like phone apps, satellite technology and real time weather data for farm management.

By investing significantly in the development of the region’s youth and children through a team of passionate and knowledgeable staff working with schools, teachers, students and parents, the Board recognises that the youth of today will be tomorrow’s leaders. The NRM Education team is responsible for development and delivery of two highly regarded youth leadership programs, the River Murray Youth Council and Young Environmental Leaders. It was incredibly pleasing to see the work of these staff rewarded when these youth leadership programs won the Capacity Building Award at the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values Awards.

It has been fantastic to see our connection to the community flourish through the wonderful work done by volunteers, farmer groups and community groups. The work of these groups is vital and builds awareness about sustainable use of our natural resources, lifestyle choices and volunteering as a way of giving back to community and connecting people. The Board has continued to offer small grant programs to support these groups’ projects and activities. The region’s volunteers are supported with insurance and training opportunities as well. All good efforts should be recognised and rewarded so the Board funds a series of celebration events across the region to acknowledge the terrific efforts of our volunteers.

The Board has continued to be successful in leveraging substantial federal funding for regional priorities. Over $24 million has been secured to assist the delivery of programs within the region. While enabling us to invest substantially more into the management of natural resources, it also contributes to our regional economy as the Board seeks to utilise local contractors and purchase goods locally.

Another key achievement has been the co-design and development of the Regional Action Plan with our major stakeholder groups. We anticipate that this online searchable decision making tool will be
available by the end of December 2016. This has been a significant body of work that will guide industry, community and the three tiers of government for the future.

Board continued to work and strengthen its relationships with Local Government, Regional Development Authority and other organisations such as the Tri-State Alliance throughout the year in various formats and programs. We thank these organisations for their ongoing support and input.

The Board welcomed two new community members, Kerry Simcock and Owen Love, this year in April. I would like to sincerely acknowledge the contribution made by all of our Board members for their enthusiasm and commitment. The year has seen many changes and their dedication and input has been greatly appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic contribution that outgoing Board member Emily Jenke has made to this Board. Emily completed three terms as a Board member and her expert knowledge and guidance on matters relating to community engagement will be sorely missed. She has been instrumental in guiding the Board through the use of deliberate engagement processes and her support gave the Board great confidence to try new things and allow the community’s voice to be heard loud and clear.

I would like to sincerely thank Hugo Hopton, former Regional Manager for Natural Resources SAMDB. Hugo’s advice and support to the Board was greatly appreciated. Hugo is a great advocate for genuinely engaging the community and his support was invaluable during the Board’s deliberative panel process. We also welcome Rhona Parker-Benton as our new Regional Director, working with the Board.

I would also like to thank the members of all the committees established by the Board including our River Water Resource Advisory Committees. All of these Committees play a vital role in connecting the Board to its communities and ensuring the community voice is strongly heard as we go about our work. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the input and contribution of all the members.

The Board has four NRM Groups. We thank Monique White, Chair of the Ranges to River NRM Group, Roger Wickes, Chair of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group, John Oates, Chair of the Rangelands NRM Group and Ken Stokes, Chair of the Riverland NRM Group for their tireless efforts. We thank each of the past and present members of the NRM Groups for their valued input, time and commitment. These Groups have supported the Board and staff in addressing community issues such as water allocation, land management, community engagement, and animal and plant control matters. They have undertaken activities to improve community access to information as well as increasing opportunity for community members to directly influence the Board’s annual programs.

A special thank you goes to the dedicated and committed staff of Natural Resources SAMDB for their valuable assistance in delivering the Board’s program of works in motivating and inspiring community and industry to ever better manage the region’s natural assets – critical to the prosperity of our State.

The 2015-16 Annual Report highlights many achievements for the year for which much of the thanks must go to the dedicated efforts of these people. Their passion for the region and its natural resources is outstanding and I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the staff for their contribution throughout the year from the members of the Board.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change as well as the State Government Agencies, Local Government, industry groups and the community that the Board has been involved with throughout the past year for their ongoing support and input. It is only possible to improve the management of the precious natural resources within our region
through the support, partnership and active involvement and input of all these people. The Board looks forward to further strengthening these close working relationships in the future.

Sharon Starick
Presiding Member
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
4. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister).

The Board undertakes its activities in accordance with the Regional Natural Resources Management Plan for the SA Murray-Darling Basin (the Regional NRM Plan) and the strategic directions set out in South Australia’s Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity* and the State NRM Plan – *Our Place Our Future*.

The Board set the following strategic priorities for 2015-16 in its work programs on:

- Floodplains and wetlands
- Landscape resilience
- Regional Conservation programs
- Sustainable Irrigation
- District Services
- Land Management and Sustainable farming
- Atmosphere
- Industry and Local Government Engagement
- Capacity Building
- NRM Education
- Communications
- Operations
- Water Allocation Planning
- Regional Planning
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
Relationship of strategic plans / priorities to South Australia’s Strategic Plan (SASP) targets where relevant.

Table 1 below, illustrates where each theme area in the Regional NRM Plan contributed to achieving the visions and goals of the SA Strategic Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional NRM Plan</th>
<th>SA Strategic Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme Areas</td>
<td>Visions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems</td>
<td>Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits</td>
<td>Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way</td>
<td>Strong Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.</td>
<td>Contribution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4.1 Links between the Board and the seven strategic priorities of Government

Table 2 below, illustrates where each theme area in the Regional NRM Plan contributed to achieving the seven strategic priorities of Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional NRM Plan</th>
<th>SA Strategic Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme Areas</td>
<td>Visions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creating a vibrant city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 4.2 Links between the Board and the State NRM plan

Table 3 below, illustrates the links between the State NRM Plan and the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board’s strategic priorities/targets (program areas).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State NRM Plan Guiding Targets</th>
<th>SA MDB NRM Plan Resource Condition Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Ensure people are better informed and improve capacity in NRM decision making.</td>
<td>P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Improve institutional and organizational capacity to support people to manage natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Improve capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> All NRM planning and investment decisions include ecological, social and production considerations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve soil and land condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Improve condition of terrestrial aquatic ecosystems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Improve the conservation status of species and ecological communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strong Contributions</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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5. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES (THE YEAR IN REVIEW)

5.1 Community at the Centre

The communities of the SA Murray-Darling Basin are critical to the region achieving social, economic and environmental prosperity. The Board is committed to putting the community at the centre of its business and encouraging the community to influence the Board’s decisions where appropriate.

To this end, the Board conducted a deliberative process as part of its consultation for a proposed increase to the NRM levy. The Board were very intentional about allowing community to participate in a manner that would help the Board set direction for the 2016-17 Business Plan.

In late October 2015, approximately 50 community members, with equal representation of water licence holders and Regional NRM levy payers, were randomly selected to be involved. The remit of the panel was “How do we collectively sustain the natural resources that support our society, economy and environment into the long term future? And importantly how do we fund it?” Over several weekends this panel met to consider the remit and a range of information about the Board’s business, the state of natural resources in the region and presentations from various stakeholder groups. On the final weekend the panel provided the Board with their collective advice for consideration. This advice formed a critical part of the package of information that the Board used to form the 2016-17 Business Plan.

The Board also connects strongly to the regional community through its four Natural Resource Management Groups (NRM Groups) who provide a critical link to local communities. Each group consists of local community members who have good networks and a strong commitment to NRM in their local areas. The NRM Groups work with the Board to find local solutions to local priorities as well as contributing to the broader regional management objectives. The NRM Groups undertake activities such as hosting NRM forums, encouraging participation in NRM Board consultation activities and providing local input into the Board’s work programs. The achievements of the Groups during 2015-16 are highlighted further in this report.

5.2 NRM Levy At Work

The NRM levy raised $9.812 million to fund NRM activity across the region. The NRM levy also enabled the Board to leverage $13.196 million in external grants for further work. Thus every dollar raised through the NRM levy has been able to generate an extra $1.35 for the region, compared to $2.76 in the previous financial year and $2.38 the year before that.

Although there has been a reduction in total external grants, the NRM levy is still providing value for money to levy payers and the region.

5.3 Landscape Approach to NRM

The Board defines its delivery of NRM programs on a landscape scale approach by dividing the SA Murray-Darling Basin into 4 districts containing unique landscapes. The 4 districts are: Ranges to River; Riverland; Rangelands; and Mallee and Coorong.
There are many benefits to delivering NRM activities based on a landscape approach including:

- Finding local solutions to local priorities
- Engaging community members on issues that affect their local area and encouraging a willingness to act at the local level
- Delivering services that address multiple issues across an area, improving effectiveness and efficiency
- Supporting NRM Groups in each district to facilitate a much better connection with local communities

This approach enables the Board to be much more responsive to community needs as well as delivering programs that achieve improved landscape management that supports social wellbeing, economic development and a healthy environment.

6. NRM WORK PROGRAMS

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

- Floodplains and wetlands
- Landscape resilience
- Regional conservation programs
- Sustainable irrigation
- Land management
- Sustainable farming
- District services
- Park management
- Local government engagement
- Community Capacity Building
- NRM education
- Communications
- Water allocation planning
- Regional planning
- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement
- Investment and information management
- Carbon action
6.1 Floodplains and Wetlands

An important component of the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan involves the annual delivery of environmental water to wetlands of the River Murray. In 2015-16 the wetland and floodplain team delivered around 6GL of environmental water to stranded ephemeral wetlands. Approximately 575 hectares were inundated (excluding the halo-effect area) of which approximately 450 hectares were inundated with Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) water. This included the wetlands at Martins Bend, Bookmark Creek, Disher Creek, Maize Island, Tolderol and others. Many outstanding outcomes were observed as a result of environmental watering such as recovery of threatened fish, mass frog breeding events, the presence of thousands of waterbirds from a range of species and functional groups including many species considered to be of conservation significance, and continued on-going support from community groups, landholders and non-for-profit groups.

In 2015-16 management and restoration works were successfully undertaken at 54 wetlands in the SAMDB across over 4000 hectares. This is in addition to the environmental water projects mentioned previously. This has resulted in the improved health and productivity of the wetlands, demonstrated by the increase in biodiversity, improvements to water quality, extent of inundation and decreased pest animal species (such as common carp). The abundance of waterbirds observed at some sites were highest on record for those areas. Field days, videos, reports, radio interviews and workshops have helped to inform and engage over 10,000 people in wetland conservation.

The support of the local community is very important to the success of many of the Board’s wetlands projects and it is very pleasing that these relationships remain strong. An example of this is the delivery of environmental water to Tolderol Game Reserve wetlands which is a community-driven project providing significant habitat for shorebirds that have travelled the globe. Community members are involved in fish, frog and bird monitoring as well as general care of the wetlands. A project working group, including representation from community members, provides advice to the project team and a few key community volunteers provide vital assistance in delivery of water into the wetlands. On-ground works are also support through financial contributions from the Conservation and Hunting Alliance, and Birds SA. In February 2016, a very successful day was held on site to share information about the results from the application of environmental water.

Over 220 hectares of threatened fish species habitat was managed in 2015-16 resulting in the improved status of Murray Hardyhead, Southern purple-spotted gudgeon and Southern pygmy perch in South Australia. The careful management of Murray Hardyhead habitat in the Riverland has resulted in a population increase large enough to allow translocation of some of the fish and re-establish lost populations in wetlands of Victoria near Mildura. The translocation was carried out working together with multiple agencies and non-for-profit organisations.

Other 2015-16 activities to improve the status of threatened fish species in South Australia include delivery of environmental water, removal of impediments to water flow and releasing fish bred in surrogate dams. This work aims to secure the investment in resources made by many organisations during the Millennium Drought to rescue and breed these species in captivity and then reintroduce the fish back into their wild habitat between 2012 and 2014. The status of the fish species in South Australia has improved for all except the Yarra pygmy perch which will be a high priority for work in 2016-17.
6.2 Landscape Resilience

Landscape scale restoration was undertaken through many projects including:

- Targeted restoration of native vegetation and habitat across the region including over 100,000 hectares of pest management and 2,644 hectares of weed control
- Over 500 land managers received technical advice from our ecologists regarding land management for biodiversity
- Protection of habitat for black-eared miners and other mallee birds from bush fire and other threats
- A community based team working on restoration and recovery of regent parrots
- Drafting a translocation plan to restore mallee emu wren to suitable habitat in an attempt to resurrect the species in South Australia
- Managing threats to critical habitat for the nationally endangered coloured spider-orchid (*Caladenia colorata*). Of the approximately 5,000 coloured spider-orchid plants known nationally, 4,900 occur at Hartley in the SAMDB region, making this an extremely important area for the future of this species.

Frahn’s Farm is an area of 550 hectares north of Monarto with very significant biodiversity value and the local community are keen to see this area protected. Natural Resources SAMDB has been working with interested community members to rehabilitate the land and protect its conservation value. There is a long term plan for the ecological restoration of the Frahn’s farm property and over the past 12 months a great deal of activity has occurred including replacing all external fencing. Natural Resources SAMDB has been working with a community trails working group to re-route the popular Lavender Federation track through part of the property. Community members are also part of a a working group that is designing over 70 hectares of revegetation for threatened flora and future habitat for declining woodland birds. Planting was funded through the River Murray Forest (RMF) and an Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board Bio Fund project. Bio-R, an independent non-government organization has signed an MOU to become a project partner in this important work.

