



## Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board

### Meeting No. 41

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
Venue: Tiffins on the Park, Adelaide

#### Statement of Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today.  
We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal people to country.  
We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending  
from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here today.*

In Attendance:	
<b>Board Members</b>	Parry Agius (Presiding Member), Mima Smart, Brian Queama, Sydney Chamberlain, Michael Haynes, Gary Lewis, Rose Lester
<b>AW NRM Staff</b>	Matthew Ward (Regional Manager), Neil Collins (Manager, Sustainability, Planning & Reporting), Bruce Macpherson (Manager, Community Engagement), Thuy Phan (Manager, Regional Partnerships & Business Development), Sue Agars (Executive Officer)
<b>SA Govt. Rep's</b>	Nil
<b>Guests</b>	Paul Francis (Cwth Govt.), Shaun McCarthy (APY), Rex Tjami (APY), Andy Dale (APY), Bernard Singer (APY)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gavin Peel (Interpreter), Richard Preece (MT General Manager), Greg Franks (CEO Yalata)

Pre-Meeting In-camera Discussion
9.50am The Board Members met for preliminary discussions prior to meeting opening.
1. Welcome and Apologies
<p><b>Day 1 – Meeting opened at 10.30am</b></p> <p>AW NRM Chair, Parry Agius welcomed the Board, AW staff and guests to the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Natural Resources Management Board (the Board).</p> <p>Mr Agius requested items for discussion from the Board members. Rose Lester requested items be added to the financial report session (including discussion and clarification on sitting fees), and update from the Regional Manager on request made to CE for a separate bank account, and FWC election results.</p> <p>Apologies were reviewed and noted as above.</p> <p>Mr Agius declared the meeting open and acknowledged the area's traditional Aboriginal custodians.</p>

## 2. Adoption of Agenda and Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Agenda for Meeting 41 was adopted with the following additions:

- No conditions

There were no declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

- No Conflict of Interest declared

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr Agius worked through the minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board, held in Ceduna on 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

***Move to adopt the Minutes of AW NRM Board Meeting 40, held 29-30 October, 2013 without further amendment.***

***Moved: Gary Lewis  
Seconded: Sydney Chamberlain***

Rose Lester requested notation that she had not reviewed Minutes in their entirety.

## 4. Review of AW NRM Board Meeting Action Sheet

The Regional Manager provided an overview of the new format for AW NRM Board Meeting Action Sheet. Actions were reviewed by all Board members with Actions Arising noted as follows:

### Board Actions

**Action Arising:** Regional Manager to write to the Minister for Primary Industries re: sitting fees to be paid to Aboriginal Representative on the Buffel Grass Task Force (from completed Item 62).

### Country Actions

**Action Arising:** Write to relevant Ministers issuing exploration licences for the Great Australian Marine Park with copy to Ministers Hunt and Scullion (from completed Item 71).

**Action Arising/Ongoing:** Extend Invitation to Andrew Collett (or most appropriate person) and MT Chairperson for discussion on rehabilitation of Maralinga / Uranium issues. To be added to Agenda during session for Maralinga for next AW Meeting (Item 42).

### People Actions

No actions arising.

### Water Actions

No actions arising.

### Long Term Actions

No actions arising.

## 5. Board Report - Presiding Member

*Parry Agius (Presiding Member AW NRM Board)*

AW Chair Parry Agius provided the Board with an overview of activities conducted since the last AW NRM Board Meeting, (held 29-30 October, 2013) as follows:

### **Representation**

Mr Agius advised he had attended:

- Indigenous Economic Forum hosted by Warren Mundeen
- SA NRM Conference
- Consent Determination for FWC Traditional Lands Association

## Strategic and Policy Positioning

Mr Agius advised he had:

- Travelled to Canberra with Regional Manager Matthew Ward to deliver *show and tell* about the capabilities of the AW NRM Board and the AW NRM Region
- Attended Feral Animal and Carbon Planting Workshop in Adelaide
- Met with Basil Coleman to discuss FWC agreement

## Governance

Mr Agius advised he had:

- Met with Regional Manager NR AW on numerous occasions for updates on new Government directions.

## Broader State NRM delivery

Mr Agius advised he had:

- Developed a presentation '*Aboriginal Participation in Natural Resources Management*' and presented at the Presiding Members Forum on 21 November, 2013.

Mick Haynes raised query of sustained and strengthened partnerships. Discussion amongst the Board members.

