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 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 #46

Date: 29/04/2026

Start Time: 9:33 am **Scheduled Finish Time:** 1:00 pm (Lunch followed)

Location: Mt Barker Polo Grounds

Attendees:

Board Members

David Greenhough (Chair), Janet Klein, Andy Lowe, Jock Harvey (Online), Leanne Muffet, Amelia Graham (Online), Sarah Day, Chris West and James Stacey

Staff

Ben Della Torre (A/General Manager), Brett Ibbotson (A/Manager Landscape Operations), Michaela Heinson (Manager Planning & Engagement), Renee Clark (Manager Business and Governance), Caroline Dorr (Team Leader, Communications and Regional Engagement), Wendy Telfer (Nature Partnerships and Finance Lead), Alison Skinner (Team Leader, Planning and MERI), Simon Jenkins (Finance Lead) and Emilee Heinrich (Team Leader, Business Support).

Apologies: Michael Garrod

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)

J Harvey declared a conflict of interest regarding his involvement with McLaren Vale Biodiversity and the Clean Rivers and Waterways project. The board acknowledged the disclosure and agreed to proceed, noting J Harvey's ability to manage the conflict.

1.3 Consent Schedule

D Greenhough noted the update made to the consent schedule, which now includes Policies, Procedures and Quarterly Reporting. The board was supportive of this change.

The board **approved** and **agreed** the items on the Consent Schedule be adopted.

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

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

- Planning and development and the impact on the environment within the region.
- Impacts of recent fisheries provisions
- Appointment of new Minister

1.5 Minutes from the previous meeting

The board **confirmed** the minutes of meeting number 45, held on 25 February 2026 as a true and accurate record pending the amendment of some typographical and grammatical errors.

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

1.6 Actions arising from previous meetings

- D Greenhough referred to action item 3.2 from meeting 45, confirming that the action had not been completed and should be returned to pending status. It was further noted that there remains some uncertainty regarding the term "parks infrastructure". R Clark advised that the relevant codes relate to infrastructure and assets owned by the board, such as low flow devices. The naming convention will be updated once the Oracle finance system has been rolled out. This has since been deferred from September to December.

The board:

noted the status of actions arising from the previous minutes.

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

1.7 Resolution Register

The board **noted** the Resolution Register.

Carried

Items (for noting or decision)

2.1 D Greenhough advised that the Basin Plan presentation would not proceed at this meeting following changes to the submission process. A presentation on the Clean Rivers and Waterways election commitment was provided instead.

Clean Rivers and Waterways

- W Telfer presented on the Clean Rivers and Waterways election commitment, highlighting:
  - The South Australian Government's $5 million commitment to restore watercourses, improve water quality and strengthen landscape resilience across Gulf St Vincent catchments.
  - The program comprises two integrated components: a community-led restoration program and development of the South Australian Clean Rivers Framework. The partnership program will be coordinated by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and focus on improving water quality, restoring rivers as natural infrastructure and supporting community stewardship.
  - The community-led component will commence in identified 'no regrets' sub-catchments flowing into Gulf St Vincent, involving community groups, First Nations organisations, councils, environmental NGOs and landholders. Delivery will occur through partnerships with the Hills and Fleurieu, Green Adelaide and Kangaroo Island Landscape Boards. Prioritisation undertaken during this phase will inform restoration investment in years two and three.
  - The South Australian Clean Rivers Framework will draw together existing science and knowledge to support a coordinated, evidence-based approach to river restoration. The Framework will include recommendations and standards for councils, land managers and agencies, spatial prioritisation of waterways, monitoring of environmental condition and community benefits, and investigation of sustainable finance opportunities and market mechanisms.
  - A brief discussion occurred regarding the program timeframes and delivery across the three year period.
  - Governance arrangements were discussed, including the proposed steering committee structure. L Muffet expressed the view that the board should chair the steering committee, supported by representatives from partner agencies to ensure broad oversight. D Greenhough supported this approach. The board agreed that the EPA, SA Water and DIT should be represented, and noted the importance of communications, community engagement and First Nations participation.
  - A budget breakdown was provided, comprising approximately $0.5 million for program coordination, reporting, communications and First Nations engagement; $3.5 million for community-led restoration activities; and $1 million for framework development, prioritisation and market development.