An area of 250 hectares has been treated to control boxthorn and cactus infestations with over 2000 boxthorn plants removed. Biological surveys were conducted over seven days with the assistance of Aboriginal Learning on Country participants, Green Army and contractors. The surveys captured 2 blind snakes and a good population of common brushtail possums which are listed as rare in SA. Frahns farm is providing good habitat for reptiles with 17 species collected over 12 sites. The significance of this area to the local community is demonstrated through a very successful community planting day that was held at Frahns Farm where over 75 people attended on a glorious winter’s day. Activities on the day included planting 750 plants, installing nest boxes and banding birds captured in mist nets.

On ground works for critically endangered Fleurieu swamps have continued in the last 12 months, with a focus on weed control at priority sites on 23 properties, resulting in approximately 456 hectares being managed. Three new properties have been included in weed control works due to their strategic location in the catchment and proximity to known swamp habitat for Mount Lofty Ranges southern emu-wren. Two swamps in the SAMDB region burnt in a wildfire in spring 2014. The condition of vegetation in these swamps had previously been recorded so it was a good opportunity to continue monitoring these swamps in 2015 and 2016 to gather data on post fire recovery of the vegetation for future review. Our work has also contributed to a genetics project for the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges southern emu-wren.
which is investigating whether feathers can be used to answer important questions about the level of genetic diversity and the flow of genes through the wren populations. The Fleurieu swamps project has brought many local landholders together and built a common cause and greater awareness of the importance of the Fleurieu swamps, particularly around the Mt Compass area. Strong school involvement with local swamps has continued through school activities such as ‘Swamp Savers’ and the ‘Young Environmental Leaders’ programs.

BushBids has been a highly successful project run across both the SA Murray-Darling Basin and South East regions. The project has achieved national, state and regional NRM priorities in improving native vegetation management including protecting and enhancing the habitat for threatened plants and animals, fencing to exclude stock, and greatly enhanced pest and weed control.

This land stewardship project has resulted in over 21,000 hectares of native vegetation across 92 properties being actively managed for conservation outcomes. Sixty seven landholders were financially supported through the five BushBids projects to achieve these long-term conservation outcomes. These landholders were supported by experienced field officers and were guided by management plans specific to their properties. Fact sheets and additional land management information were provided through the project and landholders were invited to a number of field day and workshop activities held within their local areas. Another 95 management plans were developed in consultation between field officers and landholders for those who elected not to participate in the tender process or were unsuccessful in their bids. The contact with field staff and guidance through site-specific management plans has potentially increased the land management over many more properties.

With the financial contribution from the project ending, the commitment to ongoing management by landholders involved is encouraging. Landholders will continue to be assisted in the provision of advice and information into the future. A celebration of achievements of the BushBids program was held at the Cambrai Hall in May 2016. It was a great opportunity for landholders to network and share experiences in native vegetation conservation, as a component of whole-of-farm management. Many landholders expressed thanks for the financial assistance which allows them to proactively manage their native vegetation, and the opportunity to learn more about their land through personalised advice, workshops and field days.

Final biodiversity assessments were completed for revegetation on 16 sites and bird surveys for 20 sites. Although the plants are still young, most sites have achieved biodiversity and carbon benefit targets with outcomes expected to improve over time. Seven private land and two public land sites which form part of the River Murray Forest project were registered with the Clean Energy Regulator under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). This was done to allow access to Australian Carbon Credit Units for carbon sequestration by these RMF plantations. Five sites were registered by DEWNR and four sites were registered by the Australian Integrated Carbon Financial Services.

Six schools and 285 students were involved in the very successful “Precious plant for a Precious Mum” Mother’s Day schools program which involved a class session about biodiversity conservation. Students made a mother’s day card which had information about the vulnerable silver daisy bush (*Olearia pannosa*) and they each took home a wrapped daisy plant as a
Mother’s Day gift. The program is linked with the NRM Education team and the Mid Murray Local Action Planning Group.

Wyndgate is a 1,170 hectare property on Hindmarsh Island with a host of amazing natural values. The property is owned by DEWNR and has potential for nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities. A plan of management is being developed with input from the local community and this should be endorsed in October 2016. This year 16,000 seedlings were planted under the federally funded Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Program managed by DEWNR. Six thousand seedlings have been planted by the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group and 6 hectares of direct seeding has been completed by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group. This work is a result of funding from the federally funded Twenty Million Tree Program. Significant weed control and fencing has been completed too. The project is managed as a partnership between the CLLMM project team, the Natural Resources SAMDB Ranges to River District team and the Landscape Resilience team.

6.3 Regional Conservation Programs

Improving the Ecological Character of the Riverland Ramsar Site is a federally funded project focusing on the reduction of rabbits, foxes and weeds across the Riverland Ramsar Site. The Riverland RAMSAR site is 30,600 hectares adjacent to the Murray River, located between Remark and the Victorian and New South Wales borders, including Chowilla, Calperum, Murtho and Border Cliffs.

The project is working to reduce negative impacts on the local flora and fauna species by reducing grazing pressure, predation threats and competition for habitat. Control measures have been undertaken on private and public lands, with 38 landholders and community members working in partnership. This partnership approach has resulted in highly effective management on a landscape scale and during 2015-2016, has achieved:

- Two applications of fox baiting (spring and autumn) over 21 properties covering 15,626 ha, trialing the new canid pest ejectors
- Late summer rabbit baiting involving 21 landholders covering 9,021 hectares
- 508 rabbit warrens and 25 fox dens destroyed on 24 private properties, 1 council reserve, 3 conservation reserves and roadsides covering 9,200 hectares
- 126 rabbit warrens mapped and fumigated on Chowilla Game Reserve in & around culturally sensitive sites covering 356 hectares
- Pig trapping conducted around key wetlands on Chowilla Game Reserve over 806 hectares
- Pest plants mapped on 27 private properties, 1 council reserve, 3 conservation reserves and roadsides (5,836 hectares) resulting in prickly pear, African boxthorn, bridal creeper and athel pine infestations being controlled and targeted removal of willows along watercourses
- Wetland management, wetland monitoring, floodplain restoration and environmental watering activities across 5 private properties and 2 conservation reserves covering 1,688 hectares
• Monitoring of bush stone curlews on Chowilla Game Reserve and Calperum Station, and total grazing pressure, water bird and frog surveys conducted on the Calperum floodplain
• The collaboration of private landholders working together within the Riverland RAMSAR site has achieved positive outcomes, with neighbours working together to coordinate pest animal and weed control activities, and approximately $18,000 worth of private landholders’ time and labour has been contributed to the project.

The Burra to Kapunda Landscape Program will protect, restore and connect native vegetation across three regional NRM boundaries – Northern and Yorke, SA Murray-Darling Basin and the SA Arid lands. A key focus is supporting the long-term protection of two environmental protection and biodiversity conservation (EPBC) listed plant communities, peppermint box grassy woodlands and irongrass grasslands, and improving habitat for declining woodland birds and the endangered pygmy blue-tongue lizard. The project provides incentives to landholders for the protection of high priority conservation areas, changing grazing practices to promote native grasses, and pest plant and animal control activities.

In 2015-16 landholder agreements on six sites covering 632 hectares have been entered into. These agreements have resulted in 16.4 hectares of land being revegetated this winter planting season, and will result in 360ha of native pastures or grassland being protected as a result of changed grazing practices and 256ha of native woodlands (peppermint box and sheoak) being protected in 2016-17. All landholder agreements require a commitment from landholders to manage established areas for a ten year period.

The long-term success of this program will be monitored through Bushland Condition Monitoring sites which have been established across the region. This program is funded through the Native Vegetation Council Significant Environmental Benefit fund with landholder engagement undertaken by local staff and Greening Australia.

6.4 Sustainable Irrigation

During 2015-16 the Board continued to oversee the implementation of the Australian Government funded On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP) across the region in its role as a program delivery partner. Since 2010 in excess of $60 million has been invested in more than 360 on-farm irrigation efficiency improvement projects resulting in water savings of more than 25,000 megalitres (ML). More than 17,000 ML of these water savings have been returned to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) to be used for critical environmental watering activities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

In 2016 an OFIEP Showcase event was held at Murray Bridge attended by State and Federal MPs and the Chairman of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Mr. Neil Andrew. The event showcased the wonderful environmental, economic and social outcomes that are being delivered through the OFIEP investment.

The implementation of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program will continue in 2016-17 and the Board will actively seek out new opportunities to work in partnership with the Australian Government and the regional irrigation community to build on and consolidate past successes.
During 2015-16 the Board continued research collaborations with the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI). A project investigating the management of acid sulfate soils in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area continues to produces useful information as does the SARDI led project which is analysing the impact of future climate change and varied water availability on the Riverland irrigation industry. Both these projects have been funded through the Irrigation Research Sub Program component of the South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program with co-investment provided through the Board.

In 2015-16 a three year study to investigate impacts from the use of netting enclosures on water usage and fruit production commenced in the SA Riverland. Weather and climatic conditions inside the netted enclosures are being compared with conditions outside, identifying benefits and challenges that netting brings to fruit quality, fruit production and water use.

6.5 Land Management

The Land Management Program continues to work with primary producers and land managers to foster and implement sustainable management practices. Farming groups across the SA Murray-Darling Basin investigated innovative farming practices through on-farm demonstrations and trials leading to a change in management practices.

These trials included:

- Tungkillo Lime Treatment Trial – continued monitoring of the influence of lime treatments on yield and pasture growth at two trial sites and mapping of pH across the sites to demonstrate cost effectiveness of variable rate lime application for the management of soil acidity.

- Monarto Agricultural Bureau – applications of different organic fertiliser treatments are monitored for crop improvement and yield increase. Yield improvement of the range between 22% and 36% with increasing grain protein levels over the 2 years is being seen. Twenty two farmers attended a crop walk to view and discuss results.

- The Southern and Northern Mallee Grazing groups – a trial monitoring medic trace elements and tillage impacts on rye grass germination and establishment.

- Point Pass Agriculture Bureau – promoting use of technology like the weather station data to improve decision making for farm management and planning.

- Finniss Pasture Group - Monitoring two trials to assess perennial pasture species.

- 12 Mallee farms continue to apply satellite normalised density vegetation index (NDVI) technology and precision agriculture technology after initial trial and demonstration.

- Post Fire Monitoring in the Lameroo area and demonstration of effective techniques to reduce wind erosion such as manure spreading and clay delving.

Farming groups and land managers’ access to relevant and up-to-date information is increased through displays, workshops and publications including:

- Supporting the spring and autumn publications of Mallee Matters which reached over 700 farmers and community groups with the latest research information, land management practices and issues, and upcoming events across the Murray Mallee.
Twitter workshops held with Point Pass Agricultural Bureau, Goyder Women in Farm Business, and Langhorne Creek Agricultural Bureau were attended by 15 farmers who were shown how to utilise Twitter to build networks, exchange information, and engage rural and regional organisations.

A presence at the Riverland Field days to engage farmers in discussion about dry seasonal conditions, cutting crops for hay, managing sheep over summer and Food On Offer (grazing biomass availability).

Presented to farmer groups on soil management under the 2015 International Year of Soils banner. A variety of soil cores were useful tools in discussions about soil types and management.

A Rural Land Management course was held with 12 property owners completing the 6 week theory component followed by a property walk to discuss weed control, native grass identification and management of a water course.

Fifteen participants from the Finnis Pasture group visited a sustainable farm forestry enterprise integrated with grazing/pasture management.

Partnerships with 2 farming system organisations to support their annual conferences, collectively attracting over 500 farmers and land managers.

The Board continues to support rural women with an interest in farming and environmental sustainability. Thirty women from the Goyder Women in Farm Business held their second workshop with a focus on livestock, pasture management and maintaining ground cover. Property Management Planning resulted in the development of one property plan.

A major project has been the investigation of Mallee Seeps, how they form and how they can be managed. Investigations were undertaken to better understand the influence of groundwater hydrology, soil type and farming system upon the formation of seeps. Soil moisture probes and groundwater test wells were established to monitor groundwater depth, movement down slope and crop utilisation.

A video was developed in partnership with the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Mallee Sustainable Farming Incorporated to share information obtained through the Mallee Seeps investigations. Field trials have been established at four sites to investigate mechanisms (perennial crops, soil modification) to increase soil retention of groundwater and improve crop water use that fit within Mallee farming systems. Results have been shared with 45 members of the Agricultural Bureau of SA Board and a group of farmers in Bute, Yorke Peninsula.
6.6 Sustainable Farming

Supporting sustainable farming is a major priority for the Board where the effort is placed on improving access to and adoption of state of the art technology and new knowledge. Work is conducted in partnership with farmers, farming groups and agricultural industry groups to deliver innovative and functional projects that achieve production objectives whilst improving the natural resource base.

The project has delivered a range of workshops and information sessions on latest innovations in agriculture including variable rate mapping; application of lime to manage soil acidity; variable rate fertiliser application and seed placement rates; soil characterisation and managing soil constraints to growing field crops; and a range of information seminars on the practical application of new and emerging technologies in the agricultural sector, and precision agriculture machinery and technologies.

The project engaged 1,126 farmers and land owners collectively managing over 400,000 hectares of land. Field trials were undertaken across 63,990 hectares of land with changes in farming practices observed and recorded on 52 farming enterprises totaling 37,000 hectares. There were 151 media and promotional publications developed throughout the project which reached an audience of 66,000 people and 71 field day, workshop and other promotional events and displays were held to promote the project findings and technological innovations.

