

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY
DARLING BASIN
NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



**Government
of South Australia**

South Australian
Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources
Management Board

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Annual Report 2008- 2009

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Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

21st October 2009

Mr Dennis Mutton
Chair
Natural Resources Management Council
GPO Box 2834
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Mutton

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 38 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2009.

A set of the Board's "Draft" Financial Statements are attached. These are to date unaudited and a final set of audited accounts will be provided as soon as the Auditor General's Department has undertaken the 2008-09 audit.

On behalf of the Board I commend this report to you, the NRM Council and our partners and stakeholders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Paterson'.

William Paterson
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

1. FOREWORD

2008-09 has again provided some interesting challenges for the Board with continuing record low inflows into the River Murray and the ongoing drought making for difficult times for irrigators, the environment and the entire community. Despite this, a key achievement for the Board this year was the completion of the Board's first Regional Natural Resources Management Plan which was launched by the Minister for the River Murray the Hon Karlene Maywald on 30 June 2009.

The Plan sets long term 20 year targets for the desired state and condition of the Region's natural resources. In order to achieve these long term targets the Plan sets specific directions for ten years, with the Plan being reviewed every five years.

The Board consulted widely with the community in the development of the Plan with some 1900 comments and feedback being received during the consultation. Focus group sessions, public meetings in 11 locations and targeted briefings for local government were included as part of the consultation process. Following the thorough consultation on the Plan, the Board is confident that the Plan sets out the long term vision and goals for the management of the natural resources of the region that is shared by other natural resource managers in the region including State Agencies, Local Government, Industry Bodies Community Groups and many private individuals.

The drought continued to influence the work undertaken by the Board during the year. Low flows in the River Murray led to ongoing disconnection of wetlands, falling pool levels below Lock 1 and declining water quality in the Lower Lakes including issues with acid sulfate soils.

A monitoring project was set up in the Lower Lakes and tributaries designed to provide early warning of acidification as a result of declining water levels and exposure of acid sulfate soils. The project included fortnightly water quality monitoring at 24 sites, installation of permanent water quality monitoring stations, testing of acid sulfate soils and ecological monitoring.

Twenty-seven regulated wetlands remained disconnected from the River channel to achieve evaporative water savings with an additional six sites temporarily disconnected as a Basin-wide contingency measure to achieve water savings and prevent saline water draining into the river in the event of falling weir pools. Sixteen wetlands (including five unregulated wetlands) were reconnected using a total of 24.5GL of water, of which 14.5GL has been allocated from evaporative savings and 10GL from transmission flows upstream. Eighteen wetlands sites were watered on Chowilla with approximately 4GL of water used; however, these water savings have been achieved at the expense of wetland health, which has significantly deteriorated as the period of closure has increased. The ecology of Lakes Albert and Alexandrina has continued to decline with the barrage fishways closed since March 2007.

Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Coorong are in a state of ecological crisis due to the prolonged drought and extremely low flows below Lock 1. Management options are being finalised for the short, medium and long term management of the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

Water Allocation Planning continued throughout the year with the Marne Saunders, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Peake Roby and Sherlock, Mallee and River Murray Water Allocation Plans being either reviewed or developed. Separation of Water Rights in the River Murray as required by the National Water Initiative was a major change to the existing River Murray Water Allocation Plan, but with no policy change.

Throughout the year the Board actively promoted its roles and function and the importance of natural resource management to the community through its involvement in field days, workshops, science forums, and youth initiatives, and through information packs, media, newspaper inserts, newsletters, and communiqués.

I would like to commend the work of the River Murray Advisory Committee again this year in this challenging time, and particularly the input from the Chairperson, Joanne Pfeiffer throughout the year. The Committee provides regular advice to the Minister for the River Murray on water allocations, flow entitlements and best management of the drought situation, taking into consideration such things as the River Murray water resources outlook.

The four Natural Resources Management Groups established within the Region have continued to actively undertake their roles in the community throughout the year. The Groups have supported the Board and staff in addressing community issues, such as animal and plant control, water allocation and community consultation matters. The Groups have been involved in several Science Forums attracting good community participation and involvement. I thank the Chairs and members of these Groups for their commitment to the role, their valuable input and recommendations to the Board and staff.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank members of all the Committees established under the Board, including the various Water Resource Advisory Committees, Water Allocation Planning Committees and Local Government Advisory Committees for their time and contributions.

The support, assistance and commitment of each of the Board members, Agency and Local Government representatives on the Board have been invaluable to me and I personally thank each of them for their dedication, time and contribution. This past year saw an increasing call on members' time and effort with the development and finalisation of the Regional NRM Plan.

I would like to welcome Sheridan Alm as a community member and Peter Scott as the agency representative for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). I also thank our agency representative, John Riggs from the EPA, who retired during this year for his invaluable input.

This report highlights some of the key achievements during the 2008-09 year for which much of the thanks go to the dedicated efforts of our General Manager and the staff. I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the staff for their contribution throughout the year and I would particularly this year like to thank Alan Richards and his Planning Team for their commitment and efforts in ensuring that the Regional NRM Plan was finalised and approved in time for its implementation in July 2009.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Hon Karlene Maywald, the Minister for the River Murray, State Government Agencies, Local Government and the community that the Board has been involved with throughout the past year for their ongoing support and input. It is only possible for the Board to achieve its goals with the support, partnership and active involvement and input of all these people. The Board looks forward to continuing these close working relationships in the future.



William Paterson
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

2. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

Natural Resources Management activities undertaken by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity* and with the State Natural Resources Management Plan.

2.1 Vision

'A healthy living landscape meeting the social, environmental and economic needs of the community and ensuring the rights and wellbeing of future generations'.

2.2 Goals

- Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems
- Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits
- Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way
- Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.

2.3 South Australia's Strategic Plan

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board completed the development of a new "comprehensive" Regional NRM Plan as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The Board intends to adopt and implement the plan in 2009-10. Through the development of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Plan, the Board has been cognisant of aligning the organisation to the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity*.

The six strategic objectives from South Australia's Strategic Plan *Creating Opportunity* are:

- Attaining sustainability
- Growing prosperity
- Improving well-being
- Fostering creativity and innovation
- Building communities

- Expanding opportunity

The Board currently works under program areas and the table below outlines the links between the Board activities and the objectives of the State Strategic Plan and the State Natural Resources Management Plan.

SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Initial Plan	SA's Strategic Plan					
	Objectives					
Program Areas	Growing Prosperity	Improving Wellbeing	Attaining Sustainability	Fostering Creativity	Building Communities	Expanding Opportunity
Water and Salinity			√	√		
Land Use	√		√			
Land and Water Management			√	√		
Water Quality			√	√		
Coastal Zone and Estuarine Environment			√	√		
Fostering Community Engagement	√		√	√	√	√
Pest Animal and Plant Management			√	√		
Planning, Monitoring Evaluation, Research and Reporting		√	√	√	√	
River Murray Environmental Manager			√	√		

The Board's Regional Natural Resources Management Plan effective from the 1 July 2009 will take account of all regional responsibilities of the NRM Board specified in the South Australian Strategic Plan. Target Action Plans developed by State Agencies, and the Board align the regional NRM Plan to the sustainability targets of the State Strategic Plan. During this year the Board aligned its current resource condition targets and program-level reporting, as appropriate, to the SA Strategic Plan sustainability targets.

SA Strategic Plan Target	SA MDB NRM Initial Plan Resource Condition Targets (RCTs) and Board Commitments
Lose no species – lose no known native species as a result of human impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the conservation status of all threatened National and State listed species and regionally threatened communities and species by 2020
Land Biodiversity – by 2010 have five well established biodiversity corridors aimed at maximising ecological outcomes particularly in the face of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recover 30 % of quality native vegetation, habitat and agricultural production areas from pest infestation and minimize any further infestations by 2020 • By 2020 improve or maintain condition of terrestrial native vegetation focusing on identified priority areas and improve condition of 50% of remnant vegetation on private land as well as increasing vegetation cover by 1% in agricultural regions.
Soil Protection – by 2014 achieve a 20% increase in SA agricultural cropping land that is adequately protected from erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, reduce the area of agricultural land at risk of wind erosion during June each year by 40%.
Marine Biodiversity – by 2010 create 19 marine parks aimed at maximising ecological outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board’s strategy is to implement integrated programs for preserving the ecological assets of the coastal zone and marine environment and thus complements the SA Strategic Plan target.
Greenhouse Gas Emission reductions – achieve the Kyoto target to 108% of 1990 levels during 2008-2012 as a first step to reducing by 60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board works with its regional community in the protection of existing native vegetation and the re-establishment of perennial vegetation as positive initiative towards reducing greenhouse effects.
River Murray Flows – increase environmental flows by 500GL by 2009 and longer term target of 1500GL by 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Murray Mouth open 100% of the time through fresh water outflows with adequate tidal variation to meet the needs of Coorong ecosystems
River Murray Salinity – SA maintains a positive balance on the MDBC salinity register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, to have salinity of water in the River Murray less than 800EC for 95% of the time at Morgan to ensure drinking water standards • By 2020, to have salinity of water in the River Murray less than 543EC for 80% of the time at Berri Irrigation Pump Station to ensure drinking water standards • By 2020, to have salinity of water in the River Murray less than 770EC for 80% of the time at Murray Bridge Pump Station to ensure drinking water standards
Energy Efficiency –Government Buildings – improve by 25% by 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board aims to reduce energy use in its buildings and operations to meet the required targets

Aboriginal Unemployment – increase aboriginal employment rates each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board welcomes and encourages aboriginal applicants for any of its positions. Currently the Board employs two full time indigenous facilitators and two Aboriginal Project officers. The Board also provides training opportunities and collaborates on NRM activities with Aboriginal communities within its region.
Improving Well-being - Greater safety at Work and Work Life Balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board has established a formal Occupational Health and Safety Committee which is addressing work safety and occupational health issues
Building Communities - Boards and Committees – increase number of women on all State Government Boards and Committees to 50% on average by 2010 and maintain and increase number of women chairing state government boards and committees to 50% by 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board in selecting membership for its Committees considers the ratio of male and female representation and is committed to meeting the 50% ratio wherever possible within the timeframe. In consideration of new membership the Board will also take into consideration women chairing committees and aims to meet the required targets.
Expanding Opportunities - Increase number of people with disabilities employed by 2014 and have women comprising 50% public sector employees in executive levels by 2014 Increase aboriginal employment in public sector by 2% by 2010 and maintain or better those levels through to 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board in appointing staff does not discriminate in any way in the employment of people on the basis of gender, sexual persuasion, disabilities or race.

2.4 State Natural Resources Management Plan

The State NRM Plan identifies a 50-year vision for natural resource management in South Australia. The State NRM Plan contains four goals:

- Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.
- Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.
- Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.
- Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.

The Board's Strategic Goals, Strategies and associated Actions are guided by these four State NRM Plan goals at all levels.

The Board has developed a vision for the region. “A healthy living landscape meeting the social, environmental and economic needs of the community and ensuring the rights and wellbeing of future generations” and adopted goals for the new Regional NRM Plan consistent with those of the State NRM Plan.

The alignment of the Regional NRM Plan to the State NRM Plan will be further demonstrated through:

- Adopting the guiding principles of the State NRM Plan at the regional level
- Linking regional resource condition targets to state-wide resource condition targets in the State NRM Plan
- Linking regional management action targets to state-wide milestones in the State NRM plan.
- Identifying actions in the Regional NRM Plan to address relevant strategies in the State NRM Plan.

The table below illustrates the links between the State NRM Plan and Board’s Program areas.

SA MURRAY-DARLING BASIN INITIAL NRM PLAN GOALS	STATE NRM PLAN			
	Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.	Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits	Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way	Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry
Water and Salinity	√	√	√	√
Land Use	√	√	√	√
Land and Water Management	√	√	√	√
Water Quality	√	√	√	√
Coastal Zone and Estuarine Environment	√	√	√	√
Fostering Community Engagement	√	√	√	√
Pest Animal and Plant Management	√	√	√	√
Planning, Monitoring Evaluation, Research and Reporting	√	√	√	√
River Murray Environmental Manager	√	√	√	√

3. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

3.1 Initial Plan

The *Initial Natural Resources Management Plan (Initial Plan)*, approved by the Minister for the River Murray, the Hon. Karlene Maywald, met all the requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. It provided guidance to the activities and investment of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board) during the 2008-2009 year. The new Regional NRM Plan will come into full operation on 1 July 2009 and replace the *Initial Plan*.

3.2 Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan has been developed through an extensive process of consultation and engagement with the regional community, and was adopted by the Minister for the River Murray, the Hon. Karlene Maywald, on 28 April 2009. Following adoption by the Minister, the Regional NRM Plan was presented before the Natural Resources Committee of the South Australian Parliament for endorsement of the regional NRM levy proposed in the Business Plan (Volume Four). The Regional NRM Plan comes into full operation on 1 July 2009.

The Regional NRM Plan comprises four volumes:

Volume One - Strategic Plan (2009 – 2019): The Strategic Plan provides direction and sets challenging targets for NRM in the Region. It includes the vision, goals, guiding principles, resource condition targets, management action targets and the actions required to achieve these targets.

Volume Two - State of the Region: The State of the Region describes the natural resources of the Region, and reports on their current state and condition, as well as trends in state and condition.

Volume Three - Regulatory and Policy Framework: The Regulatory and Policy Framework includes the statutory requirements for water affecting activities, pest control, soil conservation and land management. It also aims to achieve alignment between the Regional NRM Plan, local government development plans, and NRM objectives.

Volume Four - Business Plan (2009 – 2012): The Business Plan outlines the actions to be undertaken by the SA MDB NRM Board in order to implement the Strategic Plan and meet the requirements of the Regulatory and Policy Framework.

The Regional NRM Plan has an asset-based structure, with five asset-classes of People, Water, Biodiversity, Land and Atmosphere. For each asset class there is an asset vision, long-term resource condition targets, medium-term management action targets, and actions.

The development and documentation of the targets and actions was assisted by the use of a program logic approach, a planning tool that is used to help design and evaluate plans or programs, and aims to record the expected cause and effect relationships between the components of the plan (e.g. between goals, RCTs, Management Action Targets (MATs) and actions).

3.2.1 Developing the Regional NRM Plan

Following the development of the *Concept Statement* (in 2006) and *Strategic Framework* (in 2007) a draft Regional NRM Plan was developed and finalised.

The Strategic Plan (Volume One) was prepared drawing upon the asset-based structure and program logic method. Initial program logic models were developed by the SA MDB NRM Board but tested and refined with targeted planning groups that comprised of key stakeholder representatives from NRM Groups, state agencies and non-government organisations. These models provided the basis for the development of quantifiable and time-bound targets (RCTs and MATs).

Background information on the state and condition of the Region's natural resources was collated and presented in the State of the Region (Volume Two).

Specialist investigations and consultancies were undertaken in the preparation of the regulatory policies presented in the Regulatory and Policy Framework (Volume Three). Of particular note was the consultation undertaken with all local governments in the region in regard to development planning matters.

Prioritisation of investment choices, as detailed in the Business Plan (Volume Four), was guided by an innovative study conducted with the CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. This study sought to identify priorities for investment based on detailed analysis of the community's values in regard to the Region's natural resources.

3.2.2 Consultation on the draft Regional NRM Plan

The *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* sets out the consultation requirements for a draft Regional NRM Plan. Consistent with this, the SA MDB NRM Board provided copies to the bodies identified under S 79(6) (including the NRM Council, peak bodies, relevant state agencies and local governments) and sought to consult with other regional stakeholders (including conservation groups, Aboriginal groups, industry groups, farmer and producer groups, and research and development institutions) and the wider regional community in relation to the draft Regional NRM Plan.

A communication strategy was prepared to guide the process and ensure that all regional communities and wider NRM interests were:

- Aware of the draft Regional NRM Plan and its implications
- Aware of all opportunities to comment on the draft

- Encouraged to contribute their ideas and opinions on its strategic direction and investment choice

The formal consultation period ran from 3 December 2008 to 6 February 2009. During this time a copy of the draft Regional NRM Plan, feedback forms, and fact sheets were sent to over 650 regional stakeholders, inviting written submissions and attendance at focus groups. A total of 20 focus group sessions were held at five locations and involved 118 participants. Public meetings were also held. Invitations were widely advertised and public meetings were held at 11 locations throughout the Region in January 2009 (at Goolwa, Adelaide, Murray Bridge, Wellington, Burra, Waikerie, Berri, Lameroo, Mount Barker, Karoonda and Cambrai). Targeted briefings for local government were held at Murray Bridge and Berri. The draft Regional NRM Plan was also presented to the NRM Council.

Over 1,900 comments were received during the formal consultation period and feedback from this process significantly influenced the finalised Regional NRM Plan. Further information about community consultation and engagement during the development of the draft Regional NRM Plan and during the formal consultation period is provided in the report *Consultation Report for the SA MDB NRM Plan*.

3.2.3 Implementation of the Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan sets the direction for natural resources management in the Region for the next 10 years. Importantly it is the sole NRM plan for the Region and seeks to guide the NRM planning and investment decisions of all regional stakeholders. Through implementation of the Regional NRM Plan, the SA MDB NRM Board seeks to:

- Strengthen its existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with organisations directly involved in the management of the Region's natural resources
- Mutually develop and co-invest in innovative new strategies and actions to achieve the goals and targets of the Regional NRM Plan and thereby the better management and/or protection of the region's natural resources
- Support individuals and organisations to increase their participation in NRM in the Region.

The SA MDB NRM Board will report back on a regular basis to stakeholders and the regional community on progress in the implementation of the Regional NRM Plan. This will include an Annual Review of the Regional NRM Plan as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, as well as regular reporting and publication of outcome information.

3.3 Water Allocation Planning

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) process is governed by the relevant sections of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, and aims to guide the granting of licences to take and use water, water allocation transfer and water affecting activity permit conditions. The Board has

the legislative function of preparing WAP's for prescribed water resources. At present the Board has seven prescribed areas each with a WAP in various stages of development.

Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resource

In January - April 2009, the Board in partnership with the Marne Saunders Water Resources Planning Committee undertook formal consultation on the draft water allocation plan.

Approximately 90 people attended public information sessions held at Cambrai and Eden Valley. Topics discussed included resource capacity calculations, rollover of allocation, trading of allocation, environmental considerations and stock and domestic use. The Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation also provided information on the existing user allocation and licensing processes. From this consultation, approximately 30 submissions were received on the draft plan. All submissions were considered in the development of the final draft of the water allocation plan. Ministerial adoption of the plan is expected to coincide with the issuing of licenses to existing users by December 2009.

Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resource

The Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) prescribed water resource area includes the Angas Bremer prescribed wells area and the eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges and extends from the Reedy Creek catchment in the north to the Currency Creek catchment in the south. During the period, the Board in collaboration with the two community advisory committees continued the development of the draft water allocation plan. Achievements for the period include policy development for:

- Allocation criteria for groundwater and surface water
- Rollover
- Trading of allocations between catchments and management zones
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Environmental water requirements.

Once the draft plan is completed, the Board will commence public consultation on the draft plan. The Board will consider all responses and amend the draft plan accordingly prior to submission to the Minister for approval. It is expected that the WAP will be approved by July 2010.

Angas Bremer Prescribed Wells Area

The Angas Bremer Water Resources Committee (ABWRC) has a general role of overseeing the implementation of the Water Allocation Plan for the prescribed wells area, together with undertaking specific projects related to the management of natural resources within the area. Projects include:

- Management of Mundulla Yellow die-back disease
- Drainage and Discharge risk assessment
- Climate change - code of practice
- Irrigation Annual Reporting – data management

Whilst most of these projects have an ongoing component to them, significant milestones were achieved for the majority of the projects during 2008-2009.

Over the past 12 months the ABWRC played an integral part in ongoing discussions and negotiations with State and Australian government Ministers to secure short and long term water access measures for the area in light of ongoing drought conditions – including the provision of River Murray water via a pipeline to Langhorne Creek and Currency Creek.

The ABWRC also collected and distributed an analysis of the annual water use reports for the 2007-08 periods to landholders within the area in accordance with the WAP.

As the Angas Bremer prescribed wells area is contained within the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) prescribed area, its WAP will be incorporated into the EMLR WAP due for completion mid 2010.

Peake Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells Area

Wells situated in the Hundreds of Peake Roby and Sherlock were prescribed in October 2005, and since then the Board together with consultants have been developing a water allocation plan for the areas' groundwater resources. The Board has completed the development of policy for the draft plan. Policy themes within the plan include the following areas:

- Allocation limits of the resource
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Trading
- Water Affecting Activity Permits

Once the plan is approved by the Minister for the River Murray, following a period of public consultation, DWLBC will issue volumetric licenses to license applicants in accordance with the approved plan. The plan is expected to be approved by January 2010.

Mallee Prescribed Wells Area

The Board's activities progress the implementation of the current Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) including; public information and consultation meetings with stakeholders, annual water use reporting, groundwater level and salinity monitoring, funding and data contribution to groundwater modelling, a groundwater education program in Mallee schools, field days, completion of the crop water use project with irrigators, and continuation of cost-sharing arrangements to assist stock and domestic water users affected by irrigation drawdown.

The Board and the Mallee Water Resources Committee have progressed the development of the Mallee water allocation plan (WAP) for the groundwater resources of the prescribed wells area. Conversion of existing area based licenses to volumetric licenses together with improved trading policy form the basis of the draft WAP.

The Board has also continued engagement with the Border Groundwater Review Committee during the development of the draft plan seeking agreement to a reviewed Permissible Annual Volume (PAV) in the border zones of the Mallee without an overall change in the PAV.

River Murray Prescribed Watercourse

Although the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Water Allocation Plan is being amended, the Board has a general role in the implementation of the current WAP.

During this period the River Murray WAP development process changed significantly - largely in part to the announcement of the new Federal management arrangements of the Murray-Darling system through the (yet to be developed) Basin Plan.

The River Murray WAP will need to be aligned with the Basin Plan and obtain accreditation prior to 2014. To achieve this, the Board decided to amend the previous River Murray WAP development timelines and will now produce a comprehensive plan for accreditation by December 2013. The other major change to the existing River Murray WAP for this period was the Separation of Water Rights process (or unbundling), as required by the National Water Initiative. This process has resulted in an amended WAP that has separated the previous water license into an unbundled 5 part water rights system with no policy change to the rest of the WAP. The amended WAP has taken effect from the 1st of July and will result in new 'separated' licenses and associated water rights being issued.

