LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMESTONE COAST

Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting minutes

Meeting information

Location and time

Thursday 23 April 2026

Naracoorte P&A Society Inc, 176 Smith Street, Naracoorte

Attendees

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

Staff: Steve Bourne (General Manager), Liz Perkins Jason Taylor, Le-Anne Thomson, Lizzie Doyle, Edel Stoner for item 3.7 (12:10-13:30) and Ehsan Sayad for item 3.7 (12:20-14:30), Emma Maxwell for item 4.2 (12:20-14:30) and Anya Karsten (minute taker).

Guests: Nil.

Public gallery: Nil.

Apologies: Nil.

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 Opening, welcome and apologies

Meeting opened at 12:34 pm.

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 3.7 *Climate-smart Landscapes Grant program* were discussed as follows:

- T Linnell is an employee of applicant University of Adelaide. Due to the size of the organisation and no connection with the application, the LC Landscape Board determined no conflict of interest exists.

P. Schulz

- P Schulz is an employee of applicant University of Adelaide. Due to the size of the organisation and no connection with the application, the LC Landscape Board determined no conflict of interest exists.
- T Strugnell declared a conflict of interest arising from her employment with applicant Coorong District Council and direct involvement in the CTLAP project.
- M Bachmann is managing director and founder of applicant Nature Glenelg Trust, and declared a conflict of interest.
- P Bissell declared a conflict of interest as a managing committee member of applicant Limestone Coast Grapewine Council (LCGC).
- It was noted that T Strugnell, M Bachmann and P Bissell did not receive the agenda paper for item 3.7.

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 (#39, 26 February 2026 and 39A, 27 March 2026)	(g)
3.2 Business arising	(g)
3.3 Resolutions without meetings	(g)
3.4 Closed session Actions Register	(b)(e)(f)(j)
3.5 Acting General Manager	(a)
3.6 Enforcement and Compliance Register	(b)(f)
3.7 Climate-smart Landscapes Grant Program	(b)
3.8 Other business	(g)

P Schulz

- Item 3.5 *Acting General Manager* moved into in-camera session.

Closed session

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 12:44 with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor, L Doyle, E Stoner, E Sayad, E Maxwell and A Karsten present.

   3.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#39, 26/02/2026)

   3.2 Business arising

   3.3 Resolutions out of session (nil)

   3.4 Closed Session Actions Register

   3.5 Acting General Manger

   3.6 Enforcement and Compliance Register

   3.7 Climate-smart Landscapes Grant Program

   3.8 Other business

2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 13:22.

Lunch 13:22 – 13:45

Meeting items

4.1 Public gallery

Nil

4.2 Natural Heritage Trust Projects update, Karst Springs

Presenter: E Maxwell & J Taylor

Discussion:

It was noted that Birdlife Australia is holding the annual Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Count on 2 May 2026 and is seeking volunteers. The national soil project is finished in the Limestone Coast and is now under the Murraylands and Riverland and SA Arid Lands Landscape Boards.

The Karst Spring presentation was received, and issues including the Stage 2 land purchase contract and negotiation regarding the SA Power Networks power line were noted.

Approaches to inundation and water flow challenges were discussed. It was noted that raising historical water levels increases the risk of reduced water circulation and slower flow turnover.

A bottom-up inundation approach was identified as the most effective method based on current modelling. However, the modelling does not capture the extent of moist soil areas that would result from inundation. The majority of the area will be 10 to 30 cm deep which will achieve a mosaic of depth to allow for different habitats.

Water flow from Stratman's Ponds and alternative regulator options were also discussed and noted.

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 our springs: Karst springs and alkaline fens restoration* project.

4.3 Annual Business Plan 2026-27

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board requested additional information be provided prior to the June meeting including retained earnings balances at the end of the last 2-3 years, a forecast of when expenditure on time-limited projects may start to reduce, and any identified opportunities for savings or alternate funding sources.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved further development and finalisation of levy funded projects for the annual business plan 2026-27.

4.4 Murray Darling Basin Plan review

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board discussed current issues and the opportunity to be explicit about the required changes within the Plan. Identified focus areas included irrigated aquaculture, the importance of dryland agriculture and the security of domestic water supply. Grazing was recognised as the most suitable land use for the region which will be impacted if water availability declines. In such cases there is a tendency to shift toward cropping, which may result in broader environmental impacts.

Concerns were also raised regarding the ageing barrage infrastructure at the Murray Mouth, with no funding allocated for upgrade or repair. The LC Landscape Board highlighted the importance of supporting First Nations initiatives and complementary works and greater investment in the region.

The LC Landscape Board requested to prepare and submit its own submission directly to the Basin Authority, independent of the Department for Environment and Water.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the LC Landscape Board submission to the 2026 Basin Plan review.

Break 15:00 pm – 15:15 pm.

4.5 Water Allocation Plans

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board received an update on the progress of the Water Allocation Plans and noted that the Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan is on track with the review expected to conclude by the end of 2026.

Key discussion points included monitoring and compliance, total management limits, potential use of trading controls or buffers for irrigators, application of the precautionary principle, recharge use, implications of future climate conditions in decision-making processes and the need to balance sustainability with a diverse range of water use requirements.