A wide range of field trials and demonstration sites were established to address production and NRM issues on sandy soils. These included soil amendment trials and demonstrations, and use of variable rate farming techniques in conjunction with electromagnetic mapping of paddocks to manage different soil types. In-field demonstrations of new technologies showcased practical on-farm application and cost effectiveness of technology adoption. Some of the new technologies promoted included use of drones, infra-red scanning for soil carbon, and use of NDVI data to determine crop health and nitrogen application requirements. Electro-magnetic scanning of soils to map and highlight soil variability within paddocks and across farms were demonstrated, the information used to target seeding and fertiliser applications within paddock areas.

Electronic farm management tools are becoming an important way of farming. Therefore, a range of regional online tools have been developed to support this increasing demand. NRM Farm, an on-line farm records management and mapping tool is available free to farmers for recording of farm data as a tool for property management. This is suitable for all agricultural and horticultural industries and is a simple and easy to use farm records platform. Over one hundred factsheets were digitised to render them mobile and tablet accessible and these are now displayed on the Natural Resources SAMDB website. Two mobile phone applications were also developed in conjunction with land manager need.

The Natural Resources SAMDB weather station network continues to allow farmers to access real time data via mobile devices in the field that informs day-to-day farm activities. The other new phone app is a spray diary with automatic population of weather data from the SAMDB weather station network to assist decision making. These apps have greatly improved the accessibility and usability of the weather station network data to farmers.

A Variable Rate Technology (VRT) demonstration and trial occurred on 16 properties across the Murray Mallee to encourage farmers to adoption and utilise variable rate seeding and fertiliser
applications across their farms. High, low and variable rate applications of seed and fertiliser across the paddocks were compared by gross margin, cost-benefit and profitability application. Stubble cover and paddock inputs were measured to determine land management benefits from each application such as reduced soil erosion potential. The demonstration showed that variable rate applications were consistently more cost effective and had a higher gross margin returns than uniform application rates.

These projects have been jointly funded by the Board through the NRM levy and the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, with significant input and direction from the regional farming community, and agricultural industry groups.

6.7 District Services

Staff of the four districts within the SA Murray-Darling Basin (Rangelands, Riverland, Mallee and Coorong, and Ranges to River) carry out critical NRM services and works, regardless of land tenure, across all landscapes whether they are used for conservation, production or recreation.

The goals for the district teams are to protect and maintain prosperous and healthy landscapes while promoting sustainable use of natural resources and enabling landholders and the wider community to actively participate in best practice NRM.

Major achievements for 2015-2016 include:

- Ongoing support mechanisms to enable landholders across the landscape to conduct effective baiting programs for rabbits and foxes. Rabbit baiting and supply of 1080 oats across the region has seen a reduction of approximately 30% this year
- Targeted use of Judas goats in the region and support to landholder groups to reduce the impacts of goats
- Collaborative arrangements with Natural Resources South East for aerial culling of feral deer and goats
- Working with Box flat Dingo committee to support landholders requiring wild dog control
- Wild dog workshops for landholders held at Robertstown and Burra
- Control of yellow water lily in the Murray River and backwaters
- Bridal veil destruction in Milang area and control of a new infestation at Sherlock in the Mallee
- The first introduction of the Gorse Soft Shoot moth into South Australia from Tasmania to six key Gorse infestations in SAMDB region and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
- Responding to thousands of enquiries from land managers and assisting with plant identification, control advice, land management advice and support for coordinated control activities
- Introducing new pest control tools such as Canid pest ejectors and PAPP baits as well as trialling peri-urban fox baiting.
- Working closely with animal welfare groups, fauna carers and landholders to support Living with Wildlife philosophies and try innovative solutions to wildlife impacts being felt by land managers, such as deterrents for ducks and corellas, management of wombat populations and long nosed fur seal monitoring.
6.8 Park Management

The region contains 59 conservation parks and reserves covering 735,958 hectares, as well as many more hectares of crown land for public use. As custodians of these valuable public spaces, the Board and Natural Resources SAMDB invest considerable effort and resources into activities that will maintain their conservation, recreation and social value. Some examples of activities throughout the 2015-2016 year include:

- Removing rubbish from over 500 hectares at Cooltong and the Rodeo Grounds in the Riverland, and more than 50 hectares in the Monarto Crown Lands areas has been cleared of rubbish. These areas now have keen community groups working alongside Natural Resources SAMDB to monitor and maintain the area, and prevent renewed dumping.
- Building better community connection to public lands by supporting recreation and lifestyle events; for example the Monarto trails and mountain bike group have monthly community working-bees to improve and maintain trail connections in the Monarto area, the SA 4WD Association has regular working bees to support Ngarkat park works such as fencing, and Birds SA is assisting with bird monitoring and banding in various parks.
- Encouraging community stewardship of our parks by supporting “Friend of” Groups, many who have been in existence for many years. This year was the 25th anniversary celebration for the Friends of Kyeema who celebrated with a plaque unveiling, tree planting and BBQ.
- Contributing to landscape scale management by delivering pest control programs that protect priority areas of wildlife habitat. Coordinated fox campaigns have been undertaken on Katarapko Island, Cooltong, Ferries MacDonald, Billiatt and Pooginook, with the control work happening on park land and in conjunction with neighbouring properties.
- Working with the Aboriginal Learning on Country team to implement critical projects for the River Murray National Park including on-ground works for environmental watering, monitoring, pest control, pre and post watering, and laying over 121 kilometres of bait trail to protect the floodplain area.
- Working with the wider public promote appropriate behaviour on park and towards wildlife. The 2015-2016 duck hunting season was well attended and had zero incidents reports. Firewood collection in parks and reserves remains an ongoing issue, as does inappropriate 4WD and motorbike use.

The *Community led land stewardship – partnerships in parks* project is all about connecting people to parks. Management agreements have been developed with volunteers to care and provide maintenance on seven parks in the ranges to River District. Community groups and non-government groups like Conservation Volunteers Australia, Pawiwalla Wetlands Trust, Friends of Parks, Wyndgate and Tolderol Groups have developed a deep bond with individual park areas and really assist with park maintenance and management.

In the Riverland district a management agreement has been developed with the Wetland Habitats Trust for the proposed Sunnyside Conservation Park. Stewardship arrangements have also been entered into with the Riverland Friends of Parks for Cooltong Conservation Park,
Woolenook Wetlands Group for Murtho Forest, and Stoney Pinch Quarries (Crown land parcel), with more arrangements pending.

Sporting and recreation groups have been actively supported to use parks, such as Sporting Shooters SA, Orienteering Clubs, Tracking Dogs, Cross Country Running and ultra-marathon users. Increased public presence in parks has greatly reduced the incidence of anti-social behaviour.

6.9 Local Government Engagement

The Board has continued to engage local government through a variety of activities and projects.

Local Government Advisory Groups have continued to meet during the 2015-2016 year to discuss common issues that Councils and the Board have. These meetings encourage discussion and sharing of knowledge and expertise on topics such as citizen science opportunities, feral animal management, River Murray flows and riverbank slumping, and bush fire management issues.

During the year the majority of councils within the SAMDB region distributed a NRM flyer on behalf of the Board. The flyer went out with rates notices to explain what the NRM levy achieves within the SA Murray-Darling Basin.

While the Board was considering a proposed increase in the NRM levy for the 2016-17 year, Natural Resources SAMDB staff presented to eight councils about what the levy contributes towards, the consultation process for the business plan and the strategy to manage the NRM levy enquiries from rate payers.

The Riverland Cat Management Forum, with representation from the Board, all three Riverland Councils, staff from Natural Resources SAMDB, Dog and Cat Management Board, Animal Welfare League and local veterinary services, continued to collaborate on ways to educate the community towards good cat management. Activities coordinated with the Riverland community included:

- “Chipblitz” days with Lost Pets of South Australia in Berri and Loxton resulting in 550 pets being micro-chipped
- Monitoring feral cats using the mobile app FeralCatScan, promoting the app and supporting the establishment and promotion of a SAMDB region web dashboard and URL on the FeralCatScan website.
- Promoting responsible pet ownership and engaging local schools in domestic cat tracking with the NRM Education team and Berri Barmera LAP through University South Australia’s Discovery Circle.
6.10 Community Capacity Building

The NRM Communities Program includes volunteer support, community capacity building and Aboriginal engagement.

Volunteers across the region continued to be supported through the provision of free training, volunteer small grants, volunteer celebration events held in each NRM district, and safety and well-being support including access to free volunteer insurance. Four volunteer celebration events were held across the region with support from the four NRM Groups and approximately 150 volunteers attended. Sixty volunteer groups shared nearly $55,000 in small grants for a variety of different projects. Sixty two volunteer groups accessed the SAICORP insurance scheme provided by the state government.

Round three of the NRM Connecting Communities Grants Program funded 13 new projects in addition to 10 projects that received funding in round one and two. Successful organisations to receive funding included several local action planning groups, local councils, industry groups such as Dairy SA, and natural resources centres at Strathalbyn and Mount Pleasant. The partnership between the Northern and Yorke NRM Board and the SAMDB NRM Board continues to provide community capacity building support to the communities in the lower eastern rangelands. Greening Australia has been an active partner in delivering capacity building activities too.

The Aboriginal Partnerships Program has undertaken a range of activities focused on engaging with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal training and employment, protecting Aboriginal heritage, and building cultural awareness across the region. The Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC) program continued to build the capacity of Aboriginal people and undertake significant priority on-ground works. There were ALOC projects at Gerard, Monarto Zoo, Murray Bridge and Raukkan.

Highlights include a number of participants starting diploma level qualifications, school-based apprentices beginning at Monarto Zoo, and teams involved in a range of activities including e-watering events.

The Working on Country project at Calperum Station has progressed well by increasing involvement of young people, career support for existing staff, improved promotion, and better links to First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee.

The Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated was supported to successfully apply for two Green Army projects in the Mid Murray area. Project sites will include Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park, Roonka Conservation Park and Sugar Shack.

Awareness of the need for Aboriginal heritage protection is increasing amongst regional project staff. Notable projects that have been supported include the digging of a soil pit for the Riverland Field Days, and works associated with environmental watering at Morgan and Maize Island Conservation Parks.

Site inspections by Traditional Owners were undertaken to ensure there was no damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal heritage sites, objects or remains.
6.11 NRM Education

The Board recognises that young people are active citizens today and nurturing their needs, interests and responsibilities in helping to create a healthy living landscape is a key priority and responsibility. The Board has continued to invest in a high achieving NRM Education program.

In 2015-16, 85 of the region’s 91 schools were involved with the Board's NRM Education Program. This program fulfils a critical role in developing knowledge, skills and confidence of young people and educators to manage natural resources more sustainably. The program offers a range of services to schools including youth leadership programs, teacher training, technical support and opportunities to participate in on-ground action. Feedback from teachers and other stakeholders continues to be extremely positive: “Teachers in our school want to provide this kind of education to the students, but with an increasingly crowded curriculum and other demands, it is difficult for them. The NRM Education program has ensured this type of education continues” – Teacher.

Sustainability is a cross-curriculum priority in the Australian Curriculum. Teachers must teach their students about sustainability, embedding it in all subject areas. The NRM Education team provide teachers with training and resources to help them improve their understanding of NRM and sustainability. In 2015-2016, professional development sessions were offered on developing school sustainability plans; Indigenous plant use; developing sensory gardens and nature play spaces; the International Year of Pulses; citizen science; and sustainable agriculture. The NRM Education program sets its self apart from other providers of professional development by linking teachers with local issues and places, and providing ongoing support after sessions. “Your sessions are always worthwhile. Full of information that is up to date and usable. You provide everything we need to use in our lessons and continued support is always offered.” – Teacher

More than 400 students were engaged in the Young Environment Leaders Program, the youth engagement program for Year 5-7 students. Topics covered included sustainable agriculture, Indigenous culture, local NRM issues, environmental art, and citizen science. Students learn about local places and issues, and take part in on-ground action, such as rubbish collection, tree planting, and water quality monitoring. They are rewarded for sharing their new knowledge and skills with their wider community, by receiving badges. “The forums are highly motivational for the students and the students use these forums as a jumping off point for carrying out environmental activities back at school.” – Teacher

The NRM Education youth engagement programs (Young Environmental Leaders and River Murray Youth Council) have received national recognition by winning the Capacity Building Award at the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values Awards, at the national conference in Perth in October 2015. The judges said "This project is building capacity of young people to become leaders as opposed to becoming overwhelmed by environmental challenges and is a great example of education for sustainable development. Participants are clearly affecting decisions made in their homes, schools and communities as well as NRM plans and climate change strategies."

The River Murray Youth Council groups (for high school students) were restructured in 2016 to enable students to get more hands-on experience in natural resources management. This year the groups have adopted a local patch (Maize Island Conservation Park in the upper Murray and Wyndgate on Hindmarsh Island) which they visit during school holidays to learn about management issues and take part in on-ground action. The students volunteer their perspectives on management issues, with regional staff taking their suggestions on board. The students can
see that they are having a direct influence on site management and have developed a greater appreciation for their local environment.

2015-2016 marked the third year of the Swamp Savers program, raising awareness about the critically endangered Fleurieu Swamps. As the program winds up (at the end of 2016-2017), the NRM Education team is focusing on building capacity of local schools to manage their local swamps. Students from Mount Compass Area School were trained in leadership and guiding skills, enabling them to become tour guides at the Mount Compass School Swamp. The students can now lead visiting classes around the swamp and educate them about the plants and animals, how swamps function, and why the Fleurieu Swamps are so special.

