



**Minutes of Meeting 142 held at 10:00 am on Friday 27 April 2018
Board Room, 35 Dauncey Street, Kingscote
Meeting 142**

1. Meeting Preliminaries

1.1 Presiding Member's welcome

The Presiding Member welcomed Annette Florance, new NRM Board member, to the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management (KI NRM) Board.

Present

R Trethewey (Presiding Member), P Rismiller, J Taylor, D Welford (by phone) and A Florance.

In Attendance

N Putland (KI Council), C Croser-Barlow (Department for Environment and Water (DEW)), L Dohle (Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), M Greig (A/Regional Director), P Holden (Manager Strategy and Engagement) L Barnett (A/Manager Science and Program Planning) and R Mussared (NRM Support Officer).

1.2 Apologies

K Stove, J Stanton, C Wickham, P Clements, D Miley (Regional Director), R Ellis (Manager Parks and Sustainable Landscapes), J Hughes (Manager Business Support) and M Kinloch (Manager Science and Program Planning).

R Molsher joined the meeting at 10:10 am.

1.3 Declaration of interest

No interests were declared.

1.4 Acceptance of agenda and consent schedule

Motion 1.4

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

141/5.3 Biosecurity Advisory Committee Minutes: Development of a 10 year weed research and development plan

Refer to item below in the draft Biosecurity Advisory Committee minutes.

141/5.3 Biosecurity Advisory Committee Minutes: Development of biocontrol agent for bridal veil

Refer to item below in the draft Biosecurity Advisory Committee minutes.

The administration will verbally contact the consultants contracted by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) seeking clarity and to discuss realistic outcomes before the Board writes to them to:

- lobby for research to develop a biocontrol agent for bridal veil
- include a biocontrol agent for bridal veil in the draft plan being developed by these consultants
- offer the opportunity for any field trials to be based on Kangaroo Island.

Biosecurity SA has advised the National Weeds Research Development and Extension Investment Plan Consultation Paper will be sent out through CISS by mid-May and they will ensure that all SA regions receive this.

141/5.3 Biosecurity Advisory Committee Minutes: Development of biocontrol agent for bridal veil

The administration has contacted the Goolwa-based Regional Manager for the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority to discuss how green waste is processed into pasteurised mulch (compost) at the KI Resource Recovery Centre.

The green waste is ground up in a large industrial tub grinder and then rowed up, watered, turned, watered and turned again etc. The temperature of the heap is regularly monitored with an aim to keep it between 55–70° C. Depending on the weather conditions, this process continues for four to six weeks until sufficiently processed. This destroys reproductive weed fragments, although a 100% guarantee cannot be given. This process is used by many other council authorities across SA and interstate.

141/7.1 Finance And Audit Committee Minutes: State allocation for KI NRM Board

A letter from R Trethewey has been sent to Minister Spiers congratulating him on his recent appointment and informing him of the importance of the state allocation to support Board operations.

141/7.6 Community Waste Management System

The KI NRM Board Presiding Member, NRKI Regional Director and Manager of Sustainable Development visited the Kingscote Community Waste Management System (CWMS) in December 2017 with the KI Council, following a report that the ponds were leaking, possibly due to tree roots growing into the dam wall. During the visit the KI Council advised that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) were inspecting and reporting on the ponds. Since the visit an issue was detected with the pumping system distributing treated water to the golf course. As a result the pipes have been realigned and management amended to rectify this.

141/6.6 Koala Management project

DEW is investing in a state-wide approach to koala management and in improving current sterilisation processes and developing innovative and cost effective non-lethal methods to reduce koala populations across the state. The NRKI Wildlife Program Manager is a member of the SA Koala Projects Coordinating Committee that meets monthly to coordinate koala management across the state and to implement the *South Australian Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2016*. This committee has representatives from each DEW region, as well as from policy and science areas, and reports to the SA Koala Steering Committee, of which the NRKI Regional Director is a member.

DEW is working with ZOOSA to develop the hormone implant technique used in Victoria so that it can be inserted without an anaesthetic for broad application to female koalas across the landscape. Population models are also being developed with the University of Adelaide to show the most effective and economical places to reduce koala numbers on KI. NRKI prioritises areas for management where koalas are at densities that are likely to impact on native vegetation i.e. higher than 0.75 koalas per hectare. The KI Koala Management Project continues to meet their annual targets on time and within budget each year.

All fact sheets relating to the KI Koala Management Project have been recently updated on the NRKI website, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) factsheet. A media article was released in September 2017 and presentations have been given to the community through Science in the Pub sessions at Parndana in October 2017 and February 2018, and Kingscote in February 2018. Little feedback was received from the community at these events with most comments questioning why koalas are not being culled.

