

Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting minutes

Meeting information

Location and time

Thursday, 4 December 2025 at 11:17

The Commodore Motel, Mount Gambier

Attendees

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

Staff: Steve Bourne (General Manager), Liz Perkins Jason Taylor, Le-Anne Thomson, Mike Stevens, Jazmin Bingham, Jo Laubsch from 12:10 till 12:45, Alison Boomsma on MS Teams/phone for item 4.3 (13:18 -13:44), Chelsea Burns for item 4.5 (13:18 -15:20), Ehsan Sayad for item 4.7 (15:40 -:15 and Anya Karsten (minute taker).

Guests: Nil.

Public gallery: Eugene Boisvert (14:25-14:47).

Apologies: Nil.

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 Opening, welcome and apologies

Meeting opened.

1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

Presenter: Chair Penny Schulz

1.3 Declarations of Interest Register and Standing Interest Register

R Davis requested the following amendments:

1. Remove NED Invasive Animals Ltd
2. Remove Ambassador for the UN/World Potato Congress 2024

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 (#37, 23 October 2025)	(g)
3.2 Business arising	(g)
3.3 Resolutions without meetings – nil entries	(g)
3.4 Closed session Actions Register	(e)(f)
3.5 Office and depot strategy	(g)
3.6 GFAC	(g)
3.6 Enforcement and Compliance Register	(b)(f)
3.7 Other business	(g)

Closed session

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 11:22 am with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor, M Stevens, J Bingham, J Laubsch from 12:10 and A Karsten present.
2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 12:29 pm.
 - 3.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#37, 23/10/2025)
 - 3.2 Business arising
 - 3.3 Resolutions out of session (nil)
 - 3.4 Closed Session Actions Register
 - 3.5 Office and depot strategy
 - 3.6 GFAC
 - 3.7 Enforcement and Compliance Register

3.8 Other business

Meeting items

4.1 Public gallery

Eugene Boisvert (14:25-14:47).

4.2 Jazmin Bingham, LC Landscape Board Business Services Trainee

Discussion:

J Bingham gave a presentation concerning her involvement in advocacy and community work, writing and media experiences, future study and career aspirations.

The LC Landscape Board noted that J Bingham secured a trainee position with the LC Landscape Board's Business Services team and discussed opportunities within that role and her potential involvement in other areas.

4.3 Regional Landscape Plan

Presenter: L Perkins and A Boomsma

Discussion:

The LC Landscape discussed a revised draft Plan, commending the team on the positive feedback and good flow of the document. Further suggestions were noted for the final version to be presented for approval at the February LC Landscape meeting.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the revised draft of the 2026-31 Regional Landscape Plan with minor amendments as discussed in addition to minor text refinements and final graphic design.
2. Noted the final version will be presented to the Board in February 2026.

4.4 Landscape and Water Levy Rates for 2026-27

Presenter: L Thomson

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted that a maximum permitted increase under the *Landscape SA Act 2019* is 2.4% (September Adelaide CPI). It was also noted that a reduction to project delivery will be necessary due to the level of operation requiring a 2.9% increase.

Cost savings including the depot strategy and Ministerial approval required for increase above CPI, were also discussed and noted.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved to increase Landscape and Water Levies by the CPI rate of 2.4% for the 2026-27 financial year.

4.5 Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review – update

Presenter: L Perkins and C Burns

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board discussed feedback from community consultation, including decreased volumes of monitoring, recognition of, and practice change needs.

It was noted that salinity management and monitoring of salinity levels is challenging. An expectation of what a licence holder would like to see and know was discussed. A concern was expressed that the advisory group may not be sufficient experienced to make a recommendation.

It was suggested that a review of the science is required to understand salinity in the area.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

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

4.6 Drainage and Wetlands Strategy Committee – Meeting 4 Minutes

Presenter: J Taylor

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board further discussed management of the Morella Basin outlet regulator and Tilley Swamp Watercourse following the Drainage and Wetlands Strategy Committee meeting on 24 September 2025.

It was noted that the Committee agreed that amendment to the South East Flows Restoration Project (SEFRP) Operations Manual is required, in respect to fish passage at the Morella Basin outlet regulator, in order to gain ecological benefits. Removal of reference to the fish passage in the manual and increase to the water holding capacity be removed.

Concerns were also raised regarding the management of the Operations Plan. The staff who originally developed the strategy have since left, taking much of the corporate knowledge with them.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the draft minutes of the fourth meeting of the LC Landscape Board and South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board (SEWCDB) Drainage and Wetlands Strategy Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2025.