Work experience placements play a significant role in helping young people to consider the right education, training and career path for them to take. The NRM Education team has developed an engaging, well-planned and coordinated work experience program across the SAMDB, exposing the students to a variety of natural resources activities. The work experience program is showcased at the Murraylands Careers Expo, and the Riverland and Adelaide SACE Research Expos to encourage students to consider local NRM issues for their compulsory research project and prospective career choices.

6.12 Communications

The Communications team assists the Board to raise its profile and build community awareness about NRM related issues. This is done through information provision and events that encourage active participation.

The Board had a significant presence at the Karoonda farm fair in April 2016 and the Riverland Field Days in September 2015. The Board encourages its stakeholders groups to take advantage of display space in its marquees and Trees for Life, Local Action Planning (LAP) Groups and NRM Groups took this opportunity to promote their work. 2015 was International Year of Soil and 2016 is International Year of the Pulse. Both these themes were highly suitable for enabling the region to highlight many activities which assist soil management, improve soil health and increase farm productivity. People were activity engaged through a soil pit showing a soil profile at the Riverland field days and cooking demonstrations featuring pulses at the Karoonda Farm Fair.

The Board’s annual flagship publication The Current was released in January 2016. Thirty thousand copies were distributed through all the regional newspapers as well as being placed in local libraries and schools. An additional 1000 are directly mailed to industry groups, local politicians, community groups and people who have directly subscribed and given out at field days. The Current is written for the broader community who may have little knowledge or understanding of NRM.

The Board has a strong presence in local media. 76 media releases were distributed to regional papers resulting in 126 news items being printed. The communications team received 135 media enquiries and arranged 65 interviews.

The Board continues to support a weekly e-newsletter The Drift. This provides another avenue for distributing media releases, information about events and good news stories. 36 editions were produced this year and distributed to a list of 821 unique addresses. The majority of people
opening the Drift are located in Australia but the Drift is also being read by people in the USA, Italy, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Indonesia, Thailand, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland, Singapore, Spain, Argentina, Vietnam, Switzerland, Turkey, Norway and Finland.

The Board continues to grow a strong following in social media using Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. These tools are being used to promote events and achievements, and to engage people in conversations of interest. By June 2016 there were approximately 700 Twitter followers and 199 Instagram followers.

6.13 Water Allocation Planning (WAP)

River Murray Water Allocation Plan

The revised draft River Murray Water Allocation Plan (RMWAP) is nearing completion following extensive consultation on the draft WAP from November 2014 to February 2015. Additional work has been undertaken on a number of policy areas as a result of feedback received from the community.

Inclusion of a dry allocations framework in the draft RMWAP has resulted in investigations into how the Adelaide Desalination Plant could be utilised to offset reductions to irrigation allocations in dry periods. As a result, the state government has completed a cost-benefit study on the potential use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant and this information is being considered in regards to a longer-term policy on how allocations and costs could be shared between different users. This work is a direct response to feedback from irrigation industry stakeholders during consultation on the draft RMWAP.

The private carryover policy included in the draft RMWAP had considerable input from the River Murray Advisory Committee, and was endorsed by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation for implementation in the 2016-17 water use year. The private carryover policy provided clarity to water users in a period when conditions were looking very dry for the year ahead.

An evaluation of the RMWAP amendment process was completed and recommendations have been provided to improve the process for future WAP amendments.

The next iteration of the RMWAP will become a component of the South Australian River Murray Water Resource Plan, to be prepared pursuant to the Basin Plan. Planning has commenced for the work needed to meet Basin Plan requirements.

An important element of the Water Resource Plan will be to have regard to Indigenous values and uses. Building relationships with Aboriginal groups began in 2015-16 and is ongoing. A Water Aboriginal Engagement Project Team within DEWNR has been formed to keep abreast of activities, opportunities to work together and to coordinate Aboriginal engagement activities across the Department. Regional water planning staff are continuing to build relationships with Nations and other DEWNR units to ensure Aboriginal interests are reflected in water planning.

It is anticipated that the revised River Murray Water Allocation Plan adoption package will be delivered to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation for consideration in late 2016.
**Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges**

Significant progress has been made on the joint Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SAMDB project to secure low flows. Eleven trial sites have been installed across the Mount Lofty Ranges with seven in the SAMDB region. The winning design from the SAMDB crowd sourced low flows design competition has been established at one trial site. All sites are being monitored and the data is publicly available. A number of barriers to the community’s willingness to participate in securing low flows have been identified through community consultation. Work continues to address the community’s concern.

Implementation of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (EMLRWAP) continues with community consultation being undertaken on the proposed metering policy of surface water in low demand zones. The community consultation resulted in a change in the original policy position of the Board and provided greater flexibility. Trade of water was opened up in the EMLR and a workshop, hosted by a local industry group, was held to talk to interested community members about trade rules in the WAP.

Community-based Social Marketing Principles have been used to develop the project on managing high demand. Barriers and benefits of actions to manage high demand in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges have been identified through market research, and tools and products to address these are being developed.

A cost-benefit analysis project to aid future water planning decisions was undertaken for the development of a tool to help in the economic assessment of water planning policy decisions.

**SA Murray Regions**

A review has been undertaken of the Mallee, Noora and Peake Roby Sherlock WAPs and the regions water affecting activities policies to ensure these plans and policies are consistent with the Commonwealth *Water Act* and the Basin Plan.

A number of monitoring sites have been installed in the Rangelands to monitor streamflow. Discussions are ongoing to establish a citizen science program to assist with monitoring of the sites.

**Water Affecting Activities and Compliance matters**

Thirty two water affecting activities permits were issued in 2015-16 and four compliance issues have all been voluntarily resolved. Remedial works were undertaken on a property where the Board had an interest registered on the land title. This matter has been resolved and the property interest removed. The region receives on average ten phone inquiries per week related to water affecting activities and compliance issues and provides timely information and advice. A Best Practice Operating Procedure has been submitted by Mount Barker Council and was approved for low risk water affecting activities, streamlining the approval process and reducing red tape.
**Basin Plan Senate Enquiry**

The Board provided a submission and evidence to the Select Committee on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan communicating the Board’s strong support for full and on-time delivery of the Basin Plan.

6.14 Regional Planning

The Regional NRM Plan (Volume A) describes the current state and condition of the region’s natural resources and the processes that threaten them, setting long term targets for desired state and condition of the region’s natural resources and providing a basis for investment in natural resources management. It communicates a shared vision for managing natural resources for all stakeholders across the region.

Operation of the Regional NRM Plan requires the development of a Regional Action Plan (RAP), a decision support tool to identify priority NRM issues and guide local investment and implementation in priority NRM issues. The RAP takes a systems approach recognising the interaction between people and the environment, and identifies a number of social-ecological systems (sub-regions) in the SAMDB region. Significant progress has been made this year. A large number of stakeholder workshops were held across the region engaging approximately 350 people from more than 40 stakeholder groups in the RAP’s development. This input has contributed to improved understanding of what drives change to natural resources in different parts of region, capacity to influence and adapt to change, and the priorities for natural resource management.

Two hundred and fifty one NRM issues were assessed and prioritised according to their impact on core values in 11 sub-regions. This was done with the assistance of Technical Planning Groups at three workshops in late 2015.

Actions required to address key NRM issues were identified in each sub-region in collaboration with our NRM delivery partners. The context in which issues occur, barriers to addressing them, opportunities arising and key actions were investigated during five all-day workshops held across the region in May 2016.

Workshops were held with the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated, First Peoples of the Murray Mallee and the Aboriginal Lands Trust in early 2016 to identify Aboriginal Cultural values, natural resource assets of cultural importance and key actions required to maintain these values. This information is currently being collated for use in an online tool for NRM investors and practitioners, which is expected to be launched for public exhibition in draft format by the end of 2016. The RAP will be the first online interactive NRM Plan for the SAMDB region, allowing users to search NRM priorities by sub-regions, value themes (e.g. biodiversity, sustainable production etc.) and action type.
6.15 Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI)

Citizen Science is an excellent way of getting people involved in monitoring the health of our natural resources and continues to growing rapidly in the SAMDB region with people engaged in a wide variety of activities. Since the launch of the bird monitoring portal on the Atlas of Living Australia website in July 2014, more than 7,800 bird records have been entered with more than 120 individuals registered as data contributors. Bird identification, bat and water monitoring training and field surveys have been conducted across the region with many new faces to NRM engaging in the programs.

The NRM Citizen Science newsletter launched in 2015 now has 450 unique subscribers. The annual Change Exchange citizen science networking event was held in Mannum in August 2015 with excellent attendance.

An evaluation of Water Watch SAMDB has been initiated (formerly known as ‘community surface water quality monitoring program’) to raise its potential as a citizen science project and to increase its engagement, education and data collection capacity. A trial partnership project ‘The Angas River Bioblitz’ involving agency staff and volunteers was conducted, providing opportunities to develop new citizen science prospects.

Water quality data continues to be analysed and reported back to community monitoring groups informing future monitoring design and detecting noteworthy trends which are being investigated in partnership with the EPA.

The Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Investigation (MERI) team contributed to various significant resource condition monitoring projects including: investing as a major stakeholder and contributor to the Statewide Vegetation Extent Mapping project; establishing long term flora and fauna monitoring baseline data collection at a significant project site at Monarto (which identified rare and unexpected species); establishing gauging boards in the Rangelands for future flows monitoring; and contributing to long term flora and fauna surveys conducted at Ngarkat Conservation Park.

6.16 Investment and Information Management

The Investment and Information team have provided the services to ensure the Board meets contractual obligations set by the Australian Government including the National Landcare Programme, Biodiversity Fund, 20 Million Trees Programme and the Innovation Grant Programme. The team provide the support necessary to ensure that the Board’s works program uses best practice standards for project management and meet its reporting obligations to external funding bodies and the State Government of South Australia. To date the Board has met one hundred percent of its reporting requirements on time.

The team is also responsible for administering any third party contracts that the Board has entered into. For 2015-2016 there were over 300 projects, both existing and new, accessing funding through the Board including 58 Volunteer Grants, 15 Connecting Communities Grants, 20 Innovation Grants, 165 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Round 3 and 69 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Round 4 grants.
6.17 Carbon Action

The Board has continued to support a Carbon Action Committee within Natural Resources SAMDB to foster environmentally responsible behaviour and promote environmentally sustainable action within the region. The committee aims to ensure that as an organisation, the Board and Natural Resources SAMDB are demonstrating environmental best practice in all activities and decision-making processes where practical.

Each office site is continuously reviewing office practices to reduce waste, water use, paper, energy and fuel. Examples of actions taken include turning electronic equipment off rather than using the stand-by function, recycling soft plastics, installing LED lights, increased use of video conferencing, reducing paper use by design, car-pooling and holding staff tree planting days.

The Carbon Action Committee encourages local action every fortnight by e-mailing a ‘Sustainability Snippet’ to all staff on tips and insights into environmentally-sound choices. This year the committee challenged staff to take a up a three month commitment to undertake an action/activity resulting in reducing their ecological footprint leading to a more sustainable lifestyle. Twenty three staff took up the challenge by a range of actions some of which included cycling to work, installing solar hot water and reducing red meat intake.

7. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

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 (NRM Act). This report for the 2016-16 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the NRM Act.

7.1 Object Of The Natural Resources Management Act 2004

The objects of the NRM 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.
7.2 The SA Murray-Darling Basin Region

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Region - The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is responsible for one of eight natural resources management regions in South Australia. The SA MDB NRM Region (see Figure 1) supports a population of approximately 126,000 people and extends over more than 5.6 million hectares, from the Victorian and New South Wales borders to the catchment boundary along the Mount Lofty Ranges, to the Murray Mouth, and up to 14 kilometres into the Southern Ocean. This is one of South Australia’s most ecologically diverse and agriculturally productive regions. It supports a wide range of flora, fauna, natural environments and human activities. The proper management of these natural resources will maintain a capable and prosperous South Australia.

The SAMDB NRM Region shares its boundaries with four other South Australian NRM Boards (Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, South East, Northern and Yorke, and SA Arid Lands) as well as Victoria’s Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Lower Murray-Darling CMA in New South Wales (see Figure 2). Although these boundaries exist, many natural resources management issues need to be jointly addressed. The SA MDB NRM Board is committed to developing and maintaining effective working relationships with all neighbouring regions for this purpose.
7.3 Functions of the Board

Section 29 of the NRM 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—the 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.

7.4 Membership

The Board currently consists of nine members with one vacancy who are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Members are appointed in accordance with Section 25 of the NRM Act 2004. 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 NRM 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.

Current Members

- Sharon Starick (Presiding Member) Appointed to 13/4/2019
- Gioia Small Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Rodney Ralph Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Deana Mildren Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Peter Duggin Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Nicholas Bakkum Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Kim Blenkiron Appointed to 13/4/2018
- Kerry Simcock Appointed to 13/4/2020
- Owen Love Appointed to 13/4/2020
Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Timothy Smythe (PIRSA)
- Gerry Davies (PIRSA Proxy)
- Peter Forward (SA Water)
- Andrew Kassebaum (Local Government)
- Dan Jordan (DEWNR representative)

7.5 Advisory Committee Membership

Section 25 of the Act provides for the establishment of advisory committees to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the Act. The following Advisory Committee was operational during the 2015-16 financial year.

