

Lower Limestone Coast WAP Review Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting No. 1, Thursday 20 October 2022, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Millicent Football Club

Minutes were confirmed at Meeting 2, 18 November 2022. Moved by: Terry Buckley, Seconded by: Kerry DeGaris

Objectives

- For the group to meet each other.
- Set the framework for how the group operates.
- Set the framework for the review.
- Discuss representativeness of group.

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Pete Bissel (Proxy Chair of Group, LC Landscape Board), Claire Davies, Glen Rivers, Graeme Hamilton, James Prescott, Kerry DeGaris, Kylie Boston, Melissa Herpich, Michelle Irvine, Terry Buckley, Wayne Hancock.

Staff Attendees – Steve Bourne (General Manager, LC Landscape Board), Sue Botting (Team Leader, Water Policy and Planning, LC Landscape Board), Liz Perkins (Manager, Planning and Engagement, LC Landscape Board).

Apologies – Peter Balnaves, Claire Harding, Nick Hillier, John Hunt, Belinda Williamson, Penny Schulz (Chair of Group, LC Landscape Board).

Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone, thanked advisory group members and staff for their attendance. Welcome video from Penny Schulz (Chair of Group) was also played.

Introductions

Graeme Hamilton – irrigating pre 1985. Part of group drafting first water allocation plan. Represents SADA.

Glenn Rivers – chief forester with 141. Science background, quantifying products growth, Involved in R+D, Forestry genetics program. Responsibility of managing and balancing for all – increasing demand for sustainable communities. Evidenced based decision making – looking for robust science.

Melissa Herpich – Ecological Programs, NGT. Previous GHCM + 15 yrs with SENRM – including Drainage and Wetland Strategy. Interest in wetland and ecological dependent systems.

Kylie Boston – Different hats. Small hobby farm at Yahl. Agronomist – worked with Graham and John on dairy irrigation. And around for the first Plan, though not heavily involved.

Jim Prescott – Different background – fisheries research and management – lobster research. Had farm in Kongorong (irrigator). Retired. Involved in Friends of Mt G Parks. Interest in GDEs.

Pete Bissell (Proxy Chair) – winemaker 35 years. Greenrise Lake advisory committee. Limestone Coast Grape Growers Assn. LC Landscape Board member for 2 years.

Terry Buckley – potatoes, prime lambs. Family moved to the region from the Adelaide Hills in 1966. Business has grown. Involved in last Plan. Challenging process.

Kerry DeGaris – farmer at Bool Lagoon, advisor with Treasury Estates.

Michelle Irvine – hydrogeologist by trade, Manager Water Security at SA Water (65 towns). Grew up in region at Blackfellows Caves.

Claire Davies – Wrattenbully, Limestone Coast Wine Growers Association. Interested in what the transition/change will be.

Wayne Hancock – irrigator at Reedy Creek. Confined aquifer. Last Plan was hard work and prior to that was on the Water Catchment Board and NRM committees. Representing Mid-South East Irrigators Group.

Purpose of the Review

Liz Perkins provided a brief introduction to the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Areas (presentation provided).

Key Points:

- Large diverse and complex region.
- Confined and unconfined aquifers.
- Policy – the melting pot of a lot of different factors, science being one.
- Purpose – confusion about what term “review” means
 - Statutory requirement
 - Evaluation – looking back. Not about starting again. Don’t seek to undo what has been done.
 - Seek to build.
 - Evaluating the principles of the Plan, the success of the Plan.

Discussion:

- Example of Principles provided (Principle 1 and one subprincipal) – recognition that there are principles in the current Plan that will no longer be relevant (relate to changes implemented in the last Plan such as volumetric conversion) and could be removed – Plan could be half the size.
- How do you deal with new things that may have come up? Relates to the assessment of whether the water allocation plan remains appropriate – consider what has changed and does the Plan accommodate this change, if it doesn’t is that a problem?
- Who is doing the independent review? This review process that the Stakeholder Advisory Group is supporting is the independent review. The LC Landscape Board is both the independent and designated body to undertake the review.
- Monitoring – Science Review - Included recommendation for more data and more monitoring – what has occurred here? Science review – work has been done on the recommendations and will be presented at next meeting. Recognition that the Science review was a process that resulted from a political commitment.
- Discussion around how to determine if the Plan remains appropriate – consideration given to a whole range of areas: Water Security, industry change, First Nations etc.

