



**Minutes of Meeting held at 9:30 am on Friday 25 January 2019
Board Room, 35 Dauncey Street, Kingscote
Meeting 150**

1. Meeting Preliminaries

1.1 PRESIDING MEMBER'S WELCOME

Present

R Trethewey (Presiding Member), P Clements, A Florance, P Rismiller, J Stanton, K Stove, J Taylor, D Welford and C Wickham

In Attendance

L Dohle (PIRSA), N Putland (KI Council)

D Miley (Regional Director), R Ellis (Manager Parks and Sustainable Landscapes), M Greig (Manager Sustainable Development), P Holden (Manager Strategy and Engagement), M Kinloch (Manager Science and Program Planning), S Gullickson (Executive Assistant)

1.2 APOLOGIES

J Hughes (Manager Business Support)

1.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

L Dohle declared a conflict of interest in item 4.3 Project Reports, Project 7 as she has worked on the Future Proofing Agriculture project with Agriculture Kangaroo Island.

N Putland, as the Kangaroo Island Council representative declared an interest in 4.1 Board membership.

The Presiding Member extended an ongoing invitation for Ms Dohle and Mrs Putland to attend board meetings as representatives of their agencies. The Board recognised the value of Ms Dohle and Mrs Putland attending Board meetings in building relationships and providing practical advice to the Board.

1.4 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA AND CONSENT SCHEDULE

Members requested that the following additional items be discussed in *Other business*, if time permits:

1. Coastal Hazard Mapping report – public consultation
2. Clarification on approval of carryovers for 2018/2019.

Consent Schedule

Agenda Item	Topic	Motion
5.1	Correspondence Register	That this recommendation be adopted
5.2	Governance Schedule	That this recommendation be adopted

146/3.1 Finance and Audit Committee Report

The Board write to Department of Premier and Cabinet seeking support to remunerate Finance and Audit Committee members at the Board rate:

Refer item 4.1 Board membership and transitional arrangements.

148/2.2.1 Middle River Reservoir

That the Board commence discussion with SA Water representative in early 2019 regarding options for future additional summer releases for environmental outcomes

Completed: G Ashman welcomed the opportunity to meet with the board regarding environmental flows in early 2019.

148/2.2.2 Applying Principle 2.3.2.9

The Board supported P Rismiller's request that case studies be included in the explanation of how Principle 9 may be applied with a workshop being held in February 2019.

Completed: Included as topic for discussion at the February 2019 Board workshop.

The Board noted that this matter may be deferred to the April workshop due to staff capacity to deliver. If delayed, R Trewethey to be invited to the workshop as a community representative.

148/4.2 Declared Animal Policy: C04 Goat, *Capra hircus*

The Board to seek a waiver of the permitting fee for Goats from the relevant authority, the Chief Executive of Department for Environment and Water.

Completed: Chief Executive approval has been granted.

148/4.5 Biosecurity Advisory Committee Report

The Board meet with Minister for Environment and Water, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Member for Mawson to pursue future biosecurity options.

The Regional Director sought further clarification and feedback from the Board on the purpose and messaging with Ministers at this point in time. The Regional Director provided this in context of the current state appropriation levy funding that could be used but we have not received confirmation as yet that this would be available.

The Board agreed that the purpose of the meeting is not to seek financial support but highlight the success of the biosecurity program and reinforce the importance of good biosecurity to Kangaroo Island's economy and flow on benefits to the state of South Australia.

Motion

Moved K Stove

Seconded D Welford

That the Board meet with Minister Speirs and Minister Whetstone to highlight the achievements in biosecurity over the last ten years and benefits to the Kangaroo Island economy.

Carried

The Board follows up on obtaining information from Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority regarding the A-Z of recyclables so this can be circulated and promoted by the membership.

In hand: N Putland has requested an electronic copy of the A-Z of Recyclables from FRWA. This will be provided once updated.

148/5.2 **Correspondence: Interim Guidelines for Management of Roadside Vegetation**

A workshop be held in February 2019 to discuss the *Interim Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation* under Native Vegetation Regulation 11(23) (Interim Guidelines) and its operation and draft a response for submission to the Native Vegetation Council prior to 30 June 2019.

In Hand: Refer 2.2.1 Forward agenda

148/5.4 **Feral Cat Eradication Steering Committee Report**

Presiding Member to write to Minister Speirs and Minister Whetstone re the KI Feral cat eradication project

In Hand: Briefing to the Minister drafted.