*River Murray Advisory Committee*

The River Murray Advisory Committee (the Committee) is a Committee of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board). The primary objectives of the Committee is to assist the Board in achieving positive social and economic outcomes for water use; water recovery and effective use of environmental water; ensure that there is excellence in water planning; and being crisis ready if needed.

The committee is focussed on the River Murray, the nation’s most iconic river that supports floodplain, wetland and estuarine environments of national and international significance, advocating for the whole system from the border to the Murray mouth and with state-wide significance. The Committee is a truly community based group that represents water users and key stakeholders of the River Murray in South Australia. The Committee provides expertise from a cross section of the community, including irrigation, environmental management, finance, social and community groups, and local government.

The Committee is the only group established that has a whole of region focus with a capacity to advocate for the whole river system and the ability to understand impacts from where the river crosses the border to the mouth by connection of different mindsets.

The Committee has direct access to the Minister which is endorsed by the Board and this has proved effective in supporting both the work of the Committee and the Board.

This year the Committee has been instrumental in assisting the Board with engaging the community on the review of the River Murray Water Allocation Plan and providing valued input into policies like the dry allocations framework and salinity management.

7.6 Meetings: General and Special

A total of eleven (11) general SA MDB NRM Board meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings is detailed below:
### Member Meeting attended Comments

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<td>Gioia Small</td>
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<td>Deana Mildren</td>
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<td>Nicholas Bakkum</td>
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<td>Other Commitments /Overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Blenkiron</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerry Simcock</td>
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<td>Appointed April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Love</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Appointed April 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### 7.7 Management Of Human Resources

The SA MDB NRM Board members and other Committee members (other than SA Government and Local Government employees) are entitled to receive remuneration as determined by the Minister/Governor in accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016.

Board members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Governor:
- Chair: $14,520 annual retainer plus $64.50 for out of session meetings.
- Member: $51.50 per hour

#### 8. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The SA MDB NRM Board under the auspices of the NRM Act works closely with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), SA Water and Primary Industry and Resources SA (PIRSA) and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to improve sustainability and achieve improved health and productivity of our natural resources.

The Board also works closely with other regional NRM Boards, regional organisations, industry, community and Local 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.

#### 9. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Board by providing administrative support services for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.
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 Financial Governance 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 Committee has reviewed all the current Board level policies including delegations and procurement procedures. A risk management policy has been developed and is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

10. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Board has a general commission with DEWNR to manage the delivery of its Regional NRM Plan programs. These programs are overseen by the Board with the Regional Director as the key responsibility link to the Department. The Board’s governance and contractual framework is highlighted below:
11. NRM GROUP KEY ACTIVITIES

(1) The functions of an 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.

Reports of key highlights and achievements for the Riverland, Rangelands, Ranges to River and Mallee and Coorong NRM Groups are below:

11.1 Mallee and Coorong NRM Group

Summary of Key Achievements

Managing Soils Workshop-12th February 2016

• Successful workshop at Paruna with 40 local farmers on the topic of farming and managing soils and herbicides in lower and changing rainfall patterns.

Volunteers Celebration-10th April 2016

• Volunteer recognition day at and around Meningie where approx. 30 people attended.
• The Meningie Lions Club were acknowledged for their work in setting up and maintaining the Meningie Lions Club Orchid Walk.


• 3 Meetings with the Local Government have occurred throughout the year with a focus on Biosecurity, Cat Management and Roadside management and a visit to the Ferries McDonald Conservation Park roadside.
• We now have representatives from the Mid Murray and the Murray Bridge councils regularly attending, since the Mallee and Coorong District now includes some of these council areas.
Karoonda Farm Fair-1-2nd of April 2016

- Five of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members assisted in the Natural Resources SAMDB marquee at the Karoonda Farm Fair either before or during the event.
- Jenny Roberts was involved with the four Pulse cooking demonstrations, along with staff, Tony Randall, Kerri Waldhuter and Helane Norman (MC). Jenny and Tony also spent hours on preparation beforehand.

Meeting the objectives of our group plan- connecting with community: Ongoing

- Joint meeting with the Upper SE NRM Group-5th August 2015
- Visit to Ngaut Ngaut-9th September 2015
- Learnt more about the Mallee Underground water system and the Mallee and Peake Roby Sherlock WAP’s. At our February meeting we had Steve Barnett, Sarah Kuchel and Rob and Joy Ziersch attend to assist members to gain a better understanding-4th February 2016

Highlights

- A partnership has been formed with a volunteer group on the management of the Mantung Conservation Park, helping us to further engage the community with the NRM Groups and Board.
- The recruitment of a new Mallee Coorong group member, Darry Hayward.
- The success of the marque at the Karoonda Farm Fair.
- Continuing the relationship with the Upper SE Group and looking forward to possibilities for tackling issues around Ngarkat in the future.

Learnings

- The success of the Karoonda Farm Fair highlighted that interactive displays can be far more engaging than static displays.
- Taking the opportunity to engage with the upper SE NRM Group will create new avenues to engage with the community living on the border of our two regions.
11.2 Rangelands NRM Group

Summary of Key Achievements

Best Practise Grader Workshop at Balah Station-13th August 2015

- Group members from the Rangelands NRM Group attended the Best Practices Grader Workshop at Balah. This workshop was funded from Regional Landcare Facilitator funding in partnership with the SAAL Board.
- Col Stanton from Alice Springs facilitated the practical on how to sustainably manage soils, while also optimising water use efficiency in South Australia’s dry rangeland environment.
- The outcome from this workshop was increasing the groups’ knowledge on best practices.

Plant ID Workshop, Burra-29th and 30th October 2015

- 2 workshops were held targeting different audiences;
  1. Council operations staff
  2. Community – recognising perennial grasses, their value and how to manage them as well as discussion on alert weeds in the district.
- These workshops were coordinated by Max Jones on behalf of the group and were supported by Greening Australia and the Goyder council.
- The workshops were both an educational and community engagement opportunity for the group.
Community Water Monitoring Training-23rd March 2016

- The Rangelands NRM Group in cooperation with Sylvia Clarke, Project Officer-Community Monitoring, organised Community Water Monitor training, held in Burra with training provided by Sylvia Clarke and Sarah Kuchel.
- This training day was open to community members to attend.
- Training was attended by two NRM Group members, one employee from the Goyder Council three NRM staff members and three community members.
- The objective was to train community members to be able to be actively involved in water monitoring in the rangelands. The outcome is that group members have water monitoring sites on their properties and are able to contribute to the science of monitoring their local water quality.

Chemicals Snapshot Workshop-Burra June 17th 2016

- 20 community members attended a successful day including 10 Agricultural students from the Burra High School. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the environmental risks and health dangers involved with the use of pesticides. The attendees will be issued an attendance statement from Smith and George.
- This Project was funded by the Rangelands NRM Group discretionary budget.

Highlights

- The dedication and hard work done by landowners and staff involved with the Burra to Pualco Ranges Goat and Rabbit Control Project and the Rangelands Connecting Landscapes (formerly the Riverland Biosphere) Steering Committee.
- The appointment of a new district manager in the Rangelands opens opportunities for the group to align their work plan with the district officers priorities for the local area.
- 2016 Volunteer Celebration was held at Worlds End Reserve on Sunday 29/5/16.
- Data Summary and Review of Community Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program – Burra Creek Catchment 2006-2015 – compiled by Sylvia Clarke and released on 23/3/16. The Report aims to provide information for community volunteers who have contributed many hours of their time over many years and have a keen interest in the health of their local catchment.
- Board/Groups Day 22/6/16 at Goolwa was well attended by the Rangelands Group. Feedback was given to the Community Engagement team at our June meeting. Those who attended enjoyed the day and found it to be both enjoyable and informative.

Learnings

- The Group will need to engage the community to take on areas that the group can no longer reach due to the reduction in budget. The group needs to look into what community grants are available that may assist in the groups goals.
- Attendance of high school students at the chemicals forum suggests there may be further opportunity to work with the local schools.
11.3 Ranges to River NRM Group

Summary of Key Achievements

Canid Pest Ejector Trials-Ongoing

- Group members were asked to come up with suggestions for the use of the discretionary budget for 2015/16. Marcus Schneider’s idea was to have an intensive fox baiting program across the area, after speaking to the District Officer at Cambrai, an opportunity arose to trial the canid pest ejectors in the Ranges to River area.

- Thirty ejectors have been purchased and Marcus’s property will be part of the trials along with his neighbor and another community member. The trials will commence once all operators have been trained.

- There is more expense involved with the canid pest ejector than traditional 1080 fox bait, but instead of a 500m clearance from dwellings, the ejectors can be placed 150m away from a dwelling.

Engaging Local Places Videos-ongoing

- Part of the Ranges to River 2015/16 budget has been used to fund an ongoing video project to engage school students in their local environment through creating their own videos of their local places.

- Next financial year (2016/17) $500 has been allocated to St Joseph’s Primary School, Murray Bridge, to participate in the local places project, with the aim of interesting other schools in doing the same.

Monarto Hills Trails Open Day and Volunteers Celebration-24th April 2016

- A dedicated group of volunteers have spent the past 18 months creating new trails in the hills around Murray Bridge. Volunteers from the local area and as far afield as Adelaide, Mount Barker and Coonalpyn have all pitched in with Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (Natural Resources SAMDB) and the Rural City of Murray Bridge, to create an impressive network of trails suitable for walkers, trail runners and mountain bikes. The work has taken nearly 18 months, but the results are certainly worth it, with many people already enjoying the new trails.
On Sunday the 24th of April, the Ranges to River NRM Group hosted their Volunteers celebration in conjunction with the official opening of the Monarto Hills Trails. This day was open to the community and gave runners, walkers and bike riders alike an opportunity to enjoy the new trails. The day included a free healthy breakfast, an official opening ceremony, a BBQ Lunch and a band to entertain the participants after their morning activities.

**Highlights**

- Induction of two new members, Maggie Hine and Melissa Rebbeck. Both these new members bring diversity to the group and valuable skills and community connections.

- Group continues to be involved in various projects in our community including the Marginal to Mainstream Steering Committee, the EMLR WAP Steering Committee and the Southern Hairy Nose Wombat Working Group and the Fleurieu Farmers Working Group.

- Group members were active participants in the RAP Workshops held in both Mount Barker and Murray Bridge.

**Learnings**

- The success of the Monarto Trails was an example of how the “Involve” approach can be more effective than the “Inform” approach in engaging the community in parks and trails.

- The group member’s high level of commitment to representation on a broad range of external groups is essential for continued community engagement.
11.4 Riverland NRM Group

Summary of Key Achievements

Sponsorship of 4 Aboriginal youth to attend the State Community Landcare Conference- Wakerie, September 14-16 2015.

- Landcare Association of SA and Riverland West Landcare held the 2015 State Community Landcare Conference in Wakerie.

- A number of indigenous people in the Riverland had participated in a “telling your story” project with Chris Koolmatrie. There was a very high level of enthusiasm from those involved in NRM and to further encourage that involvement the Riverland Group was pleased to sponsor four indigenous youth to attend the National Landcare Conference in November 2015.

Riverland Field Days, 18th-19th of September 2015

- The Riverland Field Days are a very popular 2 day annual event that attracts thousands of people from throughout South Australia and beyond. This event is hosted on a purpose built facility just out of Barmera. With over 350 exhibitors.

- The Group tent had a prime spot and was able to capture visitors (some 7500 over 2 days) to talk about NRM initiatives in our area. It was an opportunity to talk to people about how the NRM levy is being invested in our area. A very successful 2 days.

Riverland Volunteers Celebration-28th May 2016

- The annual Volunteer Recognition event was held in the Loxton Historic Village in May. Over 42 volunteers and their families attended with many unable to attend but showing their interest in attending in the future.

- The Group was able to acknowledge the work of many volunteers, from young adults to someone celebrating their 90th birthday the following week. The Friends of Loxton Historic Village catered for the event and with guest speakers covering a diversity of topics making it a special occasion.

Community Based Social Marketing and Influence Mapping-ongoing

- Commenced work on Community Based Social Marketing and Influence Mapping. The Riverland Group is working on recognising community members and groups that influence us, and those that we influence in order to establish gaps in the community that we may not be reaching. This will also help us in the future with using our connections to get our message and share our learning opportunities with the broader community.

Volunteer Stories Documentary’s-on going project

- The Riverland NRM Group have invested in a project, brought to the group by Danielle Packer, to assist in the cost of producing as series of short documentaries featuring NRM Volunteers. These short stories will be able to be used to promote NRM volunteering at events such as the Riverland Field days and any other events into the future.
Highlights

- Members are continuing to enthusiastically represent the Riverland NRM Group on a number of Committee and community groups.
- Engaging with Aboriginal youth through sponsorship to attend the Community Landcare Forum.
- The group’s involvement with ongoing work in the Riverland on cat management issues.
- The ongoing engagement with NRM Volunteers and being able to celebrate this at our Volunteers Recognition event.

12. EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Board was made up of 4 males and 5 females.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2015-16:

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
• Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
• Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
• Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
• Government Buildings Energy Strategy
• Public Complaints
• Sustainability Reporting
• Financial Performance
• Account Payment Performance.

13. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board’s general purpose financial statements and Auditor General’s Report for 2015-16 are included as Appendix 1 to be provided when completed by Auditor General. Which is expected to occur at the end of November 2016.

13.1 Sources of Income

In accordance with the provisions of the NRM Act, the Board received natural resources levy contributions through Councils in the Board’s region. Councils are required to impose a separate levy on rateable land (Division 1 levy) in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Region to recover the contribution made to the Board. Additional levies, based on licensed water allocations (Division 2 Levy) are collected from proclaimed water areas in the region.