Noora Prescribed Wells Area

Minor administrative amendments have been recommended for the Noora Water Allocation Plan for the purpose of aligning it with current terminology, legislation and other changes in natural resource management. Since the approval of the WAP in 2001, there has been no change to the intent of the plan. The amended plan should be approved by December 2010.

3.4 River Murray Environmental Manager

River Murray Environmental Manager Unit

The River Murray Environmental Management (RMEM) Unit has four key program areas: Chowilla; Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth; Projects and Operations; and Policy and Strategy. The River Murray Environmental Manager is also the South Australian Icon Site Manager under the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's The Living Murray Initiative. There are three icon sites within South Australia: the Chowilla floodplain, the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and the River Murray channel.

The drought continued to influence the work undertaken. Low flows in the River Murray lead to ongoing disconnection of wetlands, falling pool levels below Lock 1 and declining water quality in the Lower Lakes.

Below Lock 1 - Acid Sulfate Soils

Prior to the drought, there were approximately 80 wetlands between Lock 1 and Wellington that were permanently connected to the river. Since the drought, reduced river levels have led to the disconnection and drying of the majority of wetlands within this reach. Many of these wetlands contain acid sulfate soils, which have the potential to become sulfuric when exposed to air. If river levels increase, some of these wetlands will be re-wet and those that are sulfuric have the potential to produce acidic water, low PH levels that can then result in mobilise metals.

There is the possibility that a temporary weir will be built at Pomanda Island, south of Wellington. Should this eventuate then the newly created weir pool will raise water levels such that 25 of the 80 currently dry wetlands will be re-wetted. Management options to remediate acid sulfate soils are needed before the weir is constructed which may be as early as January 2010. The Board is investigating management options for acid sulfate soils in these wetlands. Site-specific options are being developed for each wetland.

Work undertaken has begun to fill the knowledge gaps and identify areas in which further research and management efforts should be concentrated. These include:

- Field surveys at the inlets of each of the 25 wetlands to understand the wetland connections to the main river channel.
- Modelling of wetland surface water area and volumes at various water levels.
- Preliminary hazard assessments for acid sulfate soils for each of the 25 wetlands that may be inundated by the proposed weir.
- A risk assessment that concluded that 14 of the 25 wetlands that will be re-wet pose a risk to water supply off-takes and require remediation management.

The Board coordinated a monitoring project in the Lower Lakes and tributaries designed to provide early warning of acidification as a result of declining water levels and exposure of acid sulfate soils. The project included fortnightly water quality monitoring at 24 sites, installation of permanent water quality monitoring stations, testing of acid sulfate soils and ecological monitoring.

Wetland Watering and Refills

27 regulated wetlands remain disconnected from the river channel to achieve evaporative water savings. An additional six sites were also temporarily disconnected from the main river Murray channel as a Basin-wide contingency measure to achieve evaporative water savings and prevent saline water draining into the river should weir pools begin to fall.

All managed and temporary wetlands that were closed as part of the drought were prioritised for refill in 2008-09. The prioritisation strategy was developed in conjunction with an established group of wetland experts. The criteria used within the strategy were based on the ecological values and threats to the wetlands, with each criterion for each wetland given a score out of three. The scoring was based on monitoring data collected and local knowledge of the wetland. This was an inclusive process involving wetland managers and local action planning associations.

The outcome of the refill strategy was a ranked list of sites for watering, from highest to lowest priority. The priority sites that received water in early 2009 were all identified as having the ability to respond to the watering event, with a robust monitoring program designed to assess the success.

The Refill Prioritisation Strategy Criteria included:

- Presence of significant species (i.e. endangered)
- Other significant species/habitat (i.e. red gums)
- Uniqueness of wetland

- Groundwater conditions
- Evidence of salinisation
- Decline of tree health
- Past drying events

During 2008-09 environmental water from several different sources was negotiated for application to priority sites 4.5 GL of water was obtained from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder together with funding for pumping costs. 2.2 GL was obtained through The Living Murray for watering high priority drought refuge sites. 16 wetlands (including five unregulated wetlands) that were disconnected from the river channel as a drought contingency were reconnected using a total of 24.5 GL, of which 14.5 GL has been allocated from evaporative savings and 10 GL from transmission flows upstream of the SA border.

A small volume of water (50 ML) was donated and utilised at Boggy Creek, Hogwash Bend and Akuna Station for improved ecological outcomes.

Floodplain Management

The health of the River Murray and its floodplains, wetlands and other Riverine environments is under threat from a range of processes including flow regulation, salinisation, over-extraction of water and management practices. Recent dry climatic conditions have exacerbated floodplain degradation. The SA MDB NRM Board has placed a high priority upon floodplain protection and rehabilitation in combination with attempts to attract increased environmental flows.

The Pike and Katarapko floodplains have been identified as high priority sites requiring action to enhance and where possible restore the significant environmental values of both complexes by delivering ecological benefits to the floodplain and its wetlands. Many of the habitat features found at Pike and Katarapko have been degraded elsewhere, and the systems provide the potential to preserve an important complex of inter-related habitats at separate locations.

Within the SA reach of the River Murray there are six major weirs, of which three (Locks 4, 5 and 6) provide a unique opportunity for broadscale floodplain inundation (by taking advantage of the 3m hydraulic gradient that has been created by the difference between upper and lower pools). The Pike and Katarapko systems, which straddle Lock 5 and Lock 4 respectively, are two of these opportunities. The Chowilla floodplain Icon Site, which straddles Lock 6 is the third major opportunity.

Returning a regular inundation regime to these high priority floodplains has the potential to provide a number of ecological benefits. These include increased connectivity between Riverine and floodplain habitats, freshening of groundwater systems, improved soil condition, rejuvenation of existing wetland habitats, establishment of new floodplain and wetland plant communities, enhanced regional biodiversity, increased zooplankton abundance, increased habitat and breeding opportunities for water birds and frogs, and additional habitat for small native fish. As such, considerable effort was invested in these floodplain projects to identify

viable works and measures that will maximize ecological benefit, whilst minimizing risks and potential impacts.

Wetland Management

The Board's wetland community monitoring staff continued to support wetland groups and undertake monitoring programs at managed wetlands. A comprehensive monitoring program was developed and implemented as part of the wetland refills undertaken throughout 2008-09.

A new initiative of the Wetland Program was the development and trial of a prioritisation framework for rehabilitation and conservation of SA wetlands along the River Murray. This project is developing a transparent and flexible means of identifying wetland sites for future investment, for example management or watering events, based on ecological values and potential for rehabilitation. A series of workshops were undertaken in March 2009 with wetland managers to review and ground-truth the outputs of the Wetland Prioritisation. The methodology is currently being revised and updated to reflect the outcomes of the workshops.

The Board commenced a project called Climate Change Adaptation Strategies to Inform Wetland and Floodplain Management. This project will identify aquatic-ecosystem-dependent species along the River Murray in SA that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and develop management recommendations to facilitate species adaptations to climate change.

Living Murray Icon Site Management

Chowilla

A total of 18 wetland sites were watered on Chowilla in summer, autumn and winter 2008-09, with approximately 4GL of water used by 30 June 2009. Monitoring reports are being prepared.

Annual site condition monitoring has been completed, with reports being prepared for fish, under-storey vegetation, birds and tree health. The monitoring condition plan is being reviewed.

Bird and frog assessments were completed for Chowilla, and further fish and geomorphology assessments were initiated. A report on the effects of environmental watering on groundwater and soil salinity was completed. A draft summary document of all ecological risks and benefits were prepared, and an expert workshop is scheduled for 2009/10.

Consultation and communication activities occurred throughout 2008-09, with regular tours, media and presentations occurring. A community consultation and education strategy around the proposed Chowilla regulator was commenced, and is due to be completed early in 2009/10.

Detailed design for the proposed Chowilla regulator was completed and is under review. Planning for the regulator operation commenced, with the preparation of literature reviews, hydrological requirements of floodplain biota, plus conceptual models prepared for the floodplain and floodplain biota. Revised salt load impacts were developed around proposed regulator flooding regimes, and further work is underway. Groundwater modeling assuming

regulator operation was completed. Concept designs for the proposed Boat Creek fish passage were completed and detailed design commenced.

Lower Lakes, Coorong, Murray Mouth

An ecological monitoring framework was developed and implemented to inform progress against ecological targets in the Icon Site Environmental Management Plan. Monitoring was expanded into the tributaries of Finnis, Tookayerta and Currency to determine the ecological impacts of the drought in these areas.

Investigations regarding delivering flows from the South East drainage system into the South Lagoon of the Coorong neared completion including modeling of potential volumes, ecological benefits and engineering requirements. Investigations into the reduction of salinity levels in the South Lagoon of the Coorong continued.

Boggy Creek on Hindmarsh Island received some donated environmental water and Living Murray water to protect a significant population of the threatened Murray hardyhead.

A partnership has been established between Flinders University and the Board to establish the new Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe Indigenous Research Institute.

Weir Manipulations

A key action to enable achievement of the objectives for the River Murray channel icon site includes manipulation of weir pools to achieve greater water variability and enhance connectivity with the floodplain.

Assessment and development of concept designs for secondary regulating structures with the potential to fail under weir pool raising was undertaken and work began on the upgrade of priority structures. Further work was undertaken to identify salinity and water use impacts and determine which pumping infrastructure may be impacted by weir pool drawdown.

Policy and Strategic Planning

Development of the Environmental Watering Framework was a key output. Maintaining working relationships with the MDBA, The Living Murray initiative and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder regarding environmental water bids and allocations to the SA River Murray was significant. Several projects were undertaken to underpin the management of environmental water. The Management Action Database under development will provide an important decision tool River Murray environmental management.

An interesting project developed in partnership with Fosters and Canopy has examined the possibility of a link between environmental watering of the floodplain with access to carbon credits in a carbon-trading arena. Results indicate that the idea deserves further investigation and promotion.

3.5 Drought Response and Future Planning

With the persistence of dry conditions across the region, the Board continued activities to assist communities to respond and manage accordingly. The Board's Drought Response Strategy was reviewed and, as part of a longer term view, redirected to include a focus on drought recovery. Projects initiated as part of the Drought Strategy were continued or

completed and a number of emerging project opportunities to aid drought recovery, were developed and delivered.

The Board assisted regional communities deal with natural resources issues in a way that enabled community members to provide for their economic, social and physical wellbeing. The Board incorporated this assistance and specific drought response measures into the Regional NRM Plan and sought community comment on these aspects through extensive public consultation prior to finalisation of the plan.

Interactions with key stakeholders, including State government agencies, were maintained to coordinate and collaborate on drought response across the region. The Board maintained links with the Drought Taskforce, the Lower Murray and Lakes Drought Advisory Group and contributed to other regional drought response projects. Board staff contributed to drought response activities via the South Australian Government's Water Security Technical Working Group in dealing with drought issues associated with the low River Murray flows. The Board maintained links with the Office for Water Security and ensured regular communications with the Minister for Water Security.

The Board continued as a member of the Riverland Futures Taskforce (formerly the Riverland Futures Steering Group) and, in that capacity, engaged the Board's Riverland NRM Group to host a public environmental forum to discuss community issues with current conditions and moving forward. The Board actively participated in the Murray Futures Program to address issues beyond the current drought, to address recovery and rejuvenation of communities and resources.

3.6 Animal and Plant Control

In 2008-09, programs were implemented in accordance with the Boards regional pest management strategy and in line with the adopted Operational plans. The Operational plans were developed in consultation with the NRM Groups. The Plans were to consolidate the pest management issues of the region and to set clear, achievable goals and targets, underpinned by practical actions.

The Plans aimed to increase efficiency and effectiveness of pest management actions by providing a structure for identifying and addressing gaps, increasing the coordination of existing programs and directing the development of new regional pest initiatives.

The key components of the plan are addressed in the following ways:

- Preventative pest management
- Managing new and establishing infestations
- Managing existing pests
- Awareness, education and training
- Coordination
- Legislation
- Monitoring and evaluation

Priority programs for 2008-09 included:

The State Opuntia Task Force formed in August 2008 with membership from the SA Arid Lands, Northern and Yorke, South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Boards and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Biosecurity Group. Its purpose is;

- To coordinate and provide for the exchange of information between the various Opuntia control initiatives and field work around the State.
- To provide a clearer overall picture of and better evaluate the risk to the State represented by the spread of Opuntia species.
- To provide recommendations for the better coordination of Opuntia policy.
- To investigate and promote more strategic and cost effective options for Opuntia control.
- To raise awareness and see support from other States (and at the National level) in order to accelerate the implementation of any bio-control opportunities.
- To assist with the implementation of existing control methods.

Bridal Veil

Control work throughout the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges with the aim of destroying all known infestations of Bridal Veil continued. 250 Landholders were contacted in the Finniss and Milang area. Program implementation involved staff of the Alexandrina Council, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group (LAP) and Bush for Life. All recorded infestations were destroyed involving spot spraying and hand digging.

Fox Baiting

Board Natural Resources Management Officers successfully coordinated two fox baiting programs for September and March. One particular highlight with the baiting program was that it was undertaken in partnership with the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Committee. 27 landholders participated covering a protection area of 45,000 hectares. In addition to this program, the Board received approval to carry out fox baiting for the Defence Department on the Murray Bridge Army Firing range. This equates to a further 4,200 hectares.

The Mallee fowl and other native wildlife such as the Echidna can only benefit from this program. The cost benefit as a result of supplying 1450 fox baits costing \$1595 to the landholder is well worth the effort.

Rabbit Control

Education and awareness programs promoting best practice in rabbit control were promoted throughout the region. The Board upgraded a further three baitlayers to provide a total of fifteen baitlayers available to landholders every year to lay baited material in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines.

The Board recognised the need for landholders to carry out integrated control programs and offered a subsidised warren destruction program in or adjacent to native vegetation to further assist land managers in their quest for rabbit eradication. Funding from the State Complementary program and the Board totalling \$80,000 enabled the NRM Officers to support the subsidy program across the region. Specific properties were targeted to maximize the benefits of ongoing projects adjoining Crown lands and railway corridors. The South East (SE) NRM Board participated with a cross regional approach across Board boundaries.

SA Murray- Darling Basin NRM Board - Bait Sales 2008-09						
	Kgs of Bait	No. of Baits	No. of Baits	Kgs of Bait	Kgs of Bait	Kgs of Bait
	1080 Oats	Fresh Meat	Fox-Off	Pindone Oats	Pindone Carrots	Alpha Chloralose
Total	18,730	9,058	23450	750	1061	7

Improving NRM outcomes in the Rangelands by strategically removing Feral Goats.

A cross regional approach in the management of feral goats involved at least twenty five landowners across the entire Rangelands region. The program coordinated implementation of aerial shooting and trapping at the priority sites. Approximately 17,000 feral goats were removed from three NRM Boards' Rangelands areas.

Deer policy implementation

The Board actively implemented its deer management policy. In consultation with the State Deer Coordinator the Board established a series of guidelines and associated checklists to assist landholders in the control of feral deer. This included property access agreement forms, deer management recording sheets, checklists for allowing shooters on their property and guidelines for landowners that intend to undertake a control program. Inspection of known deer properties throughout the region to ascertain fencing standards as part of a state wide program to inspect all deer fences to prevent future escapes was completed. Individual reports have been completed for each property outlining the condition of the fence and the required upgrades that are expected to be undertaken by the landholder in order to comply with the regulations.

Crown Land Implementation 2008-09

The Board completed priority pest control programs on unoccupied Crown Lands. The total funded allocation was \$140,000.

The programs consisted of:

- Prickly Pear, Lincoln Weed and African Boxthorn control in the Rangelands
- Prickly Pear, Boneseed, African Boxthorn and Rabbit control in the Riverland area
- Innocent Weed, Prickly Pear, African Boxthorn, Fox and Rabbit control in the Mallee and Coorong area
- Bridal Creeper, Blackberry, Boneseed, Gorse, African Boxthorn and Rabbit control in the Ranges to River area.

Roadside Control Program

Landowners were notified by circulars or news articles that the NRM Groups were commencing winter and summer roadside programs.

Weeds of particular importance were:

Winter

African boxthorn, Boneseed, Salvation Jane, Horehound, Cape tulip and Wild artichoke.

Summer

Gorse, Blackberry, Golden dodder, Innocent weed and Khaki weed.

The lower than average rainfall reduced the optimum period available to complete the programs satisfactorily. Priority areas were inspected and as a result of non-compliance by a minority of land managers the Board organised the required works to be undertaken. Landowners identified with roadside infestations were given every opportunity to satisfactorily control roadsides. Where the costs were likely to be substantial, landowners were individually contacted by Board staff prior to enforced control. The policy for the management of pests on roadsides was reviewed.

Mexican Needlegrass

Articles have been placed in the local newspapers by both the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board and this Board throughout the Fleurieu region highlighting the recent discovery of the declared plant Mexican Needlegrass being offered for sale in nurseries. These plants were originally marketed as a similar non-invasive species by an interstate wholesaler. All of the known nurseries had immediately withdrawn all plants from sale. These plants have been destroyed. The nurseries contacted have been cooperative and have helped to supply details of sales. Further Mexican Needlegrass plants have been surrendered to NRM Officers from the Goolwa and Strathalbyn townships. All sites have been recorded and will be monitored to ensure any possible new germination is eradicated. To further encourage the community to report and surrender any other infestations, articles were published through the Alexandrina Council via their newsletter in addition to two polymer blocks with a specimen of Mexican Needlegrass being displayed to assist with its identification.

Water Dropwort

The annual monitoring of the Water Dropwort infestations in the Meadows Creek and Finnis Creek area was completed. The recorded infestations are similar to those noted in 1996.

Golden Dodder

River Murray inspections to identify and destroy Golden Dodder infestations were completed from the Victorian Border to Murray Bridge. Inspections continued to reveal small infestations of Golden Dodder. A schedule of land based inspections for Golden Dodder was undertaken within known infested areas in the Riverland and the Noonawirra and Yarramundi Lagoon system above Swan Reach. These areas continued to yield small scattered infestations.

Broomrape Link and Quarantine Surveys

Broomrape Link and Quarantine Surveys were completed by Board staff in accordance with the agreed commitment to the State Broomrape Program. The Board committed 50 days of officer time to quarantine works and to carry out the links surveys across the region.

Box Flat Dingo Control Committee

This is a joint activity with the South East Natural Resources Management Board. The Committee has continued its baiting and monitoring works for wild dogs and foxes in the area including the Conservation Parks. Monitoring of wild dogs and planning for the management of this continued to be addressed.

Salvinia

A quantity of the aquatic waterweed Salvinia found growing in a pond at a nursery in Murray Bridge was confiscated. As this plant is a notifiable plant, appropriate steps were taken to advise the Chief Executive of the Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

NRM Operations Database

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Resource Information Centre (SAMRIC) was engaged to further develop the Boards NRM Operations Spatial Database (NRMOPS) program.

The key outcomes achieved were:

- Improvement and enhancement of the current 'NRMOPS Database' application.
- The incorporation of a land condition monitoring module.
- Support and training for the 'NRMOPS Database' application to the Board staff.

3.7 Water and Salinity Policy

Consistent NRM Policy Framework for the SA Murray Darling Basin

The Board provided comment on Development Applications and Development Plan Amendments, as they were referred to the Board. This is a long term commitment that not only allows the Board to influence future development, but also builds the capacity of the Council Planners and State Agencies that receive our comments (for information or direction). The Board also sought to influence relevant State Policy to create a consistent NRM policy framework for the region.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Institutionalisation in Greater Adelaide

The SA MDB NRM Board was actively represented on the multi-agency and multi-industry association Steering Committee for this project. This project includes the areas of highest potential urban growth in our region (District Council of Mt Barker and Alexandrina Council areas). The project has outcomes, including technical guidelines, planning frameworks, policy changes and training modules that seek to revolutionise terms of water management.

30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The Board was represented on all relevant sub-committees of this project which were:

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Water Security
- Growth Investigation Areas

The following Councils in the Board's region were within the project area;

- Alexandrina
- Mount Barker
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Barossa
- Adelaide Hills
- City of Onkaparinga
- Victor Harbor

3.8 Land and Water Management

The Board was involved in projects to promote strategies for improved urban and industrial water use efficiency during 2008-09. The projects supported are summarised in the table below:

Project	Proponent	River/mains water saved OR recycled water produced	Other Benefits
Water management during extreme conditions in the CIT Irrigation District – Industrial users	Central Irrigation Trust	24 customer audits completed	Industry engagement and economic sustainability benefits
Conversion of Mid-Murray Council public toilets to waterless urinals	Mid-Murray Council	12 urinal cisterns converted. According to Desert Eco Systems P/L website, this equates to around 1,700KL/annum of water savings	Community engagement
Recycling Murray Bridge's municipal wastewater for use at Mt Compass Bacon for fodder production	Mt Compass Bacon	700,000 KL/annum	Significant groundwater quality, industry engagement and economic sustainability benefits
Recycling wastewater from Big River Pork Abattoir and Wasleys/Sheoak Piggeries for fodder production	Wasleys/Sheoak Piggeries	200,000 KL/annum	Groundwater quality, industry engagement and economic sustainability benefits
Deep aquifer investigation trials for Managed Aquifer Recharge and	Rural City of Murray	Depends on suitability of	Potential surface water quality benefits

Recovery (MARR) potential in Murray Bridge for stormwater harvesting and use	Bridge	aquifer – to be reported late 2009	
International Council for Local Environmental Issues (ICLEI) Water Campaign – Local Government Milestone Framework for water conservation and water quality improvement	ICLEI Oceania	To be reported in 2010 Eight SA MDB Councils were signed up to this program at the end of 2008-09	Community and Council engagement and Capacity Building

The Board has continued to implement sustainable irrigation management initiatives across the Board's region during 2008-09 although continuing drought and reduced water availability has proven a challenge for the program.

