LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMESTONE COAST

Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting minutes

Meeting information

Location and time

Thursday 25 June 2026

Limestone Coast Landscape Office, 16 Anzac Terrace, Keith

Attendees

LC Landscape Board Members: Penny Schulz (Chair), Jonathan Sobels, Pete Bissell (MS Teams), Robbie Davis, Tom Linnell, Tracey Strugnell and Mark Bachmann (MS Teams).

Staff: Steve Bourne (General Manager), Liz Perkins Jason Taylor, Le-Anne Thomson, Robbie Andrew-item 3.7 "Karst Springs" and Anya Karsten (minute taker) in person; Alison Boomsma-item 3.6 "Grassroots grants" and Rachael Schroder-item 4.2 "Annual Business Plan" via MS Teams.

Guests: Nil.

Public gallery: Nil.

Apologies: Nil.

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 Opening, welcome and apologies

Meeting opened at 11:20 am.

1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

Presented by Chair Penny Schulz

1.3 Declarations of Interest Register and Standing Interest Register

Conflicts of interest relating to item 3.6 Grassroots grants was discussed as follows:

- M Bachmann is managing director and founder of applicant Nature Glenelg Trust and declared a conflict of interest.
- It was noted that M Bachmann did not receive the agenda paper for item 3.6.

1.4 Agenda check

Pursuant to section 23(5) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, it was resolved that the following items be determined by the LC Landscape Board in confidence, for the reasons prescribed as per section 7(3) of the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*:

Item	Prescribed reason
3.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#40, 23 April 2026)	(g)
3.2 Business arising	(h)(j)
3.3 Resolutions without meetings (nil)	(g)
3.4 Closed session Actions Register	(b)(e)(f)(j)
3.5 GFAC closed session draft minutes (#29, 1 & 3 June 2026)	(g)
3.6 Grassroots grants	(g)
3.7 Karst Springs	(k)(l)
3.8 Planning for transition	(g)
3.9 Farmed and feral deer compliance	(f)(i)
3.10 Enforcement and Compliance Register	(b)(f)

Closed session

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 11:24 am with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor and A Karsten present.

   3.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#40, 23/04/2026)

   3.2 Business arising

   3.3 Resolutions out of session (nil)

   3.4 Closed session actions register

   3.5 GFAC closed session draft minutes (#29, 1 & 3/06/2026)

   3.6 Grassroots grants

3.7 Karst Springs Project update

3.8 Planning for transition

3.9 Farmed and feral deer compliance

3.10 Enforcement and Compliance Register

3.12 Other business

2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 13:01

Lunch 13:01 – 13:25

Meeting items

4.1 Public gallery

Nil

4.2 Annual Business Plan 2026-27

Presenter: L Perkins, L Thomson & R Schroeder

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted the projected financial position at the end of 2025-26 with savings made throughout the year. It was noted that the Karst Springs property was revalued at the end of 2024-25 in line with accounting standards which has resulted in a positive impact on the balance sheet.

Retained earnings were unable to be accessed for accommodation changes, impacting the timeline for the office and depot strategy. The General Manager advised that discussions had been held with Kingston District Council staff regarding LC Landscape Board accommodation, and there may be an opportunity to upgrade that depot.

It was also noted that funding for the Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Outreach Program has been extended and will be included in the final version of the business plan.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Annual Business Plan 2026-27 with the addition of the Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Outreach Program funding.

4.3 Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan update on amendment process

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

The meeting noted that the drainage system was displayed during the Minister's visit. It was noted that local water costs are among the lowest in the state if not the country.

It was noted that the community consultation report will be as important as the plan itself as it will provide information available to the public.

The LC Landscape Board discussed the importance of considering the bigger picture and continuing to build the community's knowledge base, including how irrigators have developed their businesses. It was noted that the aim is to always represent all interests in a balanced way. .

The LC Landscape Board acknowledged that economic, social and environmental values must all be considered when making decisions. It was noted that protecting the water resource provides significant long-term economic benefits for the region and that balancing these outcomes is a key objective.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the update on the amendment process for the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan.

4.3 Tintinara Coonalpyn (TC) Water Allocation Plan

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

It was noted that the Stakeholder Advisory Group met on 24 June and made a number of recommendations. Minor amendments are expected, including changes to terminology, language, monitoring and data.

Members highlighted the preference of local monitoring due to the high value of local knowledge. Concerns were raised about the current level of monitoring, and it was suggested that monitoring and testing in the area be increased. It was noted that the main confined aquifer has remained stable while the unconfined aquifer which has fewer monitoring bores continues to show a slow declining trend. The need for continued improvement and stabilisation was expressed.