NRKI is currently seeking funding for the KI Koala Management Project for 2018-19 from the DEW Executive. The KI Koala Management Project seeks to protect native vegetation.

Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers (KIPT) is responsible for managing koalas within their plantations on KI. Koala management will be outlined in their harvest operations plan which is expected to be developed once KIPT has finalised their work at Smith Bay and on their haulage routes. The Board will have an opportunity to input to the harvest operations plan, as will other stakeholders such as neighbouring landholders. This harvest operations plan will be new for SA.

Victorian plantation companies must adhere to Victorian regulations, usually leaving a specific number of trees around each koala found. SA does not have similar regulations in place, however the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* apply to all wildlife management activities.

The Board expressed concerns about koala numbers increasing in plantations with no management and then impacting on surrounding native vegetation. Concern was also expressed about the limited and expensive options available for koala management on KI as they cannot be culled.

NRKI is working with KIPT to develop an appropriate harvest management plan that will minimise impacts of koalas on the native vegetation after harvesting.

The Board looks forward to discussing the issue of KI koala management with Minister Spiers face to face when he visits KI in the future.

The Board commended the KI Koala Management Project for the fact sheets and expressed a desire for them to be widely distributed across KI and to commercial tour operators. The Board will continue to assist in any way they can, such as encouraging landholders to support the ongoing koala management.

Motion 3.4.1

Moved D Welford

Seconded P Rismiller

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board recommends the administration:

- remove the words relating to *removing domestic cats from KI* from all publicity material
- include text relating to ensuring domestic cat management is sufficient to make sure feral cat management on KI is not compromised.

Carried

Discussion that the target relating to the removal of feral cats from KI by 2030 seems misleading in the KI Feral Cat Eradication Project FAQs. Wording that states the project may take longer than is currently anticipated is required.

Motion 3.4.2

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board:

- Notes the Natural Resources Kangaroo Island website has recently been updated to include the latest information about the Feral Cat Eradication Program.
- Endorses the summary of preliminary findings of Phase One and the updated FAQs, subject to:
 1. adding '*feral*' to '*KI cat free*'
 2. removing the text stating '*native animals do not groom each other*' from the FAQs.
- Endorses the draft *Felixers vs Felis* Project Community Participation Plan, providing relevant comment as needed.

Carried

4. Board matters — for noting

4.1 Environmental Assessment of Water Management Options update

M Agnew joined the meeting at 12:19 pm.

This work is on-going.

- The Water Officer is liaising with the national WaterbugBlitz.
- Local contractors continue to assist with detailed identification.
- In spring 2017 nine community members were involved in collecting water quality data. 32 sites have been chosen for their suitability in building a picture of KI. The EPA historically collected similar data which will be used for comparison.
- A model is being developed for Cygnet River to predict different proposed climate change rainfall patterns.
- The 'plain English' summary, which is being developed, would benefit if it emphasizes the importance of this data in developing a bigger picture of water quality on KI.

Motion 4.1

Moved P Rismiller Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board notes:

1. the current summary of the *Environmental Assessment of Water Management Options for Kangaroo Island* project
2. plans to make available a similar plain English version summary to communicate progress on the *Environmental Assessment of Water Management Options for Kangaroo Island* project to the community by August 2018 and request this is presented to the Board and that this presentation will include questions on notice.

Carried

M Agnew left the meeting at 12:37 pm.

4.2 Biosecurity Advisory Committee

A Biosecurity Advisory Committee member reported that the regular vehicle inspections at Cape Jervis is resulting in a decrease in the number amount of honey being brought to KI.

The KI Council owns the dump but Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) manages the KI kerbside collection and waste disposal. Additional composting actions are being explored.

The Board have been invited by Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority to conduct a visit to the KI Resource Recovery Centre to view the operation producing pasteurised mulch. It is recommended that the board consider contacting FRWA about a site visit and should that occur, invite all members of the Biosecurity Advisory Committee to attend.

Motion 4.2

Moved P Rismiller Seconded D Welford

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board notes:

1. The draft minutes of the Biosecurity Advisory Committee meeting held Monday 9 April 2018
2. That the administration, in conjunction with N Putland, will contact FRWA about a site visit. If supported, the visit to include all Biosecurity Advisory Committee members.
3. The involvement of project staff in assisting Biosecurity SA and PIRSA Fisheries staff with recent monitoring and surveillance work for the POMS incident in Port Adelaide and the discovery of an exotic grain insect on Kangaroo Island.