Irrigated Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP) in the districts of *Bookpurnong-Lock 4* and *Pyap to Kingston on Murray* were upgraded to guideline standard during 2008-09 and implementation will commence in 2009-10. Implementation of the LWMP's in the *Pike*, *Murtho* and *Taylorville* districts continued in 2008-09 although the Pike region is now involved in the larger scale Pike Implementation Project.

In the *Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas* LWMP investigations were undertaken along with detailed community consultation to determine priorities for future investment in this area that has been heavily impacted by the drought.

Data collected as part of regional LWMP development, upgrade and implementation has demonstrated that land and water management practices have improved significantly across these districts. This illustrates that investment in LWMP's is delivering real benefits to the health of the River Murray and the surrounding landscape.

The Board continued to provide on-ground assistance to irrigators through the delivery of irrigation management training workshops and provision of on-farm support. A new workshop titled *Salinity Management in Irrigated Horticulture* was developed in collaboration with the South Australian Research & Development Institute (SARDI) and delivery commenced in 2008-09 and attracted strong demand.

The Board has extended the partnership with SARDI through involvement in industry specific (wine grapes, almonds) root zone salinity and nutrient management trials across the Board's region. Involvement in these trials is part of the Board's broader goal of communicating research and development outcomes to water managers across its region.

Farmer training and learning programs

Many landowners purchasing small acreage properties in the Mt Lofty ranges appear to have little or no land management knowledge. During 2008-09 the Board offered a free on-farm consult with a qualified land management consultant. Many participants from the on-farm

consult became involved in other land management programs, such as Whole Farm Planning or ProGraze course.

The Whole Farm Planning Program has been delivered to many farming groups across the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin, including the Rangelands, Eudunda and surrounds, Ranges to Rivers region and the Murray Mallee. The structure of the program allows the landowner to identify their land management priorities and these are addressed through a series of workshops, along with the priority issues of the Board.

The aim of the whole farm planning program was to introduce changes in land management practices to encourage sustainable management of the farm resources by considering the economic, social and environmental needs of a farming business.

Rural Land Management Program

The Rural Land Management Program was developed in response to the withdrawing of services from the region previously provided by the Mount Lofty Ranges Land Management Program. The aim of the rural land management program improves the skills base and knowledge of landholders and broadacre farmers through workshops, technical advice, formation of farming groups and distribution of fact sheets.

Drought Lot Incentive Program

In response to a need to preserve existing ground cover and minimise soil disturbance and erosion during and after dry conditions, the Board made available funding to assist farmers with the establishment of Drought Lots within the region. The aim of the drought lot incentive was to enable farmers to remove stock from paddocks to conserve ground cover and minimise soil disturbance and erosion. The drought lot is used for maintenance of key breeding stock during dry conditions and for use during a normal season to allow deferred grazing during autumn to minimise soil disturbance and erosion. The program resulted in 57 Drought Lots operating, with the potential to protect 230,400 hectares. The program was principally funded through the Australian Government although additional funding was accessed from State Complimentary NRM Funds.

Management and Protection of Land

The Board actively engaged in the compliance of six advice letters that were sent out with two requests for the development and implementation of an Action Plan as per the requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act*.

3.9 Water Quality

The Board invested in several projects to improve water quality by addressing diffuse and source pollution these included:

Alexandrina Council – establishment of a new effluent storage lagoon

This project was a critical step towards the decommissioning of the old Strathalbyn effluent lagoons, which were leaking into the Angas River.

Unity College – Wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting

Hindmarsh Island – Wastewater treatment plant upgrade to reuse standards

Karoonda East Murray Council - Karoonda Water Resources Management Plan
Benefits already being realised via increased stormwater recycling, which results in less pollutants entering the receiving groundwater

Goyder Council – Burra Creek Development Plan
Main benefits will arise from stormwater treatment prior to entry to Burra Creek

Loxton Waikerie Council – Loxton Swimming Pool Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade
This project forms a component of an overall scheme to maximise efficient stormwater reuse in Loxton. This prevents stormwater pollutants entering the receiving waters (the River Murray Floodplain) and off-sets the use of river water for irrigation of public open space.

Rural City of Murray Bridge – Narooma Stormwater Treatment Wetland
This project is the single biggest urban stormwater pollution management opportunity in the entire SA MDB. The stormwater to be treated by this wetland currently enters the River Murray untreated. The catchment for this outlet is the largest in Murray Bridge and includes the entire central business district and much of the industrial area.

Rural City of Murray Bridge – Thiele Road Stormwater Pollutant Trap Installation
The pollutant trap installed seeks to minimise the floating litter, hydrocarbons and sediment that are contained in urban stormwater from entering the River Murray. The sediment is the principal means by which urban stormwater pollutants find their way into receiving waters. These pollutants include heavy metals from the wearing parts of vehicles.

Rural City of Murray Bridge – Murray Bridge Integrated Water Resources Management Plan: Will include stormwater quality and wastewater reuse projects that benefit receiving waters (eg. River Murray). Future works highly influenced by outcomes of the current investigation into the potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery in a deep aquifer below Murray Bridge (The Board is supporting this project also).

Berri Barmera Council – Berri and Barmera Stormwater Review and Master Plans.

Temple Bruer Wines – Purification of winery wastewater using solar technology.
Project re-established with excellent outcomes expected in coming months.

Mt Barker Council – Meadows Stormwater/wastewater rehabilitation
Approximately 5.7km of Meadows Creek being fenced off in the rural areas surrounding Meadows. In addition water Sensitive Urban Design measures will be installed to improve the quality of urban stormwater before entering Meadows Creek.

Mid Murray Council – Sediment Interception for Mannum township stormwater outline
The pollutant trap installed seeks to minimise the floating litter, hydrocarbons and sediment that are contained in urban stormwater from entering the River Murray.

The sediment is the principal means by which urban stormwater pollutants find their way into receiving waters. These pollutants include heavy metals from the wearing parts of vehicles.

Environmental Protection Authority – Trial of Rivercraft greywater treatment systems. Trial undertaken on 8 boats in the lower River Murray. This project was part of a suite of SA-led initiatives that sets a new international standard in the management of greywater from river vessels.

Mid Murray Council – Mannum Stormwater Quality Monitoring

Provides knowledge of local catchment impacts on stormwater quality, and the impact of this water on the River Murray near water supply off-takes.

FibreCell and SARDI – Arundo Donax high salinity greenhouse trials

The Board provided financial support to a research and development project investigating the potential for Arundo Donax to assist in water quality control. Initial results suggest good potential for production of bio-fuel crops using saline water up to 10,000 EC, in addition to providing extremely high yields with using treated wastewater for irrigation.

3.10 Coastal and Estuarine

The Board's coastal and estuarine program had a major focus on implementing action of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Ramsar Plan.

This program included the provision of:

- Technical support to landholders on revegetation, fencing, watering points and weed management
- Support for community groups including technical advice, workshops and wetland monitoring
- Management and monitoring of trials including sustainable grazing and kangaroo deterrent trials
- Newsletters on NRM activities
- Chairing of community meetings related to NRM activities and development of media articles

Funding was directed to the Goolwa-Wellington Local Action Planning Board to employ a Lower Lakes Project Officer to facilitate these activities and to provide vital links with landholders and community groups to achieve effective biodiversity outcomes within the Ramsar/Icon Site.

3.11 Fostering Community Engagement and Community Capacity Building

The Board's *fostering community engagement program* included projects targeting community groups, landholders, schools, urban residents, Aboriginal communities, Local Government and NRM professionals.

Building the awareness, skills, knowledge, motivation, confidence and commitment of the community underpins all of the Board's programs and activities.

Supporting Community NRM

In 2008-09 the Board continued to support the network of eleven community Local Action Planning Associations that undertake capacity building activities with local communities across the Region. These activities included supporting landholders and NRM related community groups, working with schools, producing newsletters, running tours, organising field days and other education and awareness raising events and facilitating community input into Regional NRM planning and other high-level NRM projects and processes.

Additional support to this network was provided by the Board through regional coordination, dissemination of information, monthly regional meetings, the facilitation of workshops, assistance in developing funding submissions and the provision of training opportunities for community NRM staff.

In 2008-09 a Community NRM Officer, working together with the Regional Council of Goyder was also appointed for the Rangelands area of the Region.

Aboriginal Partnerships Project

The Aboriginal Partnerships Project raises awareness of Aboriginal culture, increases Aboriginal participation in NRM and protects Aboriginal cultural assets across the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

Activities undertaken in 2008-09 included the establishment of a 'Learning on Country' program which provided Conservation and Land Management traineeships to nine Aboriginal community members at Calperum Station and Gerard in the Riverland, facilitating Aboriginal input into the NRM Plan, coordinating technical support for a range of Aboriginal communities and landholders, assisting Aboriginal communities in the preparation of funding submissions, providing funding and technical advice to support the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority for the development of cultural site rehabilitation guidelines, identifying and providing NRM training opportunities for Aboriginal people, developing and delivering cultural education sessions for school children, increasing community awareness with displays and activities at field days and developing projects that aim to increase the participation of Aboriginal youth and women in NRM.

The first issue of the 'Aboriginal NRM Update' was also produced and distributed in April 2009, showcasing the range of projects being undertaken in the Region and promoting Aboriginal culture and links to NRM.

NRM Education

The Board continued to recognise the value of school-based education programs as a way of instilling a greater understanding of environmental issues in the minds of those young people who will become the next generation of users, managers and leaders.

In 2008-09 information packs were distributed to 89 schools across the Region, support with environmental education was provided to 69 schools with 43 education sessions held, 10 schools were supported with developing whole school approaches to sustainability and management plans, 21 schools participated in Waterwatch monitoring, 4 teacher professional development sessions were held, 12 media releases were written to promote the project and

700 *Education for Sustainability Calendars* highlighting the work of the Lower Murray and Upper Murray NRM Education programs were distributed widely throughout South Australia.

In 2008-09 progress was made towards extending the successful program into the Rangelands area of the Region, with contact being made with schools and a survey conducted to investigate areas of interest for schools in the Burra area.

The Weed Warriors Program was successfully introduced in 2008-09 into schools of the Riverland and Mid Murray. Due to the success of this project further funding has been secured to expand the program across the Region and extend it for a further two years.

Youth Initiatives

The Board placed great emphasis on educating and engaging the youth of our region. Through the River Murray Youth Council (Upper Murray and Lower Murray branches) and Junior Youth Environment programs over 150 students have been actively engaged in natural resources management.

Members of the River Murray Youth Councils met regularly to discuss issues and developed school environmental action projects to work on throughout the year. Lower Murray Youth Council hours will be accounted towards a SACE Stage 1 Unit under Community Studies - Integrated Learning.

The Junior Youth Environment Group (Year 6-8) has approximately 50 students from a number of primary schools across the Lower Murray taking ideas and projects back into their school communities. Ideas included establishing school environment committees, planting trees, putting water tips in the school newsletter, conducting a school water audit and rehabilitating the school grounds with local native species.

A Junior Youth Environment Forum was held for the first time in the Rangelands area of the Region in 2008-09.

Fostering Engagement and Capacity Building with Local Government.

In an initiative to strengthen NRM communication and gain greater Local Government input into regional NRM planning and on-ground activity, the Board continued working on the Region's Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan. This saw completion of the following key Local Government and Industry engagement strategies:

- Two Mayors' Forums (involves Council Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of Councils in the Region)
- 14 Local Government NRM Advisory Group Meetings
 - These groups consist of NRM Group Members, Elected Members from Councils, Board and Council Staff.
- Local Government Planners Forum
- Roadside Works Training Course

The Board is leading South Australia in Local Government engagement and capacity building, mainly due to these forums and a consistent approach to supporting Councils technically and financially in terms of NRM.

The forums provided an opportunity for information exchange on relevant activities between the NRM Groups, the Board and the Councils, advice and guidance on local NRM priorities, mechanisms for regional interaction and updates on State and Australian government NRM initiatives.

Two projects the Board supported during the year were:

Mt Barker Council – Laratinga wastewater polishing wetland for reuse plan

The Laratinga Wetland is the centrepiece of Mount Barker’s ‘New Water’ scheme, which seeks to efficiently and safely reuse as much wastewater as possible from Nairne, Littlehampton and Mt Barker. The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board and the Federal Government have a long history of investment in this outstanding example of wastewater reuse that:

- Improves water security for Mt Barker;
- Dramatically reduces a historical pollutant pathway (wastewater) into Mt Barker Creek (part of the Bremer Catchment);
- Provides a recognised refuge for birdlife, some of which is extremely rare, like the Australasian Bittern; and
- Provides a community asset for recreation (walking trails promote the wetland’s use for relaxation, fitness and bird watching).

Goyder Council – Burra Creek Catchment Signs

Builds awareness with Local Government and Community that they are part of the Murray-Darling Basin and that the Board seeks to support NRM initiatives in their area

3.12 Communications and Education

The Board’s Communications and Education program was actively involved in a variety of communications and community engagement initiatives to build awareness of Natural Resource Management across the SA Murray-Darling Basin region, and to ensure that members of communities within this region had access and opportunity to participate in NRM activities. With key messages actively communicated throughout the region through a broad range of mediums, the Board continually endeavoured to reach a variety of target stakeholders and audiences.

Communications

Communications activities by the Board involved use of a broad range of mediums to effectively target different groups within the region. This included the quarterly distribution of the Board’s “On the Ground” newsletter and the launch of the Board’s newspaper ‘*the current*’ in June 2009. Distribution of *the current* took into account all levy payers and the Board took advantage of a variety of new methodologies including: newspaper inserts,

display boxes in Council offices and libraries, and drawing on partnerships with local shop owners to act as distribution points.

In addition, articles were featured in other relevant publications, when opportunities arose. Media releases were also issued regularly to local press, radio and television to provide the community with updates about upcoming events and key activities offering opportunities for involvement. A range of brochures and fact sheets were developed, relating to key topics of the Board's activities.

The Board's website has continued to enable the Board to enhance its internet communications to communities both within and outside of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region. The opportunity to access new technologies through the website, such as pod casting, is an educational avenue through which the Board has engaged with its stakeholders.

Events

The Board has hosted a range of field days and workshops across all program areas providing a variety of opportunities to obtain feedback from the community. The greatest of these workshop sessions were associated with the NRM Plan development. Community consultation and community engagement was a vital element of the Plan development and as such stakeholder workshops were held right across the region at varying stages in its formulation.

An official launch of the NRM Plan was conducted at Barmera Primary School on June 30, 2009 – where those students participating in our NRM Education program: Weed Warriors, released biological control agents on one of the regions weed species, Bridal Creeper. The launch was for all members of the NRM community who had actively participated in the plan development and for those that had a keen interest in NRM into the future. Minister for the River Murray, Hon. Karlene Maywald officially launched the Plan.

The Board hosted a variety of other stakeholder events including an International Women's Day event focused on women in communities currently struggling with difficult climatic conditions, as well as a Youth Environment Conference Activity and Project Day for students from across the state.

The communication of NRM information was also facilitated by the Board's involvement in regional field days, including those held at Mannum, Berri, Karoonda, Murray Bridge, Pinnaroo and Burra, along with the Mallee Sustainable Farming field day.

3.13 Monitoring Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI)

Community Stream Sampling and Salinity Mapping (CSSSM) Program

An evaluation of SA Murray Darling Basin Community Stream Sampling and Salinity Mapping (CSSSM) projects was undertaken demonstrating the outcomes and benefits of the projects using an "adaptive performance story" evaluation methodology.

A results chart produced captures the quantitative data that complements the qualitative insights provided in the stories. These are combined with other information and analysis to

evaluate outcomes and generate recommendations. The evaluation technique used is a new way of demonstrating outcomes of projects that feeds into a process of monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement. The evaluation not only indicates project successes measured against the expected outcomes, but highlights outcomes that were not anticipated at project initiation.

This outcome reporting approach provides an opportunity to:

- Promote continuous improvement of the planning and implementation of NRM activities; and
- Communicate the value of the project.

The evaluation generated twelve recommendations using a multi-method, adapted ‘performance story reporting’ (PSR) approach. PSR is being promoted by the Australian Government as a key method in ‘reporting by outcomes’. The CSSSM Projects contributed to numerous Board programs such as Water and Salinity Policy, Land & Water Management, Wetland Management, Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement, Fostering Community Engagement and Monitoring & Evaluation.

Recommendations have now been built into an ongoing Board funded community stream sampling project, building on past experiences.

Promotion of community monitoring in an expanded form is continuing through presentations, website updates and community workshops to be delivered over 2009-10.

MERI and the Regional Plan Development

The ‘Program Logic – Capturing the Process’ an external document aiming to support the Regional NRM Plan was a important aspect of the Regional NRM Plan’s development . It was the use of program logic to help ‘capture’ the rationale behind the Plan, support target development and provide a foundation for future monitoring, evaluation and review. A particular emphasis was placed on developing the logic using participatory processes, which is important for many reasons, not least to support an integrated and collaborative approach to NRM.

The report provides a summary of the:

- program logic and its use in regional planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- program logic work and activities undertaken to support development of the regional NRM plan and the targets;
- program logic models and supporting information for targets;
- benefits and learning from the program logic planning processes, and
- outline the future use of the program logic models and targets

This participatory process used to develop the logic of the Regional NRM Plan and set targets is one of the major achievements in the development and finalisation of the Plan. The resulting set of targets is far fewer in number than for previous plans and there is a clearer distinction and relationship between the long and intermediate targets. These target

improvements will provide for a much stronger foundation to Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) activities associated with the Plan.

The Plan provides a strategic framework for MERI and further development of a MERI Implementation plan will be completed in 2009/10.

The MERI plan will place a strong emphasis on identifying key evaluation questions of major stakeholders and involving them in evaluative and reporting processes to help ensure that MERI tools and activities are focussed on supporting decision making and continuous improvement.

The current MERI plan builds on previous plans and recent evaluation learning activities such as the Performance Story Report that was undertaken in 2009 in the SA MDB NRM region in conjunction with the Australian Government. The Performance Story Report is a form of outcome reporting and contribution analysis and has been a beneficial process to understand how multiple lines of evidence can be collated, interpreted and presented.

3.14 Investment Strategy Development and Implementation

Implementation of 2004-05 (Phase 2), 2005-06 (Phase 3), 2006-07 (Phase 4) 2007-2008 (Phase 5) Investment Strategies:

During 2008-09 the Board finalized implementation of most activities from its previous Investment Strategies. Many of the outcomes and achievements of projects funded or partly funded by the Australian Government's National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality, Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Programs are reported in the Highlights and Achievements Section of this report.

The new Caring for our Country initiative was implemented as a transition year during 2008-09 in conjunction with completing activities funded through the Investment Strategies.

Implementation of 2008-09 Caring for our Country Investment Proposal:

Caring for our Country commenced its transition year on 1 July 2008 and integrates delivery of the Australian Government's previous natural resource management programs, the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the National Landcare Program.

The programs delivered via Caring for our Country in 2008-09 were:

- Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement Program
- Building Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement Program
- Coastal Zone And Estuarine Environment Program
- Land and Water Management Program
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Program
- Pest Plant and Animal Control Program
- Pollution Management Program
- River and Floodplain Management Program
- Wetland Management Program

Due to changes that occurred with the introduction of Caring for our Country a number of Programs that received funding through Caring for our Country during this transition year will not be eligible for funding in 2009-10.

The Board is investigating other options/sources of funding for these Programs in 2009-10 and beyond.

Development of 2009-10 Caring for our Country Investment Proposal:

The Board submitted its application for 2009-10 Caring for our Country during April 2009.

The application sought to deliver an integrated, strategic, landscape scale approach to natural resources management in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin. The application seeks funding for projects that aim to deliver outcomes that will contribute to four of the Caring for our Country's Outcomes: Biodiversity and natural icons, Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats, Sustainable farm practise and Community skills, knowledge and engagement. The Board will work with local community groups (including Local Action Planning and Landcare Groups) and government agencies to implement the targets included in the application.

3.15 Research and Development

The Board continued to encourage scientific endeavour that results in new knowledge to underpin the management of natural resources in the Region. As part of the Board's commitment to furthering research, it undertook stage two of the project *Promoting and Championing Innovation in the SA Murray Darling Basin*.

As part of the project the Board hosted four free Community Science Forums across the Region for the community to hear about the latest scientific research on the natural resources of the Region. The forums convened researchers and scientists working in the Region in a number of fields to share their findings and collaborate with NRM participants in the Region.

The research plan and prospectus report (*Research and development in the SA MDB NRM Region 2007*) was also updated as part of the project in consultation with key researchers, government technical advisors and Board staff.

Thirteen high-priority research topics were identified in the prospectus which contributed to the development of the Regional NRM Plan's Strategic Plan (Volume One).

3.16 Biodiversity

The Biodiversity program of the Board successfully implemented a wide variety of projects during the 2008-09 year to actively manage the biodiversity assets of the region, to build the communities capacity in active management and to continually research and improve management practices.

The Board has a large number partnership arrangements with a variety organisations such as the SA Department for Environment and Heritage, the Conservation Council of South Australia, Rural Solutions, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, The University of Adelaide, Flinders University, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greening Australia, Trees For Life, the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, Local Action Planning Groups, Local Governments and landholders..

Active Management Highlights

- Landholders from across the region participated in Local Action Planning Group conservation projects to conserve and manage a further 770 hectares of remnant vegetation and to revegetate a further 100 hectares.
- Bush for Life volunteers removed environmental weeds, revegetated and maintained 40 sites across the Eastern Mount Lofty's covering 250 hectares.
- Landholders with remnant native grasslands along the eastern mount lofty flanks were supported through the Grassy Ecosystems Project to conserve and extend this unique habitat.
- 49 Landholders continued to actively manage over 2400 hectares for conservation purposes through the BushBids Stewardship Program.
- Over \$1.3 million was secured to purchase conservation and extension of fragmented Mallee habitats and arid woodlands through the Native Vegetation Council.
- A coordinated baiting campaign for fox control for predator reduction during breeding season for ground dwelling birds was implemented.