The LC Landscape Board noted that the TC WAP will be presented at the 22 October 2026 for consideration and at the 4 December 2026 meeting for decision.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the update of the Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review.

Break 15:05 – 15:15

4.4 Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) projects update

Presenter: J Taylor and R Andrew

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the status of the Limestone Coast 2023-2028 Natural Heritage Trust program being delivered by the LC Landscape Board as the Regional Delivery Partner.
2. Received a presentation on the *Saving the Woods Well Spyridium* project funded by the Emergency Actions for Threatened Species Program.

4.5 Autumn 2026 feral deer aerial culling update

Presenter: M Stevens

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board received an update on the autumn feral deer aerial cull, noting excellent partnership of the Landscape Operations team with other teams in the organisation. Notifications about the aerial culling were sent, receiving only one enquiry call. Five weeks of culling were delivered successfully.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Notes the update.

4.6 2025-26 Q3 Project performance reporting

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

Members noted that some targets are currently behind schedule. Rabbit bait sales are in high demand at this time of year. It was also noted that metrics would be a useful way to show the impact of rabbits and the critical importance of control.

Action:

J Taylor to present on the topic of peat soil and acid sulphate soils at the August 2026 Board meeting.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the Q3 project reports.

Standing items

5.1 Draft minutes of LC Landscape Board meeting 40 held 23 April 2026

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting no. 40, held on 23 April 2026 subject to the following correction: replace "*Concerns were raised regarding fishway operations, noting that fish passage is currently limited for much of the time*" with "*Concerns were raised regarding fishway operations, noting that fish passage was naturally limited for the majority of the time prior to European colonisation, and was not a primary driver of the original project design. Despite this, the operation of the fishway is now influencing water level management decisions in unintended ways that are inconsistent with the originally intended wetland management outcomes*".

5.2 Business arising

5.3 Resolutions without meeting

Nil.

5.4 Governance Finance and Audit Committee (GFAC) (#29, 1 & 3 June 2026)

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee met on 1 June 2026.
2. Noted the financial summary for the quarter ending 31 March 2026.
3. Approved the Instruments of Delegation.
4. Approved the Chair to electronically sign each Instrument of Delegation on behalf of the LC Landscape Board.
5. Noted that the Instruments of Delegation will be reviewed on an annual basis.
6. Approved the Legislative Compliance Register 2025-26.
7. Noted the Legislative Compliance Register 2025-26 will be provided to the Audit Office SA to support the legislated annual LC Landscape Board audit.
8. Noted the 2025-26 Financial Management Compliance Program overview.

9. Approved the manager Financial Management Compliance self-assessment questionnaire for the financial year 2025-26.
10. Noted that the LC Landscape Board Chair acknowledged and agreed to the terms of the audit engagement by electronically signing the audit strategy letter.
11. Noted the Work Health and Safety Report for the third quarter of the financial year 2025-26.
12. Noted the approved minutes of the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee meeting No. 28, 2 February 2026 as discussed at the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting held on 26 February 2026.

5.5 Board contracts report

Nil.

5.6 Presiding Member's report

The LC Landscape Board noted P Schulz attended meetings with the irrigators and Limestone Coast Water Alliance Group.

Noted.

5.7 General Manager's report

Noted.

5.8 LC Landscape Board Members' reports

Verbal reports were received.

5.9 Correspondence register

The FOI request was discussed and noted.

The LC Landscape Board discussed concerns raised regarding the transparency of the water allocation planning process. It was noted that decisions relating to water allocation are made during open sessions of Board meetings. The Board also noted that the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and associated regulations provide clear guidance on which matters are considered in public and which are exempt from disclosure. The LC Landscape Board's meeting procedures provide guidance to the meeting and minutes conduct and transparency with a standing agenda item providing an opportunity for members of the public attending meetings and address the Board.

Action:

S Bourne to write to Mr T Beck to address concerns regarding water allocation planning process transparency.

P Schulz

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the correspondence for the period from 17 April 2026 to 18 June 2026.

5.10 Forward plan and actions register

28/08 joint Board meeting with the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board – location and agenda are tbc

5.11 Other business

Nil.

Meeting closure

6.1 Approval for the General Manager to action decisions from the closed session of meeting 41

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Delegated authority to the General Manager to communicate closed session items and resolutions from meeting no. 41 to the relevant staff as necessary and appropriate.

Meeting closed at 16:58

Minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, meeting no. 41, 25 June 2026 – confirmed as a true and correct record:

Confirmed: P. Schulz

Penny Schulz, Presiding Member

Date: 27 August 2026