149/3.2 **Felixer versus Felis project**

The Board requested a press release detailing the achievements of the project to date and stating the reason for trialling the grooming trap ten days prior to trials commencing, reinforcing that this is a toxic gel and not using bait.

In Hand: The press release is on hold as little to no negative feedback has been received at this time.

The Board to formally notify Kangaroo Island Council of the trial period and project progress

Completed: Letter sent to KI Council re feral cat grooming trap trials.

149/3.3 **Communications Plan**

Draft Communications Plan to be amended as requested by the board prior to being provided to the Australian Government

Completed

149/3.4 **KIPT Sponsorship**

The Board asked that:

1. KIPT proposal to be tested against sponsorship policy.
2. The Regional Director explores investment opportunities with Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers.

In hand

149/4.1.1 **KI Wilderness Trail – Development**

A response based on the Boards discussion to be provided to SCAP by 5:00pm on Monday 17/12/18

Completed

149/4.2 Biosecurity Advisory Committee – Buffel grass

The board asks that comments regarding the draft *Buffel Grass Strategic Plan 2018-2023* be forwarded to Biosecurity SA.

Completed

Pat Hodgens, Terrain Ecology, contracted to the feral cat project, joined the meeting at 10:35 am

3. Presentations

3.1 KANGAROO ISLAND FERAL CAT ERADICATION PROGRAM PHASE ONE

Pat Hodgens and Martine Kinloch provide a brief overview of the Feral Cat Eradication Program. The program was established in 2015 with a three stage approach:

1. Research and Trials (Dudley Peninsula isthmus (2016-2018) to gather the knowledge to proceed to eradication phase. This stage included trialing of various control techniques, construction of a fence across the isthmus, a technical report and biodiversity report.
2. Eradication of feral cats on the Dudley Peninsula (2018-2023) to apply learnings from Phase One and build skills and knowledge.
3. Eradication of feral cats from Kangaroo Island (2023-2030).

This project commenced in response to community requests and the impact of feral cats on primary production through the spread of *Sarcosporidiosis* (Sarco). Pat Taggart, PhD student at Adelaide University, has release data on the occurrence of Sarco on Kangaroo Island, which indicates a higher occurrence of Sarco on Kangaroo Island than elsewhere in the state. Mr Taggart's research also indicates that cat density on Kangaroo Island is ten times higher than the Fleurieu Peninsula.

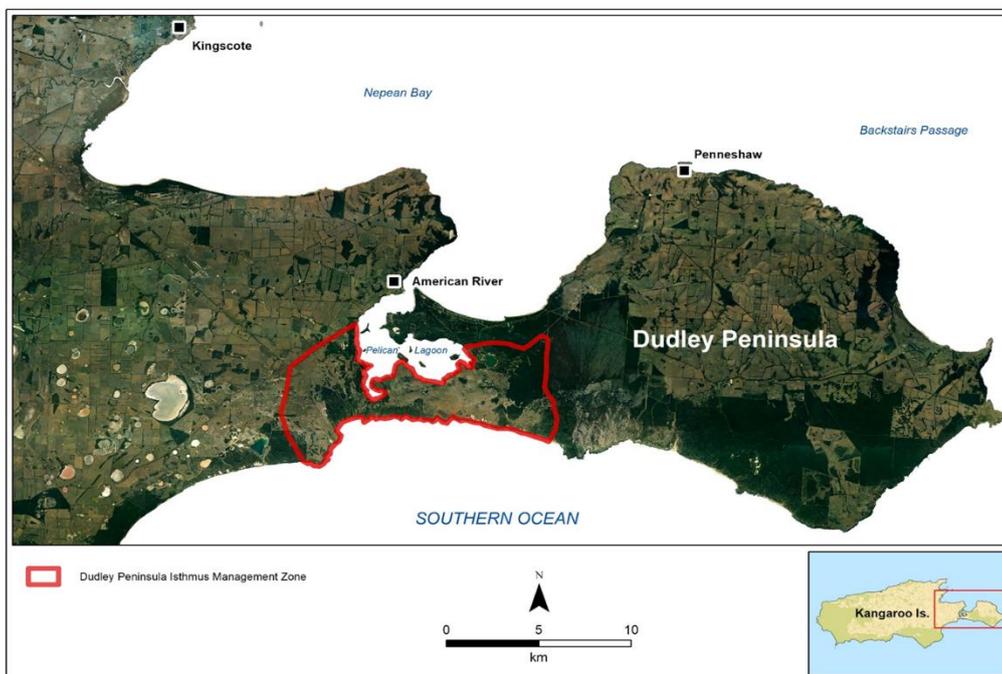
Camera traps captured evidence of feral cats predated on Tammar Wallabies, echidnas, birds and small mammals and investigation of stomach contents shows additional evidence of reptiles, fish, wool (lambs?) and invertebrates.