Community Engagement Highlights

- The completion of the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual with benchmarks for the vegetation communities of the SA MDB, along with several training programs across the region assisted landholders to be able to gauge the condition of their remnant vegetation and what management to apply.
- Development and distribution of Wedge Tailed Eagle fact sheets and Raptor posters.
- Implementation of a series of workshops on grassland management, native grass identification and the conservation of threatened species such as the Pygmy Blue Tongue in the Rangelands.
- Technical advice provision to the wider community through Greening Australia officers, Department for Environment and Heritage's Threatened Species Unit and Local Action Planning Officers.
- Development of the biodiversity section of the SA MDB NRM Board Website

Research Highlights

- A biological survey of the permanent water sites within the Rangelands of the SA MDB was undertaken. This report will provide knowledge regarding the flora and fauna that is dependent on the waterways of the rangelands.
- Revegetation trials for the low rainfall zones of the Mallee. The first year direct seeding and tube stock trials are looking to address how to get best results in dunes systems in the northern Mallee, an area that is important for threatened species habitat reconstruction.

- Continued research to in population distribution, future needs critical to the species survival and translocation of individuals in nationally threatened species such as the Pygmy Blue Tongue and the Mallee Emu Wren.

The biodiversity program of the Board also assisted on a day to day basis with the technical expertise required for development planning approvals, EPBC Act enquires, technical advice queries and the development of strategic planning documents such as the Greater Adelaide 30 year Plan. It encouraged and actively sought large scale partnerships in projects with the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, Habitat 141 and the Ecosystems = Murray Mouth to the Mountains projects. The program began the process of having localized and prioritized operating plans for biodiversity management in each of the habitat types of the SA MDB.

4. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2008-09 financial years fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

4.1 Object of the Natural Resources Management Act

The objects of the Act include assisting in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources in a manner that—

- recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and
- seeks to protect biological diversity and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, to support and encourage the restoration or rehabilitation of ecological systems and processes that have been lost or degraded; and
- provides for the protection and management of catchments and the sustainable use of land and water resources and, insofar as is reasonably practicable, seeks to enhance and restore or rehabilitate land and water resources that have been degraded; and
- seeks to support sustainable primary and other economic production systems with particular reference to the value of agriculture and mining activities to the economy of the State; and
- provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community; and
- promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.

4.2 Administration of the Act

The Minister for Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. Pursuant to section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994*, certain functions and powers of the Minister for Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board have been conferred on the Minister for the River Murray.

4.3 Role of the Board

The regional NRM Board's role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

4.4 Functions of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM board are—
 - (a) to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region; and
 - (b)
 - (i) to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with this Act; and
 - (ii) to implement that plan; and
 - (iii) to keep the plan under review to ensure that the objects of this Act are being achieved; and

- (c) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources; and
 - (d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the board under this or any other Act; and
 - (e) to resolve any issues that may arise between any NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region; and (ea) to undertake an active role in ensuring-
 - (i) that any Development Plan under the Development Act 1993 that applies within its region promotes the objects of this Act; and
 - (ii) insofar as is reasonably practicable, that those Development Plans and the board's regional NRM plan form a coherent set of policies, and, in so doing, when a Development Plan amendment under the Development Act 1993 that is relevant to the activities of the board is under consideration under that Act, to work with-
 - (iii) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a council- the council; or
 - (iv) in the case of a Development Plan amendment proposed by a Minister- that Minister's department; and
 - (f) at the request of the Minister or the NRM Council, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within its region, or on the management of those resources, to conduct any inquiry or audit, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (g) such other functions assigned to the board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a regional NRM board may act with respect to a particular matter despite the fact that the matter may not fall within the scope of its regional NRM plan.
- (3) However, if a regional NRM board acts with respect to a particular matter in the circumstances described in subsection (2), the board must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament (unless the matter is not, in the opinion of the board, significant).

- (4) In performing its functions, a regional NRM board should (as far as is reasonably practicable) seek to work collaboratively with—
- (a) the other regional NRM boards whose regions adjoin the region of the board; and
 - (b) other State agencies, agencies of the Commonwealth, and agencies of the other States and Territories, that have functions that are relevant to those of the board; and
 - (c) NRM groups with areas that fall (wholly or partially) within the region of the board; and
 - (d) the constituent councils for the region, and other councils as may be relevant; and
 - (e) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations; and
 - (f) persons who own or occupy land within the region of the board (insofar as may be relevant).
- (5) A regional NRM board will, with respect to the performance of its functions, report to the Minister.
- (6) If the Minister assigns a function to a regional NRM board under subsection (1)—
- (a) the Minister must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament; and
 - (b) the regional NRM board must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.

4.5 Membership

Section 25 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises 9 members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Each of the appointed members of the Board is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the standards stipulated by section 25 (4) of the Natural Resources Management Act for the appointment of members:

- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister must (as far as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances)—
- (a) give consideration to nominating persons so as to provide a range of knowledge, skills and experience across the following areas:
 - (i) community affairs at the regional level;
 - (ii) primary production or pastoral land management;

- (iii) soil conservation and land management;
 - (iv) conservation and biodiversity management;
 - (v) water resources management;
 - (vi) business administration;
 - (vii) local government or local government administration;
 - (viii) urban or regional planning;
 - (ix) Aboriginal interest in the land and water, and Aboriginal heritage;
 - (x) pest animal and plant control;
 - (xi) natural and social science;
 - (xii) if relevant—coast, estuarine and marine management, fisheries or aquaculture; and
- (b) nominate persons who are able to demonstrate an interest in ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and an awareness of natural resource issues across the relevant region; and
- (c) ensure—
- (i) that a majority of the members of the board reside within the relevant region; and
 - (ii) that a majority of the members of the board are engaged in an activity related to the management of land.
- (5) In addition, the Minister must, before finalising his or her nominations for the purposes of this section, consult with the designated Ministers.
- (6) At least one member of a regional NRM board must be a woman and at least 1 member must be a man.
- (7) At least one member of a regional NRM board must be a member or officer of a council at the time of his or her appointment, unless—
- (a) the Board's region does not include any part of the area of a council; or
 - (b) the Minister cannot, after taking reasonable steps, find a member or officer of a council who—
 - (i) in the opinion of the Minister, is suitable to be appointed as a member of the board; and
 - (ii) is willing and available to be a member of the board.
- (8) The Governor must appoint a suitable member of a regional NRM Board to be the presiding member of the board.
- (9) The Governor may appoint a suitable person to be the deputy of a member of a regional NRM board.
- (10) A deputy may act as a member of a regional NRM board during any period of absence of the member in relation to whom the deputy has been appointed.

- (11) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, authorise a person or persons to attend any meeting of a regional NRM board in order to represent the interests of the Commonwealth, the State or local government.

5. BOARD OPERATIONS

5.1 Board Region

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is responsible for one of eight natural resources management regions in South Australia. The Board's Region (see Appendix 2) supports a population of approximately 126,000 people and extends over more than 5.6 million hectares, from the Victorian and New South Wales borders to the catchment boundary along the Mount Lofty Ranges, to the Murray Mouth, and up to 14 kilometres into the Southern Ocean.

This is one of South Australia's most ecologically diverse and agriculturally productive regions. It supports a wide range of flora, fauna, natural environments and human activities. The proper management of these natural resources will maintain a capable and prosperous South Australia.

The Region's ecological areas

The Region can be divided into six distinct ecological units and bioregions, as detailed below.

River Corridor

From the border of South Australia and Victoria to Overland Corner, the river meanders through a floodplain some 5–10 km wide that includes a complex pattern of anabranches and billabongs. Beyond Overland Corner, the river has incised a narrow gorge through limestone where geological structure largely determines its course. The ecology of the River Corridor is unique in the Region, given the fluvial (riparian) processes involved in its formation. Aeolian (wind) processes dominate the rest of the Region.

Coorong and Lower Lakes

The Coorong and Lower Lakes area features low-lying alluvial and coastal plains overlain by low sand ridges, with some outwash fans and isolated remnant hills along the western edge, and calcrete-capped old coastal dunes, up to 40 m high adjacent to the Coorong. This area consists of sedgeland, grasslands and low shrub lands providing a wide range of habitats and is of international importance for migratory birds.

Murray Mallee and Murray Plains

Murray Mallee and Murray Plains includes the majority of the Region's agricultural area and consists predominantly of low rainfall mallee and shrub land communities.

Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges

The Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges supports stringy-bark forest, woodland and grassy woodland communities. A number of small tributary catchments drain the Ranges and join either the River Murray or Lake Alexandrina.

South Olary Plains

The South Olary Plains, a pastoral region of low rainfall, extends north of the River Murray and west of the border with New South Wales. It features mallee, woodlands and chenopod shrub land vegetation, the majority of which remains nucleated. A number of species in this region are listed as threatened due to over-grazing of domestic stock, goats, rabbits and kangaroos. In addition to the terrestrial systems above, the Coorong bioregion is also an important ecological system within the SA MDB NRM Region. The Coorong marine habitats, including complex near-shore reef systems and the marine organisms they support, are highly diverse. Species of conservation significance include the Leafy Sea Dragon, as well as migrating Southern Right and Humpback Whales. The bioregion also supports a number of marine species which are of importance to commercial and recreational fisheries.

More about the Region

The Region is in the rain shadow of the Mount Lofty Ranges, resulting in a marked reduction in rainfall compared to the country to the west. Even over short distances, a large reduction in rainfall can occur. Annual rainfall ranges from an unreliable 235 mm near Yunta, just beyond the northern extremity of the Region, to 387 mm at Lameroo, near the south-eastern corner of the Region, to 768 mm at Mount Barker near the western edge of the Region.

5.2 Membership

The Board consists of nine members, appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister for the River Murray. The Act requires the Board to comprise members who have a range of skills, knowledge and experience, as outlined in Section 4.5 of this report.

The membership of the Board during 2008-09 was:

Voting members

- William (Bill) Paterson - Presiding Member
- Joanne Pfeiffer
- Joe Keynes
- Frances Simes
- Derek Walker
- Anne Hartnett
- Colin Milburn
- Emily Jenke
- Sheridan Alm - appointed 24 July 2008

In addition to these representatives, the Board has State Government Agency staff and representatives from the Australian Government and Local Government. These members are:

Government members

- Gerry Davies (Primary Industries and Resources)
- Merridie Martin (Environment and Heritage)
- Mike Smith (Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation)
- Peter Scott (Environment Protection Authority)
- Rodney Ralph (Local Government Association)

5.3 Board Meetings

A total of 11 general Board meetings were held during the 2008-09 financial year. No special Board meetings were held during the financial year.

Member	No. of Meetings Attended	No. of Meetings not attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
W Paterson	11	0	
J Pfeiffer	9	2	Other Commitments
J Keynes	10	1	Other Commitments
F Simes	9	2	Other Commitments
D Walker	4	7	Other Commitments
A Hartnett	11	0	
C Milburn	9	2	Other Commitments
E Jenke	9	2	Other Commitments
S Alm	9	2	Other Commitments
M Smith	10	1	Other Commitments
G Davies	8	3	Other Commitments
M Martin	8	3	Other Commitments
P Scott	11	0	
R Ralph	9	2	Other Commitments

5.4 Relationships with other Agencies

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* works closely with the DWLBC, DEH, and PIRSA to improve sustainability and achieve improved health and productivity of our natural resources. The Board also works closely with the NRM Council, the other regional NRM Boards, regional organisations, and community and non-Government organisations to develop the Regional NRM Plan and implement its works programs.

The Board also has a strong relationship with the Australian Government to ensure national priorities are addressed with planning processes and through investments.

The Board has signed Service Level Agreements with Government Agencies to assist in the delivery of its programs and injury management services.

5.5 Governance Arrangements

No new governance policies or arrangements were developed in the reporting period but all the Board's current policies have been or are in the process of being fully reviewed to ensure

compliance with current legislation, Agreements and Awards. The Board's Finance Committee assists the Board through the oversight of these policies and procedures to ensure that the Board meets its statutory obligations, particularly in respect of audit and financial management. The Finance Committee has reviewed all the current Board level policies including delegations and procurement procedures. A risk management policy is being finalised.

5.6 Delegated Functions and Powers

Section 36 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* allows the Board to delegate functions or powers of the Board to members of the Board, Committees of the Board, Council, members of staff, NRM Groups or other persons or bodies. The Board has delegated the functions and powers of the below Sections of the Act to the General Manager of the Board, with the authority to further delegate to members of staff or NRM Groups:

The delegations are relative to the following Sections of the Act:

S31	Special powers to carry out works
S34 (3);(4);(6)	Appoint staff
S67	Appoint Regional Authorised officers
S122	Special provisions relating to land
S123	Implement Action Plan
S127 (3)(d);(5)(a)-(h)	Water Affecting Activities
S130	Notice to rectify unauthorised activity
S131	Notice to maintain watercourse or lake
S179	Offence to release animals or plants (Recovery of costs for capture/collection)
S182	Owner of land to take action to destroy or control animals or plants (Power to provide exemptions)
S185	NRM authorities may recover certain costs from owners of land adjoining road reserves (Invoicing only)
S188	Permits
S192	Protection of certain vegetation and habitats
S193	Protections orders
S195	Reparation orders
S199	Registration
S230	Recovery of technical costs associated with contraventions

5.7 Board Committees

Under the Act, the Board is able to create committees to provide advice in specific areas of expertise or NRM activity. The following Committees operated in 2008-09:

- Finance Committee
- Executive Committee
- Regional Integration Committee
- Communications Committee

- Policy Committee
- Investment and Programs Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Membership of these Committees is provided in Appendix 3.

To facilitate local input into the development of Water Allocations Plans, address local government issues, water resource management and the Living Murray Program management, a number of Planning/Advisory Committees and Groups are established. Those operational during this year are:

- Mallee Water Resources Committee
- Marne Saunders Water Resources Committee
- Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Water Resources Committee (2 Committees)
- Angas Bremer Water Resources Committee
- Riverland, Rangelands, Ranges to River, Mallee and Coorong Local Government Natural Resources Advisory Committees (4 Committees)
- River Murray Water Allocation Planning (Upper, Mid and Lower Murray) Advisory Committee (3 Committees)
- Cowilla Community Consultative Committee
- Lower lakes, Murray Mouth and Coorong Icon Site Consultative Committee.

5.8 NRM Groups

The Board supports four community based NRM Groups in the Riverland, Rangelands, Ranges to River and Mallee and Coorong areas of the region. The Groups assist and support the Board in planning, land management, animal and pest plant control, water related issues, biodiversity protection and community engagement at the local level.

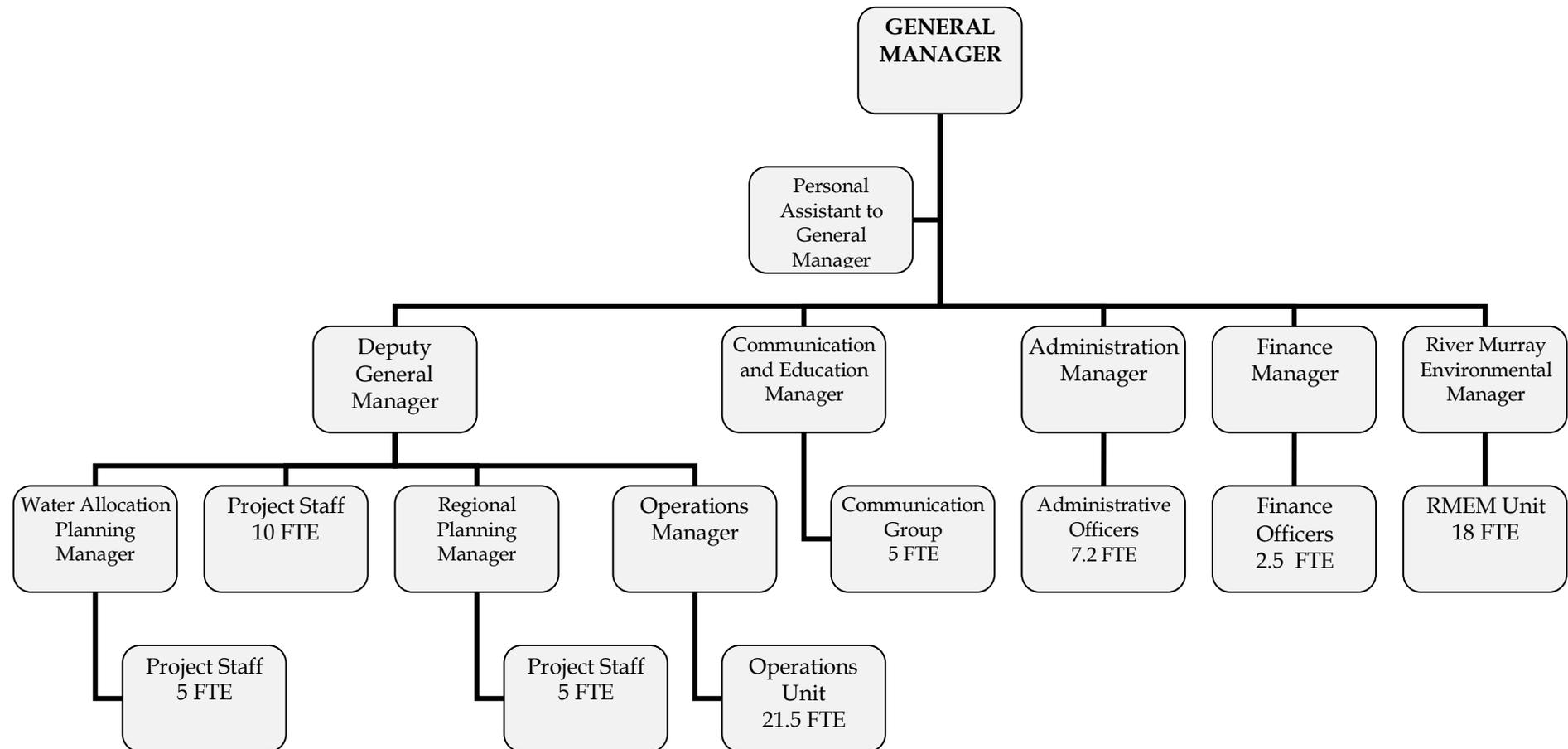
A report from each of the NRM Groups of their achievements is attached as Appendix 4.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES

On 30 June 2009, the Board had 87 employees occupying 78.9 full-time equivalent positions of the 84.2 approved FTE positions. Information relating to the Board's employees, leave management, workforce diversity, equal employment opportunities, customer service and occupational health and safety and injury management follows.

6.1 Organisational Structure

For the period ending 30 June 2009 the Board had a total number of 84.2 FTE approved positions as shown on the organisation chart below?



6.2 Management of Human Resources

EMPLOYMENT AND RECRUITMENT STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		
Persons	87	
FTE's	78.9	
Gender	% Persons	% FTE
Male	49.43	54.12
Female	50.57	45.88

Number of Persons Separated from the agency during the last 12 months	7
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Number of Persons Recruited to the agency during the 2007-08 financial year	7
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Number of Persons Recruited to the agency during the 2007-08 financial year AND who were active/paid at June 2008	6
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Number of Persons on Leave without Pay at 30 June 2008	1
---------------------------------------------------------------	---

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY SALARY BRACKET			
Salary Bracket	Male	Female	Total
\$0 - \$46 399	2	2	4
\$46 400 - \$58 999	17	17	34
\$59 000 - \$75 499	15	18	33
\$75 500 - \$94 999	8	7	15
\$95 000+	1	0	1
Total	41	38	79

SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE BOARD	
Total Contributions	\$ 505,795.00

STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IN CURRENT POSITION					
FTE's					
Gender	Ongoing	Short-term contract	Long-term contract	Casual	Total
Male	13	6.7	23	0	42.7
Female	3	7.3	25.9	0	36.2
Total	16	14	48.9	0	78.9
Persons					
Gender	Ongoing	Short-term contract	Long-term contract	Casual	Total
Male	13	7	23	0	43
Female	4	9	31	0	44
Total	17	16	54	0	87

EXECUTIVE EMPLOYMENT

Classification	Ongoing		Contract Tenured		Contract Untenured		Other (Casual)		Total		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
EXEC0A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

LEAVE MANAGEMENT

LEAVE DAYS PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE			
Leave Type	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-07
Sick Leave	4.3	6.0	4.3
Family Carer's Leave	0.6	0.4	0.2
Miscellaneous Special Leave	0.6	1.3	0

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY				
Number of Employees by Age Bracket by Gender				
Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total	% of Total
15 - 19			0	0
20 - 24	0	4	4	4.6
25 - 29	3	6	9	10.34
30 - 34	6	12	18	20.69
35 - 39	9	6	15	17.24
40 - 44	4	2	6	6.9
45 - 49	7	5	12	13.79
50 - 54	6	7	13	14.94
55 - 59	6	2	8	9.2
60 - 64	1	0	1	1.15
65+	1	0	1	1.15
Total	43	44	87	100

NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYEES				
Salary Bracket	ATSI staff	Total Staff	% ATSI	Target
\$0 - \$46 399	0	4	0	2%
\$46 400 - \$58 999	1	34	2.9412	2%
\$59 000 - \$75 499	1	33	3.0303	2%
\$75 500 - \$94 999	0	15	0	2%
\$95 000+	0	1	0	2%

***Target from SASP*

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY					
Name	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency	SA Community
Number of Employees born overseas	4	1	5	5.75	20.3%
Number of Employees who speak language(s) other than English at home	1	1	2	2.3	16.6%

***Benchmarks from ABS Publications Basin Community Profile (SA) Cat No. 2001.0, 2006 Census*

DISABILITY				
	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
Number of Employees with ongoing disability				
Total	0	0	0	

TYPES OF EMPLOYEE DISABILITIES				
Disability	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
Physical	0	0	0	
Intellectual	0	0	0	
Sensory	0	0	0	
Psychological / Psychiatric	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	

EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITY REQUIRING WORKPLACE ADAPTATION			
Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
0	0	0	

EMPLOYEES USING VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BY GENDER			
Leave Type	Male	Female	Total
Purchased Leave	0	0	0
Flexitime	42	44	86
Compressed Weeks	2	0	2
Part-time Job Share	0	0	0
Working from Home	0	0	0

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT	
Documented Review of Individual Performance Management	Total
% Reviewed within the last 12 months	20%
% review older than 12 months	75%
% Not reviewed	5%

Training and Development	Total Cost
Total training and development expenditure	\$49 352
Total Leadership and Management Development	\$16 106

ACCREDITED TRAINING PACKAGES

CLASSIFICATION	ACCREDITED TRAINING PACKAGE	FTE'S	QUALIFICATION
AS03	Financial Services	1	Certificate IV
AS03 & AS04	Business Management	2	Certificate IV
AS06	Business Administration	1	Masters
AS06	Project Management	1	Diploma (Ongoing)
AS04	Local Government Planning	1	Certificate IV

6.3 Equal Employment Opportunity programs

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. During the reporting period the Board Staff consisted of 43 male and 44 female members.