- Discussion followed:
  - L Muffet noted similarities between the initiative and the Catchments to Coast project and queried how the programs aligned, and whether that project remained active. W Telfer advised that related work may be occurring on Kangaroo Island, although this had not been confirmed.

- Members discussed future opportunities to leverage additional investment and noted there may be merit in commencing future funding discussions earlier than the next election cycle.
- It was noted that the program should also be shared with the Community Engagement Committee, with collaboration to occur with C Dorr in relation to community, communications and First Nations engagement.
- The board acknowledged the significant work undertaken to secure the election commitment and supported the proposed governance approach for program delivery.
- A Lowe and J Harvey queried whether a conflict of interest arose in relation to organisations they are involved with potentially receiving funding through the program. It was confirmed that a conflict existed and would be managed in accordance with Board processes.

Action

1) Conflict of Interest forms to be provided to J Harvey and A Lowe for updating in relation to involvement with the Clean Rivers and Waterways Program.

Responsible Officer: *E Heinrich*

2.2 MDBA Plan Review – HFLB Submission

- A briefing paper was provided prior to the meeting and taken as read.
- M Heinson spoke to the paper, noting:
  - The Water Resources Steering Committee (WRSC) was thanked for their engagement throughout development of the submission.
  - Minor amendments had been made since the meeting pack was sent, noting changes were made to address political sensitivities, particularly reframing concerns in section 6 and clarifying compliance issues in section 2.
  - The Minister had determined that a single South Australian Government submission would be provided to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, with DEW responsible for lodging the submission on behalf of government.
- Discussion followed:
  - The board acknowledged the significant work undertaken by staff and the Water Resources Steering Committee in preparing the submission. Members discussed the importance of ensuring regional perspectives continue to inform future Basin Plan discussions and engagement with government.
  - The board discussed the importance of maintaining a strong regional voice and considered future opportunities to raise concerns with the Minister and MDBA.
  - The board queried whether there was an opportunity to review DEW's submission. M Heinson confirmed that, due to Cabinet-in-Confidence requirements, the board would not have that opportunity until all submissions were made public. It was also confirmed that the submission had a strong focus on science.
  - D Greenhough advised he would continue to engage with the Minister and provide updates to the board as further information became available.

Action

2) Circulate the final MDBA Plan submission out of session to board members when available.

Responsible Officer: *E Heinrich*

The board:

2.2.1 noted the submission to the MDBA for the Basin Plan Review.

Moved: *J Stacey* ***Seconded:*** *J Klein* ***Carried***

2.3 General Manager's Report

- B Della Torre spoke to the report, highlighting the following:
  - B Della Torre advised that he and Tom Kloeden recently presented to the Green Adelaide board on the Regional Grazing Pressure Management Program, noting that additional funding had been secured, comprising $210,000 for on-ground works and $148,000 to support project staffing.
  - The SA Water correspondence regarding support for regional grazing pressure had been updated and, with the support of D Greenhough, has been sent. It was noted that the letter would also be circulated to board members out of session for their information.
  - The Cabinet submission relating to the Water Allocation Plan amendment has been lodged. Additional information and supporting content from the Department of Treasury and Finance and DEW had strengthened the submission.

- Positive progress was reported on the Bird Flu threat mitigation project. It was noted that the feral cat program had been well received by local councils and had attracted positive media coverage, with 77 feral cats euthanised. The pigeon shoot had commenced the previous night, with 33 pigeons culled.
- The red traffic lights indicated in the quarterly report were noted in relation to the Climate Ready Landscapes project, Water Planning for Farms, and participation in Fleurieu Farming Systems activities. While participation numbers were lower than anticipated when the report was prepared, additional registrations had subsequently been received and the project had been extended beyond the current financial year.

Action

3) Circulate the SA Water letter in relation to supporting regional grazing pressure to board members out of session.

Responsible Officer: *E Heinrich*

The board:

2.3.1 noted the General Manager's report.

Moved: *S Day* ***Seconded:*** *L Muffet* ***Carried***

2.4 Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031

- A Skinner spoke to the Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031, highlighting:
  - The statutory requirement to submit the Plan to the Minister for approval.
  - The extensive engagement with staff, the board and stakeholders, summarising the consultation feedback provided in the meeting pack.
  - Key changes included clarification of organisational roles and responsibilities, additional detail in the objectives and strategies, and broadening of the net zero agriculture target to encompass the national framework.
  - In addition, further adjustments were made to ensure a balance between board aspiration and current funding.