ACTION:

- 1.1. Provide an overview of the Science Review process, outcomes and the work that has occurred since then at Meeting 2.

Roles and Responsibilities

Sue Botting provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of key groups in the review process (presentation provided).

Key Points:

- Board will ask questions of this group e.g. Getting a better understanding of why all allocated water isn't used, Fire refuge areas has come up in other allocation plans.
- Seeking two-way communication – representatives to communicate to their stakeholders on the review and to bring their stakeholder views to the table, where appropriate.
- Chair of the groups – doesn't make decisions on behalf of the LC Landscape Board but connect back to the LC Landscape Board.
- Water Steering Committee – DEW and LC Landscape Board representatives, strategic, deals with high level challenges, resourcing.

LC Landscape Board Staffing

- General Manager – high level relationships at agency level, With the Chair of the LC Landscape Board reports directly to the Minister.
- Manager, Planning and Engagement – responsible for making it happen.
- Water Team – will undertake the bulk of the work to support the review process and will also review the Plan from the LC Landscape Board perspective.
- Engagement team – Andrea – Media Liaison, Lydia doing the bulk of the behind scenes communications and engagement work.

DEW Water Licencing

- Comment on administration of the Plan.
- Interpretation of the Plan – there can be situations where the apparent intent of the Plan is not backed up by a principle.
- Do licensees understand the principle? Licencing have a role to assist licensees understand principles and can provide insights into what principles licensees have issues with.

DEW Policy Team

- Policy alignment e.g. changes under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
 - inconsistency doesn't mean it's wrong but could create limitations that are undesirable
 - National Water Initiative
 - Federal Government Level
 - Closing the Gap
 - Critical Human Needs
 - Addressing Climate change.

DEW Science Team

- Monitoring.
- Database management.
- Ecologists.

- Hydrogeologists – Cameron Wood will be available to present in region.
- Minister endorsed protocol around the provision of science to water allocations plans.

Discussion:

- Who from the current team was part of the Mid-Year Science review – Phil was employed and Andrea but neither heavily involved in the review, Daniela Conesa now in policy in the Department.
- Recharge graph update (from the back of the Plan) – how do we request science or information for the group – LC Landscape Board has arrangement to access this – the Group should put forward requests through LC Landscape Board staff.
- Question around monitoring network and data – not as many wells being monitored but still some monitoring occurring? There was a review of the monitoring network which looked at what monitoring is required to support the water allocation plan and some consolidation did occur. Latest data will be critical to reviewing the objectives of the current water allocation plan and will be made available to the group.
- Was noted that through the last Plan “in the room” (the Stakeholder Advisory Group_ was good despite the challenges, media was a problem – people weren’t well informed. Some discussion around the process for media – communications and engagement plan, direct media enquiries to Liz Perkins. LC Landscape Board will take a proactive approach to directing the narrative around the LLC WAP Review.

ACTION:

- 1.2. LC Landscape Board Staff to provide relevant papers on the project portal for Stakeholder Advisory Group members to access.

Terms of Reference

Liz Perkins provided an overview of the Terms of Reference and opened up a discussion on the need for any change.

Key Points:

- No proxy positions available.

Discussion:

- Proxies raised as being important, can be difficult to attend all meetings, proxy available for the Chair. Discussion around the resourcing requirement of keeping 15 additional people equally informed on discussion on progress. Less resource requirement to work with members when they can’t attend to keep them up-to-date and have their perspectives presented. Can defer discussion to another meeting if critical representative not present. Proxies can result in going over the same ground often. MS Teams option will be made available for when members can attend the meeting but not in person. In person is preferred but mechanism will be available on an as needs basis. LC Landscape Board Staff will ensure the ability for representatives to contribute is not impacted by inability to attend.
- Location raised – Millicent location chosen as fairly central to representatives, location will move with consideration to where members are located.
- Will diary of meeting dates be set? Where possible – meeting frequency will vary.

Protocols

Liz Perkins provided an overview of the key protocols.