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. The Board endeavours to comply by:

- Promoting a work environment where everyone is treated with respect, fairness, equality and dignity
- Ensuring an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment
- Preventing discrimination, bullying and harassment in the workplace
- Ensuring management and staff are aware they may be liable for any unlawful act which occurs in the work area under their supervision
- Ensuring prompt, serious, sensitive, impartial and confidential investigations of complaints, enquiries and questions relating to discrimination, bullying and harassment
- Ensuring any person who feels they have just cause for a complaint is able to use the complaint procedure without fear of retribution or disadvantage

The Board supports but currently do not engage any staff under the SA Government Youth Training Schemes and Trainee Employment Register, the SA Public Sector Aboriginal Recruitment and Development Strategy and Aboriginal Employment Register or Employment of People with Disabilities or the Disability Employment Register.

6.4 Occupational Health, Safety and Injury Management

	2007-08	2008-09
OHS Notices and Corrective Action		
Number of notifiable occurrences pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Division 6.6	0	0
Number of notifiable injuries pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Division 6.6	0	0
Number of notices served pursuant to OHS&W Act s35, s39 and s40 (default, improvement and prohibition notices)	0	0

Agency Gross Workers Compensation Expenditure for 2007-08 compared to 2006-07	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$
Income Maintenance	21 626.33	2814.07
Lump Sum Settlements – Redemptions Section 42	51 000.00	0
Lump Sum Settlements – Permanent Disability – Section 43	0	0
Medical / Hospital costs combined	7 154.66	6469.65
Other (Medical Reports)	11 203.85	1925.17
Total Claims Expenditure	\$ 90 984.84	\$ 11208.89

MEETING SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS	BASE 2007- 08	Performance 12 months to June 2009			Final Target No. or %
		Actual	Notional Quarterly Target	Variation	
Workplace Fatalities	0	0			
New Workplace injury claims	6	5	0	5	0
New Workplace injury claims frequency rate	0				0
Lost time injury claims	4	0			0
Total working days lost	104	14			
New psychological injury claims	2	0			
Rehabilitation and return to work					
• Early Assessment within 2 days	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	-80.00%	80.00%
• Early Intervention within 5 days	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	-80.00%	80.00%
• Return to Work within 5 business days	3	100.00%	75.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Claims Determination					
• Claims determined in 10 business days	4	80.00%	75.00%	5.00%	75.00%
• Claims still to be determined after 3 months	1	20.00%	3.00%	17.00%	3.00%
Income Maintenance payments for recent injury					
• 2007-08 injuries (at 24 months development)		2966.49	0.00	2966.49	
• 2008-09 injuries (at 12 months development)		197.46	1904.36	-1706.90	

7. FINANCIAL

7.1 Financial Reports

The Board's financial reports and audit statement are included as Appendix 1.

7.2 Contractual Arrangements

No contractual arrangements were entered into during the reporting period where the total value of the contract exceeded \$4 million.

7.3 Account Payment Performance

Particulars	Number of Accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by number)	Value in \$A of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by value)
Paid by due date*	4878	94%	\$ 30 545 200	96%
Paid late, within 30 days of due date	284	6%	\$1 078 787	3%
Paid more than 30 days from due date	15	0%	\$51 980	1%
TOTALS	5177	100%	\$31 851 245	100%

7.4 Fraud

During the 2008-09 financial year one known instance of fraud was investigated and reported within the Board. The Board through its policies and procedures has instituted risk management procedures and internal audit processes in order to minimise the opportunities for fraud or such an occurrence to occur again. These policies are being further developed as part of a Risk Management Plan for the Board.

7.5 Consultants

Throughout 2008-09, the Board engaged one consultant who undertook the works outlined in the table below on behalf of the Board.

The total cost to the Board of the consultancies for 2008-09 was \$4,000. The Board has a consultancy with CSIRO to the value of \$22,000 with approximately \$5,000 of that consultancy having been paid during the financial year.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Payments made 2008-09 \$'000
Below \$10 000	Nil	
\$10 000 - \$50 000		
CSIRO	Supporting Regional Planning in the SA MDB	5
ABOVE \$50 000		
	Nil	
Total Paid		5

7.6 Overseas Travel

No overseas travel was undertaken by Board staff or members in 2008-09.

8. OTHER

8.1 Disability Action Plan

The Board does not have a specific Disability Plan, but wherever practicable the Board ensures that its services are accessible to people with disabilities.

Should an issue arise, the organisation is in a position to address a disability issue immediately and would implement measures to address the issue by either action or within its current policies and procedures.

Promoting Independence – Disability Action Plans for South Australia provides a framework of action for agencies to meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *SA Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

In performing its functions the Board:

- Ensures accessibility of their services to people with disabilities, both as a customer and employee
- Ensures information about their services and programs is inclusive of people with disabilities
- Delivers advice or services to people with disabilities with awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with disabilities
- Provides opportunities for consultation with people with disabilities in decision making processes regarding service delivery and in the implementation of complaints and grievance mechanisms
- The General Manager ensure that the Board has met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and Equal Opportunities Act
- The Board is aware of the South Australian Strategic Plan target “to double the number of people with disabilities employed in the Public Sector by 2014”.

8.2 Asbestos management in government buildings

A review was finalised in May 2009 of all facilities leased or owned by the Board (16 sites including depots) to identify management issues, including whether asbestos was present. Some sites had a combination of finding from removing asbestos as soon as practical to no asbestos present or identified without further testing. The table below outlines the findings of this review.

Annual Asbestos Management Report 2008-09

Category	No. of Sites		Category Description	Interpretation one or more items at these sites
	At start of Year	At end of Year		
1	0	0	Remove	Should be removed promptly
2	1	1	Remove as soon as practical	Should be scheduled for removal at a practical time
3	9	9	Use care during maintenance	May need removal during maintenance works
4	2	2	Monitor Condition	Has asbestos present. Inspect according to legislation and policy
5	8	8	No Asbestos identified/identified asbestos has been removed	All asbestos identified and has been removed or no asbestos present at this site.
6	0	0	Further information required	Sites not yet categorised

8.3 Urban Design Charter

Cabinet adopted the South Australian Urban Design Charter as a whole-of-government urban policy which was released in November 2004. The Urban Design Charter aims to promote the benefits of good urban design, embed the principles into government processes and record the South Australian Government's commitment to good urban design. The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board has not undertaken any activities relevant to the implementation of the Urban Design Charter during 2008-09.

8.4 Freedom of Information

It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that it complies with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*. The Board's Administration Manager, Stephanie Weinert, is the designated and accredited Freedom of Information Officer.

There were four formal applications for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during 2007-08. These have been recorded on the Freedom of Information Management System (FOIMS) database to enter the relevant data.

8.5 Energy Efficiency Action Plan

Performance against annual energy use targets is outlined below.

The Board will aim to achieve the government target of a 25% improvement on the base year by 2014.

	Energy Use (GJ)	GHG Emissions	Business Measures
Base Year 2006-07	544	26.75	65.6 FTE's
	MJ/business measure/annum		
Year Being Reported 2008-09	548.85	26.99	78.9 FTE's
Portfolio Target 2008-09	MJ/business measure/annum		
Final Portfolio Target (for 2014)	528	26	85 FTE's

8.6 Greening of Government Operations Framework

The Greening of Government Operations Framework (GoGo) Framework was approved by Cabinet in February 2006 to provide the implementation framework for South Australian Government agencies to progress greening programs.

GoGO Priority Area 1: energy management

GoGO Priority Area 2: water conservation and wastewater management

GoGO Priority Area 3: waste management

GoGO Priority Area 5: travel and fleet management

Water Management

The Board will endeavour to work closely with agencies to progress improvements in environmental performance in accordance with the key actions of the GoGo Action Plan. The Board will develop a GoGo Implementation Plan that will give effect to the Action Plan addressing energy management, green buildings, travel and fleet management, green procurement, human resource management and sustainability.

The Board will address and identify environmental impacts and prioritise greening activities and develop implementation plans containing priorities, strategies and resource commitments with milestones.

As part of the process the Board will establish environmental performance information and implement environmental management to meet performance indicators and develop Action Plans.

The Board has established a "Green Team" who meets regularly to investigate and discuss ways of improving our sustainability and have developed Goals and an Action Plan to implement as outlined below:

GOALS:

- BIODIVERSITY: Improve biodiversity of office surrounds by 2014
- WASTE: Improve the reduction, re-use and recycling of office waste by 2014

- ENERGY: Increase carbon efficiency of Murray Bridge Office by 20% by 2014
- WATER: Reduce “Mains” water consumption by 50% by 2014
- FUEL: Increase carbon efficiency of vehicles by 20% by 2014
- PAPER: Reduce consumption of office goods by 20% by 2014
- AWARENESS: Staff are aware and supportive of Green Team initiatives

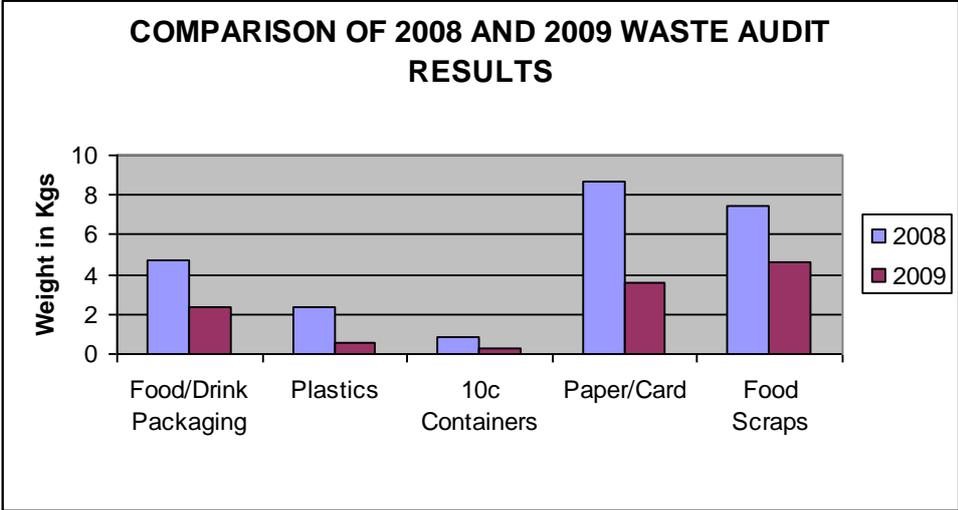
Action Plan
1. Calculate carbon footprint quarterly to monitor energy usage.
2. Revegetate around buildings this year with native plants. Purchased indoor plants to increase CO2 absorption.
3. Replace halogen down lights with LED or CF when old globes have blown using less power/energy.
4. Set default double sided printing and print in black and white from computers and photocopiers.
5. Recycling Weekly pick up of waste paper, toilet paper towels, cardboard, plastics, bottles and cans for recycling and monthly pick up of documents disposed in secure locked bin.
6. Staff turning off lights, computers, air conditioning, Piccadilly Urn when not in use and Friday afternoons to save energy.
7. Switched to 100% recycled copier paper.
8. Trial using data sticks at Board meetings to save on paper.
9. Purchasing stationery items made from recycled materials where appropriate ie pens, erasers, pencils, notebooks, plastic rubbish bins, plastic desk tidy trays.
10. Hot desks available in NRM Board offices. Laptops use less energy than computers where suitable.
11. Composting bins – Worm farm system installed to reduce organic matter in rubbish disposal.
12. Car pool operational where possible between staff travelling to and from work and during work hours.
13. Order Fleet SA vehicles with dual fuel or 4 cylinders to maximise efficiency where possible.
14. Installed rainwater tanks for toilet and bathroom water use.
15. Set air conditioning thermostats – higher in summer/lower in winter. Set to 21° Winter, 25° Summer for better efficiency.
16. Installed skylights in dark areas of building.
17. E-mail messages to save on copy paper consumption – <i>Think before you print</i> on emails and <i>be green and read from the screen</i> .
18. Audits for waste, energy, water and fuel use.
19. 20% green energy for offices as contracts fall due.
20. Non-hazardous eco cleaning products.

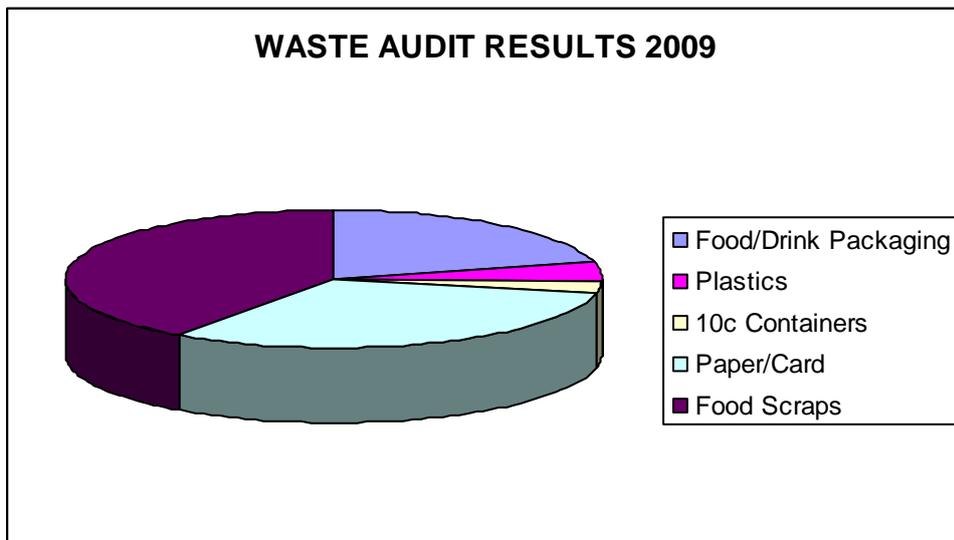
Monitoring of the effectiveness of Green initiatives is ongoing. The incorporation of a climate change program into the Board’s recently released Regional NRM Plan will provide strategic direction in meeting targets and for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement functions.

The Murray Bridge office houses the greatest number of Board staff. Other offices are located at Berri, Mount Barker, Lameroo, Karoonda, Cambrai, Strathalbyn, Burra and Adelaide.

In June 2009, the Murray Bridge Green Team conducted an audit of the waste products accumulated over seven days at the Murray Bridge Natural Resources Centre using Zero Waste audit methodology (lead GoGO agency for waste). The objective was to gauge our progress towards waste reduction of office-generated food and drink packaging, plastics, deposit containers, paper and card, and food scraps. The audit also recorded how much waste material was recycled. The results were compared with the figures obtained from our first audit in February 2008. The good news is that reductions of approximately 50% have been achieved for all landfill waste materials while significant increases were recorded for recycled materials. These figures naturally fluctuate from week to week, however this encouraging result indicates that practices in the office have changed.

Early trends from the Murray Bridge Office are shown in the graphs below:





Other offices in the Board region have reported and have their own initiatives documented, including high use of public transport, toner recycling, fluorescent tube recycling, LPG heating, rainwater tank installation and plumbed-in rainwater use, lighting audits, light sensor installation and sunshades purchased for work vehicles.

8.7 Regional Impact Assessment Statements

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2008-09 financial years.

8.8 Reconciliation Statement

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board acknowledges the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for Aboriginal people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Board also acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri, Ngargad, Meru, Ngadjuri, Peramangk, Danggali and Barkindji people as the custodians of the region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

The Board has an indigenous representative, Mr Derek Walker as a member of its Board. The Board also has engaged the indigenous community in projects and committees wherever possible.

Two indigenous facilitators for the Living Murray project were appointed to the region with one officer based at Adelaide and the other in Berri. The Board has funded an Aboriginal Partnerships Coordinator and two Aboriginal Project Officers to actively engage with aboriginal communities across the region.

8.9 Statement of Fact for Significant Ministerial Directives

No Ministerial Directives have been issued to the Board by the Minister in relation to Sections 24 and 30 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

8.10 Statement of Fact for Significant Functions Assigned by Minister

Under Section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994* the ministerial functions and powers of the Minister for the Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board the following sections of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 were conferred on the Minister for the River Murray on 27 January 2005.

- Sections 11; 23(2)(c); 23(3)(a); 23(4), (5), (6) and (7); 24(3); 25; 29; 30; 33; 34; 35; 36; 39; 40; 43; 44; 45; 46; 48; 49; 50; 53; 54; 58; 59; 61; 75; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 84; 88; 89; 171; 225; Schedule 1, Clauses 4 and 5; Schedule 4, Clause 54 (12) and (13).

There were no new significant functions assigned to the Board by the Minister in 2008-09.

8.11 Requirements for annual report

Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that the Minister must cause a report to be prepared annually setting out the following information:

- (1) A regional NRM board must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the NRM Council a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must—
 - (a) include an assessment of the extent to which the regional NRM board has succeeded in implementing its regional NRM plan; and
 - (b) include the audited accounts and financial statements of the regional NRM board; and
 - (c) be accompanied by the annual reports of the NRM groups within its region; and
 - (d) include other information required by or under this Act or the regulations.

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (1) An NRM group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (2) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act require that:

- (1) An NRM group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must-
 - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM group, and
 - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57 (2) (b) there are no regulations applying.

8.12 Specific reports

Section 39 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or the NRM Council may, by written notice to a regional NRM board, require the board to provide to the Minister or the NRM Council, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the NRM Council (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM board must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

There were no specific reports requested by the Minister for the River Murray or the Natural Resources Management Council for the 2008-09 year.

8.13 Acknowledgements

The Board would like to thank the Minister for the River Murray, Hon Karlene Maywald MP and the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, and staff of the SA Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, the staff of the SA Department for Environment and Heritage, SA Water Corporation, Primary Industries and Resources SA, Environment Protection Authority, Local Government and the community for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

8.14 GLOSSARY

ABWRC	Angas Bremer Water Resource Committee
AMLR	Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
AWMN	Automatic Weather Monitoring Network
The Board	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
BRAG	Burra Rangelands Action Group
BRS	Bureau of Rural Science
CF	Compact Fluorescent Lights
CFOC	Caring for Our Country
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Research Organisation
CSSSM	Community Stream Sampling and Salinity Mapping
DWLBC	Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
DC	District Council
DP	Development Plan
DEH	Department for Environment and Heritage
DTEI	Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Department of Planning and Local Government
DPLG	
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EDALA	Electronic Development Application Lodgment and Assessment System
EHMPCG	Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges
EMLR	
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FTE	Full time equivalent
FOI	Freedom of Information
GIS	Geographic Information System
GL	Gigalitre
GoGo	Greening of Government Operations
Group (the Group)	Natural Resources Management Group
Ha	Hectares
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Issues
IIEP	Improving Irrigation Efficiency Project
IRES	Irrigation Recording and Evaluation System
LAP	Local Action Planning
LED	Light Emitting Diodes
LGA	Local Government Association
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LWMP	Land and Water Management Plan
m	Metre
MAT	Management Action Target
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
MDB	Murray-Darling Basin
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation Reporting and Improvement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

MSWRC	Marne Saunders Water Resources Committee
MPWA	Mallee Prescribed Wells Area
MWRC	Mallee Water Resource Committee
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NRM Board	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
NRM Act (Act)	<i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i>
NRM Plan	Regional Natural Resources Management Plan (the Plan or Regional NRM Plan)
NWI	National Water Initiative
NWQMS	National Water Quality Management Strategy
NRMOPS	Natural Resources Management Operations Spatial Database
PAV	Permissible Annual Volume
pH	A measure of acidity and alkalinity of a solution that is a number on a scale on which a value of 7 represents neutrality and lower numbers indicate increasing acidity and higher numbers increasing alkalinity
PIRSA	Primary Industries and Resource South Australia
PRS PWA	Peake, Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells Area
PWA	Prescribed Wells Area
RCT	Resource Condition Target
RIC	Regional Integration Committee
RMEM	River Murray Environmental Manager
RMEMU	River Murray Environmental Manager Unit
RMPW	River Murray Prescribed Watercourse
R2R	Ranges to River
S	Section
SA	South Australian
SACE	South Australian Certificate of Education
SAMRIC	South Australian Murray-Darling Resources Information Centre
SARDI	South Australian Research and Development Institute
SE	South East
TLM	The Living Murray
WAA	Water Affecting Activities
WAP	Water Allocation Plan
WRA	Water Resources Assessment
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

8.15 Publications released or updated during 2008-2009

Listed below are the publications which have been released or updated during 2008-09.

- Pest Plants of the Mallee and Coorong
- Pest Plants of the Ranges to River
- Pest Plants of the Riverland
- Pest Plants of the Rangelands
- Weed Fact Sheets
 - Innocent Weed
 - Spiny Rush
 - Aleppo Pine
 - Lincoln Weed
- Roadside Declared Plant Control Policy and Guidelines
- SA River Murray Irrigated Crop Surveys 2007/08 – Seasonal Overview (May, 2009)
- Assessing crop water use in the Mallee
- Livestock and Salinity Fact Sheet (Rangelands)
- Mallee Prescribed Wells Area Cost Sharing Agreements – 5th Edition
- Annual Water Use 2007-08

9. APPENDICES

9.1 APPENDIX 1: 2008-09 Audited Financial Reports and Statement

6 AUG 2010



Government of South Australia
Auditor-General's Department

Our Ref: A09/358

4 August 2010

Mr B Paterson
Presiding Member
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2343
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Mr Paterson

2008-09 Audit

The audit of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) for the year ended 30 June 2009 has been completed.

The audit covered the principal accounting functions, internal controls and processes including test verification of financial transactions processed and recorded during the year.

Enclosed are the audited financial statements of the Board together with the unmodified Independent Auditor's Report.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your staff for their cooperation during the course of the audit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S O'Neill'.