**Action:** Letter to be written to Warren Mundine (Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council) re: positioning with AW Policies in partnership.

## 6. Manager Report – Regional Manager

*Matthew Ward (Regional Manager, Natural Resources AW)*

### Performance to Schedule 5

Regional Manager Matthew Ward provided Board members with an overview of handouts, which included; Progress Towards Schedule 5, and the Priority and Performance Matrix.

Key Points of Regional Managers Report:

- A trip to Canberra with the Presiding Member was arranged to discuss new Australian Govt. Programs and directions. CfoC is now to be called 'Australian Landcare', with new programs to include 20 Million Trees, and the Green Army. Discussion by the Board Members in relation to the adaptation of programs for the rangelands. Pamphlet developed and provided demonstrating AW governance and partnerships.
- Meetings were conducted with the SA team for Department of Environment, Sean Sullivan (Director for Department of Environment), Indigenous Policy Branch, Bio-Security and Threatened Species Branch, and advisor for Minister Hunt, Sarah Meredith.
- A draft promise document '*Palya Kalkuni*' has been developed between AW and Yalata and a copy was tabled for review and discussion during the Yalata session.
- An overview of the workforce review for AW was provided, with advice provided to the Board that new staff who have commenced include: Fire Officer (Ceduna), Landscape Ecologist, and Buffel Grass Coordinator (Ceduna).
- An overview was provided of current DEWNR issues, including Strategic Business Review; Water Planning Steering Committee; Reconciliation, Co-management and Aboriginal Engagements.
- Based on training received, a document '*Palya Kalkuni*' has been developed as a governance agreement between the AW NRM Board and AW staff. The document was tabled for review and discussion during the Manager, Regional and Business Partnerships session.
- The upcoming state election (to be held in March 2014) may impact upon the business and activity of AW NRM.

**Move to accept the Presiding Member and Regional Manager Reports**

**Moved: Mick Haynes  
Seconded: Sydney Chamberlain**

## 7. Board Correspondence

The list of AW Board correspondence was reviewed by the members with the following noted for discussion:

- Mick Haynes queried *Native Vegetation (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2013* in relation to non-indigenous persons capitalising on native species.

Regional Manager Matthew Ward provided an overview of the changes, followed by general discussion on this issue. The Board members requested a briefing be provided on the amendments, in relation to native species being used for commercial purposes.

**Action:** Matthew Ward to provide briefing to AW Board on amendments to the *Native Vegetation (Miscellaneous) Act 2013*, in relation to native species being used for commercial purposes

## 8. Manager Report - Regional and Business Partnerships

*Thuy Phan (Manager, Regional and Business Partnerships)*

### Finance Report

Thuy Phan, Manager, Regional and Business Partnerships provided the Board with an overview of the AW NRM financial reports as follows:

- AW Board Financial Report (as at November 2013)
- Monthly Report of the Board State NRM Fund
- Summary Report of the Board's Income and Expenditure
- Summary of the board's income sources for 2013-14
- DEWNR Financial Reporting Format

Thuy advised the Board of the following key points:

- Income Actual and Budget - half of the expected amount has been received, with the other half to be paid early January 2014. CfoC – have only received first payment of \$300k with the remaining half to be paid in July 2014.
- Expenses - reviewed in relation to Board activity ie. Increase in expenses related to more Board members, and training requirements. It is possible that Board expenses will increase in accordance with anticipated increase in activity.

Mick Haynes queried non-Board expenses (Shared Services estimate). Thuy explained that the process for Shared Services fees is based on Board activity. Shared Services send a notice of costs for the Board once per year. Mick Haynes requested a quarterly update on estimate of costs for the Board review.

Mick Haynes queried Water Plan expenses. Thuy advised invoice received for Paul Dalby's services to the Water Plan. Regional Manager Matthew Ward advised the proposed Budget Plan for 13-14 had \$60k which reflected a significant improvement. It was observed by Mick Haynes that there may be some risk associated with not showing anticipated higher costs. Matthew advised there was an expected spike in expenses later in the year, but agreed some risk associated with current reporting format.

### Project Finances

Thuy Phan advised there was minimal activity in Project Finances as a result of small income from Cwlth Govt. (due to incompleteness of the MERI Plan). State funding is also covering projects at this time due to Cwlth funding being later than expected. Income v Expenditure for Project commitments reviewed and discussed by the Board.

