

# Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting minutes

## Meeting information

### Location and time

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 11:34 am

Commodore Motel, 1 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier

### Attendees

LC Landscape Board Members: Penny Schulz (Chair), Fiona Rasheed (to 16:39), Mark Bachmann, Pete Bissell, Robbie Davis, Tom Linnell (to 16:39) and Tracey Strugnell.

Staff: Steve Bourne (General Manager), Liz Perkins, Le-Anne Thomson (to 12:20), Jason Taylor, Mike Stevens, Alison Boomsma (for item 3.3) and Anya Karsten (minute taker).

Guests: Alison Stillwell and Dr Irene Watson, Tamara Pomery, Kirrakee Watson on MS Teams.

Public gallery: Nil

Apologies: Nil.

## Welcome and apologies

### 1.1 Opening, welcome and apologies

Meeting opened 11:34 am

### 1.2 Declarations of Interest Register and Standing Interest Register

P Bissell declared that he permitted Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association to install signage on his vineyard property on Riddoch Highway.

F Rasheed noted one of the proposed rare earths exploration sites is located next to her property boundary.

### 1.3 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
5.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#31, 24 October 2024)	(g)
5.2 Business arising	(g)
5.3 Resolutions without meetings – nil entries	(g)
5.4 GFAC minutes of meeting (#23, 11 November 2024)	(g)
5.5 Deer compliance update	(e)(f)
5.6 Closed session Actions Register	(e)(f)
5.7 Enforcement and Compliance Register	(b)(f)
5.8 Other business	(g)

## **1.4 Acknowledgement of Country**

Presenter: P Schulz, Chair

## **Meeting items**

### **3.1 Public gallery**

Nil.

### **3.2 Levy setting for 2025-26 financial year**

Presenter: Le-Anne Thomson

#### **Discussion:**

The LC Landscape Board noted that Coorong District Council is looking into development of hardship provisions due to a financially challenging year in some locations.

It was discussed that community awareness of the Landscape levy is not high and the feedback is low.

11:46 T Strugnell and F Rasheed left the meeting room and abstained from voting.

#### **Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Approved to increase landscape and water levies by the CPI rate of 3.2% for the 2025-26 financial year.

T Strugnell and F Rasheed returned to the meeting at 11:47.

### 3.3 Grassroots Grants update

Presenters: In person - Alison Boomsma and Alison Stilwell; MS Teams - Dr Irene Watson, Tamara Pomery, Kirrakee Watson

#### Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board commended the 'Telling the Whole Story' project in Kingston, noting the significant expertise. It was suggested that the National Trust of SA branch be involved in the art installation launch once completed. This project can serve as an example for future projects.

The LC Landscape Board noted the 'Telling the Whole Story' project's connection to Country, bringing the First Nations knowledge and history to the forefront for the community of the South East.

#### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the progress of the Grassroots Grants program.

**LUNCH 12:50 – 13:10**

### 3.4 Regional Landscape Plan

Presenter: L Perkins and A Boomsma

#### Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board requested a whole Board involvement in the review of the Regional Landscape Plan. It was noted that in the five years since the Plan's last community consultation and adoption, community views may not have changed significantly and there may not be a lot of amendments required. The Plan's artwork can be re-negotiated within the amended Plan. The meeting noted that the revised Plan's timeline for completion is July 2026.

It was suggested to hold conversations with local Councils to determine the needs of their communities. The LC Landscape Board also noted that the Sustainable Agriculture section of the Plan needs review.

#### **ACTION for 27 February 2025 LC Landscape Board meeting:**

1. Determine if external expertise should be contracted to support elements of this review, including review of achievements under the current plan, production of a 5-year achievements report, and support/undertake community consultation. Defer to 27 February meeting.
2. Consider commissioning a new First Nations artwork for the updated Regional Landscape Plan. Decision after the workshop at February meeting.

### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Noted the plans in place to review the existing Regional Landscape Plan and draft a new one.
2. Approved all LC Landscape Board Members to be included in the review of the Regional Landscape Plan.

### 3.5 Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee

Presenter: S Bourne

#### Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board noted that dingoes are treated differently in various states across the country with South Australia applying the most aggressive approach to control.

The LC Landscape Board discussed the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee's Terms of Reference and suggested the following changes to point 2.3: Other aspects of activity, with amendment to the first dot point and deletion of the fourth dot point:

- Advocate for an effective and well maintained dog proof fence around Ngarkat Conservation Park.

**ACTION: S Bourne** circulate a recording of the NRM Australia 'Dingoes as a landscape process' (Biosecurity Hub webinar) presentation to the Board Members.

### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Endorsed the reviewed terms of reference for the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee with the following amendments:

*"2.3 Other aspects of activity:*

*Advocate for an effective and well maintained dog proof fence around Ngarkat Conservation Park".*

### 3.6 Update on Eastern Quoll reintroduction concept

Presenter: M Stevens

#### Discussion:

The LC Landscape Board discussed the project's suitability for Landscape Priorities Fund (LPF), should the application be received during April – May. The outcome will be known in December 2025.

It was noted that to allow resources for this project, some projects will need to be removed from the Business Plan. Other funding options should be investigated such as threatened species, invasive species funding, philanthropic funding. Further research on safe bait rates for quolls, landholder engagement and site preparation is needed for this project's success.

**Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Provided direction to staff on the level of future involvement in the proposal to reintroduce Eastern Quoll to the Limestone Coast region:

Option B – continue to support where possible and assist with writing grant funding applications when opportunities arise.