It was noted that concerns were raised regarding instances where limits in the current plan have been exceeded. Questions have been asked about accountability and responsibility when state-level limits are breached without clear consequences and the appropriate course of action in the event of declining water quality. Data reliability was also identified as an issue, with follow up required with the Department for Environment and Water regarding water licence information.

It was noted that the Padthaway Water Allocation Plan provides clear guidance on next steps in such situations. It prescribes direction from the Minister who relies on the provisions set out within the Plan.

It was noted that there are several challenges affecting the progress of the Tatiara Water Allocation Plan. These include limited availability of Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Members, the need to rebuild the modelling, and the relatively small size of the SAG. *Mywater* has been identified as an persistent challenge, and that there is a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities when allocation limits are exceeded.

Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan progress and challenges were noted. An out of session meeting was held on 27 March 2026. Minister Bourke and Minister Scriven have both requested briefings, particularly in relation to resource condition limits. The adaptive management component is progressing. Broader consultation is scheduled to commence following the June 2026 Board meeting.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the Water Allocation Planning update.

4.6 Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee

Presenter: S Bourne

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted the routine letter from the Chair R Halliday requesting an annual funding contribution to the Committee's operations.

Action:

S Bourne to share Adelaide University information session with the board.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved funding of $2,550 to the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee for 2026/27.

4.7 Weed Declaration Review

Presenter: L Doyle

Discussion:

The Board discussed whether there is a preferred position from PIRSA and the likelihood of the LC Landscape Board's recommendation being supported, noting the importance of forestry in the region and the need to maintain relationships with the forestry sector.

It was noted that Radiata Pine is a significant environmental weed in the region. The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* assigns responsibility for management to the landholder. It was noted that forestry activities may contribute to the spread of pine across the landscape. It was also noted that containment of pine is more difficult compared with olives which are managed differently.

The need to facilitate further discussions with industry was highlighted. The importance of clear and consistent messaging was emphasised to ensure outcomes are well understood and positively received.

The Board also considered approaches taken in other regions, including engagement with their management teams. While Radiata Pine is not declared for broad control, targeted enforcement measures may be applied in specific locations. The Board noted forestry managers already work with some landowners supporting the removal of pine wildings.

The African Lovegrass corridor was discussed with the Cross Border Commissioner which may assist in attracting funding opportunities. It was suggested that other regions be encouraged to adopt an approach consistent with the LC Landscape Board.

Action:

S Bourne to write to neighbouring Landscape Boards encouraging a consistent approach with the African Lovegrass declaration.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Supported the declaration of wilding Radiata Pine as a declared weed in the LC region.
2. Supported a change in the declaration for African Lovegrass from control s192(2) to destruction s192(1).

4.8 Joint Committee South Eastern Water Conservation Drainage Board

Presenter: J Taylor

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted the 25 March meeting update. Key points included lost corporate knowledge due to staff turnover, and fishway priorities have not been clearly defined, with limited prioritisation to date. It was noted that new priorities have since emerged.

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.

An update was also provided on shorebird activities at Lake George. It was noted that available funding may be reallocated to support works in this area.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the draft minutes of the fifth meeting of the LCLB and SEWCDB Drainage and Wetlands Strategy Committee meeting held on 25 March 2026.

Standing items

5.1 Draft minutes of LC Landscape Board meeting 39 held 26 February 2026

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting no. 39, held on 26 February 2026.

5.2 Business arising

It was noted that a report on roadside vegetation will be made to the Native Vegetation Council at their 17 June 2026 meeting.

5.3 Resolutions without meeting

Nil.

5.4 Board Contracts Report

Noted.

5.5 Correspondence register

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the correspondence for the period from 19 February 2026 to 16 April 2026.

5.6 Presiding Member's Report

Noted.

5.7 General Manager's report

Noted.

5.8 LC Landscape Board Members' reports

Verbal reports were received.

R Davis attended the LC Landscape Board feral deer forum on 30 March in Lucindale, the LC Landscape Board thanked R Davis for her attendance.

P Bissell attended the meeting with the Conservation Crew, a group that graduated from the Limestone Coast Youth Environment Council, at Greenrise Lake.

M Bachmann advised Tara Bonney has resigned from her position as CEO of Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation.

T Strugnell attended the Agriculture, Economic and Environment Conference in February, where Ken Henry was a keynote speaker, noting that emerging models for carbon markets were presented.

P Schulz noted that Robbie Andrew and botanists conducted an on-farm assessment to identify sites suitable for the planting of up to 100 Woodswell Spyridium plants.

5.9 Forward plan and actions register

The viability of holding the June 2026 meeting in person was discussed, with concerns noted regarding the time commitment, travel requirements and fuel costs. An opportunity to meet on MS Teams was discussed with preference given to the in-person meeting.
Noted.

5.10 Other business

Nil.

Meeting closure

6.1 Approval for the General Manager to action decisions from the closed session of meeting 40

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Delegated authority to the General Manager to communicate closed session items and resolutions from meeting no. 40 to the relevant staff as necessary and appropriate.

Meeting closed at 17:13

Minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, meeting no. 40, 23 April 2026 – confirmed as a true and correct record:

Confirmed:

Dr Penny Schulz,

Presiding Member

Date: 25 June 2026