Regional Manager Matthew Ward queried the representation of pie-charts and it was agreed that another colour (yellow) should be incorporated to show 100% pie representation. Matthew enquired with the Board

their preferred style of financial reporting ie. detail provided by DEWNR, and/or graphs and charts as supplied by Thuy Phan. It was agreed by members of the Board that their preference was for the reports as supplied by Thuy.

Matthew Ward thanked Thuy Phan for the provision of reports reviewed, with further suggestion that an additional pie chart to be added to show total expenditure from income.

Matthew Ward advised that the DEWNR Corporate Services, Level of Services was yet to be supplied for official comment by the Board.

AW Chair Parry Agius queried any expected salary savings for the Board. Thuy Phan advised that by end of January 2014 all expected costs should be available to view. The Chair requested expected costs to be submitted prior to January 2014 in order to make budgetary decisions.

**Action: Manager, Regional and Business Partnerships to provide report on projected expenditure in relation to salary savings by next Audit & Risk Meeting.**

Thuy Phan advised she would be on leave over the Christmas period and Parry Agius requested AW Staff advise the Board of leave requirements as this affects the function of the Board.

Regional Manager Matthew Ward advised that Ceduna NRC would be officially closed over the period, however skeleton staff would be present to ensure continuation of service delivery.

***Move to accept Financial Reports as supplied by Manager, Regional & Business Partnerships.***

***Moved: Mick Haynes  
Seconded: Rose Lester***

#### **Governance (Board Procedures) Agreement between AW NRM Board and Natural Resources AW**

*Matthew Ward (Regional Manager, Natural Resources AW)*

*Draft Agreement tabled for review and discussion*

Regional Manager Matthew Ward advised the Board that Thuy Phan and Helen Donald had developed a document `Palya Kalkuni' based on training received at AW Board member Training Session held 10/12/13. Matthew presented the draft Agreement to the Board and outlined the aims of the Agreement, in relation to Board and AW Staff responsibilities.

The Chair requested Board members give consideration to previous issues experienced with late payment for Board member sitting fees.

Thuy Phan advised the current process of Board meeting and payment schedules, and advised the aim of setting the next 6 months of meeting dates for 2014. Thuy Phan displayed a calendar of dates indicating pay days and cut off dates.

Key issues discussed included:

- Matthew Ward advised that instruction from Minister was to close accounts, and all payments for sitting fees are to be processed through Shared Services. The Chair queried how best to make a statement to the Minister to request change to this process and requested Board members consider alternatives to proposed system of payment. Matthew Ward suggested a direction from the Minister to CE would be required to adopt any alternative to the current method of payment.
- Thuy Phan advised that SA Arid Lands had experienced similar issues however all other Boards were now utilising Shared Services successfully.
- Rose Lester advised she did not accept the process and schedule of payments.

Discussion by the Board resulted in the following conditions and amendments to the Agreement:

- The set up of government email for each Board member, with authorised AW staff (Sue Agars, and Thuy Phan) to access and contact members with advise of payments made to accounts
- The demonstrated example in the Agreement to be labelled as `Example Only' to be clear

- The term 'travel allowance' includes fuel and meals for travel  
Meal Allowance
- Daily rate for meals to be indicated on the Agreement
- Clarification required on what is 'travel allowance' and what is 'meal allowance'
- Add clarification that accommodation will be arranged up to 3 weeks prior for members who travel to the meeting

**Action:** Thuy Phan to amend wording to Governance Agreement between the AW NRM Board and Natural Resources AW as indicated.

The Chair suggested the Board write to the Minister to request an alternative solution to untimely payments to Board members, however adopt the proposed payment schedule for the immediate future.

**Move to accept the Agreement between the AW NRM Board and Natural Resources AW staff, subject to changes as indicated.**

**Moved: Sydney Chamberlain**  
**Seconded: Gary Lewis**

AW Chair, Parry Agius requested amendments to the Agreement brochure, being a different colour to be used, and different sandhill picture.

**Action:** Helen Donald to amend colour / image on Palya Kalkuni brochure (AW Board and AW Staff Agreement).

## 9. Regional Session – APY Lands

*Session Chair Rosemary Lester*

**Guests:** Sean McCarthy, Rex Tjami, Andy Dale, and Bernard Singer (APY).

AW Chair Parry Agius extended a warm welcome to APY guests. Members of the AW NRM Board provided introductions, followed by APY members, AW NRM Managers and staff.