**3.7 National Heritage Trust projects update**

Presenter: J Taylor

**Discussion:**

It was noted there has been extensive time delays in the administration of the project approval process.

The LC Landscape Board noted the Bat Night event recently held by the Southern Bent-Wing Bats project, which assisted in building support for the project by the local community.

**Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Noted the status of the current Natural Heritage Trust projects being delivered by the LC Landscape Board as the Regional Delivery Partner from now until June 2028.

**3.8 Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan update**

Presenter: L Perkins

**Discussion:**

The LC Landscape Board discussed the economic value of the irrigation industry and a letter received from five concerned irrigators who attended the August 2024 community water allocation plan consultation meeting.

**ACTION: A Karsten** to circulate the letter from the concerned irrigators to all Members.

**Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

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

### 3.9 Quarterly project reporting

Presenter: L Perkins

#### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the attached Q1 project reports.

#### BREAK 15:39 TO 15:48

#### Closed session commencement

At the discretion of the Chair, some closed session items were considered earlier than indicated in the agenda, resulting in multiple resolutions to move into, and out of, the closed session.

5.1 LC Landscape Board – closed session draft minutes for endorsement (#31, 24 October 2024)

5.2 Business arising

5.4 GFAC minutes of meeting (#23, 11 November 2024)

#### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 15:49 with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor, and A Karsten present.
2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 16:21.

### Standing items

#### 4.1 Draft minutes of LC Landscape Board Meeting 31 held 24 October 2024

#### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Approved the minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting no. 31, held on 24 October 2024, subject to correction of P Bissell's report to the following: "indigenous harvesting of fish was distributed to community".

#### 4.2 Business arising

Nil.

#### 4.3 Resolutions without meeting

#### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

Noted the circular resolutions on 28 November 2024:

1. Approved for the Chair and General Manager to sign the LC Landscape Board 2023/24 annual financial statements.
2. Approved for the Chair to sign the management representation letter.
3. Approved for the Chair to sign the 2023/24 LC Landscape Board Annual Report.
4. Noted that the 2023/24 Annual Report and financial statements will be submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water before 30 November 2024.

**ACTION: A Karsten** to simplify a covering paper and only list recommendations without 'purpose or background' sections.

#### **4.4 Governance, Finance and Audit Committee**

Presenter: GFAC Chair, R Davis

##### **Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Noted the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee met on 11 November 2024.
2. Noted the Financial Report for the quarter ending 30 September 2024. (Appendix 2)
3. Noted the Work Health and Safety Report for the first quarter of the financial year 2024-25. (Appendix 2)
4. Noted the Committee approved the minutes of the Governance, Finance and Audit Committee meeting 22 held on 2 August 2024 as discussed at the Limestone Coast Landscape Board meeting on 22 August 2024.

#### **4.5 Board contracts report**

Nil

#### **4.6 Presiding Member's report**

Noted.

#### **4.7 General Manager's report**

Noted.

**16:39 T Linnell and F Rasheed left the meeting.**

#### **4.8 LC Landscape Board members' reports**

##### **M Bachmann**

Attended Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association in Wrattenbully and a Dr Richard Harris workshop session.

##### **R Davis**

Attended Invasive Species Council meetings in Adelaide, and YELP Expo in Robe, noting the high level of work of the environmental educators.

Attended Wilderness and Wildlife Council dinner in Naracoorte and Auditor-General's risk and performance committee meeting in Adelaide, There was emphasis on risk. It was suggested to review the risk register.

Noted.

### **Closed session resumed**

5.5 Deer compliance

5.6 Closed session actions register

#### **Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 16:32 with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor, and A Karsten present.
2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 16:48

### **4.9 Correspondence register**

#### **Resolution – LC Landscape Board:**

1. Accepted the correspondence for the period from 17 October 2024 to 28 November 2024.
2. Approved amendment to register to include a letter from T Beck and four landholders, dated 24 October 2024 in response to the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Planning community consultation.

**ACTION: A Karsten** to circulate to the LC Landscape Board Members letter from T Beck et al and response from the LC Landscape Board (as per 3.8 above)

### **4.10 Forward plan and actions register**

- Suggested meeting date change from 1 May 2025 to 30 April due to S Bourne's absence, depending on Board Members' availability.
- October 2025 meeting - suggested to visit Coorong area for engagement with Ngarrangeri.
- It was suggested to meet via MS Teams on 23 or 30 January to discuss S Philpott's presentation on the Mt Gambier Vision Strategy followed by a Biodiversity Act presentation by Jason Higham, DEW. The Native Vegetation Act is now contained in the Biodiversity Act.

### **4.11 Other business**

Nil.



## Closed session

### Closed session resumed

5.7 Enforcement and Compliance Register

5.8 Other business

### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Moved into the closed session of the meeting at 16:51 with staff members S Bourne, L Perkins, J Taylor, and A Karsten present.
2. Moved into the open session of the meeting at 17:04.

## Meeting closure

### 6.1 Approval for the General Manager to action decisions from the closed session of meeting 32

### Resolution – LC Landscape Board:

1. Delegated authority to the General Manager to communicate closed session items and resolutions from meeting no. 32 to the relevant staff as necessary and appropriate.

## Meeting review and communication

The LC Landscape Board noted a different approach for 2025 to communicate meeting outcomes to community.

## Meeting closed at 17:05

Minutes of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, meeting no. 32, 5 December 2024 – confirmed as a true and correct record:

### Confirmed:



Penny Schulz, Presiding Member

Date: 27 February 2025