S O'Neill
AUDITOR-GENERAL

enc.

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To the Members**South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**

As required by section 31 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 37(2) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2009. The financial statements comprise:

- A Statement of Comprehensive Income
- A Statement of Financial Position
- A Statement of Changes in Equity
- A Statement of Cash Flows
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income
- Notes To and Forming Part of the Financial Statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- A Certificate from the Presiding Member, General Manager and the Finance Manager of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

The Responsibility of the Members of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the Financial Statements

The Members of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

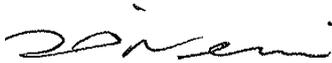
My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing Standards. The Auditing Standards require that the auditor complies with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plans and performs the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Members of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, as well as the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my auditor's opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2009, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards.



S O'Neill
AUDITOR-GENERAL
4 August 2010

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

EXPENSES

	Note No.	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Staffing costs	5	6,237	5,701
Supplies and services	6	18,085	14,646
Grants and contributions	7	2,885	3,992
Depreciation	8	253	227
Borrowing costs		3	3
Net loss from the disposal of assets	9	1	-
Other expenses	10	814	-
Board, committee and related expenses		212	213
Total Expenses		<u>28,490</u>	<u>24,782</u>

INCOME

Water based levy		2,439	2,952
Council contributions		905	892
Interest revenues		240	522
Grants and subsidies	11	18,316	18,660
Net gain from the disposal of assets	9	-	26
Other income	12	1,743	1,202
Total Income		<u>23,643</u>	<u>24,254</u>
Net cost of providing services		<u>(4,847)</u>	<u>(528)</u>
Net Result		<u>(4,847)</u>	<u>(528)</u>
Total comprehensive result		<u>(4,847)</u>	<u>(528)</u>

The net result and comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2009**

CURRENT ASSETS	Note No.	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash	13	2,631	7,545
Receivables	14	6,635	5,273
Total Current Assets		<u>9,266</u>	<u>12,818</u>
 NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and equipment	15	1,212	1,110
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>1,212</u>	<u>1,110</u>
Total Assets		<u>10,478</u>	<u>13,928</u>
 CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	16	3,817	2,696
Borrowings		11	11
Staff related entitlements	17	589	542
Provisions	18	15	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>4,432</u>	<u>3,249</u>
 NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	16	69	-
Borrowings		18	29
Staff related entitlements	17	698	583
Provisions	18	41	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>826</u>	<u>612</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>5,258</u>	<u>3,861</u>
Net Assets		<u>5,220</u>	<u>10,067</u>
 EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		5,220	10,067
Total Equity		<u>5,220</u>	<u>10,067</u>

The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner

Unrecognised contractual commitments	19
Contingent assets and liabilities	20

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Retained Earnings \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance at 30 June 2007	10,595	10,595
Net Result for 2007-08	(528)	(528)
Total comprehensive result for 2007-08	(528)	(528)
Balance at 30 June 2008	<u>10,067</u>	<u>10,067</u>
Net Result for 2008-09	(4,847)	(4,847)
Total comprehensive result for 2008-09	(4,847)	(4,847)
Balance at 30 June 2009	<u>5,220</u>	<u>5,220</u>

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Note No.	2009 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000	2008 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Outflows:			
Payments for staffing costs, supplies and services		(25,089)	(20,881)
Grant payments		(2,885)	(3,992)
Repaid grants		(814)	-
Payments for board, committee and related expenses		(212)	(213)
Interest paid		(3)	(3)
GST paid to the ATO		(1,774)	(1,847)
Inflows:			
Levies and contributions		4,392	2,734
Interest received		279	527
Grants and subsidies		17,762	17,150
Other receipts		1,622	2,659
GST recovered from the ATO		2,175	2,075
Net cash used in operating activities	22	<u>(4,547)</u>	<u>(1,791)</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</u>			
Outflows:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(399)	(179)
Inflows:			
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		43	436
Net Cash (used in)/provided by Investing Activities		<u>(356)</u>	<u>257</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</u>			
Outflows:			
Repayment of borrowings		(11)	(10)
Net Cash used in Financing Activities		<u>(11)</u>	<u>(10)</u>
Net decrease in cash held		(4,914)	(1,544)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		7,545	9,089
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	<u>2,631</u>	<u>7,545</u>

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
DISAGGREGATED DISCLOSURES - EXPENSES AND INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

STRATEGY	Water & Salinity Policy		Land & Water Management		Water Quality		Biodiversity & Protection & Enhancement		Coastal Zone & Estuarine Environment		Research, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting		Land Use Policy		Pest Animal & Plant Management		River Murray Environmental Manager Unit		Fostering Community Engagement		Administering the Governance Framework		Total		
	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000	
Expenses																									
Staffing costs	505	529	147	78	-	110	44	1,275	1,444	413	1,692	1,444	413	1,692	1,444	413	1,692	1,444	413	1,692	1,444	413	1,692	1,444	413
Supplies and services	1,577	1,731	200	1,509	321	508	31	1,388	8,012	1,562	1,246	8,012	1,562	1,246	8,012	1,562	1,246	8,012	1,562	1,246	8,012	1,562	1,246	8,012	1,562
Grants and contributions	14	805	750	253	-	76	-	5	455	463	64	455	463	64	455	463	64	455	463	64	455	463	64	455	463
Returned grants	50	366	8	88	150	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net loss from the disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board, committee and related expenses	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	2,150	3,434	1,105	1,928	471	694	75	2,669	9,944	2,483	3,537	2,483	2,669	9,944	2,483	3,537	2,483	9,944	2,483	3,537	2,483	3,537	2,483	3,537	2,483
Income																									
Water Based Levy	341	366	122	24	24	24	24	122	122	317	953	122	122	122	317	953	122	122	317	953	122	122	317	953	122
Council contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants and subsidies	848	1,078	343	1,248	208	219	50	359	10,100	1,400	2,463	10,100	1,400	2,463	1,400	2,463	1,400	10,100	1,400	2,463	1,400	2,463	1,400	2,463	
Returned grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net gain from the disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	318	-	89	149	15	-	467	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	1,189	1,762	465	1,361	381	258	74	1,853	10,329	1,743	4,228	10,329	1,743	4,228	1,743	4,228	1,743	10,329	1,743	4,228	1,743	4,228	1,743	4,228	
Net Result	(961)	(1,672)	(640)	(567)	(90)	(436)	(1)	(816)	385	(740)	691	385	(816)	385	(740)	691	(740)	385	(740)	691	(740)	691	(740)	691	

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOA

Note Index

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

1. Objectives and Funding

1.1 Establishment of Board

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) was established on 9 December 2004 pursuant to Section 23 (1) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act).

The Board operates under an Initial Plan which was approved by the Minister for the River Murray on 9th May 2006.

The Board has prepared a NRM plan for the years 2009-2018. This was adopted by the Minister on 28 April 2009 for implementation on 1 July 2009.

1.2 Functions of the Board

The functions of the Board are as follows:

- to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region
- to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with the Act, to implement the plan and to keep the plan under review to ensure the objectives of the Act are being achieved
- to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of proper management and sustainable use of the natural resources within its region
- to protect agriculture, the environment and public safety from pest plants and animals and to promote public awareness in pest plant and animal control

1.3 Sources of Funding

Grants and subsidies

A significant portion of the Board's income is derived from Commonwealth funding programs, these being the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and Caring for our Country (CfoC). Funding for these programs is provided to the Board pursuant to separate Regional Partnership Agreements (RPAs) with the Commonwealth. Contributions under these RPAs are required to be spent in a manner specified in the RPA. All unspent contributions are included in the balance of Commitments (refer Note 19).

Levy Funding

In accordance with the provisions of the NRM Act, the Board received levies in respect of public water supply from SA Water and licensed irrigators within the Board's region. The rates for the current period are detailed below:

	2009
	cents/kilolitre
Reticulated Water Supply Levy	1.211
River Murray, Angas Bremer and Noora Prescribed Resources Areas	0.388
Qualco-Sunlands Scheme	0.366
Mallee Prescribed Wells Area (Groundwater)	0.333

All water based levies are invoiced and collected by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Levies are subsequently paid to the Board in accordance with the provisions of the NRM Act.

In accordance with Section 92 of the NRM Act, the Board received levies from constituent councils based on the value of rateable land at the rate of 0.0000594 cents per dollar. The amount due from constituent councils for 2008-09 was \$904,500. The levy is collected by the constituent councils on behalf of the Board.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.1 General

The financial statements are a general purpose financial statements, and have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Treasurer's Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements promulgated under the provision of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and the requirements of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004.

Except for the amendments to AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements (September 2007 version) including AASB 2007-08 and AASB 2007-10 (these standards make consequential amendments to other standards as a result of the revised AASB 101), which the Board has early adopted, Australian accounting standards and interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have not been adopted by the Board for the period ending 30 June 2009. These are outlined in Note 3.

2.2 Basis of Preparation

The preparation of the financial statements requires:

- the use of certain accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Board's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are outlined in the applicable notes;
- the selection and application of accounting policies in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events are reported; and
- compliance with accounting policy statements issued pursuant to section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. In the interest of public accountability and transparency the accounting policy statements require the following note disclosures, which have been included in these financial statements:
 - a) revenues, expenses, financial assets and liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at reporting date, are classified according to their nature.
 - b) expenses incurred as a result of engaging consultants (as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income);
 - c) staff whose normal remuneration is \$100,000 or more (within \$10,000 band widths) and the aggregate of the remuneration paid or payable or otherwise made available, directly or indirectly by the entity to those staff; and
 - d) board/committee member and remuneration information, where a board/committee member is entitled to receive income from membership other than a direct out-of-pocket reimbursement.

The Board's Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements have been prepared on a twelve month period and presented in Australian currency.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 and the comparative information presented.

2.3 Reporting Entity

The Board's financial statements include income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled or incurred by the Board in its own right.

NRM Groups

Pursuant to section 46 of the NRM Act, on 3 November 2005 the Board established the following NRM Groups:

- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM - Riverland Group
- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM - Rangelands Group
- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM - Mallee and Coorong Group
- SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM - Ranges to River NRM Group

These NRM Groups are subject to the direction of the Board.

The NRM Groups' functions include the active involvement in the development and implementation of the Board's regional NRM Plan at the local level and the provision of advice to the Board

Costs incurred by these NRM Groups are paid for by the Board and recognised in the balance of Board, committee and related expenses. No income is generated by these NRM Groups.

2.4 Comparative Information

The presentation and classification of items in the financial statements are consistent with prior periods except where adjusted to reflect the early adoption of AASB101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and specific revised accounting standards and accounting policy statements.

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements where required, eg preparation of a Single Statement of Comprehensive Income.

2.5 Rounding and Currency

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000) are expressed in Australian dollars.

2.6 Taxation

The Board is not subject to income tax. The Board is liable for payroll tax, fringe benefits tax and goods and services tax (GST).

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST incurred by the Board as a purchaser is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of the receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified as part of operating cash flows.

2.7 Income and Expenses

Income and expenses are recognised to the extent that it is probable that the flow of economic benefits to or from the Board will occur and can be reliably measured.

Income and expenses have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Note 24 to the financial statement discloses income and expenses, where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

The following are specific recognition criteria:

Income from grants and subsidies

Grants and subsidies are recognised as an asset and income when the Board obtains control of the grant/subsidy or obtains the right to receive the grant/subsidy and the income recognition criteria are met (ie the amount can be reliably measured and the flow of resources is probable).

Generally the Board has obtained control or the right to receive for:

- Grants with unconditional stipulations - when the grant agreement becomes enforceable;
- Grants with conditional stipulations - when the enforceable stipulations specified in the grant agreement occur or are satisfied.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised when accrued.

Water based levies and Council contributions

Contributions from constituent councils reimbursed from ratepayers are recognised as income following determination of the share of each council by the Minister and publications of those amounts in the Government Gazette. Contributions are required to be paid on a quarterly basis to the Board. All levies are recognised as revenue when the Board obtains the right to receive the contributions.

Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are recognised as expenses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the various classes of assets as follows:

Class of asset	Useful life (years)
Buildings	70
Infrastructure	40
Furniture Fixtures and Fittings	10
Motor Vehicles	12
Minor Plant Field Equipment	5
Office Equipment	5
Computer Equipment	3

Disposal of non-current assets

Income or losses from the disposal of non-current assets are recognised when the control of the asset has passed to the buyer and are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount.

Grant Expenses

Grants are recognised as a liability and expense when the Board has a present obligation to pay the grant and the expense recognition criteria are met.

2.8 Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are characterised as either current or non-current in nature. Assets and liabilities that are sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle even when they are not expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting date have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

Where assets and liability line items combine amounts expected to be realised within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be recovered or settled after more than twelve months.

2.9 Assets

Assets have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Where an asset line item combines amounts expected to be realised within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be recovered or settled after more than twelve months.

Note 24 to the financial statements discloses financial assets where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position includes cash at bank and on hand and is measured at nominal value.

Receivables

Receivables in respect of fees and charges are recorded at their recoverable amount. At the end of each reporting period these receivable balances are reviewed and a provision is raised in respect of any balance where recoverability is considered doubtful. Bad debts are written off in the period in which they are identified.

Non-current Assets

Non-current assets are initially recorded at cost or at the value of any liabilities assumed, plus any incidental cost involved with the acquisition. Non-current assets are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation.

Where assets are acquired at no value, or nominal value, they are recorded at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position. However, if the assets are acquired at no or nominal value as part of a restructure of administrative arrangements then the assets are recognised at book value i.e. the amount recorded by the transferor public authority immediately prior to the restructure.

All non-current assets with a value of \$1,000 or greater are capitalised.

Revaluation of non-current assets

All non-current tangible assets are valued at written down current cost (a proxy for fair value); and revaluation of non-current assets or group of assets is only performed when its fair value at the time of acquisition is greater than \$1 million and estimated useful life is greater than three years. As the Board does not hold assets that meet this criteria, assets have not been revalued.

Impairment

All non-current tangible and intangible assets are tested for indication of impairment at each reporting date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. An amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

2.10 Liabilities

Liabilities have been classified according to their nature and have not been offset unless required or permitted by a specific accounting standard, or where offsetting reflects the substance of the transaction or other event.

Where a liability line item combines amounts expected to be settled within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be settled after twelve months.

Note 24 to the financial statements discloses financial liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Payables

Payables include creditors and accrued expenses. Creditors represent the amounts owing for goods and services provided to the Board prior to the end of the reporting period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued expenses represent goods and services provided to the Board during the period where an invoice has not been received.

All payables are measured at their nominal amount, are unsecured and are normally settled within 30 days from the date of the invoice or the date the invoice is received.

Staff on-costs include superannuation contributions and payroll tax with respect to outstanding liabilities for salaries and wages, long service leave and annual leave. The Board makes contributions to State Government and externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. The only liability outstanding at balance date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to the superannuation schemes.

Leases

The Board has no finance leases.

The Board has entered into operating lease agreements in relation to office premises, motor vehicles and office equipment. The lessors effectively retain all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the property held under the operating leases.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

2.11 Staffing Costs and Related Entitlements

Staffing Arrangements

Under the employment provisions of the NRM Act the Chief Executive of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation is the "employing authority" for all Board staff. The Chief Executive of the Department has delegated most of his powers and functions relating to the employment of staff to the Board. The Treasurer has also issued a direction to the Board to make payments with respect to any matter arising in connection with the employment of a person under the NRM Act.

Staffing Related Entitlements

These entitlements accrue for staff as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid. Long-term staff entitlements are measured at present value and short-term staff entitlements are measured at nominal amounts.

Wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave

The liability for salary and wages is measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at remuneration rates current at reporting date.

The annual leave liability is expected to be payable within twelve months and is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid.

No provision has been made for sick leave as sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by staff is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

2.11 Staffing Costs and Related Entitlements - continued

Long Service Leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised after a staff member has completed six and one half years of service. An actuarial assessment of long service leave undertaken by the Department of Treasury and Finance based on a significant sample of employees throughout the South Australian public sector determined that the liability measured using this short hand method was not materially different from the liability measured using the present value of expected future payments.

Superannuation

The Board made contributions of \$504,000 to State Government externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. There is no liability for payment of beneficiaries as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at balance date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid.

2.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Board has a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

A provision has been raised to reflect the liability for any outstanding (unsettled) workers compensation claims for lump sum payments, adjusted for potential recoveries from negligent third parties. The provision is based on an actuarial assessment performed for the Public Sector Workforce Relations Division of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

2.13 Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingent assets and liabilities

Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing commitments arising from contractual or statutory sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, the commitment and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

2.14 Financial Risk Management

The Board has non-interest bearing assets (receivables) and liabilities (payables). The Board's exposure to market risk and cash flow interest risk is minimal. The Board has no significant concentration of credit risk. Risk management is carried out by the Board.

In relation to liquidity/funding risk, the continued existence of the Board in its present form, and with its present programs, is dependent on State Government policy.

3. New and revised accounting standards and policies

Details of the impact, where significant, on the Board's financial statements from new and amended Australian accounting standards that are applicable for the first time in 2008-09 are detailed below.

The Board has early adopted the September 2007 version of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* including AASB 2007-08 and AASB 2007-10 (these standards make consequential amendments to other standards as a result of the revised AASB101) - this includes the preparation of a single Statement of Comprehensive Income. The new accounting standard AASB1052 Disaggregated Disclosures requires the amount of assets and liabilities reliably attributable to each activity to be disclosed. As it is not possible to reliably attribute assets and liabilities to each activity, no disclosures at an activity level have been made.

Issued or amended but not yet effective

Except for the amendments to AASB101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, which the Board has early adopted, the Australian accounting standards and interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective, have not been adopted by the Board for the period ending 30 June 2009. The Board has assessed the impact of the new and amended standards and interpretations and considers there will be no impact on the accounting policies or the financial statements of the Board.

4. Activities of the Board

In achieving its objectives, the Board has defined a series of strategies to manage the region's natural resources. These areas of activity are:

Activity A: Water and Salinity Policy

Activities include managing irrigation impacts by supporting the community to develop and finalise Land and Water Management Plans, manage dryland impacts and develop salinity management systems by identifying preferred areas for irrigation development to achieve salinity outcomes.

Activity B: Land and Water Management

Activities include establishing tools for assessing the impacts of new developments and monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of irrigation water use, irrigator education and training, water allocation policy and licensing to improve the efficiency of irrigation water use.

Activity C: Water Quality

Activities are aimed at maintaining/improving water quality so that it is suitable for economic, social and environmental purposes and adopting environmentally responsible recreation and tourism practices. Local governments are supported to improve wastewater management to make productive use of this alternative water resource.

Activity D: Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement

Activities include providing a regional context for biodiversity conservation and protected area planning, improving management of pest plant and animals and other threatened processes such as fire, implementation of threatened species recovery programs, and taking a more strategic approach to landscape restoration for biodiversity conservation and halting biodiversity decline.

Activity E: Coastal Zone and Estuarine Environment

Activities aim to maintain and improve the capacity of the River Murray discharge to the sea to keep the Mouth open so that oxygenated sea water can flow into the Coorong to improve its health; to restore, maintain and enhance biodiversity and priority ecosystems; to improve water quality for economic, social and environmental purposes and to provide water for environmental needs.

Activity F: Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation programs aim to build the capacity of the community to report, and to identify the links and integrated approach required to improve natural resource conditions. Monitoring and evaluation assists with the setting of future targets and the review of the performance of its NRM programs.

4. Activities of the Board - continued

Activity G: Land Use Policy

Activities aim to protect our land, water and biodiversity resources from salinity impacts, to achieve wide-scale adoption of sustainable land use practices, to increase soil stability and productivity and to promote sustainable technologies and approaches to economic development.

Activity H: Pest Animal and Plant Management

Activities include targeted pest animal and plant programs to improve catchment biodiversity and production.

Activity I: River Murray Environmental Manager

Activities include the management and implementation of environmental flow strategies and coordinated wetland and floodplain management.

Activity J: Fostering Community Engagement

Activities are aimed at improving community skills, knowledge and engagement.

Activity K: Administering the Governance Framework

Activities in this area include operating costs of the Board and NRM Groups, Financial, Human Resources and Administration expenses.

The disaggregated disclosure schedule presents expenses and income information attributable to each of the activities for the year ended 30 June 2009. As it has not been possible to reliably attribute assets and liabilities to activities an aggregated disclosure for assets and liabilities has not been completed.

5. Staffing Costs	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Salaries, wages, annual leave and long service leave expense	5,446	5,011
Staff on costs -superannuation	509	412
Staff on costs -payroll tax	282	278
Total Staffing Costs	6,237	5,701

Remuneration of staff

The number of staff whose remuneration received or receivable exceeded \$100,000 fell within the following bands:

	2009	2008
	No.	No.
\$100,000 - \$109,999	2	2
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	-
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	-
Total number of staff	5	4

The table includes all staff who received remuneration of \$100,000 or more during the year. Remuneration of staff reflects all costs of employment including salaries and wages, superannuation contributions, fringe benefits tax and any other salary sacrifice benefits. Total remuneration received or receivable by the staff was \$641,000 (\$514,000).

6 Supplies and services	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Contractors	15,156	11,727
Motor vehicle expenses	814	767
Office accommodation and services	744	667
Postage, printing & stationery	287	218
Computing and communication	274	242
Meeting and conference expenses	158	202
Travel	141	135
Minor plant and equipment	85	171
Audit remuneration ¹	36	60
Consultants	5	50
Accounting services	5	20
Other	380	387
Total Supplies & Services	18,085	14,646

¹ Audit fees payable to the Auditor-General for the audit of the financial report. No other services were provided by the Auditor-General

Consultancies

The number and dollar amount of consultancies paid/payable (included in supplies and services expense) that fell within the following bands:

	2009		2008	
	No.	\$'000	No.	\$'000
Below \$10,000	1	5	-	-
Between \$10,000 and \$50,000	-	-	2	50
Total paid/payable to consultants engaged	1	5	2	50

7. Grants and Contributions	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Local Government and community groups	2,019	3,161
South Australian Government entities	76	344
Other	790	487
Total Grants and Contributions	2,885	3,992

The Board provides funding to various bodies including Community Groups, Local and State Government to undertake projects that are consistent with the Programs of the Board's NRM Plan.