Key objectives of Phase One were to:

- 1) Trial a variety of traditional and innovative cat control techniques to assess their effectiveness for Phase 2
- 2) Determine feral cat abundance, movements and home ranges to guide the development of the eradication plan for Phase 2
- 3) Collect baseline data on native fauna that can be used to measure whether cat removal increases native fauna populations
- 4) Collect baseline data on rodent numbers that can be used to measure whether cat removal leads to mouse or rat plagues.

Objective 1: Trial a variety of traditional and innovative cat control techniques to assess their effectiveness for Phase 2

Study area: Dudley Peninsula Isthmus

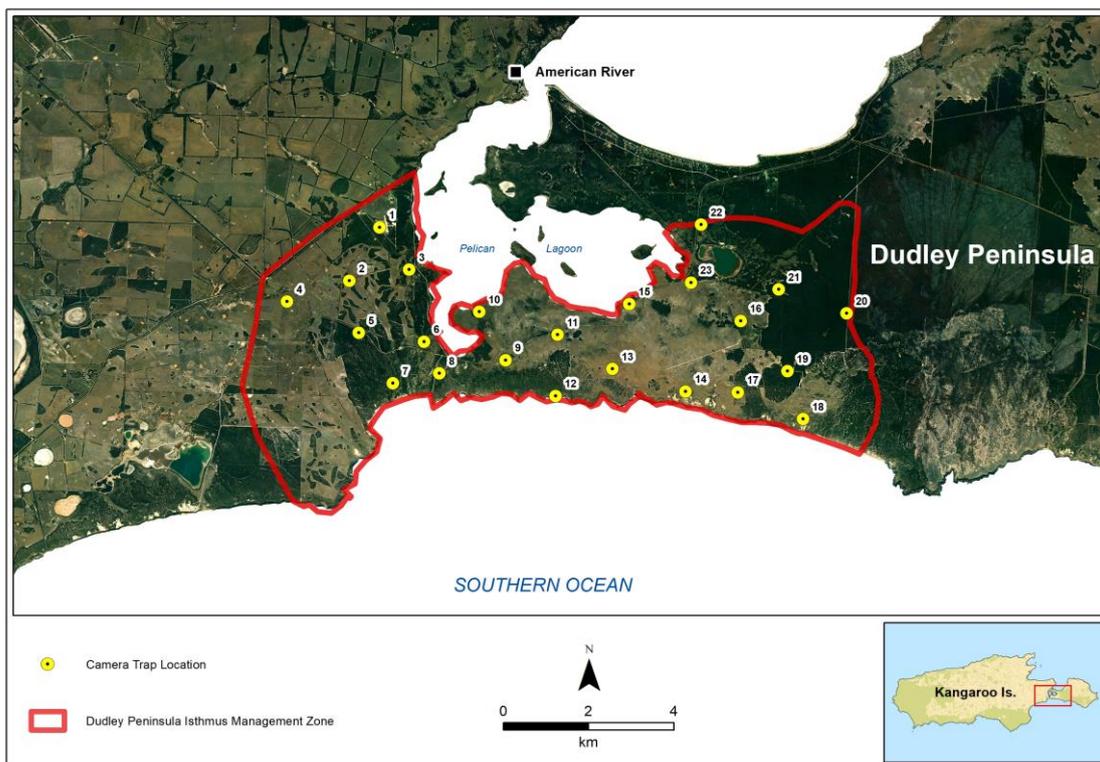


Summary of findings for control techniques

Control tool	Efficacy	Scale	Application
Cage traps	Medium	Localised	Around townships/farms, limited application as labour intensive and largely ineffective.
Baits	High	Broadscale	Bushland/agricultural land, likely to be primary eradication method.
Lures	Limited	Localised	Any habitat when targeting cats at low density.
Leg-hold traps	Medium	Localised	Any habitat when targeting cats at low density cost/benefit of use needs to be assessed for potential non-target capture.
Felixer Grooming Trap	High	Localised	Bushland, semi cleared land, good for targeting cats in low density.
Detector Dogs	High	Localised	Farmland, around towns, good for targeting cats in low density or neophobic cats.

