Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

MINUTES

Acknowledgement of Country

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board acknowledges First Nations people as the first people of the lands and waters where we live and work. We respect the Peramangk, Kaurna, and Ngarrindjeri peoples, past and present, who have cared for Watta/Yerta/Ruwe for generations, nurturing its life, stories, and landscapes. We recognise their deep knowledge, spiritual belonging and enduring connection to Country.

We are committed to walking alongside First Nations, listening, learning, and working together to protect and restore these lands and waters.

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Meeting #48

Date: 26/08/2026

Start Time: 9:30 am **Scheduled Finish Time:** 1:00 pm (Lunch followed)

Location: Mt Barker Community Centre

Attendees:

Board members

David Greenhough (Chair), Janet Klein, Andy Lowe, Jock Harvey, Leanne Muffet and Chris West.

Staff

Michael Garrod (General Manager), Michaela Heinson (Manager Planning & Engagement), Renee Clark (Manager Business and Governance), Alison Skinner (Team Leader - Planning and MERI), Paul Wainwright (Team Leader - Water Resources) Simon Jenkins (Finance Lead), and Emilee Heinrich (Team Leader - Business Support).

Guests

Karina Gutierrez-Jurado (Senior Hydrologist, DEW), Darren Ray (Principal Advisor Climate Science, DEW), Doug Green (Principal Hydroecologist, DEW), Kyle Horner (Principal Hydrogeologist), Karen Hutchinson (CEO, Watertrust Australia) and Kane Aldridge (Principal, Watertrust Australia)

Apologies: James Stacey, Amelia Graham, Sarah Day and Ben Della Torre (Manager, Landscape Operations) and Susan Ivory (Team Leader, Stewardship Program)

Meeting Items

Preliminary and Procedural Matters

1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair acknowledged Country and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1.2 Conflict of Interest Disclosure (arising from agenda items)

Nil.

1.3 Consent Schedule

- D Greenhough noted the structure had minorly changed from the June Meeting, and confirming the Forward Agenda would also be added moving forward.

Action

1) Board Meeting Forward Agenda to be added to the consent schedule.

Responsible Officer: E Heinrich

The board **approved** the items on the Consent Schedule, and that their motions be carried.

Moved: *A Lowe* ***Seconded:*** *C West*

1.4 Any Other Business (to be covered in item 4)

1.5 Minutes from the previous meeting

The board **confirmed** the minutes of Meeting No. 47, held on 24 June 2026 as a true and accurate record noting the following amendment:

- The wording in section 2.8 of the draft minutes the dot point reading "*with approximately 250 dams currently under investigated."* should become "*with approximately 250 dams currently under investigation*."

Moved: *L Muffet* ***Seconded:*** *C West* ***Carried***

1.6 Actions arising from previous meetings

- M Garrod noted that the training matrix action from the previous meeting has been superseded. It was agreed among Executive Leadership sending the matrix would be premature given upcoming board recruitment in January and anticipated changes to sub-committee membership.
- Sub-committee Chairs will also prepare a 12-month forward agenda and revised terms of reference for consideration at the October Board meeting.

The board **noted** the status of actions arising from the previous minutes.

Moved: *J Klein* ***Seconded:*** *A Lowe* ***Carried***

1.7 Resolution Register

The board **noted** the Resolution Register.

Carried

Items (for noting or decision)

2.1 Presentation – Adequacy and Equity Project Update

- M Garrod presented an update on the statewide adequacy and equity project, highlighting the following:
  - Noting significant variation in levy methodologies and effective levy rates between Landscape Boards.
  - Confirmed that modelling is being undertaken by BDO Economics exploring options to improve equity and funding adequacy across regions. M Garrod presented some of the potential levy scenarios and the impact on regions currently contributing above and below the state median effective levy rate.
  - M Garrod noted the importance of ensuring sufficient and sustainable funding to deliver statutory landscape management functions and environmental outcomes.
  - Further assessment and consultation with Landscape Board Chairs and General Managers will occur at their October meeting before a preferred model is recommended.
  - A verbal update will be provided to the board at the next Board meeting.

- Discussion followed:
  - The Board discussed the socio-economic considerations of levy reform, including community willingness to pay, intergenerational equity, potential means-testing approaches, and the need to clearly communicate the value of investment in landscape management and environmental outcomes.
  - Discussion also noted the political and community engagement challenges associated with funding reform, including the balance between staged or more substantial levy adjustments, anticipated public response, and the importance of strong advocacy for sustainable investment in natural resources.
  - The board were supportive of the project.

2.2 Board Member "Ear to the Ground"

- Conversation centred around carbon and biodiversity markets, and what effective role Landscape Boards can play in this space.

Action

2) Presentation by W Telfer to be arranged on Carbon and Biodiversity Markets

Responsible Officer: *M Garrod*

Carried

2.3 General Managers report

- M Garrod spoke to the paper provided, highlighting:
  - Board recruitment applications have closed, with 20 applications received for the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, including applications from current board members whose terms are ending. The Minister will make final appointments, following panel review of applications in September.