Total income for 2015-16 was $23.534 million (unaudited) which consisted of:

• $9.812 million of levy funds as below
  o Division 1 (Land based levy) totalling $2.254 m
  o Division 2 (Water based levy) totalling $7.558 m
• $13.196 million of grants
• $0.526 million of other funds
2015-16 Income Summary

Division 1 (Land Levy)
Division 2 (Water levy)
Grants
Other

13.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2015-16 was $34.816 million (unaudited).

14. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period which exceeded $4 million (GST inclusive).

15. FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

16. CONSULTANTS

The Board did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

17. OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on Board or Committee business during this reporting period.
18. ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

In May 2016 the Board engaged the services of Carter Corporation Pty Ltd to undertake a review of its buildings in line with the below policy to:

- Enable the effective management of all hazards associated with asbestos through a structured program that eliminates or minimises exposure in accordance with legislative requirements.

- Ensure that management is committed to ensuring that the working environment is safe for all employees. Part of this commitment is to ensure that health and safety shall be an integral component of the Board, its mission and objectives.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Remove as soon as practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Will be scheduled for removal at a practicable time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Use care during maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May need removal during maintenance works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Monitor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Has asbestos present. Inspect according to legislation and policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No asbestos identified / identified asbestos has been removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All asbestos identified as per OHS&amp;W 4Regulations 2010 (Division 2 – Asbestos) has been removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Further information required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>These sites not yet categorised or some asbestos items do not have recommended actions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2015-16 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

20. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au) to view the FOI statement. The Board’s Administration Manager, Stephanie Weinert, is the designated and accredited Freedom of Information Officer.
21. WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993 (WPA) require the Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2015-16 financial year.

The Board has appointed Claire Stephenson as the Responsible Officer for the purpose of the WPA pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Sector Act 2009.

22. REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 financial year.

23. RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The SA MDB NRM 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, Ngaiawang, Ngawait, Nganguruku, Erarung, Ngintait, Ngargad, Ngaintait, Ngaralde, Ngarkat, Meru, Ngadjuri, Peramagk, Donnagali 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 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 also engaged the indigenous community in projects and committees wherever possible and has employed staff to actively engage with the aboriginal communities across the region.

24. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Board would like to thank and acknowledges the support it has received from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, DEWNR and other agencies and partners identified throughout this report throughout the year.

The Board appreciates the support and encouragement, and acknowledges the work, of regional staff, project officers, NRM groups and committee members.

The Australian Government is also acknowledged for the significant funding support received through various funding programs throughout the reporting year.
## GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALOC</td>
<td>Aboriginal Learning on Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEWH</td>
<td>Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLMM</td>
<td>Coorong, Lower Lakes Murray Mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEWNR</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMLR</td>
<td>Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPBC</td>
<td>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERF</td>
<td>Emissions Reduction Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRDC</td>
<td>Grains Research Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group (the Group)</td>
<td>Natural Resources Management Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GL</td>
<td>Gigalitre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAP</td>
<td>Local Action Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERI</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Megalitre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM Act</td>
<td>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM Group</td>
<td>Natural Resources Management Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVDVI</td>
<td>Normalised Density Vegetation Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFIEP</td>
<td>On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIRSA</td>
<td>Primary Industries and Resources South Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAP</td>
<td>Regional Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional NRM Plan</td>
<td>Regional Natural Resources Management Plan for the South Australian Murray Darling Basin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMAC</td>
<td>River Murray Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMF</td>
<td>River Murray Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RM WAP</td>
<td>River Murray Water Allocation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMYC</td>
<td>River Murray Youth Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA MDB NRM</td>
<td>South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARDI</td>
<td>South Australian Research and Development Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMP</td>
<td>Sustainable Management Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Board</td>
<td>South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VRT</td>
<td>Variable Rate Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAP</td>
<td>Water Allocation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEL</td>
<td>Youth Environmental Leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (2015-16)

26.1 Attachment 1 - to be provided
For official use only

Our ref: A16/358

5 December 2016

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

Dear Ms Starick

Audit of South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year to 30 June 2016

We have completed the audit of your accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016. Three key outcomes from the audit are the:

1. Independent Auditor’s Report on your agency’s financial report
2. Opinion on your financial controls
3. Audit management letter recommending you address identified weaknesses.

1. Independent Auditor’s Report

We are returning the financial statements for South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, with the Independent Auditor’s Report. This report is unmodified.

2. Opinion on financial controls

In my opinion, the controls exercised by South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, except for matters communicated to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, are sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

3. Audit management letter

During the year, we sent the agency an audit management letter detailing the weaknesses we noted and improvements we considered you need to make.
We have received responses to these matters and we will follow these up in the 2016-17 audit. In addition to these issues we have noticed the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is not complying with a number of sections from the Natural Resource Management Act 2004 (NRM Act).

Section 38 - Annual reports
(1) A regional NRM board must, on or before 30 November in every year, provide to the Minister a report -

(2) (b) include the audited accounts and financial statements of the regional NRM board...

(3) The Minister must cause a copy of a report provided to Minister under this section to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 12 sitting days after receiving the report

(4) The relevant regional NRM board must ensure that a copy of any report within the ambit of subsection (3) is published on the regional NRM board's website within 5 business days after being laid before both Houses of Parliament under that subsection.

Your Annual Report was not tabled in parliament until 24 March 2016 and was published on your website on 19 June 2016, three months after being presented to parliament.

Audit recommends the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board comply with the NRM Act.

What the audit covered

Our audit covered the principal areas of the agency’s financial operations and included test reviews of systems, processes, internal controls and financial transactions. The audit also considered the control environment at the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), as the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board’s financial transactions are processed under this environment. Letters detailing the weaknesses arising from the DEWNR audit were sent to the DEWNR.

Our audits meet statutory audit responsibilities under the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and the Australian Auditing Standards.

I would like to thank the staff and management of your agency for their assistance during this year’s audit.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Richardson
Auditor-General
To the Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

As required by section 31(1)(b) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and section 37(2) of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, I have audited the accompanying financial report of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2016. The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2016
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2016
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income for the year ended 30 June 2016
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- a Certificate from the Presiding Member, the Regional Director and the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

The Board’s responsibility for the financial report

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Treasurer’s Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as members of the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and Australian Auditing Standards. The auditing standards require that the auditor comply with relevant ethical requirements and that the auditor plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My report refers only to the financial statements described above and does not provide assurance over the integrity of publication of the financial report on the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board website nor does it provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2016, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Treasurer’s Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and Australian Accounting Standards.

Andrew Richardson
Auditor-General
5 December 2016
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2016
| Note_DPLTABLE1 | Statement of Comprehensive Income | 18/11/2016 12:01:36 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_DBSTABLE1 | Statement of Financial Position | 18/11/2016 3:29:46 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_CEQTABLE1 | Changes in Equity | 18/11/2016 3:28:53 PM | ruotov01 |
| NoteDCFSTABLE1 | Statement of Cash Flows | 18/11/2016 12:37:39 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_DOPSTABLE1 | Disaggregated Disclosures Expenses and Income | 18/11/2016 12:01:42 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_SXPTABLE1 | Note 5: Supplies and services | 18/11/2016 12:01:43 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_OEXTABLE1 | Note 6: Other Expenses | 18/11/2016 12:01:44 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_GRXTABLE1 | Note 7: Grants and subsidies | 18/11/2016 12:17:57 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note.DAOTABLE1 | Note 8: Depreciation | 18/11/2016 12:01:45 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_WDTABLE1 | Working Note: Board, group and committee expenses | 18/11/2016 12:01:46 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_FACTABLE1 | Note 9: Regional NRM and Water Levies | 18/11/2016 12:01:47 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_IRVTABLE1 | Note 10: Interest revenues | 18/11/2016 12:01:48 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_QGATABLE1 | Note 11: Grant revenues | 18/11/2016 12:20:33 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_ORVTABLE1 | Note 12: Other revenues | 18/11/2016 12:01:50 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_CSHTABLE1 | Note 13: Cash and cash equivalents | 18/11/2016 12:01:51 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_RECTABLE1 | Note 14: Receivables | 18/11/2016 12:01:52 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_IPETABLE1 | Note 15: Property plant and equipment | 18/11/2016 12:01:54 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_PPRTABLE1 | Note 15: Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment | 10/06/2016 3:44:23 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_PPRTABLE2 | Note 15: Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment | 10/06/2016 3:44:25 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_FVMTABLE1 | Note 16: Fair value measurement | 10/06/2016 3:44:27 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_FVMTABLE2 | Note 16: Fair value measurement | 10/06/2016 3:44:29 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_SAPTABLE1 | Note 17: Payables | 18/11/2016 12:01:55 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_SOCSTABLE1 | Note 18: Unrecognised contractual commitments | 18/11/2016 12:01:56 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_SOCSTABLE2 | Note 18: Unrecognised contractual commitments | 18/11/2016 12:01:57 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_RTCSTABLE1 | Note 20: Remuneration of Board, Group and Committee Members | 10/06/2016 3:44:36 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_CFRTABLE1 | Note 21: Cash flow reconciliation | 10/06/2016 3:44:53 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_GOVTABLE1 | Note 22: Transactions with SA Government | 10/06/2016 3:44:53 PM | Raman Katyal |
| Note_FLTABLE1 | Note 23: Categorisation of financial instruments | 18/11/2016 2:18:18 PM | ruotov01 |
| Note_FICTABLE1 | Note 23: Ageing analysis of financial assets | 10/06/2016 3:44:58 PM | Raman Katyal |
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached general purpose financial statements for the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board:

- comply with relevant Treasurer’s Instructions issued under Section 41 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987, and relevant Australian Accounting Standards;
- are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Board; and
- present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 30 June 2016 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.

We certify that the internal controls employed by the Board for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statements have been effective throughout the reporting period.

Sharon Starick
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
24/11/2016

Rhona Parker-Benton
Regional Director
Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
24/11/2016

Michelle Griffiths
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
28/11/2016
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16 640</td>
<td>15 792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17 579</td>
<td>22 695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board, group and committee</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>34 909</strong></td>
<td><strong>38 892</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional NRM and Water Levies</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9 812</td>
<td>9 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13 196</td>
<td>33 989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>23 516</strong></td>
<td><strong>43 506</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net result</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
<td>4 614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total comprehensive result</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
<td>4 614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016 $'000</th>
<th>2015 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets held for sale</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset revaluation surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner

Unrecognised contractual commitments | 18 |
Contingent liabilities | 19 |

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Revaluation Surplus $'000</th>
<th>Retained Earnings $'000</th>
<th>Total $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2014</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>11 349</td>
<td>11 636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for 2014-15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 614</td>
<td>4 614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive result for 2014-15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 614</td>
<td>4 614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>15 963</td>
<td>16 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for 2015-16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive result for 2015-16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
<td>(11 393)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer between equity components</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>4 613</td>
<td>4 857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from operating activities</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016 $'000</th>
<th>2015 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash outflows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board, group and committee member payments</td>
<td></td>
<td>(328)</td>
<td>(243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for supplies and services</td>
<td></td>
<td>(17 837)</td>
<td>(15 979)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments of grants and subsidies</td>
<td></td>
<td>(17 579)</td>
<td>(22 695)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other payments</td>
<td></td>
<td>(291)</td>
<td>(122)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash used in operations</td>
<td></td>
<td>(36 035)</td>
<td>(39 039)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cash inflows                        |      |            |            |
| NRM levies and other revenue received |  | 24 745     | 42 342     |
| Interest received                    |  | 231        | 102        |
| Cash generated from operations       |  | 24 976     | 42 444     |

Net cash provided by operating activities

| Net cash provided by operating activities |      | (11 059)   | 3 405      |

Cash flows from investing activities

| Cash outflows:                        |      |            |            |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment |  | (41)       | (79)       |
| Cash used in investing activities      |  | (41)       | (79)       |

Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents |      | (11 100)   | 3 326      |

Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period

| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period |  | 15 550     | 12 224     |

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period

| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period |  | 4 450      | 15 550     |

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
### South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
### Disaggregated Disclosures – Expense and Income

for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Resilient Nature and Lands</th>
<th>Landscape Services</th>
<th>Community Engagement</th>
<th>Planning and Evaluation</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016 $'000</td>
<td>2015 $'000</td>
<td>2016 $'000</td>
<td>2015 $'000</td>
<td>2016 $'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and services</td>
<td>3 184</td>
<td>3 266</td>
<td>7 235</td>
<td>6 544</td>
<td>2 456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies</td>
<td>1 025</td>
<td>1 254</td>
<td>14 437</td>
<td>19 144</td>
<td>2 090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board, group and committee expenses</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 296</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 594</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 039</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 802</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 693</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regional NRM &amp; Water</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levies</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest revenues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant revenues</td>
<td>2 381</td>
<td>3 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 190</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 882</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net result           | (1 106)  | (712)  | (9 686) | 6 535   | (55)    | (534)   | (546)   | (675)   | (11 393) | 4 614    |

The Board has determined that assets and liabilities cannot be readily attributed to individual activities.
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

1 Board objectives

(a) Establishment of the Board

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) was established on 9 December 2004 pursuant to section 23(1) of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 (the NRM Act).