- Discussion followed:
  - Members discussed stakeholder feedback, particularly feedback from the agriculture sector.
  - Ongoing discussions with Primary Producers SA were noted, including a planned workshop relating to the Regional Pathway Towards Net Zero.
  - The plan was endorsed for submission to the Minister for approval.

The board:

2.4.1 endorsed the Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031 for Ministerial approval.

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

2.4.2 noted the Consultation Report on the draft Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031.

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

2.5 Draft 2026-27 Business Plan

- The paper was taken as read, discussion followed:
  - A Skinner highlighted budget amendments arising from additional funding secured through the Clean Rivers and Waterways Program, Landscape Priorities Fund bushfire recovery funding and Regional Grazing Pressure Management funding.
  - It was further noted that some funding previously included within the stewardship budget had now been distributed across key projects to better reflect planned expenditure.

The board:

2.5.1 endorsed the Business Plan 2026-27.

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

2.6 Board Performance Review Outcomes

- The paper was taken as read, discussion followed:
  - Discussion focused on strengthening strategic risk oversight and ensuring sufficient opportunity within Board meetings for strategic and emerging issues.

- The board supported retaining an "ear to the ground" agenda item to enable emerging regional issues, trends and risks.
- The board supported maintaining flexibility within Board agendas to address emerging strategic issues and risks as they arise.
- The board supported R Clark to review the Board Development and Learning Policy, including consideration of alignment with broader organisational learning frameworks.
- Members supported continuing to hold Board meetings across different parts of the region where practical, while maintaining flexibility for online participation when appropriate.

Action

4) Update the Board Development and Learning Policy for consideration at the June Board meeting.

Responsible Officer: *R Clark*

The board, in block:

2.6.1 noted the findings of the 2025-26 Board Performance Review.

2.6.2 endorsed Table 1 – Board Performance Review 2025-26 Recommendations and Endorsement Summary.

Moved: ***C West*** ***Seconded:*** ***S Day*** ***Carried***

2.7 Bushfire Recovery Grants Program

- C Dorr spoke to the Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, highlighting:
  - It was noted that the grants had been oversubscribed, with demand exceeding available funding.
  - Staff reallocated $16,000 of unallocated levy funding to support additional recovery activities.
  - Following assessment, funding was recommended for 27 of the 29 eligible applications received.
- Discussion followed:
  - Discussion occurred regarding the average funding per application, noting that most applications ranged between $4,000 and $5,000. C Dorr noted that applicants had the ability to apply for larger funding amounts, but this required further discussion with Stewardship officers and a more substantial application.
  - B Ibbotson noted the board would have the opportunity to visit some of these sites at the May board workshop, confirming that the invitation was also extended to the Minister.
  - The board acknowledged the speed of the program response and its positive contribution to bushfire recovery efforts across the region.

The board, in block:

2.7.1 noted the level of demand and oversubscription to the Bushfire Recovery Grants program.

2.7.2 noted the reallocation of $16,000 in 2025–26 levy funds to support additional fire recovery activities.

Moved: ***L Muffet*** ***Seconded:*** ***S Day*** ***Carried***

2.8 Community Engagement Committee

- Taken as read, discussion followed:
  - C Dorr spoke to the most recent meeting, held online on 24 March, noting that the assessment panel for the Grassroots Grants process had been established.
  - It was noted that the grants were heavily oversubscribed, and further information would be provided to the board at the June meeting once the assessment process had been finalised. The assessment panel will comprise four CEC members: S Campbell, A Graham, S Gordon and E Egglestone.
  - The next CEC meeting is due to be held on 15 June, with discussions due to focus on engagement for the Landscape Plan.
  - L Muffet discussed the committee's informal monthly meeting, noting that water featured strongly for the group, along with invasive species and engagement with broader planning standards.
  - It was noted that an invitation had been extended to CEC members to attend the Deep Creek and Tooperang field trip to be held on 27 May.

The board:

2.8.1 noted the minutes of the third Community Engagement Committee meeting.

Moved: *S Day* ***Seconded:*** ***J Klein*** ***Carried***

2.9 Risk and Performance Update

- The paper was taken as read, no further discussion followed.

The board:

2.9.1 noted the update from the Risk and Performance Committee meeting held on 12 March 2026.