Objective Two: Determine feral cat abundance, movements and home ranges to guide the development of the eradication plan for Phase 2

- An extensive camera trapping array was established

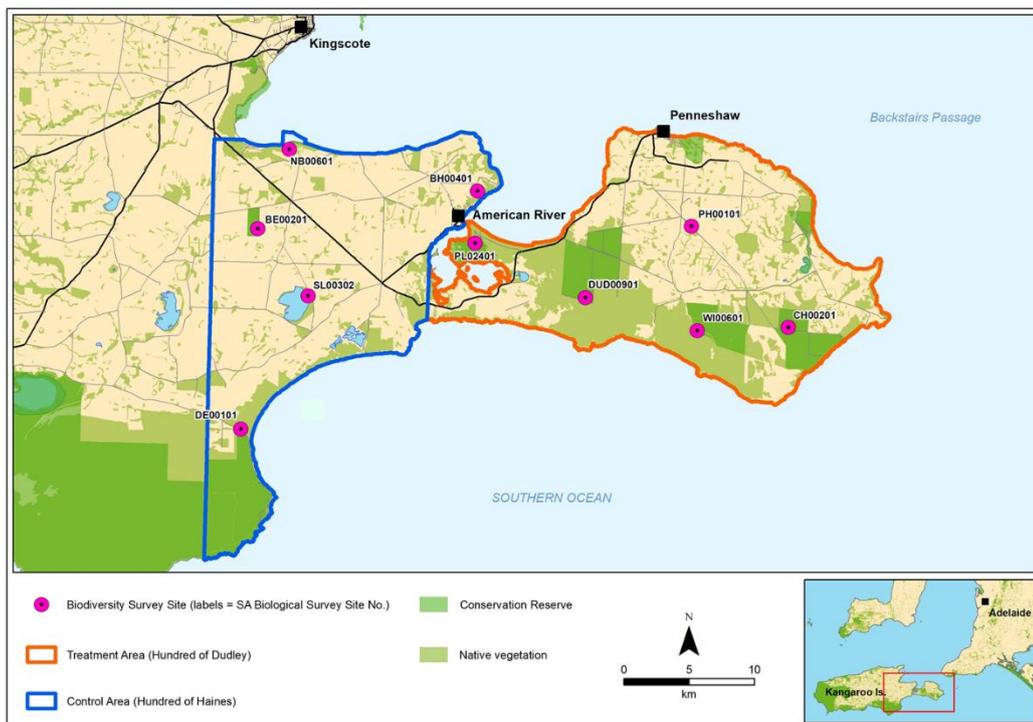


Summary of major findings:

- Cat abundance is twice as high in winter than summer
- Current home range estimations vary from previous work. This study showed a significant difference between male (6.3 km²) and female (2.3 km²) cats and an average home range for all cats (4.3 km²)
- Camera trapping bait uptake results are considerably different from previous work:
 - current study showed that over 80% of encounters resulted in bait uptake whereas only 27% of cats consumed a bait in previous studies.
 - Current study showed that after 250+ encounters no macropods consumed baits while previous studies showed that wallabies consumed 5.5% and kangaroos consumed 3%.
- Cats occupy all habitats but prefer coastal bushland
- Fewer cat detections on roadsides than anticipated
- 25% of collared cats died as roadkill
- No evidence of regular or seasonal mortality of cats

Objective Three: Collect baseline data on native fauna that can be used to measure whether cat removal increases native fauna populations.