*The Chair handed over the session to Rose Lester*

Rose welcomed APY members present, and opened the session for discussion. Acknowledgement was provided to the traditional custodians by Bernard Singer.

Sean McCarthy provided an overview of his role within APY, followed by general discussion on the roles of key personnel and NRM activities currently being conducted in APY.

Key issues discussed included:

- AW NRM Board wishes to create an Agreement or MoU between AW and APY. Rose provided a copy of "Palya Kalkuni" (promise document) which has been developed with Yalata, and as provision of an example of what may be achievable between AW and APY. Regional Manager Matthew Ward provided an overview of the document and its function in identifying shared outcomes.
- Mick Haynes stated there had been issues in the past of Government drafted MoU's which appeared to be of no purpose. Mick stated his wish to develop a MoU of real meaning and intent.

*Rose Lester opened discussion regarding the Pastoral Program for Andy Dale (APY)*

### **Pastoral Program**

Andy Dale (APY) provided the Board with an overview of the APY Pastoral Program with key points discussed as follows:

- Pastoral Program was a collaboration between APY and AW. Andy advised that although no formal agreement exists between AW and APY, there is however a good level of engagement. A better documented approach may be explored as a vehicle to sustainable landcare issues in APY.

- Developments have been made in a holistic approach in land management in APY examining deficiencies, and obtaining funding. To date, funding has been obtained through technical support and culturally based economy.
- Past interests in APY lands have not necessarily reflected the interests of indigenous persons. CfoC support has allowed engagement of Aboriginal persons to identify possibilities in development.
- Balance between sustainable agriculture and maintaining the environment is essential. Establishment of grazing monitoring impact points were put in place in 2005, and voluntary assessment was submitted by the Pastoral Board resulting in positive comment. Livestock and community water utilisation has also been examined.
- Improved access to training is creating a greater skills base.
- Feral animal management concepts are being explored, in relation to Anangu and their cultural requirements. For example, donkeys were recently sent to Queensland to protect sheep from wild dogs. This resulted in economic benefit for Anangu. Rose Lester requested a report on these activities for further examination.

AW Chair, Parry Agius queried NRM outcomes and Andy Dale provided background to reasons and expected outcomes– to rid feral animals and their impact from Mt John area, and then use area for pastoral projects.

- A Training Workshop had been held prior to mustering of camels, which provided participants with up-skilling. Enquiries are being made with the NT Cattlemen's Association so that on-farm training can be conducted in the future
- Andy suggested current issue in relation to retention of data management resulting from turnover of personnel. Rose Lester suggested that further discussions occur with APY in relation to data management and facilities on APY lands.

**Action: Manager, Sustainability, Planning & Reporting to commence discussions with APY in relation to NRM data sharing and management practices.**

*Rose Lester opened the session to questions from the Board.*

Mick Haynes:

- Query re: current status of Athel Pine.

Andy Dale advised this was an invasive species and technical advice has been received in relation to its eradication. Similarly with Prickly Pear, and Neil Collins provided an overview of where these species were located, and the requirements to eradicate.

Rose Lester:

- Query re: APY Land Management and Pastoral Program, and how many Anangu were working within the projects.

Sean McCarthy advised that currently there are two indigenous employees employed full time, with a number of other non-indigenous persons being employed on a part time basis. Sean offered to provide a report to AW Board members, stating that while the Pastoral Program was still in its infancy, they were working towards the transfer of decisions to Anangu, and better outcomes and opportunities to engage local individuals.

- Query re: feedback from Anangu in relation to the Water Plan, following discussion around AW's requirements for the Water Plan.

Sean McCarthy advised he would be happy to be briefed on Water Plan by AW.

Andy Dale advised that Community members had requested further information on what the implications may be on the application of a Water Plan. Neil Collins provided an overview of what the requirements may be for Community members. Andy Dale advised that community members would want to consider a number of issues prior to adoption of a water plan.

**Action: Regional Manager to provide Sean McCarthy (APY) with briefing on current AW Water Plan.**

Parry Agius :

- Query re: how to increase Anangu responsibility for areas of land and NRM projects, and procurement. Parry requested the APY members provide some thought to possible ways to achieve this. For further discussion at a later date.