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

2.10 Board Deputy Chair Nomination

- Paper was taken as read, discussion followed:
  - D Greenhough thanked J Klein for acting in the role of unofficial Deputy Chair.
  - It was noted that previous legislative advice received in 2020 indicated that a Deputy Chair could not be appointed formally; however, updated advice has now enabled the agency to formalise the process.
  - The board queried whether the role carried any delegated authority. This matter was taken on notice and will be clarified.
  - The board asked whether J Klein would be willing to formally accept the role. J Klein indicated that she was willing to do so. Staff will write to the Minister to notify her of J Klein's nomination.

Action

5) Any delegation of the Deputy Chair to be confirmed

Responsible Officer: *R Clark*

The board, in block:

2.10.1 noted the governance issues identified in the 2025–26 Board Performance Review regarding leadership continuity when the Presiding Member is unavailable.

2.10.2 resolved to **recommend** to the Minister the appointment of an existing board member as Deputy Presiding Member.

2.10.3 nominated a board member to the Minister as Deputy Presiding Member.

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

Standing Items

3.1 Work Health and Safety Update, and revised Work Health and Safety and Injury Management Policy

- The paper was provided prior to the meeting and was taken as read by the board. R Clark noted an update to the pack, namely Attachment 1 on WHS and HR matters, which had been well received by the RPC. Discussion followed:
  - D Greenhough requested that additional information be provided regarding the severity of the WHS incidents to provide greater context to the board.
  - Discussion followed regarding whether illness should be categorised separately from injuries. R Clark noted that this information is drawn from the HR system and, unfortunately, cannot be alteredA brief discussion also occurred regarding the terms and definitions used in the report.
  - The board was reluctant to approve the corporate summary report until further clarification of the terminology was provided. R Clark will provide additional information at the next board meeting.

Action

6) Definitions of the terminology used in the corporate report to be provided at the next board meeting.

Responsible Officer: *R Clark*

The board:

3.1.1 noted the WHS update as at 17 April 2026.

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

3.2 Financial Overview

- The financial overview was taken as read, and a new snapshot style reporting format was noted, along with a projected underspend of $85,000. Discussion followed:

- Board members requested clarification on certain figures, including the breakdown of operating and program delivery costs.
- Concerns were raised about the public perception of salary expenditure and the need to better represent program delivery in reporting.
- The board agreed to update terminology in future reports to distinguish program delivery from operating costs and to ensure clarity for both internal and public audiences.

The board:

3.2.1 noted the Finance update as at 31 March 2026.

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

3.3 Board Member Activity Register

The Board Member Activity Register was taken as read.

The board:

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

Carried

3.4 Board Forward Agenda

The Board Forward Agenda was taken as read.

The board:

3.4.1 noted the Forward Agenda.

Carried

Other Business

4.1

- Local planning and development and the impact on the environment
  - J Klein raised concerns about local planning and development, specifically a major housing proposal in the Mt Barker region, highlighting potential impacts on native vegetation, water flows and broader environmental issues.
  - Discussion continued regarding the tension between state and council planning powers, the complexity of native vegetation assessments, and the need for the board to better understand planning processes and develop relationships with planning authorities.
  - It was agreed that staff would explore options for a presentation or workshop with planning representatives to clarify processes and the board's potential role.

- Impacts of recent fisheries provisions
  - S Day raised the recent fisheries restrictions and queried their implications for commercial and recreational fishing, as well as environmental recovery.
  - B Ibbotson confirmed he had spoken with C Taylor, who noted that the restrictions were science-based and important for management of the fishery, as well as the recovery of marine ecosystems following the algal bloom. There was also some discussion about freshwater recreational fish restocking plans. Noted was the board's ongoing advocacy for science-based management and appropriate species release.

- Appointment of Minister
  - The board discussed the appointment of the new Minister and emphasised the importance of establishing a positive and collaborative working relationship as ministerial priorities and policy directions become clearer.

- Adelaide Climate Action Week
  - S Day noted that Adelaide Climate Action Week will run from 27 July to 2 August and that organisers are seeking opportunities to host meetings and events.
  - S Day queried whether the Landscape Board would consider participating. The matter was taken on notice for further discussion.

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 – 24 June 2026
Venue: McLaren Vale Visitors Centre

6.2 **Meeting close** – 1:15pm

Endorsed 	David Greenhough **Presiding Member** **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board** 24 June 2026