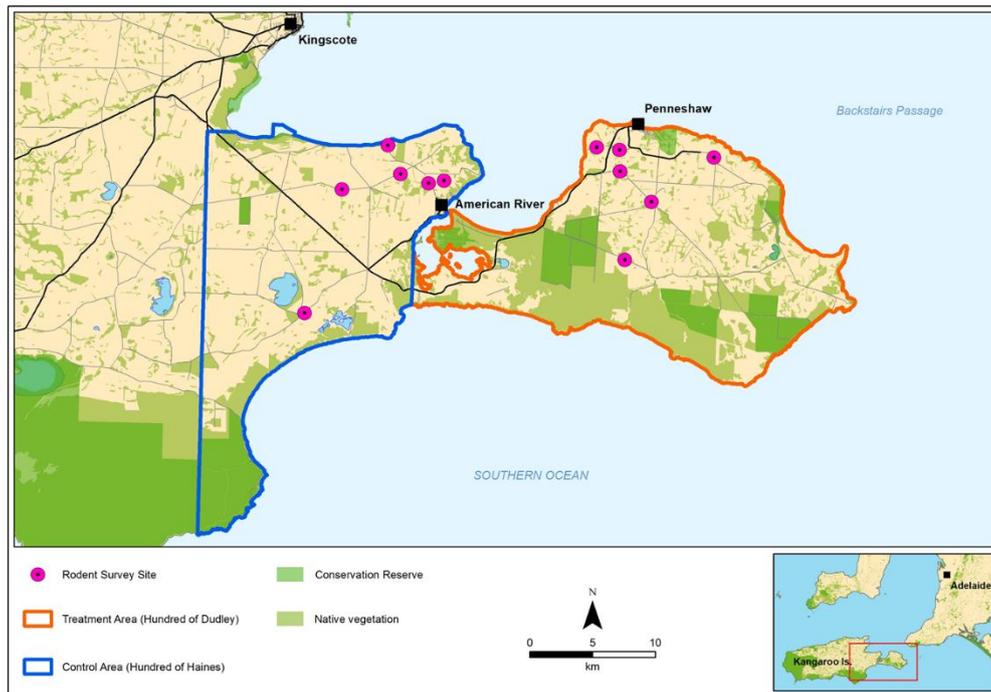
- Biodiversity survey sites were established east and west of the study area



- The sites were monitored over spring and autumn and the data collected will be presented in the biodiversity report.
- From over 11,000 events, 36 native species recorded on IMZ camera array, including 44 events of the Endangered KI echidna and 63 of the Vulnerable Rosenbergs goanna. Only 1 Southern brown bandicoot detected.

Objective Four: Collect baseline data on rodent numbers that can be used to measure whether cat removal leads to mouse or rat plagues.

- Rodent monitoring sites established to the east and west of the study area.



The Board noted that while Phase One is being finalised, work on eradication continues through the Felixer versus Felis, Detector Dog Strike Force and Safe Haven Eradication projects.

The Board thanked Martine and Pat for their work, especially Martine for leading the project since 2015. On retirement Ms Kinloch will hand over the management of the Feral Cat Eradication Program to Mike Greig.

Pat Hodgens left the meeting at 11:45

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am for morning tea.

The meeting resumed at 12:10 pm

Robyn Molsher and Dan Rogers joined the meeting.

3.2 KOALA MANAGEMENT

Dan Rogers, Principal Ecologist and Robyn Molsher, SA Koala Program Manager presented to the Board on the current project to manage abundant koala populations in South Australia.

Koala management has been occurring on Kangaroo Island since 1996, when significant impact on preferred food trees and risk to local biodiversity through over browsing was identified as a major issue for Kangaroo Island.

Since 1996, the project has received funding of \$8.6 million, sterilised 12,700 koalas, relocated 3,800 koalas and employed ten staff annually.



Where koalas have been removed before trees decline is too great, the vegetation can recover.

Today, DEW estimates approximately 17,000 koalas live in native vegetation across the island. While there have been recent increases, this increase is supported by good rainfall, reduction in effort from 2008 to 2012, particularly ceasing translocations and potentially moving into or breeding in forestry (blue gums).

While it is known that koalas are living successfully in blue gum plantations, as yet there is uncertainty around total population size due to the small sample sizes obtained to date.

DEW will continue to work with the plantation industry to mitigate impacts on koalas, timber harvesting and surrounding native vegetation.

The objective continues to be managing the koala population sustainably on the island, not eradication. DEW will continue to manage the SA Koala population with fertility control but will transition from surgical sterilisation to hormonal implants. This includes:

- More targeted implementation with five yearly cycle that targets areas of highest impact.
- Management actions being informed by new models (University of Adelaide).

Questions:

I have overseen the near eradication of Manna gums from Kangaroo Island through over browsing by koalas and koalas are now moving into other less conventional food sources such as string bark. We know koalas are a threat to blue gums, and high value habitat is being monitored, but other areas of native vegetation are being impacted and are not being monitored or managed.

R: Dan acknowledged the political, social and ecological sensitivity regarding koala management. Funding for the SA koala project is for one year only and future funding is unknown.

What was the impact of the recent fire on koala numbers?

4.2 BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

The Board received, for information, the *2018 Board Self-Evaluation Report*. However, given the changes taking place, the Board deferred further analysis of the report.

Resolved

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board:

1. **notes** the draft 2018 Board Performance Self-Evaluation Report
2. **receives** the results of the board self-evaluation for information.

4.3 PROJECT REPORTS – DECEMBER 2018 TO JANUARY 2019

The Board noted the project reports for December 2018 to January 2019.