Key Points:

Ground rules:

- Meeting etiquette. Management by the Chair. Ability of people to get message across in 5 minutes and if view point not taken up by group move on.
- Need for the group to have sufficient notice of meetings and have sufficient information.
- Agenda required at least a week in advance, more if extensive.
- A need for LC Landscape Board staff to pre-work up ideas between meetings for the group to review.

Media:

All enquiries referred to Liz Perkins.

Confidentiality:

Consider how you take information back to stakeholders, consider where the discussion is up to, what your stakeholders might not understand. Consider anxiety!

Project Portal:

- Range of processes set up to allow easy reporting on communications and engagement at the end of the process.
- Project portal created to allow finding of information. If anyone requires assistance in accessing please let Liz know.
 - Members will be alerted to updates.

ACTION:

- 1.3. Ground rules to be drafted and provided back to Group.

Assessment of Representativeness of Review

Liz Perkins provided an overview of the key gaps in representatives in the group.

Key Points:

- Is the representation on the group right?
- If it isn't we need to get it right before we commence the evaluation.
- Aquaculture and Intensive Animal Production don't present significant users and some members indicated they have connections to assist the LC Landscape Board connecting with these sectors outside of the Stakeholder Advisory Group.
- Energy and Mining also small in terms of usage but was noted and discussed there is new development in mining by Australian Rare Earths Limited. Is this new development a concern for the water allocation plan? Some members expressed concerns. The Group didn't see a need for them to have representation but a strong need for them to be engaged in the process.
- Local Government – Board has means of engaging with local govt. People currently sitting at the table do represent the local community.
- First Nations – discussed this with them. The Stakeholder Advisory Group is not a comfortable place for them to engage. LC Landscape Board will be seeking to work directly with SEAFG outside of this group. Strong interest from the Group in seeing First Nations perspectives

actively included. Group would like to understand more about First Nations, engage with them – learn about their reconnection process. Stakeholder Advisory Group want to be clear on how they'll contribute into the process

- Hardwood representation identified as a resource intensive gap on the group. It was explained that the failure to submit an application was a mistake, person who was to be nominated put hand up at industry group and thought that was nomination. Suggestion was we include them in the group, they were hardest hit by reductions. Pete Balnaves who was an apology was in agreeance with them being represented - think it would be better if they were here – to be a complete process they need to be here. Were seen by some as hard to engage with previously and so better to be included in the group.

DECISION:

1. Group agreement that a nomination should be sought from hardwood plantation forestry for representation on the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

ACTIONS:

- 1.4. LC Landscape Board Staff prepare recommendation for the LC Landscape Board Governing Body on behalf of the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Recommendation to be considered by the LC Landscape Board Governing Body at its 28 October 2022 Meeting.
- 1.5. Convey stakeholder concerns around the Australian Rare Earths Limited development to the LC Landscape Board Governing Body.

Other business

None.

Next steps

- Landscape South Australia Act 2019.
- Understanding of the current Plan.
- Science review.
- Understanding the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area.
- Request for presentation by Goyder project representative on Climate Change 2017 work.
- Hard copies for all.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: DAY 16 November or 18 November – poll to be sent.

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4:18pm.

The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

Lower Limestone Coast WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Action Table

Action	LLC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting XX Update
1.1	Provide an overview of the Science Review process, outcomes and the work that has occurred since then at Meeting 2.	Ongoing	
1.2	LC Landscape Board Staff to provide relevant papers on the project portal for Stakeholder Advisory Group members to access	Ongoing	
1.3	Ground rules to be drafted and provided back to group	Ongoing	
1.4	LC Landscape Board Staff prepare recommendation for the LC Landscape Board Governing Body on behalf of the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Recommendation to be considered by the LC Landscape Board Governing Body at its 28 October 2022 Meeting.	Ongoing	
1.5	Convey stakeholder concerns around the Australian Rare Earths Limited development to the LC Landscape Board Governing Body.	Ongoing	

Action Table – Closed Items

Action	LLC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status

**Lower Limestone Coast WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Decision Register**

Issue	Meeting	Decision
Representativeness of Group	Meeting 1	Group agreement that a nomination should be sought from hardwood plantation forestry for representation on the Stakeholder Advisory Group.