- H5 Bird Flu surveillance activities have stopped, with an expression of interest circulated to staff interested in completing biosecurity training in September through PIRSA.
- Policy position changes were noted in relation to African and European olives, following work led by S Ivory, in addition to African lovegrass, following work undertaken by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board.
- Members were encouraged to attend the remaining four Catchment Conversations events.
- An update was provided on the Board's carbon neutrality initiative, including the purchase of carbon credits. Additional credits are being purchased to meet the organisation's carbon neutral target.

- Discussion followed:
  - L Muffet queried attendance at the introductory erosion and sediment control training course. M Heinson confirmed the course was at capacity, with three elected members in attendance, and noted the group was engaged and the session ran over time. Attendance certificates have been offered, and an additional four-day training opportunity has been circulated to support further sector capability development.

The board:

2.3.1 noted the General Manager's report.

Moved: *L Muffet* ***Seconded:*** *J Harvey* ***Carried***

2.4 Quarterly Project Progress Report April – June 2026

- The paper was taken as read, M Garrod noted the following key points:
  - An exception was noted for the Water Planning program. Confirming that the revised Cabinet submission remained with DEW for consideration, seeking an increase in funding allocation from DEW.
  - First Nations partnership activities were raised, including current challenges affecting the First Nations Ranger Program. Issues within the partner organisation have created uncertainty around future program delivery and ranger employment, with staff continuing to work with relevant parties to understand implications and identify possible pathways forward.

Moved: *J Harvey* ***Seconded:*** *J Klein* ***Carried***

2.5 Risk and Performance Committee Update and Minutes

The Risk and Performance Committee Update and Minutes were taken as read.

The board:

2.5.1 noted this update on the Risk and Performance Committee, and

2.5.2 noted the minutes of the Risk and Performance Committee meeting held on 23 July 2026.

Carried

2.6 Community Engagement Committee Update and Minutes

The Community Engagement Committee Update and Minutes were taken as read.

The board:

2.6.1 noted this update on the Community Engagement Committee.

2.6.2 noted the minutes of the Community Engagement Committee held on 15 June 2026.

Carried

2.7 Water Resources Steering Committee Update and Minutes

The Water Resources Steering Committee Update and Minutes were taken as read.

The board, in block:

2.7.1 noted this update on the Hills and Fleurieu Water Resources Steering Committee.

2.7.2 noted the minutes of the Hills and Fleurieu Water Resources Steering Committee meeting held on 27 April 2026.

Carried

2.8 Updated Agreement with SA Water to Manage Water Affecting Activities

- M Heinson provided a brief introduction, noting the agreement will cover all Landscape Boards and supports a streamlined process for low-risk Water affecting activities that would otherwise require individual permits. No further discussion followed.

The board, in block:

2.8.1 noted that an agreement with SA Water to assess and undertake Water Affecting Activities has recently been updated.

Moved: *L Muffet* ***Seconded:*** *A Lowe* ***Carried***

2.8.2 delegated approval to the General Manager of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Moved: *J Klein* ***Seconded:*** *C West* ***Carried***

2.9 2025/26 Financial Statements and Carryover Requests

- S Jenkins spoke to the paper provided, highlighting:
  - The financial statements and carryover request were circulated out of session to the Risk and Performance Committee with no additional comments.
  - Confirmed the package differs slightly from previous years and includes an end-of-year financial position.
- Discussion followed:
  - The board noted the reduction in cash reserves, S Jenkins confirmed this was expected and reflected planned expenditure of previously approved funding, together with timing differences associated with outstanding invoices at year end.
  - Staff advised the Board the agency remained on top of budgets and that the proposed carryover requests would support delivery of approved programs and projects, further speaking to the 5-year forecast and glide pathways project that was presented to the Risk and Performance committee. The board requested this presentation also be provided to the board.

Action

3) 5 Year Forecast and Glide pathways to be presented to the board.

Responsible Officer: M Garrod, S Jenkins and R Clark

The board, in block:

2.9.1 noted that the draft Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board 2025-26 Financial Statements have been submitted to the Auditor General.

2.9.2 noted the request to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) to carryover expenditure authority from the 2025-26 financial year.

2.9.3 noted the end of year financial position as noted in the Master Budget attachment.

Moved: *L Muffet* ***Seconded:*** *C West* ***Carried***

2.10 Climate Ready Government Policy

- The paper and policy were taken as read, discussion followed:
  - Board members requested a presentation on the practical application of the policy. M Garrod noted the Carbon Neutral Strategy and Action Plan, confirming progress has been made and a presentation can be provided at the October Board meeting.

Action

4) Presentation to be provided to the board at the October meeting on the Carbon Neutral Strategy and Action Plan.