### **RMT Report – APY Lands**

*Neil Collins (Manager, Sustainability, Planning & Reporting)*

Neil provided a presentation and overview on current APY projects and funding. Key areas AW are currently considering include:

- Kanpi Nyapari Community Project
- Large Feral Herbivores
- Pastoral Management
- NRM Data Support and working with APY Land Management.

### EMU Project

Neil advised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of EMU has commenced. An Anthropologist will be sent into the lands to determine who speaks for country, then the EMU process which analyses areas, programs and requirements of community people will commence.

Gary Lewis queried if AW could have office in areas of programs being run for information to stay on lands. Neil advised that if traditional owners were happy with this concept then this could occur.

### Large Feral Herbivores

Neil advised that there was a major consultation for large feral herbivores undertaken across 7 of the communities during November 2013. The key messages from the consultation were:

- Plan to go back to communities
- Start working with partners to implement programs
- EMU process looking to continue
- Mt John area (fencing) to progress

### **Program Report**

Neil Collins advised the Board that Schedule 5 had been updated with all developments to date, and key points were discussed as follows:

- A map was displayed indicating funding of program areas and possibilities of corridor funding - CfoC base funding, CfoC competitive funding (coastal program).
- Maralinga Lands and most of Yalata (apart from coastal areas) were included in the base funding with programs funded by Landcare Australia, or 5 yr funding. Funding from Indigenous Carbon Farming has been received, as has funding from the state for the Buffel Grass project.
- Neil Collins advised the MERI plan has been developed for the 4 areas of funding. Background to the requirement of MERI reports was explained in relation to targets and outcomes. Plans have been submitted with results pending.
- Neil advised that he had attended the SA Landcare Conference 6-7 November, along with Nathan Williams (Ceduna Project Officer), Walter Tjami (APY) Jessica Koncz (AW NRM Administration Support Officer). Nathan also attended the National Landcare Conference in Queensland. Funding for the next National Landcare Conference is being sought from Federal Govt. and AW NRM are hoping to add an indigenous session to the Agenda.

AW Chair, Parry Agius queried the length of projects when new grants and projects are received re: long term gains. AW appear to be demonstrating many short term projects but not long term. Parry requested the Board members and AW staff give consideration to presenting and promoting short and long term projects in a NRM sense (5, 10 and 12 years).

AW Chair Parry Agius thanked Neil for his update, and handed the session to Manager Community Engagement, Bruce Macpherson.

## Presentation

*Bruce Macpherson (Manager, Community Engagement)*

Bruce provided a presentation and update on the following projects:

- Davey's Bore - Bruce reported that this was a 2 year ongoing project and a \$30,000 grant had been received to commence working on NRM with the community. The project was decided upon by local council for young Aboriginals, and the Policeman's soak area decided upon. While the NRM project had limited success, it was however an outstanding project for the community.

Rose Lester provided congratulations on results achieved to date for the project, and Sean McCarthy agreed the quality of the work was good, as was the time and support given to those employed in the project. Andy Dale concluded that training and involving local people was of utmost importance

- Dreamweaver – the Dreamweaver site has been decided for this Women's Project. A grant for \$30,000 was funded in June 2012, and involvement with individuals has ensured good cultural grounding for project. 3 stages to the project include; restoration of yards and construction of Spear Gates, construction of Horse paddock and protection of sensitive sites, and diversion fence around Mt John.

Extensive work and consultation has occurred, with Walter Tjami's mapping work proving crucial. On ground work is in partnership with Skill Hire with Nationally recognised assessment and recognition provided to participants.

Next year, new individuals from Indulkana have been identified for inclusion in the holding paddock project. Training records will be held through TAFE, with the suggestion that APY request Training Records be held centrally for ease of location in future.

Parry Agius suggested cultural protection and the reflection of 'one message' from APY and AW would be an advantage so that same message is reflected by both areas.

Mick Haynes advised he agreed definition was required as to AW, Skillhire, and APY, and their levels of involvement, but with AW to lead.

Discussion around employment and training opportunities, and co-management agreements. Messages being delivered should emphasise AW involvement, with reports indicating levels of involvement.

Gary Lewis advised care should be taken by AW staff putting together agreed level of involvement.

Rose Lester queried Community Action Plan for Indulkana.

**Action: Manager, Community Engagement to obtain Community Action Plans for all communities relevant to AW and provide to the Board.**

Rose Lester thanked APY members for attending the AW NRM Board Meeting, and advised the AW Board were looking forward to future meetings and discussions. April 2014 was suggested as being a possible date to meet on APY lands.