The Board operates under a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRM Plan) which was approved by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on 10 January 2014, for implementation on 1 July 2014. The NRM Plan contains a three-year Investment Plan which identifies strategies, management action targets and the Board’s investment themes as detailed in note 4. The investment plan relevant to the 2015-16 financial year was adopted by the Minister on 10 January 2014.

The Board serves the Government and the people of South Australia by achieving excellence in the provision of Natural Resources Management.

(b) Board’s objectives

The objectives of the Board as defined in the NRM Act are:

- to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region
- to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with the NRM Act, to implement the plan and to keep the plan under review to ensure the objects of the NRM Act are being achieved
- to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational activities 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
- to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the Board under this or any other Act
- to resolve any issues that may arise between the NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region
- at the request of the Minister or the NRM Council, or of 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
- any other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister by or under this or any other Act.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with section 23 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987. The financial statements are general purpose financial statements. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards (Reduced Disclosure Requirements) and comply with Treasurer’s Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements promulgated under the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987.

The Board has applied Australian Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities, as the Board is a not-for-profit entity.
2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(b) Basis of preparation

The preparation of the financial statements requires:

- The use of certain accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying Board’s accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are outlined in the applicable notes.

- The selection and application of accounting policies in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events are reported.

- Compliance with accounting policy statements issued pursuant to Section 41 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987. In the interest of public accountability and transparency the accounting policy statements require the following note disclosure, that has been included in this financial report:
  
  (a) board/committee member and remuneration information, where a board/committee member is entitled to receive income from membership other than a direct out-of-pocket reimbursement.

The Board’s Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets that were valued in accordance with the valuation policy applicable.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements have been prepared based on a 12 month period and presented in Australian currency.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 and the comparative information presented.

(c) Reporting entity

The Board was established on 9 December 2004 pursuant to the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 (the NRM Act).

The Board operates under a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRM Plan) which was adopted by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on 10 January 2014.

The Board’s financial statements include the use of income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled or incurred by the Board in its own right.

The financial statements include all the controlled activities of the Board.

NRM groups

The function of the NRM Groups is defined by the NRM Act 2004, (section 52) and the NRM Group Charter. The NRM Act provides that the NRM Groups are subject to the direction of the Board (section 47(3)(b)).

In accordance with a direction issued by the Board and the NRM Groups’ Charter the NRM Groups do not have the power to enter into contracts or procure goods or services in their own right. The Board has ensured that proper accounts have been kept of the NRM Groups’ activities and the related financial information has been incorporated in the accounts and financial statements of the Board for financial reporting purposes.
2 (c) Reporting entity (continued)

On 16 April 2012, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, pursuant to sub-section 24(3) of the NRM Act, directed the Board to:

- use DEWNR to provide the Board’s business support and NRM services to the region
- enter into an agreement for these services
- fund the services and projects set out in the agreement.

The Board entered into an annual Service Level Agreement during 2015-16 which includes the delivery of support services to the Board to ensure it is able to meet its statutory requirements under the NRM Act and an annual work plan for the delivery of the Board’s Business Plan. This agreement details the services, projects and funds to deliver the annual work plan. This SLA is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

In accordance with notice published in the Government Gazette on 21 June 2012, all Board staff were transferred from employment under the NRM Act to the Public Sector Act 2009. This was effective from 1 July 2012 at which date staff were brought into the administrative unit of DEWNR. As a consequence,

- DEWNR assumed responsibility for the staff previously employed under the NRM Act by the Board.
- All staff are now employed by the Chief Executive, DEWNR under the Public Sector Act 2009.
- DEWNR is responsible for the management, supervision, liability, Work Health and Safety and human resources management of the staff that will undertake services under the Service Level Agreement (SLA).
- Staff undertaking services on behalf of the Board will be assigned to the Board under the NRM Act.
- The payment for staff salaries will be recharged to the Board under a Fee for Service Arrangement.

(d) Comparative information

The presentation and classification of items in the financial statements are consistent with prior periods except where specific accounting standards and/or accounting policy statements have required a change.

Where presentation or classification of items in the financial statements have been amended, comparative amounts have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation or classification in these financial statements unless impracticable.

The restated comparative amounts do not replace the original financial statements for the preceding period.

(e) Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($'000).
2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Taxation

The Board is not subject to income tax. The Board is liable for fringe benefits tax and emergency services levy.

DEWR prepares a Business Activity Statement on behalf of the Board under the grouping provisions of the GST legislation. Under these provisions, DEWR is liable for the payments and entitled to the receipts associated with GST.

Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from, the Australian Taxation Office, the commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

(g) Events after the end of the reporting period

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements, where an event occurs after 30 June and before the date the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions that existed at 30 June.

Note disclosure is made about events between 30 June and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to a condition which arose after 30 June and which may have a material impact on the results of subsequent years.

(h) Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the flow of economic benefits to Board will occur and can be reliably measured.

Income has been aggregated according to its nature and has not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

The following are specific recognition criteria:

Regional NRM and water levies

Under the NRM Act the Board receives two forms of levies, being the Regional NRM Levy and the NRM Water Levy.

The Regional NRM Levy is collected by constituent councils from ratepayers and is based on the value of rateable land. Councils can seek to recover any outgoing costs associated with the collection of the levy.

Contributions from constituent councils collected from ratepayers are recognised as income following determination of the share of each council by the Minister and publication of those amounts in the Government Gazette. Contributions are required to be paid on a quarterly basis to the Board. Levies are recognised as revenue when the Board obtains control of the funding.

The water based levy is collected by DEWR which it collects from licensed water users. This levy is based on water allocated and water used. This income is recorded as revenue when the Board has gained control of the funds, or obtains the right to receive the funds.

Natural Resource Management Fund

The Natural Resources Management Fund (NRM Fund) was established pursuant to subsection 117(1) of the NRM Act. The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation administers the NRM Fund and may apply any part of the NRM Fund in making payments to the Board. The Board receives the following Commonwealth and State funding through this Fund.
2 (h) Income (continued)

Commonwealth funding – Caring for Our Country/National Landcare Program

On 13 September 2013, the Board entered into an agreement with the State, for the continued implementation of the Caring for Our Country program. This funding spans five financial years - 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018, and covers two broad areas: Sustainable Environment and Agriculture.

The goal of Caring for Our Country is an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. Caring for Our Country has six National Priority Areas for Investment.

Under the Agreement to reflect the intent of the Commonwealth, the State and the Board work together as partners with the community and other stakeholders, in natural resource management for the Region. Pursuant to that commitment the Commonwealth agreed to fund programs undertaken by the Board.

During 2014-15 the Caring for our Country funding stream ceased and was replaced by the National Landcare Program (NLP). On 2 June 2015, the Board entered into an agreement for the implementation of the NLP, which continues the work commenced under the Caring for our Country program. This funding spans the period - 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018.

Grants received

Grants received predominantly represent contributions from Commonwealth government and State government agencies toward various activities of the Board.

Generally, the Board has obtained control or the right to receive for:

- contributions with unconditional stipulations - this will be when the agreement becomes enforceable; that is the earlier of when the receiving entity has formally been advised that the contribution (e.g. grant application) has been approved; agreement/contract is executed; and/or the contribution is received.

- contributions with conditional stipulations - this will be when the enforceable stipulations specified in the agreement occur or are satisfied; that is income would be recognised for contributions received or receivable under the agreement.

All contributions received by the Board have been contributions with unconditional stipulations attached and have been recognised as an asset and income upon receipt.

Commonwealth and grant contributions received

Contributions are recognised as an asset and income when the Board obtains control of the contributions or obtains the right to receive the contributions and the income recognition criteria are met (i.e. the amount can be reliably measured and the flow of resources is probable).

Other income

Other income includes revenue generated through the contracting of animal and plant control services conducted on Crown or private land. All income relates to the operating activities of the Board. Other income is recognised when the service has been performed.

Interest revenues

Interest income is recognised when earned.

(i) Expenses

Expenses are recognised to the extent that it is probable that the flow of economic benefits from Board will occur and can be reliably measured.

Expenses have been aggregated according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.
2 (i) Expense (continued)

The following are specific recognition criteria:

Depreciation

All non-current assets, having a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Assets' residual values, useful lives and amortisation methods are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate, on an annual basis.

Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate.

Land is not depreciated.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the following classes of assets as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of asset</th>
<th>Useful Life (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>19-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>4-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>5-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grants and subsidies

The Board provided financial assistance to local government, state government agencies, community groups and private bodies during the year. Funds are paid by way of grants and all recipients are required to comply with conditions relevant to each grant. The details of amounts provided, organisations receiving grants and the purpose for each grant are shown in the Annual Report, as required by section 42 of the NRM Act.

For contributions payable, the contribution will be recognised as a liability and expense when the Board has a present obligation to pay the contribution and the expense recognition criteria are met.

All contributions paid by the Board have been contributions with unconditional stipulations attached.

(j) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are characterised as either current or non-current in nature. Assets and liabilities that are to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle even when they are not expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting date have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

(k) Assets

Assets have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position includes cash at bank and on hand and in other short-term, highly liquid investments with maturities of 3 months or less that are readily converted to cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash is measured at nominal value.

Receivables

Receivables include amounts receivable from goods and services and other accruals.
2 (k) Assets (continued)

Receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Receivables are generally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. An allowance for doubtful debts is raised when there is objective evidence that the Board will not be able to collect the debt. Bad debts are written off when identified.

Non-current assets

Acquisition and recognition

Non-current assets are initially recorded at cost or at the value of any liabilities assumed, plus any incidental cost involved with the acquisition. Non-current assets are subsequently measured at fair value after allowing for accumulated depreciation.

All non-current tangible assets with a value of $10,000 or greater are capitalised.

Revaluation of non-current assets

The Board revalues its land and building assets via a Certified Practising Valuer or internal estimates based on indices or recent transactions. A Valuation appraisal by a Certified Practising Valuer is performed at least every six years.

All other non-current tangible assets are valued at fair value and revaluation of non-current assets or group of assets is only performed when its fair value at the time of acquisition is greater than $1 million and estimated useful life is greater than three years.

If at any time management considers that the carrying amount of an asset materially differs from its fair value, then the asset will be revalued regardless of when the last valuation took place.

Non-current tangible assets that are acquired between revaluations are held at cost until the next valuation, where they are revalued to fair value.

Any revaluation increment is credited to the asset revaluation surplus, except to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset class previously recognised as an expense, in which case the increase is recognised as income. Any revaluation decrease is recognised as an expense, except to the extent that it offsets a previous revaluation increase for the same asset class, in which case the decrease is debited directly to the asset revaluation surplus to the extent of the credit balance existing in revaluation surplus for that asset class.

Upon disposal or derecognition, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is transferred to retained earnings.

Impairment

All non-current tangible and intangible assets are tested for indication of impairment at each reporting date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. The recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset’s fair value less costs of disposal and depreciated replacement costs. An amount by which the asset’s carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

For revalued assets, an impairment loss is offset against the respective asset revaluation surplus.

Fair value measurement - Non-financial assets

In determining fair value, the Board has taken into account the characteristic of the asset (e.g. condition and location of the asset and any restrictions on the sale or use of the asset) and the asset’s highest and best use (i.e. physically possible, legally permissible, financially feasible).

The Board’s current use is the highest and best use of the assets unless other factors suggest an alternative use is feasible. As the Board did not identify any factors to suggest an alternative use, fair value measurement was based on current use.

The carrying amount of non-financial assets with a fair value at the time of acquisition that was less than $1 million or had an estimated useful life that was less than three years are deemed to approximate fair value.
2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(l) Liabilities
Liabilities have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Payables
Payables include creditors, accrued expenses and Board member remuneration on-costs.

Creditors represent the amounts owing for goods and services received prior to the end of the reporting period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Creditors include all unpaid invoices received relating to the normal operations of the Board.

Accrued expenses represent goods and services provided by other parties during the period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period and where an invoice has not been received.

All payables are measured at their nominal amount, are unsecured and are normally settled within 30 days from the date of the invoice or the date the invoice is first received.

(m) Leases
The determination of whether an arrangement is or contains a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement.

The Board has entered into operating lease agreements in relation to office premises and office equipment whereby the lessors effectively retain all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the property held under the operating leases.

Operating Leases
Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The straight-line basis is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

(n) Staff benefits
Services to the Board are provided by personnel employed by DEWR, hence no employee benefits or related provisions are included in the Board's financial statements. Employee benefits relating to relevant employees are reflected in the financial statements of DEWR.

(o) Insurance
The Board has arranged, through SA Government Captive Insurance Corporation (SAICORP), to insure all of its major risks. The excess payable under this arrangement is $20,000 per claim.

(p) Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingent assets and liabilities
Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing arrangements arising from contractual or statutory sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

3 New and revised accounting standards and policies
The Board did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during 2015-16.
4 Activities of Board

In achieving its objectives the Board provides a range of services classified into the following activities:

Activity 1: Resilient Nature and Lands

The purpose of the Resilient Nature and Land program in the SAMDB is to protect and enhance the natural environment by both delivering landscape protection and restoration actions and also building capacity for land managers to take action on landscape restoration. The program also contributes to the science that underpins informed decision making and prioritization in delivering conservation objectives across the region and finally the program contributes to community engagement and education programs in landscape restoration so the natural landscapes are valued by future generations.

Activity 2: Landscape Services

The purpose of this program is to inspire and motivate to greater natural resource management (NRM) action within the primary industries demographic and production landscape.