Carried

4.4 Correspondence

Correspondence received

Received from:	Subject:
Roni Cohen Date received: 18 March 2018	Request for information regarding the new watering monitoring program.
Minister for the Environment and Energy Date received: 28 March 2018	House of Representatives Question 906 re project <i>Feral Cat Eradication on Kangaroo Island</i> expenditure.
Leigh Miller, EO State Bushfire Coordination Committee Date received: 5 April 2018	Nominations for Bushfire Management Committees.
Keith Armstrong, Director Department of the Environment and Energy Date received: 9 April 2018	Acceptance of final report for the Regional Natural Resources Management Planning for Climate Change (Stream 1) project <i>Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change in the Kangaroo Island NRM region</i> .
Minister for Environment and Water – David Speirs MP Date received: 17 April 2018	Reform of natural resources management in South Australia.

Correspondence sent

Sent to:	Subject:
Roni Cohen Date sent: 5 April 2018	Kangaroo Island Water Monitoring Project.
Michael Cornish, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Rebekha Sharkie MP Date sent: 10 April 2018	Question 906 re project <i>Feral Cat Eradication on Kangaroo Island</i> expenditure.

Motion 4.4

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board notes the above correspondence as read.

Carried

5. Activity Reports

5.1 Presiding Members report

The Presiding Member plans to hold a community workshop focussing on the six priorities before the next Board meeting. Part of the workshop will focus on how to assist the community to access funding opportunities.

The mechanics of the community elections for the new Landscapes Board have yet to be decided.

asset when it is built. Landholders consent is needed for access and maintenance and will be part of the legal agreement.

Motion 5.3

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board notes:

- the preparation of FAQs for updating the website together with a press release and other media opportunities to promote the success of the program to date and inform the community of the next phases
- some complexities around barrier fence option B currently being worked through by the project manager
- the procurement of a project contractor to assist with delivering project design, on-ground activities, data management and reporting
- That NLP2 projects, including those submitted by the Board for phase two, are still being assessed.

Carried

5.4 Presentation — Recent workshops delivered by NRKI through the Sustainable Production Program by Karleah Berris and Grant Flanagan

Summary of March and April workshops

Event	Topics covered	Attendees
13 March 2018 <i>Grazing Naturally</i> workshop with Dick Richardson in Haines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerative grazing, how to build deeper more mature soils through grazing management and pasture diversity 	15 people (12 farmers and three NRM staff)
14 March 2018 <i>Grazing Naturally</i> workshop with Dick Richardson in Stokes Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing systems that promote soil building 	14 people (13 farmers and one NRM staff)
9 April 2018 <i>Soil Regeneration</i> workshop with Christine Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerating soils by keeping living plants in the ground year round. • Promoting green plants in summer, as bare soils destroys 	24 people (17 farmers, three NRM Board members and four NRM staff) Engaged with another farmer on a separate day who was unable to attend the Monday workshop.



Key points from *Grazing Naturally* Workshop

- Change = change.....
- Increasing pasture species diversity increases resilience in the grazing system and builds soil
- Do not have a predictable grazing system, implement Sabbath paddocks and priority grazing paddocks and rotate these annually
- Think of introducing forage shrubs to supplement stock diet
- Make changes to grazing intensity/frequency/timing and discover what changes this results in for productivity

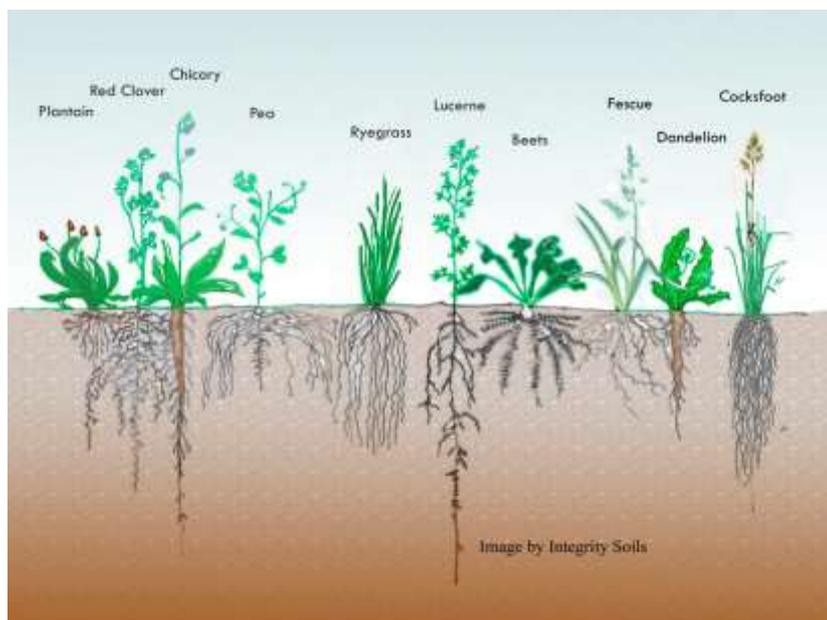
Key points from *Soil Regeneration* workshop