Sean McCarthy thanked AW for their interaction and advised he thought relationship was positive with many achievements being made to date. Visions and strategies for the future being sorted out for APY and future engagement was welcomed.

Regional Manager, Matthew Ward advised the capacity of AW Board in relation to delivery of programs in Natural Resource Management, and stressed AW were seeking to work in partnership with APY. A hard copy and overview of the AW Board Performance Measure Matrix was provided to APY members for their review.

Andy Dale thanked AW for their collaboration and assistance with provision of documents and information.

**Day 1 Meeting Close 5.00pm**

**AW NRM Board Meeting 41**  
**Day 2 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Day 2 Meeting Opened 9.30am**

AW Chair Parry Agius welcomed Board members and AW staff to Day 2 of the AW NRM Board Meeting 41.

Regional Manager, Matthew Ward advised that the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, and Conservation, Ian Hunter (MLC) would be attending the Board luncheon on this day, as an opportunity to meet with members for informal discussions.

Parry Agius suggested the issue on the payment schedule for Board member sitting fees could be raised with the Minister, and requested the Board provide consideration to issues they would like raised with the Minister.

Following discussion, it was decided by the Board members that:

**Questions to Minister Hunter** would include:

1. How does the Minister think we are performing as a Board?
2. Implications of FWC Consent Determination for the Board?
3. What are emerging issues for 2014 for the Board?
4. What 2 projects do you think the Board could focus on for 2014?
5. Can you give us an update on the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act?
6. Can the Minister think about a new process for payment of the AW Board Sitting Fees?

**2013 AW NRM Board achievements** to be communicated to the Minister would include:

- Strong Governance Agreement
- Almost full Board with new representation from APY and FWC
- Yalata MOU (Promise)
- Meetings held in Ceduna
- NRM taking lead in other business
- Water Plan
- Adelaide University conducting Climate Change research for Regional NRM Plan
- Relationships with Canberra
- Received 5 year Australian Government funding plan
- Delivery through Partnerships and Contracting LHA
- Mamungari Co-management Board back up and running
- Natural Resources Centre in Ceduna
- Relationship with DEWNR

**10. RMT Report – APY Lands (Programs Progress Update)**

(see item 9 above – incorporated into APY Regional Session)

**11. AW NRM Board Business Plan 2014-17**

*Thuy Phan (Manager Regional and Business Partnerships), and  
Neil Collins (Manager Sustainable Landscapes, Planning & Evaluation)*

Neil Collins advised the AW NRM Board, that following changes to legislation, changes to the Business Plan are no longer required every year. The Annual implementation plan may be amended every 3 years with consultation and submission to the Minister.

Key points discussed were as follows:

- The AW NRM Business Plan has recently been amended due to pending election (in 2014), and must be submitted before 'care-taker process' commences.

- If the Business Plan is approved it will remain current for a period of 3 years.
- Minor amendments to the plan include spreading the funding out over the time. Regional Manager Matthew Ward referred the Board to Table 2 (which is essentially the performance measure / Schedule 5).

**Action: The Audit and Risk Committee to review comments received from consultation with the community on behalf of the AW NRM Board, prior to submission to the Minister.**

AW Chair Parry Agius queried if the Board would be advised when priorities had been achieved, and suggested that when complete they should be replaced with new priorities. It was explained by Neil that complete items would not require reporting on, and it was recommended that an achievement report would be required in this circumstance.

Mick Haynes queried if FW Aboriginal Corporation should be added to the Business Plan now that Consent Determination has occurred, and advised the update is required to be as accurate and relevant as possible.

Parry requested that original plan should also reflect recent amendments to the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

**Action: Amendments to the AW NRM Board Business Plan 2014-17 to include FW Aboriginal Corporation, and incorporate amendments to the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004***

***Move to release the AW NRM Board Business Plan 2014-17 for community consultation with amendments as indicated above.***

***Moved: Mima Smart  
Seconded: Brian Queama***

## **12. Briefing by Commonwealth Government Representative**

*Paul Francis (Cwlth Govt.)*

AW Chair Parry Agius welcomed Paul Francis and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Paul provided the following update:

- The trip to Canberra was considered successful.
- New programs - Paul advised that AW utilisation will not be possible. A public showing will be announced and how programs are best utilised, following the Christmas break.
- Regions base-line funding and competitive projects are progressing well, with two projects in process of being signed off (MERI and Bio-diversity). Finalisation will occur prior to Christmas with an aim to gain funding as soon as possible.
- MERIT (Online Reporting Tool) will go live next week, with an overview of baseline funding and projects able to be viewed. Further discussion on the capabilities of this reporting system will occur after implementation.