The region is noted for its horticulture and has a history of innovation and world standard water use techniques. The Board continues to successfully deliver the Australian Government funding On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program to irrigators which enable them to modernise their existing infrastructure, gaining maximum productivity while reducing the amount of water required.

The Board works with and assists farmers, commodity and industry groups to support improving farming business and improved land, water and biodiversity management. The Board’s statutory obligation to undertake pest plant and animal control activities is contained within the Landscape Services program.

Activity 3: Community Engagement

The Community Engagement program recognises the significant role that the community play in NRM outcomes and assists the Board to receive information from the community and provide information to the community, industry and governments. The program has a strong focus on raising the awareness of the communities within the Region and then engaging those people by building their understanding and involvement in the natural resources management projects implemented.

The program also has a specific focus on engaging the Region’s Aboriginal populations in training and employment programs, protecting Aboriginal heritage and building cultural awareness across the Region. This program aims to ensure the continued use, support and reinvigoration of traditional knowledge to underpin natural resource outcomes.

Activity 4: Planning and Evaluation

The Planning and Evaluation Program supports the Board’s development and performance evaluation of the Regional NRM Plan, water allocation planning, NRM regional evaluation, funding and program performance. It is responsible for regional information and reporting systems.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement activities are fundamental to NRM. Implementing the regional NRM plan requires structures of actions to provide accurate, cost-effective and timely performance data to inform Board decisions.

Planning and evaluation ensures continuous learning, enhanced understanding, demonstrates accountability and improves actions taken to achieve NRM outcomes. Monitoring the condition of natural resources and the effectiveness of the NRM Plan is key to improving the performance of the Board’s programs.

Water resource assessment and water allocation planning are key elements of the program and are a statutory obligation of the Board.

The disaggregated disclosures schedules present expenses and income information attributable to each of the activities as reflected in the Board’s NRM plan for the years ended 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2015.
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

5 Supplies and services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and property management</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for service</td>
<td>13,688</td>
<td>12,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General administration</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information technology and communication</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor works, maintenance and equipment</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring fees</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff development</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and accommodation</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other supplies and services</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supplies and services</strong></td>
<td>16,640</td>
<td>15,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Other expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended grants returned</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad and doubtful debts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other expenses</strong></td>
<td>321</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General’s Department.

7 Grants and subsidies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsidies</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Subsidies provided to entities within SA Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies paid to entities within the SA Government</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grants and subsidies - SA Government entities</strong></td>
<td>594</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsidies</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies paid to entities external to the SA Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government and community groups</td>
<td>1,598</td>
<td>1,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landholders</td>
<td>14,343</td>
<td>18,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>1,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grants and subsidies - non SA Government</strong></td>
<td>16,985</td>
<td>22,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grants and subsidies</strong></td>
<td>17,579</td>
<td>22,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Depreciation expense</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total depreciation expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9</th>
<th>Regional NRM and Water levies</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional NRM Levy collected through Councils</td>
<td>2 254</td>
<td>2 144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Levy collected through DEWNR</td>
<td>7 558</td>
<td>6 966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Regional NRM and Water Levies</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 812</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 110</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>Interest revenues</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest revenues from entities within the SA Government</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total interest revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>237</strong></td>
<td><strong>95</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

11 Grant revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth Funding</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Landcare Program/Caring for our country*</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Fund</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Irrigation Infrastructure Round 2</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Round 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Round 3</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>12,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Round 4</td>
<td>5,493</td>
<td>12,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation grants</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>1,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working on Country</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Commonwealth funding</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Commonwealth funding</strong></td>
<td>9,117</td>
<td>29,082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant revenues from SA Government</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Landcare Program/Caring for our country received through DEWNR*</td>
<td>3,658</td>
<td>4,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other State Government funding</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grant revenues from SA Government</strong></td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>4,876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other grant revenues</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundry grants</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other grant revenues</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grants revenue</strong></td>
<td>13,196</td>
<td>33,989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*National Landcare Program/Caring for Our Country - Regional Component made up of the following

- Improving the Ecological Character of the Riverland RAMSAR Site | 210 |
- Protecting and Conserving the Species and Ecosystems of the SA Murray-Darling | 1,062|
- Building NRM Community Skills, Knowledge & Engagement in the SA Murray-Darling Basin | 660 |
- Improving Farmer Ability to Monitor Resource Base & Improve Ecosystem Services | 722 |
- Regional Landcare Facilitator - South Australian Murray-Darling Basin | 90 |
- Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change (Stream 1) | 32 |
- South Australian Murray Darling Basin - NLP Regional Investment 2015 - 2018 | 3,658| 1,829|
| **Total National Landcare Darling Basin - NLP Regional Investment 2015 - 2018** | **3,679** | **4,605** |

12 Other revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property rental and related income</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of goods</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other revenues</strong></td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

13  Cash and cash equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deposits with the Treasurer</td>
<td>4450</td>
<td>15549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand and imprest accounts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td><strong>4450</strong></td>
<td><strong>15550</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deposits at call and with the Treasurer earn a floating interest rate, based on daily bank deposit rates. Note: Cash on hand is non-interest bearing.
The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents represents fair value.

14  Receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>2295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Allowance for doubtful debt</td>
<td>(130)</td>
<td>(99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current receivables</strong></td>
<td><strong>722</strong></td>
<td><strong>2212</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Movements in the allowance for doubtful debts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at the beginning of the period</td>
<td>(99)</td>
<td>(20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease/(increase) in the allowance</td>
<td>(31)</td>
<td>(79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carrying amount at the end of the period</strong></td>
<td><strong>(130)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(99)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Movement in the allowance for doubtful debts**
The allowance for doubtful debts (allowance for impairment loss) is recognised when there is objective evidence (i.e. calculated on past experience and current and expected changes in client credit rating) that a receivable is impaired. An allowance for impairment loss has been recognised in 'other expenses' in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for specific debtors and debtors assessed on a collective basis for which such evidence exists.

15  Non-current assets classified as held for sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings</strong></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets classified as held for sale</strong></td>
<td><strong>143</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The land and buildings at Berri are surplus to the Board's requirements. They will be sold in July 2016.
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2016

16 Property, plant and equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent valuation</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total land</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent valuation</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(59)</td>
<td>(52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total buildings</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At cost (deemed fair value)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total infrastructure</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At cost (deemed fair value)</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(198)</td>
<td>(183)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total plant and equipment</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At cost (deemed fair value)</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(133)</td>
<td>(121)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total vehicles</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital works in progress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital works in progress</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total capital works in progress</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total property, plant and equipment: 757 876

Valuation of land and buildings

The valuation of land and buildings was performed by John Dawes, CDA, NDA, CDFM, Dip. Vals, FAPI, an independent valuer, as at 30 June 2011.

With the exception of land and buildings located at Berri, the valuer used depreciated replacement cost for buildings where little or no market evidence was available to determine market value. The valuer took into account the assets characteristics and restrictions. In regards to land where no comparable sales were available, the valuer utilised a price per square metre. The fair value for land and buildings located at Berri was arrived at using the market approach. The valuation was based on recent market transactions for similar land and buildings in the area and includes adjustment for factors specific to the land and building being valued such as size and location.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment as at 30 June 2016.
16 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliation of non-current assets

The following table shows the movement of non-current assets during 2015-16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Plant and equipment</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
<th>Capital work in progress</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at the beginning of the period</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets reclassified to assets held for sale</td>
<td>(60)</td>
<td>(83)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(143)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at 30 June</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17 Payables

2016  | 2015
-------|-------
Current | $'000  | $'000
Creditors | 994    | 2262
Accrued expenses | 221    | 126
Total current payables | 1215   | 2388

18 Unrecognised contractual commitments

Operating Lease commitments

|                          | 2016  | 2015
|--------------------------|-------|-------
|                          | $'000  | $'000
| No later than one year   | 476    | 524   |
| Later than one year but not later than five years | 1588   | 1719  |
| Later than five years    | 477    | 897   |
| Total operating lease commitments | 2541   | 3140  |

Operating lease commitments comprise the following:
The property leases are non-cancellable. Rental is payable monthly with reviews indexed annually, alternating between market value and CPI indexation. Options exist to renew the lease at the end of the current term.
The equipment leases are non-cancellable. Lease payments are payable monthly and options exist to renew or cancel the lease at the end of the current term.

Expenditure commitments

|                          | 2016  | 2015
|--------------------------|-------|-------
|                          | $'000  | $'000
| No later than one year   | 5990   | 18308 |
| Later than one year but not later than five years | 960    | 2000  |
| Total other commitments  | 6950   | 20308 |
18 Unrecognised contractual commitments (continued)

The Board received contributions from the Commonwealth and various other funding sources, expressly for the purposes of undertaking specific projects. As at 30 June 2016, $23,000 (2015: $955,000) of contributions, which have been recognised as revenues in the Income Statement, are yet to be spent in the manner specified by the contributors. This amount is not included in the table above.

19 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

The Board is not aware of the existence of any contingent assets or liabilities.

20 Remuneration of Board, Group and Committee members and related party disclosures

Remuneration of Board Members

Members that were entitled to receive remuneration for membership during 2015-16 financial year were:

The Board

Bakkum N R
Duggin P J
Love O F (appointed 14/04/16)
Ralph R L
Small G

Blenkiron K L
Jenke E C (retired 13/04/16)
Mildren D K
Simcock K J (appointed 14/04/16)
Starick S R

Some members of the Board are also members of other Board Committees, and their remuneration is included in the table below.

Remuneration of Groups and Committee Members

Members that were entitled to receive remuneration for membership during the 2015-16 financial year were:

Groups

Mallee and Coorong NRM Group
Hansen A
Morgan T P
Roberts J J
Turner F J
Wickes R B
Evans S
Hayward D H (appointed 20/06/16)
Daniel T (retired 01/12/15)

Rangelands NRM Group
Breeding V G W
Connell A J (appointed 01/03/16)
Gebhardt J
Mattey J M (retired 04/11/15)
Oates J
Perry R G
Schneider L
Warnes I L

Ranges to River NRM Group
White M
Bradman T A
Jacobs W H C
Schneider M
Brumfield L (retired 06/11/15)
Farrelly M N (appointed 31/12/15)
Hine M (appointed 01/03/16)
Randell A
Rebeck M A (appointed 01/03/16)

Riverland NRM Group
Arnold M
Hewett B W
Lescheid E
Meissner A P
Piltz W A
Stokes K J
ter Bogt T M
Remuneration of Board, Group and Committee members and related party disclosures  
(continued)

The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Number of Members</th>
<th>2015 Number of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 - $9,999</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 - $19,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$110,000 - $119,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of board, group and committee members</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing Board, Group and Committee member duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits, and any fringe benefits tax paid or payable in respect of those benefits. The total remuneration received or receivable by members was $207,000 (2015: $165,000).

For the purposes of this table, travel allowances, other out-of-pocket expenses paid to members, and employment on-costs have not been included as remuneration as it is considered to be reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses incurred by relevant members, or form other costs of employment. These expenses amount to $121,000 (2015: $78,000).

* In accordance with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet’s Circular Number PC016 Remuneration for Government Appointment Part Time Boards and Committees, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board/committee duties during the financial year.

Unless otherwise disclosed, transactions between members and the Board are on conditions no more favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the Board would have adopted if dealing with the related party at arm’s length in the same circumstances.

**Related party disclosures**

During the year transactions were entered into where members had either a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. Payments made are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Related Party</th>
<th>Value of transactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 '000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanja P Morgan</td>
<td>Tanja Morgan Project Services</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Wickes</td>
<td>Roger Wickes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicity Turner</td>
<td>Felicity Turner</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bradman</td>
<td>Tom Bradman</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21 Financial risk management/financial instruments

Financial risk management

Risk management is managed by the Board’s corporate services section and Board risk management policies are in accordance with the Risk Management Policy Statement issued by the Premier and Treasurer and the principles established in the Australian Standard Risk Management Principles and Guidelines.

The Board’s exposure to financial risk (liquidity, credit and market) is insignificant based on past experience and current assessment of risk.

The Board is funded principally from Regional NRM and water levies and contributions from Commonwealth government and State government agencies toward various activities of the Board.

There have been no changes in risk exposure since the last reporting.

Categorisation of financial instruments

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in note 2.

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and liabilities: receivables and payables measured at cost are detailed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial assets</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016 Carrying amount / Fair value $'000</th>
<th>2015 Carrying amount / Fair value $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4 450</td>
<td>15 550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>1 688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total financial assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 562</td>
<td>17 238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 171</td>
<td>2 346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total financial liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 171</td>
<td>2 346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Receivable and payable amounts disclosed here exclude amounts relating to statutory receivables and payables (e.g. Commonwealth, State and Local Government taxes, fees and charges; Auditor-General’s Department audit fees). In government, certain rights to receive or pay cash may not be contractual and therefore in these situations, the requirements will not apply. Where rights or obligations have their source in legislation such as levies, tax and equivalents etc they would be excluded from the disclosure. The standard defines contract as enforceable by law. All amounts recorded are carried at cost (not materially different from amortised cost).

(2) Receivables amount disclosed here excludes prepayments. Prepayments are presented in note 14 as prepaid supplies and services in accordance with paragraph 78(b) of AASB 101. However, prepayments are not financial assets as defined in AASB 132 as the future economic benefit of these assets is the receipt of goods and services rather than the right to receive cash or another financial asset.

22 Events after the reporting period

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that have material financial implications on these financial statements.