2. Endorsed the Committee resolution to support SEWCDB to seek to amend the SEFRP Operations Manual in respect to fish passage.
3. Approved to write to the SEWCDB and Department for Environment and Water Infrastructure Operations to support amendment of the SEFRP Operations Manual in respect to fish passage and to support adopting a minimum water level of at least 5.1m AHD at Morella Basin outlet regulator when sufficient water is available.
4. Agreed for the Drainage and Wetlands Strategy Committee to include Operations Manual amendment on the Committee agenda for further discussion.

4.7 Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) projects update

Presenters: J Taylor and E Sayad

Discussion:

E Sayad gave an update on the delivery of the National Soils Monitoring Program. It was noted that soil samples are analysed by different labs, including CSIRO or interstate depending on the nature of testing (eg. biology or physiology).

The scope of testing was discussed and it was suggested that the sites ameliorated in the past should be part of the sampling pool. More detailed information on the testing was requested.

Action: J Taylor to provide a link to the soil sampling video.

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.

4.8 Q1 Project reports

Presenter: L Perkins

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board commended E Stoner on the quality of the speakers presenting at the Carbon Farming workshops.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the attached Q1 project reports.

Standing items

5.1 Draft minutes of LC Landscape Board meeting 37 held 23 October 2025

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting no. 37, held on 23 October 2025.

5.2 Business arising

- Minister Hood received two updates on water allocation from the LCLB Chair P Schulz.

5.3 Resolutions without meeting

The Board made the following resolution without meeting on 28 November 2025.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved for the Chair to sign the 2024-25 Annual Report.
2. Approved for the Chair and General Manager to sign the audited 2024-25 financial statements.
3. Approved for the Chair and General Manager to sign the Management Representation letter.
4. Noted the 2024-25 Annual Report and audited financial statements will be submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water before 30 November 2025.

5.4 Minutes, report and recommendations from the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee – 17 November 2025

Presenter: GFAC Chair

Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted the balance sheet shows a healthy position.

The GFAC Chair, R Davis attended the Auditor General's Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 6 November 2025. The associated presentation is available for the Members on the LC Landscape Board Portal.

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee met on 17 November 2025.
2. Noted the financial summary for the quarter ending 30 September 2025.

3. Noted the Work Health and Safety Report for the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26.
4. Noted the approved minutes of Governance, Finance and Audit Committee meeting No. 26, 4 August 2025 as discussed at the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting held on 28 August 2025.

5.5 Board Contracts Report

Nil.

5.6 Presiding Member's Report

The written report was received and noted. In addition, the following points were discussed:

- P Schulz acknowledged J Sobels in his coordination of the Coorong Field trip on the 22 October 2025.
- Woodwells Spyridium project work order submitted through Dr Fiona Fraser, Threatened Species Commissioner.
- Next NRM Knowledge Conference will be held in SA in 2027.

Noted.

5.7 General Manager's report

The written report was received and noted. In addition, the following points were discussed:

- AR3 development and the genuine concern for the landscape due to soil disruption and removal.
- Possible future discussion with Minister Koutsantonis
- Bushland Program – DEW extending Other Environmental Conservation Measures.

Noted.

5.8 LC Landscape Board Members' reports

Verbal reports were received.

R Davis attended 'Water in our Landscape' Workshop on 25 November, commending Education team M Holtz and D Bickley on their great work and the quality of the young students presenting.

R Davis advised appreciation from the LCLB with its professional coordination of the Native Vegetation Council activities during the SE Trip on 1-3 December. The Council visited sites such as Mt Burr, Lake Hawdon and Sea of Stones.

T Linnell thanked the General Manager for the opportunity to attend the LC Landscape Board staff day, to share and to represent the governing body. He commended the organisers on the great day.

5.9 Correspondence register

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Accepted the correspondence for the period from 22 August 2025 to 16 October 2025.

5.10 Forward plan and actions register

- Warrawee Farm received a Biosecurity Award
- Inundation of Rosetown from Maria Creek – site visit

Actions:

P Schulz to write a letter of congratulations to the Warrawee farm management.

S Bourne to include a Maria Creek and Rosetown visit on the February 2026 agenda.

Noted.

5.11 Other business

Caretaker period process was discussed and noted.

Meeting closure

6.1 Approval for the General Manager to action decisions from the closed session of meeting 38

Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Delegated authority to the General Manager to communicate closed session items and resolutions from meeting no. 38 to the relevant staff as necessary and appropriate.

Meeting closed at 17:03

Minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, meeting no. 38, 4 December 2025 – confirmed as a true and correct record:

Confirmed: 

Penny Schulz, Presiding Member

Date: 26 February 2026