Mick Haynes queried IEP and its current standing. Paul was unable to provide any update at this stage.

- RJCP program – Paul advised he was unsure what the linkages with NRM would be, stating there should be a stronger link, but the delivery mechanism has been removed, and he was unsure of future directions.

Mick Haynes queried if more Aboriginal people had been disengaged from the RJCP rollout.

Regional Manager, Matthew Ward provided an overview of Governmental structure and movement for benefit of Board members. Paul advised that Bruce Hammond or his manager would be best to contact for any queries, due to transfer of staff and program.

Regional Manager Matthew Ward thanked Paul Francis for providing assistance with the trip to Canberra, and stated he thought it had been successful in raising the iconic status of region.

Key stakeholders will meet in next 6-12 months to discuss future directions. Paul stressed a 5 year vision for the future will be required as locked in to program.

### 13. Paper – AW NRM Board Authorised Attendees

Regional Manager, Matthew Ward tabled a paper in relation to Authorised Attendees at Board Members, with the recommendation to maintain two authorised attendees at meetings.

Discussion followed in relation to the necessity for authorised attendees, with AW Chair Parry Agius suggesting attendance should be based on selection by theme or on a needs basis.

**Action:** AW Board members to consider guests for future meetings.

**Action:** Regional Manager Matthew Ward to develop a paper on potential board meeting attendees and suggestions of names from which regular or one-off updates can be obtained.

### 14. Board Relationships with other Government Agencies

Not discussed. Deferred to next meeting.

### 15. Regional Session: Yalata

*Session Chair Mima Smart*

After opening the session, Mima Smart handed over to *Manager, Community Engagement, Bruce Macpherson*

Bruce advised the following key points:

- Yalata was currently in a `state of play'. It was last reported that AW attended a service consultation meeting in Ceduna in mid-late November 2013, and AW NRM was pleased to be identified as the Agency to follow.
- Email has been received from Yalata indicating a meeting is to occur on 17 February, 2014 with a view to meeting with the Board and Yalata Council on 18/2/13. Detailed contracts should be available for consideration at the next AW Board meeting.
- The MOU process between AW NRM and Yalata is almost complete and ready for signing. Greg Franks has approved and Regional Manager Matthew Ward advised there was a need to decide on the method of signing off on the agreement.
- Bruce advised the new Yalata Council has formed with Mima Smart elected as Chairperson. Contracts to be finalised in the new year, and congratulations to Mima.
- Workplace Safety guidelines have been implemented in Yalata Community following the Workplace Safety Training Course which was run in April 2013.
- A partnership was formed in September 2013 with Complete Personnel to deliver new RJCP objectives.
- Current projects for Yalata include, Mulloway tagging and shorebird surveys

*The Yalata session was closed by session Chair Mima Smart.*

### 16. Regional Session: Maralinga Tjarutja

*Session Chair Brian Queama*

After opening the session, the Chair Brian Queama handed over to *Manager, Community Engagement, Bruce Macpherson*

Bruce advised the following key points:

- AW NRM are currently in a far stronger situation with MT. New manager Richard Preece is very supportive of land management, with Nathan Williams and Bruce to meet with new management and discuss a list of projects to be developed. Standing item now on MT Agenda with aim to getting projects happening in Oak Valley. Funding has been received specifically for that region.
- Although the day to day running is unclear at this time there was a possibility of the former Land Manager returning to implement projects. It was suggested by Bruce we require a supervisor working for at least 8 months.

Mima advised with new people entering community, the flow of work was being interrupted, and there was a requirement for new people to follow the direction of local people.

Rose Lester reiterated importance of communicating with traditional land owners, in relation to Oak Valley, and consideration to be given to local community concerns.

Regional Manager, Matthew Ward brought to attention of the Board a letter from Nerida Saunders which was discussed by the members. Response states NRM and the connection to country is central to the Act. Nerida indicated strong alignment between MT and AW and with a willingness to work together, indicating she was confident Richard Preece would assist in co-ordinating the delivery of services as required.