- Green plants build soil through the liquid carbon pathway
- Breakdown of surface organics only adds carbon to surface layers
- Fertiliser and chemical use kills soil biology that facilitates the liquid carbon pathway



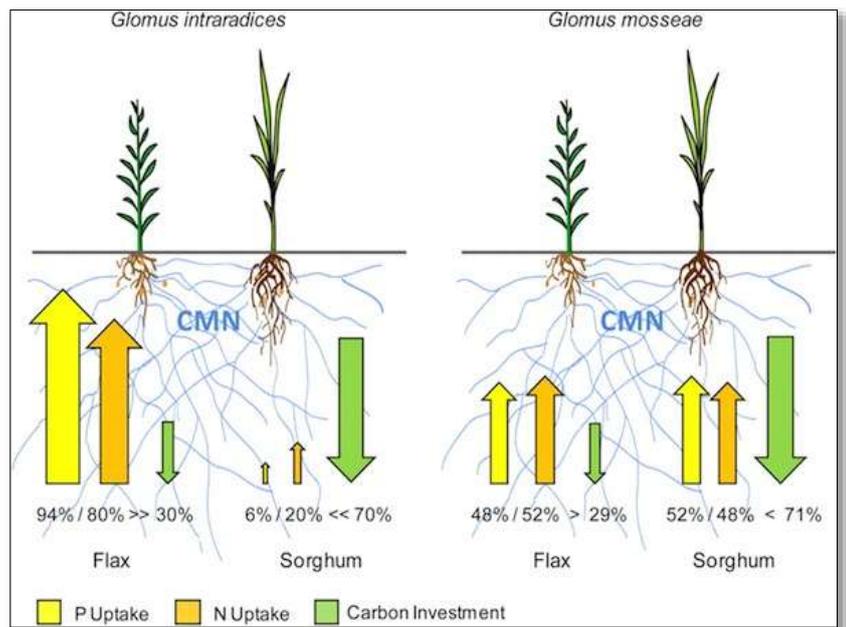
The liquid carbon pathway I

- Carbon moves from plants to soil at the same time as nutrients move from the soil to plants through plant roots
- Liquid carbon pathways require healthy plant roots, mycorrhizal fungi and soil bacteria
- Diverse pastures (8-20 species) produce diverse root profiles improving the depth and extent of soil carbon.



The liquid carbon pathway II

- Healthy soils (living plant roots, mycorrhizal fungi and soil bacteria increase plants access to nutrients and trace elements reducing the need for fertilisers
- Warm season perennials would continue this process over summer.



Soil deterioration



The images above are what some Kangaroo Island paddocks currently look like after a dry summer.

Building soil



The image above shows a paddock on the same property, with a different pasture species and management in this paddock. This demonstrates it is possible to have green paddocks in summer, despite low rainfall this year.

Can it be done on KI?



A multi-species cover crop grown on sandy north coast soils this summer demonstrates it is possible even in dry summers.

Feedback from participants

There is a core group of 13 farmers who have attended both workshops and have indicated they are interested in experimenting with the advice given in these workshops.

Karleah is still liaising with Christine Jones in order to get practical information on how to implement change, such as:

- where to source seeds for summer perennial grasses
- results of trials of these grasses in other similar areas
- where to source biological inputs while transition from chemical fertilisers.

Several farmers have indicated an interest in trialling warm season perennial grasses in their grazing system, and implementing a *Grazing Naturally* approach to grazing management.



5.4 Board Members report

The Sustainable indicators workshop will occur on 9 May 2018 from 1–4 pm at KI Council Chambers followed by a Science in the Pub session at the Ozone Hotel.

D Welford recently attended a bushfire committee meeting where he voted against the motion to extend the bushfire season into May to ensure landholders can continue their practises.

There is a Tourism Optimisation Management Model (TOMM) meeting on 2 May. The agenda has been circulated. The Board reviewed the survey questions last year. The Regional Management Team believes the questions are still relevant.

5.5 Board Agency Representatives report

No reports were tabled.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Finance and Audit Committee report 23 April 2018

J Hughes joined the meeting at 1:40 pm.