Responsible Officer: R Clark

The board:

2.10.1 approved the draft Climate Ready Government Policy**.**

Moved: *C West* ***Seconded:*** *A Lowe* ***Carried***

2.11 Key Management Personnel Related Parties Policy and Procedure

- The paper and policy were taken as read. R Clark noted the Business and Governance team will simplify the form for completion next financial year. No further discussion followed.

The board:

2.11.1 approved the revised FIN-01 Key Management Personnel (KMP) Related Partied Policy and Procedure.

Moved: *J Klein* ***Seconded:*** *A Lowe* ***Carried***

2.12 Roadside Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy

- The paper and policy were taken as read, discussion followed:
  - M Garrod noted the policy remains largely unchanged and continues to provide a risk-based framework for roadside

pest weed and animal management, recognising the need to prioritise activities within available resources.

- Brief discussion was had regarding cost recovery provisions available under the act, whilst noting this is only applied in limited circumstances.

The board, in block:

2.12.1 approved the revised Roadside Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy.

Moved: *J Klein* ***Seconded:*** *C West* ***Carried***

2.13 Presentation – Condition of water resources after the Millenium Drought

- D Green introduced the DEW staff, and they presented an update on the Condition of Water resources after the Millenium Drought, highlighting the following:
  - Presenters advised that while recent rainfall had improved conditions in some areas, many parts of the region had not returned to pre-drought baselines and continued to experience long-term declines in water availability.
  - Surface water monitoring indicates reduced streamflow, shorter flow durations and declining runoff efficiency, with climate projections suggesting these trends are likely to continue.
  - Groundwater levels continue to show long-term declines, although outcomes vary between areas. It was noted that recovery of groundwater systems is generally slow and may require active intervention rather than reliance on natural rainfall alone.
  - Water-dependent ecosystems, including native fish populations and water bugs, are showing signs of stress associated with reduced water availability and changing flow regimes.
  - Presenters highlighted the combined impacts of climate change, reduced rainfall, farm dam interception and increasing pressure on water resources, noting that historical conditions are no longer a reliable basis for future water planning.
- Discussion followed:
  - The discussion reinforced the importance of the Water Allocation Plan review and the need for water management to respond to changing climate and environmental conditions.
  - M Garrod noted that this information had previously been presented to former Minister Close and queried how it would be raised within the political sphere. D Green confirmed that Minister Bourke has requested a half-day workshop with Water Science.

Action

5) Presentation and emails of DEW staff to be circulated to members out of session.

Responsible Officer: *E Heinrich*

Carried

2.14 Presentation – Watertrust Australia – Strengthening Partnerships

- K Aldridge presented an update on the partnership with Watertrust Australia, highlighting the following:
  - Noting the previous work in the Mount Lofty Ranges, including fairness workshops and community conversations undertaken in relation to water allocation planning. Confirming the synthesis report from this engagement process has recently been finalised following stakeholder feedback and will be circulated shortly.
  - Proposal for a future role in supporting the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan review process with HFLB was presented. The proposed approach would focus on demonstrating the value of deliberative engagement on specific issues.
  - A potential focus area identified for deliberative engagement is the management of excess water captured in farm dams and consideration of options to balance private water storage with broader water allocation objectives.
  - A multi-layered engagement approach that would be embedded within the board's engagement process was discussed.
  - Advised that its Board has approved involvement through to December next year, subject to ongoing review and agreement with the Landscape Board.
- Discussion followed:
  - The board discussed how deliberative panel processes may support community understanding of complex water issues noting the timeframes of any partnership with DEW water Science and Hills and Fleurieu staff.

Carried

Standing Items

3.1 Corporate Report

The corporate report was taken as read.

The board:

3.1.1 noted the Corporate Report to the end of July 2026.

Carried

3.2 Board Member Activity Register

The Board Member Activity Register was taken as read.

The board:

3.2.1 noted the register of meetings and events attended by the Chair and board members in their capacity as representatives.

Carried

3.3 Board Forward Agenda

The Board Forward Agenda was taken as read.

The board:

3.3.1 noted the Forward Agenda.

Carried

3.4 Register of Interests

The board:

3.4.1 noted the Register of Interests.

Carried

3.5 *Correspondence*

The board:

3.5.1 noted the correspondence record provided.

Carried

Other Business

4.1

- A board member noted they were approached by a member of the public regarding a potential compliance matter. It was confirmed the board member advised the landholder to discuss the matter with the relevant Compliance or Stewardship Officer.

Carried

In Camera / Confidential Papers

In accordance with the Landscape SA Act 2019, section 23 (5) the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board orders the public be excluded to receive, discuss or consider any prescribed information or matter in confidence

Meeting Closure

6.1 **Next meeting**: Wednesday – 28 October 2026
Venue: Mt Barker Community Centre – Training Room

6.2 **Meeting close** – 12:55pm

Endorsed 	David Greenhough **Presiding Member** **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board** 28 October 2026