Following discussion by the Board, it was proposed that a meeting be conducted between Parry Agius, Richard Preece, Nerida Saunders and Leanne Little to discuss the delivery of services through mutually agreed outcomes by MT and AW.

**Action: Regional Manager to arrange meeting between Parry Agius, Richard Preece, Nerida Saunders, and Leanne Little re: delivery of services through mutually agreed outcomes by MT and AW.**

*The Maralinga Tjarutja session was closed by session Chair Brian Queama.*

## 17. Regional Session: Far West Coast

*Session Chair Michael Haynes*

After opening the session, the Chair Michael Haynes handed over to Regional Manager, Matthew Ward.

The Regional Managers Report was reviewed and discussed as follows:

- **Far West Coast Public Lands**

Consent Determination was made for FWC Traditional Lands Association, and Co-Management Agreements were agreed upon re: Nullarbor and Yumburra. Congratulations to Yalata building and maintenance crew for works conducted during the restoration of Koonalda hut.

- **Mamungari Conservation Park**

The Mamungari Board, held their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting during November 2013. Board members agreed to the commencement of Executive Officer Anne Baird in Oak Valley, with support to be provided by AW EO. Governance Training was also conducted as part of the meeting, and a works program was agreed upon by members.

- **Sandhill Dunnart Project**

Matthew provided a background and overview of Sandhill Dunnart project for the benefit of the new AW NRM Board members. A review of the program is due in February 2014. Discussion led to role of the newly appointed Fire Management Officer, Graeme Armstrong, to assist with protecting special areas inhabited by the Sandhill Dunnart.

*Paper Tabled Without Notice, Regional Manager, Matthew Ward*

An update was provided to the Board on Co-Management of FWC, and overview of FWC Consent Determination, leading to discussion on possible implications.

The Co-management Agreement includes:

- Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee (Tier 1)
- Yumburra Co-Management Board (Tier 2), which also has an advisory role over all other parks in the region.

A funding agreement has been received from Treasury for the administration of the Boards and Committees, management, and park management, which is to be administered by DEWNR and managed by the Boards.

Matthew recommended the AW Board members note the implications of possible issues for the Board which may include avoiding duplication of activities in the regions, and ensuring things are done properly.

AW Chair Parry Agius raised discussion and demonstrated a strategy for building relationships with FWC. It was suggested that a leadership group would be required to drive this aspect, and a workshop may be held in Ceduna to identify issues before implementing the relationship. Members of the Board agreed to the structure

as provided, and further discussion around how other Boards conduct their business in relation to co-management agreements.

It was requested by the Chair that Board members provide consideration to possible inclusions for a MoU with FWC in the future.

**Action: invite FWC to attend meeting in Ceduna in February 2014 for Co-Management discussions.**

Session Chair Michael Haynes requested the Board note the paper provided by Regional Manager, and briefing paper on FWC and public lands.

*The Far West Coast session was closed by session Chair Michael Haynes.*

#### 18. Annual Anniversary Apology Breakfast

Not discussed. Deferred to next meeting.

#### 19. Communications: Key Messages from Meeting

##### Key Messages from AW NRM Board Meeting 41:

- Yalata promise document 'Palya Kalkuni'
- Meeting with Minister with discussion on what AW NRM should be focusing on – water, engagement with local communities, strong relationship with FWC
- Update from NRM Council, ASAC and Aboriginal Engagement
- Meeting with APY Chair, Director and General Manager, with discussions on future directions
- Overview of proposed programs for Oak Valley and APY
- Approval of Business Plan 2014-17 now for public consultation
- Promise Agreement between AW NRM Board and AW staff
- Canberra meeting
- AW Board present at handover of FWC Native Title following Consent Determination
- 4 out of 6 Training Sessions now completed by the Board

#### 20. Other Business

No other business for discussion.

#### 21. Next Board Meeting

General discussion occurred around the Meeting Dates for 2014. It was flagged by the Regional Manager that the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February would be unavailable as a meeting date, conflicting with executive appointments.

- The next AW NRM Board meeting will be held:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 in Ceduna (amended)**

- Agenda items for the forthcoming meeting due to EO Sue Agars:

**By close of business, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

#### Meeting Close

There being no further business to discuss, AW Chair Parry Agius provided thanks to AW Staff and Regional Team for supporting the AW Board with meeting requirements, and declared the meeting closed at: 3.30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

**Draft Minutes reviewed by Presiding Member:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

**Date:**

**4 / 12 /2013**