Motion

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Taylor

That the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board notes progress towards the delivery of its regional NRM Plan.

Carried

4.4 BIODIVERSE CARBON PILOT PROJECT REPORT

The Board noted the expressions of interest received for on-ground works as part of the Biodiverse Carbon Pilot Project. The Project Selection committee has met and representatives from Kangaroo Island Council and Agriculture KI participated in the assessment of the expressions of interest. The board noted that the Project Selection Committee is being vigilant in their assessment of each project to minimise any potential loss of viable agricultural land.

Motion

Moved J Stanton

Seconded J Taylor

That the Board notes the Biodiverse Carbon Pilot Project report

Carried

4.5 PRESIDING MEMBER REPORT

The Presiding Member discussed a proposal at Snelling Beach by Nick Hannaford and suggested that this would be a good site to visit for the board. The board requested that Mr Hannaford be invited to a future board meeting to discuss high class eco-tourism opportunities and development, with the option of a Board site visit.

Motion

Moved P Rismiller

Seconded J Stanton

That the Board:

1. **Notes** the activities of the Presiding Member since the previous meeting.

Carried

5. Board matters for noting

5.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1	Hon D Speirs, Department of Environment and Water Received: 2 January 2019	<i>Cessation of state and local government representation</i> Effective immediately, authorised representatives to the Kangaroo Island NRM Board have had their authorisation to attend rescinded. <i>Refer to Board agenda 150, item 4.1 Board Members and Transitional Arrangements</i>
2	Hon D Speirs, Department of Environment and Water Received: 2 January 2019	<i>Appointment of KI NRM Board members</i> Advising that four board members terms expire in 2019, and the Minister will not be seeking further nominations. <i>Refer to Board agenda 150, item 4.1 Board Members and Transitional Arrangements</i>
4	C Wilson Friends of Parks Western Districts Received: 9 January 2019	<i>Flinders Chase development</i> Letter acknowledging the board's position in regard to the proposed development at Flinders Chase National Park.
5	R Seaman Department of Environment and Water Received: 9 January 2019	<i>Invitation to comment during public consultation on draft Native Vegetation Council Draft Guidelines for Local Government Tree Management</i> Following changes to the <i>Native Vegetation Regulations</i> in 2017, the Native Vegetation Council has endorsed the public consultation of Draft Guidelines under Section 25 of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> . These Guidelines provide further flexibility to local councils when managing old growth trees and trees that pose a safety risk to people or property within council owned and managed land. <i>For discussion at February Workshop</i>

Motion

That the board notes the above correspondence
Carried by the consent schedule

5.2 GOVERNANCE SCHEDULE

Motion

That the Board:

1. **notes** the January/February 2019 Governance Schedule Status Report which summarises actions taken or required to be taken to meet the schedule of legislative and business obligations.

Carried by the consent schedule

5.3 OUT-OF-SESSION PAPER

Motion

That the Board:

1. **Ratifies** the recommendations of the out-of-session decision as listed below:
 - o *approves the submission of the two project proposals (Integrated Pest Management and Natural Sequencing Farming) for Smart Farm Small Grant Round Two funding by Friday 11 January 2019.*

Carried by the consent schedule

6. Any other business

6.1 COASTAL HAZARD MAPPING REPORT: CONSULATION

The Board noted the release of the Coastal Hazard Mapping report for public consultation and considered responding to the report. The board noted that an out-of-session paper with a draft letter of response will be circulated to members shortly for consideration.

6.2 CLARIFICATION ON APPROVAL OF CARRYOVERS FOR 2018/2019.

The board noted that carryovers for 2018/2019 will be included on the next Finance and Audit Committee agenda for discussion.

6.3 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMETN COMMITTEE

The Board noted that the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Management Committee is meeting today and the board representative, David Welford asked for board meeting dates to be provided the CFS to ensure future date clashes can be avoided.

6.4 COMMUNITY REPORT

P Clements asked the Regional Director to investigate if staff were aware of any feral pig control works being undertaken.

7. Communique

1. Feral Cats
2. Board structure 2019/2020

8. Next Meeting

Resolved

That the next meeting be held on Friday 22 February at 9:30 in the Board Room, 35 Dauncey Street Kingscote.

The Presiding Member thanked Martine Kinloch for all her support to the Board and wished her all the best for the future.

9. Closure

The Meeting closed at 2:30 pm

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Trethewey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

Richard Trethewey
PRESIDING MEMBER
KANGAROO ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date: 22 February 2019