8. Depreciation	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings	7	7
Computer equipment	130	84
Furniture, Fittings & Fixtures	18	14
Infrastructure	-	-
Minor Plant & Equipment	36	43
Motor vehicles	16	35
Office Equipment	46	44
	253	227

9. Net gain/loss from the disposal of non-current and other assets	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Motor Vehicles		
Proceeds from disposal	43	435
Less: net book value of assets disposed	44	409
Net loss/gain from disposal of motor vehicles	<u>(1)</u>	<u>26</u>
Total assets		
Total proceeds from disposal	43	435
Less: net book value of assets disposed	44	409
Total net loss/gain from disposal of assets	<u>(1)</u>	<u>26</u>

10. Other Expenses	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Grants returned	814	-
Total Other Expenses	814	-

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
11. Grants and Subsidies		
Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation	2,850	2,590
National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	867	5,547
Natural Heritage Trust	290	1,689
National Landcare	220	957
Caring for our Country*	4,064	-
Murray Darling Basin Commission	1,010	6,107
Murray Darling Basin Authority	6,673	-
Water levy relief	1,825	1,510
Other	517	260
Total Grants and Subsidies	<u>18,316</u>	<u>18,660</u>

*The Caring for our Country Grants consist of the following programs:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Coastal Environments & Critical Aquatic Habitats Program 4,5,6,7	1,653	-
Biodiversity and Natural Icons Program 9,10,11	1,248	-
Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement Program 12,13,15	1,163	-
	<u>4,064</u>	<u>-</u>

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
12. Other Income		
Recoveries of unspent funds	642	492
Pest animal and plant management activities	444	439
Other	657	271
Total Other Income	<u>1,743</u>	<u>1,202</u>

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
13. Cash and cash equivalents		
Deposits with the Treasurer	2,629	7,543
Cash on hand	2	2
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>2,631</u>	<u>7,545</u>

Interest rate risk

At 30 June cash on hand of \$2.629 million was held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Treasurer.

The 2008-09 weighted average effective interest rate for deposits at call and with the Treasurer was 5 percent. The carrying amount of cash approximates net fair value.

14. Receivables	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation for Water Based Levies	911	3,785
Other Accounts Receivable	5,452	1,331
Interest Receivable	13	52
GST receivable	141	5
Prepayments	118	100
Total Receivables	6,635	5,273

Interest rate and credit risk

Receivables are raised for all goods and services provided for which payment has not been received. Receivables are normally settled within 30 days. Trade receivables and accrued revenues are non-interest bearing. It is not anticipated that counterparties will fail to discharge their obligations. The carrying amount of receivables approximates net fair value due to being receivable on demand. There is no concentration of credit risk.

a) Maturity analysis of receivables - please refer to Note 23

b) Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information - please refer to Note 23

15. Property, Plant and Equipment	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings at cost	534	534
Accumulated depreciation	(22)	(15)
	<u>512</u>	<u>519</u>
Computer Equipment at cost	593	419
Accumulated depreciation	(405)	(275)
	<u>188</u>	<u>144</u>
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings at cost	186	163
Accumulated depreciation	(60)	(42)
	<u>126</u>	<u>121</u>
Infrastructure	15	-
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>
Minor Plant and Equipment at cost	444	327
Accumulated depreciation	(287)	(251)
	<u>157</u>	<u>76</u>
Motor Vehicles at cost	167	211
Accumulated depreciation	(65)	(49)
	<u>102</u>	<u>162</u>
Office equipment at cost	335	265
Accumulated depreciation	(223)	(177)
	<u>112</u>	<u>88</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	2,274	1,919
Accumulated depreciation	(1,062)	(809)
Property, Plant and Equipment at 30 June 2009	1,212	1,110

15. Property, Plant and Equipment - continued
Property, plant and equipment movement schedule

	Carrying amount at			Depreciation	Carrying amount at
	1 July 2008	Additions	Disposals		30 June 2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings	519	-	-	(7)	512
Computer equipment	144	174	-	(130)	188
Furniture, Fittings & Fixtures	121	23	-	(18)	126
Infrastructure	-	15	-	-	15
Minor Plant & Equipment	76	117	-	(36)	157
Motor vehicles	162	-	(44)	(16)	102
Office Equipment	88	70	-	(46)	112
	1,110	399	(44)	(253)	1,212

There were no indications of impairment property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets at 30 June 2009.

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
16. Payables		
Current:		
Creditors	2,853	2,161
Accrued expenses	783	446
Staff on-costs	81	66
Unearned Revenue	100	-
GST Payable	-	23
Total Current Payables	3,817	2,696
Non-Current:		
Staff on-costs	69	-
Total Non-Current Payables	69	-
Total Payables	3,886	2,696

Interest rate and credit risk

Payables are raised for all amounts due but unpaid. Sundry payables are normally settled within 30 days. Staff on-costs are settled when the respective staff benefit that they relate to is discharged. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to the amounts being payable on demand.

a) Maturity analysis of payables - please refer to Note 23

b) Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information - please refer to Note 23

17. Staff Related Entitlements	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Current:		
Annual leave	400	372
Accrued salaries and wages	154	134
Long service leave	35	36
Total Current Staff Related Entitlements	589	542
Non-Current:		
Long service leave	698	583
Total Non-Current Staff Related Entitlements	698	583
Total Staff Related Entitlements	1,287	1,125

The total current and non-current staff liability (i.e. aggregate staff benefit plus related on-costs for 2009 is \$670,000 and \$767,000 respectively.

Based on an actuarial assessment performed by the Department of Treasury and Finance, the benchmark for the measurement of long service leave liability has not changed from the 2008 benchmark of 6.5 years.

In addition, the actuarial assessment performed by the Department of Treasury and Finance also revised the salary inflation rate down by 0.5% from the 2008 rate of 4.5% to 4.0%.

In 2009 the method for allocating long service leave between current and non-current liabilities was amended to reflect long service leave expected to be taken within one year and later than one year. The comparatives have been restated to reflect the amended method.

18. Provisions	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Current:		
Provision for workers compensation	15	-
Total Current Provisions	15	-
Non-Current:		
Provision for workers compensation	41	-
Total Non-Current Provisions	41	-
Total Provisions	56	-
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	-	-
Additional provision recognised	56	-
Carrying amount at the end of the period	56	-

A liability has been reported to reflect unsettled workers compensation claims. The workers compensation provision is based on an actuarial assessment performed by the Public Sector Workforce Relations Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

19. Commitments

19.1 Operating lease commitments (excluding GST)

Commitments in relation to operating leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Within one year	511	333
Later than one year but not longer than five years	1,382	896
Later than five years	951	442
Total operating lease	<u>2,844</u>	<u>1,671</u>

The Board's operating leases are for office accommodation and equipment. Office accommodation leases are for various office locations throughout the Board's region and also one office in Adelaide. The leases are non-cancellable with all leases expiring at various times over the ensuing 5 years and one lease which expires in 2017.

19.2 Other Expenditure Commitments (excluding GST)

Commitments in relation to other expenses contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Within one year	3,011	5,324
Later than one year but not longer than five years	35	-
Total other commitments	<u>3,046</u>	<u>5,324</u>

Several projects in the form of grants and contracts have been committed as at 30 June 2009. These projects are undertaken by Local Action Planning Groups, community groups and government agencies. This amount is not reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position for the current financial year.

19.3 Remuneration Expenditure Commitments

Commitments for the payment of salaries and other remuneration under fixed term employment contracts in existence at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Within one year	3,827	3,767
Later than one year but not longer than five years	3,316	2,827
Total remuneration commitments	<u>7,143</u>	<u>6,594</u>

Amounts disclosed include commitments arising from executive and other employment contracts. The Board does not offer fixed term remuneration contracts greater than five years.

20. Contingent assets and liabilities

The Board has no contingent assets or liabilities.

21. Remuneration of Board, Group and Committee Members and Related Party Transactions

21.1 Remuneration of Board Members and Related Party Transactions

Members of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board during the financial year were:

Mr William Paterson (Presiding Member)
Mrs Joanne Pfeiffer
Ms Frances Simes
Mr Derek Walker
Mr Joe Keynes
Ms Anne Hartnett
Mr Colin Milburn
Ms Emily Jenke
Ms Sheridan Alm

The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	Number of Members	Number of Members
\$0 - \$9,999	4	9
\$10,000 - \$19,999	4	1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	-
Total number of members	9	11

Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing board member duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, fringe benefits tax and any other salary sacrifice arrangements. The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$130,000 (\$83,000).

Amounts paid to a superannuation plan for board members was \$7,500 (\$5,200).

Related Party Disclosures

During the year transactions were entered into where members had either a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. Payments made are listed below:

Member	Related Party	Value of transactions	
		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Frances Simes	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	\$ 199,000	\$ 36,000
Frances Simes	Riverland West Local Action Planning Group - no interest 08/09	\$ -	\$ 193,000
Anne Hartnett	Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group - no interest 08/09	\$ -	\$ 581,000
Anne Hartnett	River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group - no interest 08/09	\$ -	\$ 2,800
Colin Milburn	Riverland Rural Contractors Pty Ltd	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,000
Colin Milburn	Berri Barmera Council - no interest 08/09	\$ -	\$ 42,000
Elizabeth Nicholls	Murraylands Regional Development Board	\$ -	\$ 1,000

21.2 Remuneration of Group/Committee Members and Related Party Transactions

Group/committee members of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board during the financial year were:

SA Murray-Darling NRM - Mallee & Coorong Group

Allan Piggott (Chairperson)
Damien Berger
Gordon Hancock
Clement Mason
Stephen Murray
Keith Scobie
Donna Nussio

SA Murray-Darling NRM - Rangelands Group

David Lindner (Chairperson)
Christopher Neal
Kevin Smith
Stuart Were - Resigned 25/8/08
Paul Williams - Term expired 31/1/09
Geoffrey White - Resigned 15/1/09
Jacalyn Matthey - Appointed 5/10/08
Jane Kellock - Appointed 5/10/08
Joanne Gebhardt - Appointed 31/1/09
Alicia Patten - Appointed 1/2/09

SA Murray-Darling NRM - Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group

Bruce Munday (Chairperson)
Monique White
Greg Sarre
Beryl Belford
Inez Bormann
Alexander Wells - Resigned 31/1/09
David Cooney - Resigned 31/1/09
Cerin Crosby - Appointed 1/2/09
Matthew Starrick - Appointed 1/2/09

SA Murray-Darling NRM - Riverland Group

Kenneth Stokes (Chairperson from 31/1/09)
Michelle Campbell - Appointed 1/2/09
Dean Kerley
Neil Martinson - Resigned 31/1/09
David Reilly
Stuart Martin (Chairperson to 30/1/09)
Gavin McMahon
Barry Kelly - Appointed 1/2/09

Elise Heyes - Appointed 31/8/08 Resigned 31/1/09

Marne-Saunders Water Resources Committee

Rosemary Laucke
Alan (David) Lillecrapp
Roger Lillecrapp
Roger Schmidt
Gioia Small
Sharon Starick
Peter Ward

Mallee Water Resources Committee

Raymond McDonald
Ross Day
Stephen Hall
Kevin Oakley
Jeffrey Pfitzner
Joyleen Ziersch
Neville Pfeiffer

The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	2009	2008
	Number of Members	Number of Members
\$0 - \$9,999	49	44
\$10,000 - \$19,999	-	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	-
Total number of members	49	44

Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing group/committee member duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, fringe benefits tax and any other salary sacrifice arrangements. The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$75,000 (\$40,000).

Amounts paid to a superannuation plan for members was \$0 (\$0).

22. Cash flow reconciliation

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period:

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Board considers cash to include cash on hand and at bank and those investments that are able to be converted to cash within two working days.

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position	2,631	7,545
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	2,631	7,545

Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities to net cost of providing services:

Net cash used in operating activities	(4,547)	(1,791)
Add/(less) non-cash items		
Depreciation	(253)	(227)
Net (loss)/gain on disposal of assets	(1)	26
Movement in assets and liabilities		
Increase in receivables	1,362	2,889
Increase in payables	(1,190)	(1,195)
Increase in staff related entitlements	(162)	(230)
Increase in provisions	(56)	-
Net cost of providing services	(4,847)	(528)

23. Financial instruments/Financial risk management

Categorisation of Financial Instruments

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Category of financial asset and financial liabilities	Statement of financial position line item	Note	Carrying Amount 2009 \$'000	Fair Value 2009 \$'000
Financial Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	Cash and cash equivalents	13	2631	2631
Receivables	Receivables	14	5381	5381
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at cost	Payables	16	3636	3636

Receivables and Payables amounts disclosed above exclude amounts relating to statutory receivables and payables, including levies, workers compensation liability, staff oncosts, and GST. They are carried at cost.

23. Financial instruments/Financial risk management - continued

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the possibility of any debtors of the Board defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Board. The Board measures credit risk on a fair value basis and has regular risk monitoring processes in place. The Board has minimal concentration of credit risk. The Board does not engage in high risk hedging for its financial assets.

Allowances for impairment of financial assets are calculated on past experience and current and expected changes in client credit rating. Currently the Board does not hold any collateral as security to any of its financial assets. Other than receivables, there is no evidence to indicate that financial assets are impaired.

Ageing analysis of financial assets

The following table discloses the ageing of financial assets, past due, including impaired assets past due.

2009	Past due by			Total \$'000
	Over due for < 30 days \$'000	Over due for < 30 -60 days \$'000	Over due for < 60 days \$'000	
<i>Not Impaired</i> Receivables	266	78	47	391

Receivable amounts disclosed above exclude amounts relating to statutory receivables, including levies and GST receivable.

Maturity Analysis

All financial assets and liabilities have a maturity less than 1 year with the exception of the non current portion of borrowings which has a maturity of 1- 5 years.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises where the Board is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Board is funded principally from NRM Levy funds, State and Australian Government. The Board works with the Department of Treasury and Finance to determine the cash flows associated with its Government approved program of work and to ensure that funding is provided through the SA Government budgetary processes to meet the expected cash flows.

Market risk

Market risk for the Board is primarily through interest rate risk. Exposure to interest rate risk may arise through its interest bearing liabilities, including borrowings. There is no exposure to foreign currency or other price risks.

Sensitivity disclosure analysis

A sensitivity analysis has not been undertaken for the interest rate risk of the Board as it has been determined that the possible impact on profit and loss or total equity from fluctuations in interest rates is immaterial.

24. Transactions with SA Government

In accordance with the requirements of Department of Treasury and Finance Accounting Policy Framework II 'General Purpose Financial Reporting Framework', the Board has disclosed details of income and expenses where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government in the following table:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Income		
Water Based Levy	2,439	2,952
Grants and subsidies	4,867	12,298
Interest Revenue	240	522
Other Income	955	547
	<u>8,501</u>	<u>16,319</u>
Expenses		
Supplies and services	6,912	9,179
Grants and contributions	77	344
Returned Grants	544	-
	<u>7,533</u>	<u>9,523</u>
Financial Assets		
Cash assets	2,631	7,545
Receivables	3,089	4,595
	<u>5,720</u>	<u>12,140</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	2,175	1,530
	<u>2,175</u>	<u>1,530</u>

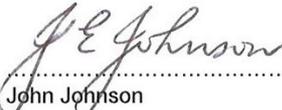
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

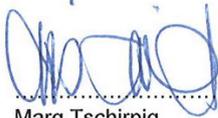
Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached general purpose financial statements for the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board:

- comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, and the relevant Australian accounting standards;
- are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Board; and
- present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operation and cash flows for the financial year.

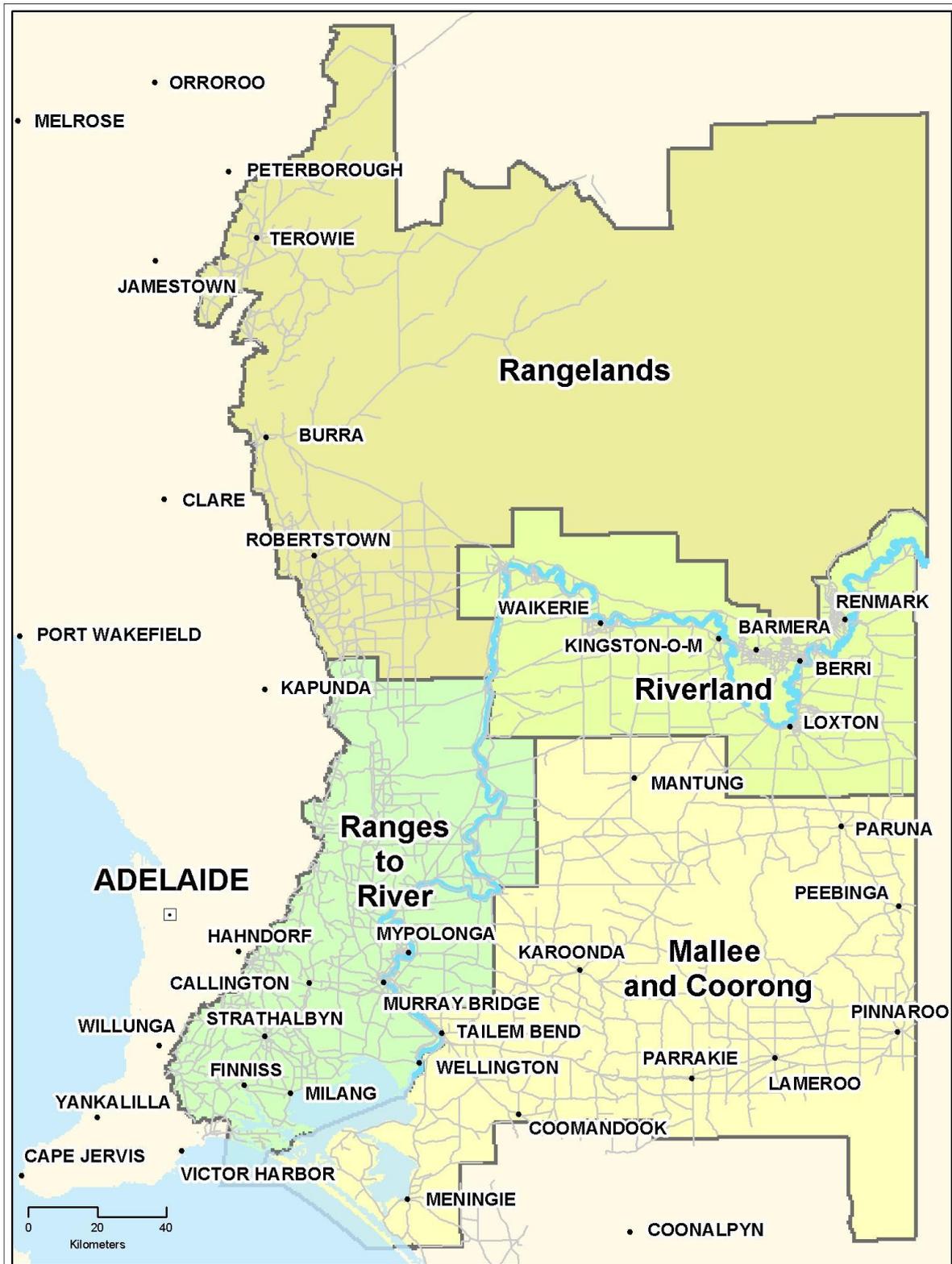
We certify that the internal controls employed by the Board for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statement have been effective throughout the reporting period.


.....
John Johnson
General Manager
30th July 2010


.....
Marg Tschirpigg
Finance Manager
30th July 2010


.....
Bill Paterson
Presiding Member
30th July 2010

SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Region



9.3 APPENDIX 3: Boards and Committees Listing

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board members contribute to sub-committees and working groups established to provide the Board with ongoing advice. The Board has established the following Committees:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Finance Committee	C Milburn (Chair) J Pfeiffer B Paterson A Hartnett M Tschirpig (Finance Manager) J Johnson (General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
Investment and Programs Committee	J Pfeiffer (Chair) M Martin D Walker J Keynes F Simes M Smith G Davies G McMahon K Smith B Belford D Nussio J Johnson (General Manager) D Fowles, A Dunhill, A Richards (Staff) E Cresp (Administrative Support)
Policy Committee	F Simes (Chair) A Hartnett M Martin E Jenke G Davies M Smith J Johnson (General Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) L Schmaal (Administrative Support)

Regional Integration Committee	B Paterson (Chair) J Keynes F Simes K Stokes – Chair Riverland NRM Group D Lindner – Chair Rangelands NRM Group B Munday – Chair Ranges to River NRM Group A Piggott – Chair Mallee and Coorong NRM Group J Johnson (General Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) P Michelmore (Operations Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
Communications Committee	B Paterson A Hartnett E Jenke (Chair) S Alm P Scott J Johnson (General Manager) D Packer (Administrative Support)
Executive Committee	B Paterson (Chair) J Pfeiffer J Keynes F Simes G Davies M Martin E Jenke J Johnson (General Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)

River Murray Advisory Committee	J Pfeiffer (Chair) F Simes (Deputy Chair) B Paterson C Milburn S Alm J Johnson <i>Community Members:</i> C Mason J Parish S Phillips N Shillabeer R Wheaton T McAnaney H Jones H Wallace J Lory Y Smith B Lewis G Jones J Cawthorne D Brown M Campbell M Lewis C Phillips D Webb M White <i>Technical Support to the Committee</i> J Goode, B Hollis - SA MDB NRM Board J Cann, M Smith, J Eaton - DWLBC G Davies - PIRSA
Monitoring and Evaluation Committee	J Keynes (Chair) G Davies E Jenke Staff J Johnson (General Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) A Richards, J Goode, C Welsh, K Rosser, P Michelmores, G Lundstrom, L Schapel

In addition to the formal sub-committees established by the Board as detailed above, members represent the Board on the Water Resource Planning Committees, Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committees, Lower Murray, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Community Reference Committees and Local Government Advisory Committees. These Committees all have representation from both the Board and NRM Groups.

RIVERLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

29 July 2009

Mr Bill Paterson
Presiding Member
SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2343
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Mr Paterson

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and Section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely



Ken Stokes
Chairman
Riverland Natural Resources Management Group

FOREWORD

The last year has been another year of learning and developing for the Riverland NRM Group as it strives to make a significant contribution to the Board's programs.

It is pleasing to report that through the support of Board staff, improved interaction with a variety of community groups and in particular Local Action Planning Groups, the Group is evolving as an effective contributor on natural resource management issues in the Riverland.

The Group has, on behalf of the Board, been pleased to facilitate an Environmental Forum under the auspices of the Riverland Futures Task Force. Given the importance of this initiative in the Riverland community it is an indication of the developing role for the Riverland NRM Group.

Given the achievements of the last twelve months and the enthusiasm of its members I look forward with confidence to the Group's continuing work with the Board and the Riverland community over the coming twelve months.

Ken Stokes

NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED WITHIN THE BOARD'S REPORT

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Administration of the Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Equal Employment Opportunity Programs
- Commitment to Customer Service
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Contractual Arrangements
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Significant Achievements and Initiatives

- Riverland Natural Resources Management Group's Annual Work Plan
- Assisting Community Groups to raise the profile of key projects.
- Lobbying the NRM Board on key issues that we believe the community are passionate about.
- Lobbying other State Government Agencies on issues we believe the community is passionate about.
- Working together with Local Government on NRM issues such as the impact of pest plants and pest animals.
- Connecting with other major Stakeholders in the Riverland Group Region.
- Assessed Community Grants and Local Government Grants and provided extensive feed back to the Board Staff.

Presentations were received from:

- Phil McNamara – Draft Region NRM Plan
- Phil Reddy – Renmark to the Border LAP
- Craig Ferber - Loxton to Bookpurnong LAP
- Paul Stribley – Berri Barmera LAP
- Aaron Boehm – Riverland West LAP
- Leighton Pearce – Sustainable Farming Project Officer
- Brad Hollis – Principal Projects Coordinator (Operations) RMEM
- Lisa Mensforth – Release of the Murray Darling Basin Risks Strategy
- Denise Fowles – Caring for our Country
- Berni Lawson – The Management & Protection of Land Under the NRM Act
- Chris Koolmatrie – Calperum Project – Learning on Country
- Sheridan Alm – Yatco Lagoon
- Kevin Smith & Mike Harper – Katfish Reach
- Michael Cutting, Jeremy Nelson and Noel Johnston - Land and Water Use and LWMP
- Roger Kelly – Operations Plan
- Jan Whittle – Principal Project Officer (Living Murray) Weir Pool Manipulation and RMEM
- Callie Nickolai - Wetland Monitoring, Management Plan Review

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2008/09 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Boards' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Input with preparation of the regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

FUNCTIONS OF THE RIVERLAND NRM GROUP

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group:

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM group are:

- (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
- (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
- (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
- (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
- (e) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the four Natural Resources Management Groups.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Group during 2008-09 was:

Members

- Ken Stokes (Chair)
- Stu Martin
- David Reilly
- Dean Kerley
- Gavin McMahon
- Michelle Campbell
- Barry Kelly

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 11 general Group meetings and 1 special Group meeting were held during the 2008-09 financial year.

Meeting Attendances

Member	No. Meetings Attended	No. Meetings not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
Stu Martin	9	2	Personal commitments
Dean Kerley	8	3	Personal commitments
Gavin McMahon	11	0	
Neil Martinson	4	2	Personal commitments

			Resigned 31/1/09
Dave Reilly	10	1	Personal commitments
Ken Stokes	8	2	Personal commitments Reappointed August 2008
Elise Heyes	2	3	Work commitments Resigned 31/12/08
Michelle Campbell	3	3	Personal commitments Reappointed 1/2/09
Barry Kelly	5	0	Appointed 1/2/09

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group under the auspices of the Natural Resources Act 2004 works closely with the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, Local Action Planning Groups, Case Study Groups, Native Vegetation Council, DWLBC, DEH and PIRSA to improve sustainability and achieve improved health and productivity of our natural resources.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

No governance policies or arrangements were developed in the reporting period.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Riverland NRM Group's funding is provided through the accounts of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and as such no separate financial reports are required to be prepared or audited. Funding for the NRM Group is included in the Board's accounts and reported therein.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES

No significant board directives given to the group in accordance with Sections 47 and 53 of the Natural Resources Management Act during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

No formal significant functions assigned by the Board in accordance with Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated to the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (1) An NRM group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (2) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act require that:

- (1) An NRM group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must-
 - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM group, and
 - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57 (2) (b) there are no regulations applying.

SPECIFIC REPORTS

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM board may, by written notice to a regional NRM group, require the group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

COMMITTEES LISTING

- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Native Vegetation
- Regional Integration Committee
- Riverland Futures Taskforce
- Investment and Program Committee
- River Murray Water Allocation Plan Upper Murray Advisory Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

RANGELANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

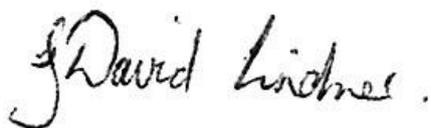
27 July 2009

Mr Bill Paterson
Presiding Member
SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2343
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Mr Paterson

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and Section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lindner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Lindner
Chair
Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group

FOREWORD

Through the Workplan Agreement, the Board has been able to fully use the skills and knowledge of the Group members who work collaboratively with staff to formulate plans which advise them on key issues for our area of responsibility. Over the past twelve months the Rangelands NRM Group has tackled a number of high priority issues which were recognised by Group members as being crucial if biodiversity and land condition is to be improved.

The Operations Plan gives us opportunity to see if control or management activities of pest species are achievable with available resources. It also gives us the ability to easily review activities that are either completed or unable to be undertaken throughout the year and adjust the plan so that progress to constantly improving our natural resources is being made. This type of document underpins the desired outcomes of the Regional Plan.

As our Group area has a large expanse of conservation land, a close working relationship with DEH Rangers is a vital part of our Group function. Information flow and discussions between organisations has been highly valued by both parties.

Distance for members to travel to meetings can create high cost to the organisation and the additional travel time for members must be considered. Use of technology has enabled us to reduce the number of face to face meetings. Keeping members up to date through email messages and teleconferencing has proven successful. Planning sessions to deal with specific subjects has also made better use of people's time and given more in-depth outcomes.

The Rangelands NRM Group is now truly finding its feet and hopes to build on the outcomes of the past twelve months.

David Lindner
Chair

NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Administration of the Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Equal Employment Opportunity Programs
- Commitment to Customer Service
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Contractual Arrangements
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Significant Achievements and Initiatives

- In conjunction with the Regional Council of Goyder and the SA MDB NRM Board a Community NRM Officer has been employed late this financial year.
- A very successful Regional Science Forum was held in August 2008 at Burra.
- The Group formulated a Rangelands Workplan which was adopted by the Board.
- Finalised and adopted Operations Plan for management of pest weed and animals.
- Extensive work has been done to develop a Draft Goat Policy Statement and Management Paper with two Planning days. The Goat Policy Statement has been forwarded to the Board for adoption. The Management Paper is under development.
- A two day meeting held at Berri in April 2009 included a field trip and also gave Group members the opportunity to meet each other more informally.
- A Kangaroo Management Strategy was developed and forwarded to Board for action.
- A Wedge-tailed eagle Fact Sheet was developed and printed for distribution.

Presentations, Field trips etc

- Kerry Thomas – Interplan on community water monitoring and salinity mapping the Burra Truro area.
- Phil McNamara and Lucy Schapel on the NRM Regional Plan
- Terry Banks on joint Board/Local Government projects such as Burra Creek Study, Eudunda Gardens Wastewater Reuse, Goyder Roadside Vegetation Survey and Motorbike damage
- Jem Tesoriero on the Rangelands Capacity Building Officer and Catchment Care Schools Project
- Kym Haebich on the Rangelands Draft Operations Plan
- Bernadette Lawson – Protection and Management of Land under the NRM Act
- Phil Barron – Greening Australia overview of position and the Biodiversity Steering Committee
- Duncan McKenzie on availability of Gluepot courses
- Leighton Pearce on the Sustainable Farming Program
- Jim McHugh on the process Nature Foundation use for land purchases
- Sarah Lance on Biodiversity in the SA MDB (including raptor community awareness, biological surveys in Rangelands, Grassy Eco system field days, wombats, black oak, CFOC, BRAG)
- Group toured the public area of Chowilla, Danggali Conservation Park and Calperum Station.
- Some members inspected the off road trail bike damage in their local area.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2008-09 financial years fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Boards' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

FUNCTIONS OF THE RANGELANDS NRM GROUP

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group:

(2) The functions of a regional NRM group are:

- (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
- (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
- (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
- (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
- (f) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the four Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Group during 2008-09 was:

Members

- David Lindner (Chair)
- Geoff White (last meeting 12/1/09)
- Harvey Neal
- Jacki Matthey (new member first meeting 13/10/08)
- Jane Kellock (new member first meeting 13/10/08)
- Kevin Smith
- Paul Williams (last meeting 12/1/09)
- S Were (last meeting 25/8/08)
- Jo Gebhardt (new member first meeting 16/2/09)
- Alicia Patten (new member first meeting 16/2/09)

There are no current vacancies on the Group.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 6 general Group meetings, 2 telephone meeting and 3 specific Planning meetings were held during the 2008-09 financial year.

Meeting Attendances

Member	No. Meetings Attended	No. Meetings not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
David Lindner	11	-	
Geoff White	4	2	Work commitments, and resigned
Harvey Neal	11	-	
Jacki Matthey	7	1	New member and personal commitments
Jane Kellock	6	2	New member and personal commitments
Kevin Smith	9	2	Personal commitments
Paul Williams	3	3	Work commitments, term expired
S Were	2	4	Work commitments and resigned
Joe Gebhardt	5	-	New member
Alicia Patten	5	-	New member

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. See list of Group member community links.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Rangelands NRM Group Work Plan 2008-2009
Rangelands Operations Plan 2008-2009
Kangaroo Management Strategy

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Rangelands NRM Group's funding is provided through the accounts of the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and as such no separate financial reports are required to be prepared or audited. Funding for the NRM Group is included in the Board's accounts and reported therein.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Rangelands NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SAMDB NRM Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

Actions by the Group in relation to Section 52 of the NRM Act:-

- Consultation by the Group was required on 2 Community Grant applications this year including:-

Eudunda Garden Waste water reuse

Wastewater Reuse in Burra Township

- Group members attended various committees/functions including:

- RIC
- Feral Goat Management meeting in Port Augusta
- Rangelands Pest Management Forum
- Chowilla Committee
- Bushlands AGM
- IPC
- Rangelands Forum in Queensland
- Mid Murray council Planning Working Group
- State Opuntia Taskforce and regional Opuntia Taskforce meetings
- Water Quality bids assessment panel
- Biodiversity Steering Committee
- Burra Merino Field Days
- Community Management Committee of Burra Creek
- CSIRO Sustainable Yields Project
- Mid North Grasslands Working Group
- SAMDB Knowledge Workshop

- Group members provided comment on the SAMDB NRM Regional Plan and various Board position statements.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated to the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (3) An NRM group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (4) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act require that:

- (3) An NRM group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).

- (4) The report must-
- (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM group, and
 - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

SPECIFIC REPORTS

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM board may, by written notice to a regional NRM group, require the group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

COMMITTEES LISTING

Group Member community links

- Opuntia Taskforce
- Eastern Districts Progress Association
- Grasslands Management Group
- Point Pass Agricultural Bureau
- Burra Rangelands Action Group
- Friends of Parks
- Gluepot conservation area

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for their support and encouragement received over the past financial year.

GLOSSARY

IPC	Investment and Program Committee
RIC	Regional Integration Committee
CFOC	Caring for our Country
BRAG	Burra Rangelands Action Group
DEH	Department for Environment and Heritage

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Damage to Native Vegetation on roadsides from motor bike riding is also of concern in the Rangelands NRM Group area. The upcoming Local Government Association Forum in July on the issue will be keenly watched.
- The Group has worked on a number of issues in the Rangelands NRM Group area this year including Operational Plan, Group Work Plan, Draft Goat Policy Statement and Management Plan, Kangaroo Management Policy, Wombat Report, water quality and quantity in the Burra Creek, community engagement particularly in the schools.

RANGES TO RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

27 July 2009

Mr Bill Paterson
Presiding Member
SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2343
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Mr Paterson

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and Section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Munday', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Bruce Munday
Chairman
Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group

NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

- Plans and Objectives
- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
- Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan.
- Object of the Natural Resources Management Act
- Administration of the Act
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Equal Employment Opportunity Programs
- Commitment to Customer Service
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Contractual Arrangements
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Significant Achievements and Initiatives

- The Group actively supported the Mt Pleasant NRC's Community Grant funding application for the "2008 Regional School Activity and Education Days"
- The Group initiated and distributed publications including:
- 2009 Rainfall Chart (with interesting snippets of information on reverse featuring 5 towns in the area with their 100 year rainfall data)
- Property Management Guide "Rewards and Challenges in the R2R NRM Group area".
- Media Releases on "Overstocking during summer; Soil erosion; and Weed risks in Fodder".
- The Board hosted four Science Forums in the Board area, with R2R's Forum, very successful and well attended with over 50 participants at Mt Barker. The Group is continuing with the enthusiasm shown in the area and will be organising a Sustainable Development Forum later in 2009.
- Group member, B Belford was one of the guest speakers at International Women's Day hosted by the Board in Murray Bridge on 6/3/09.
- The Group now has a "20 top weeds Ute Guide" for distribution to landowners.
- The Group acknowledges the excellent work of Lyz Risby and Mardi Van der Wielen for their work on the EMLR WAP and CAC's.
- Group meetings continue to be held at a variety of locations in the Group area, including Murray Bridge, Mt Barker, Strathalbyn and Wellington.
- Wrote letter on behalf of Board to Rural City of Murray Bridge re Dorsett Street scrub.
- Participated at the Mt Pleasant and Mt Barker Shows
- Met with Chairs of AMLR Groups to plan for greater collaboration between Boards.

Presentations, Field trips etc

- Jill Woodlands, Conservation Council of SA – speaking on the Report on Non-Government Organisation Engagement in Regional NRM
- Phil McNamara on the Draft NRM Targets
- Leighton Pearce – Sustainable Farming Project update
- Kym Haebich – Ranges to River NRM Group Operations Plan
- Bernadette Lawson – Protection and Management of Land under the NRM Act
- The SAMDB NRM Board Regional Plan
- M van der Wielen - Marne Saunders WAP
- Bus trip to Rockleigh/Monarto area on 18/7/08 with Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group
- K Thompson – the Schools and Youth Program
- B Chandler – from Mt Barker Council on the greater Adelaide development
- Terramin Mine at Strathalbyn
- D Thomas and R Capaldo on the Hydro Vortex Blade concept for the Murray Mouth

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2008-09 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Boards' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

FUNCTIONS OF THE RANGES TO RIVER NRM GROUP

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group:

(3) The functions of a regional NRM group are:

- (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
- (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
- (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
- (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
- (g) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the four Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Group during 2008-09 was:

Members

- Bruce Munday (Chair)
- Greg Sarre
- Beryl Belford
- Monique White
- Alex Wells (term of office concluded January 2009)
- Inez Bormann
- David Cooney (resigned 25/11/08)
- Ceris Crosby (appointed 1/2/09)
- Matthew Starick (appointed 1/2/09)

No current vacancies on the Group.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 8 general Group meetings, 1 telephone meeting and 1 scheduled meeting where a quorum was not reached, were held during the 2008-09 financial year.

Meeting Attendances

Member	No. Meetings Attended	No. Meetings not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
B Munday	10	-	
G Sarre	8	2	Work commitments
B Belford	8	2	Personal
M White	9	1	Work commitments
I Bormann	9	1	Other commitments
D Cooney	1	4	Work commitments and resignation 25/11/08
A Wells	3	3	Work commitments – term expired 31/1/09
C Crosby	2	2	Work commitments and appointed 1/2/09
M Starick	4	-	Appointed 1/2/09

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. See list of Group member community links.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Group developed the following:

- R2R Work Plan 2008-2009
- R2R Operations Plan 2008-2009 (under development)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Ranges to River NRM Group's funding is provided through the accounts of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and as such no separate financial reports are required to be prepared or audited. Funding for the NRM Group is included in the Board's accounts and reported therein.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Ranges to River NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SAMDB NRM Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

Actions by the Group in relation to Section 52 of the NRM Act:-

- The Group had an active presence at the Mt Pleasant Show on 21/3/09 and the Mt Barker Show on 28-29/3/09 collaborating with the adjoining Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Groups. This joint participation helped address the Group's 07-08 concerns regarding the provision of services to small property owners in the 'Hills' area.
- Group members actively participated in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level through their involvement with MDBC CAC Lower Lakes Consultation, EMLR WAP CAC, Murray Plains Crop Competition, Kanmantoo Community Consultative Committee, Local Government Advisory Committee, River Murray Advisory Committee, Investment and Programs Committee, Bremer Barker Catchment Group, Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group, Goolwa-Wellington LAP and Mid Murray LAP, Mt Barker NRC Management Committee, Mt Pleasant NRC, Tungkillio Landcare Group.
- Consultation by the Group was required on 10 Community Grant applications this year including:-
 - Mannum Bowling Club application, Mt Barker Community Strategic Plan – Strategic Directions 2008-2018, Mt Pleasant NRC (running of centre), Targeted exploitation of “wintering” carp aggregations” SARDI application, Meadows Creek rehabilitation application, Hills Environmental Expo, Small Talk publication, Angas Bremer Water Management Committee – Land & Water management planning – sustainable development community grant application, Deep aquifer investigation in Murray Bridge to Gauge ASR potential.
- Group members provided comment on the SAMDB NRM Regional Plan, Draft Marne-Saunders WAP, various Board position statements and State Bio-security Strategy.
- The Group has instigated a more clearly demonstrated link between active weed management and the NRM levy with the concept of signage on Board vehicles being explored. The Group is also developing signage for the River Murray ferries.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated to the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that:

- (1) An NRM group must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and must cause financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.
- (2) The Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements required under subsection (1)

Section 57-Annual Reports of the Natural Resources Management Act require that:

- (1) An NRM group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must-
 - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM group, and
 - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

In regards to Section 57(2) (b) there are no regulations applying.

SPECIFIC REPORTS

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or a regional NRM board may, by written notice to a regional NRM group, require the group to provide to the Minister or the Regional NRM board, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the regional NRM board (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

COMMITTEES LISTING

Group Member community links

- Mt Barker Natural Resources Centre Management Committee
- Bremer Barker Catchment Group
- Bird in Hand Treatment Plant Community Advisory Committee
- Goolwa-Wellington LAP Association
- Hillgrove Community Consultation Committee
- Mid Murray LAP
- Mid Murray Council
- Eastern Hills & Murray Plains Catchment Group
- Kanmantoo Callington Focus Group (for Hillgrove mine)
- Mt Pleasant Natural Resources Centre Management Committee
- Rodwell Creek/Wistow Landcare Group
- Tungkillo Landcare Group
- Monarto Shooting Complex
- Native Vegetation Council
- Mt Barker Council
- Marne North Rhine Saunders Catchment Group
- LG Native Vegetation Act Review Working Group
- Ranges to River Local Government NRM Advisory Committee
- Lower Murray River Drought Reference Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Murray Mallee Local Government Association
- Marne North Rhine Saunders Creek Catchment Group
- Murray Darling Association
- EMLR WAP CAC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for their support and encouragement received over the past financial year.

GLOSSARY

LAP	Local Action Planning
EHMPCG	Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group
LG	Local Government
CP	Conservation Park
R2R	Ranges to River

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Damage to Native Vegetation on roadsides from motor bike riding (1st raised by I Bormann on 31/7/08 and raised again 18/8/08 by Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group) was of great concern to the Group in 2007-08. This issue was to be addressed by the Board with a Forum, but was put on hold when the Local Government Association announced that they would hold a Statewide Forum instead.
- The low river water levels below Lock 1 particularly in Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert and at ferry crossings in towns and communities continue to be of concern.

- The Group had a number of issues brought to their attention including:- Hartley Quarry vegetation issue; Rockleigh land sale; Murray Bridge development (threat to native vegetation); continued trail bike riding in inappropriate areas; Witch Grass at Finnis; updates on ongoing land management issues; weed issue at Victor Harbor; Ferries McDonald CP bituminising of road; bioremediation on the lakes, acid sulphate soils; possible land acquisition adjacent to Monarto CP and the potential development of Mount Barker as part of the greater Adelaide growth plan.

9.7 APPENDIX 7: MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP

**MALLEE COORONG
NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

23 July 2009

Mr Bill Paterson
Presiding Member
SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2343
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Mr Paterson

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and Section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Mallee Coorong Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Piggott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'P'.

Allan Piggott
Chairman
Mallee Coorong Natural Resources Management Group

NRM GROUP MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE NRM BOARD'S REPORT

The following annual reporting requirements are not included in this report as they are reported in the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's Annual Report:

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- Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan
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- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Significant Achievements and Initiatives

- Group meetings are held throughout the region rotating between Lameroo, Karoonda, Meningie and Tailem Bend. We have also held meetings during 08/09 at Wellington and Cantara Homestead
- Continuation of MC NRM Group liaison with Northern SE NRM Group – a combined meeting was held at Cantara Homestead which proved to be beneficial for both NRM Groups.
- Liaison with the Ranges to River NRM Group with a joint meeting held at Wellington followed by a tour of the proposed Wellington Weir site.
- Murray Mallee Local Action Planning & Coorong Local Action Planning representatives are regularly in attendance at MC NRM Group meetings.
- Presentations were carried out by:
 - Paul Harvey – sharing the resources of the Murray-Darling Basin
 - Ian Qualmann (SE NRM Board) SE Animal & Plant programs
 - Paul Mannix and Sharyn Francis (Australian Zircon) Underground water monitoring in the vicinity of the mine
 - Doug Fotheringham – Coastal erosion data and potential impacts to the Coorong of a rising ocean level
 - Clare Manning (Coorong District Ranger/Ecologist) – Coastal weed management
 - Tim Hartman (District Senior Cultural Ranger) – Human impacts on Ngarrindjeri values and sites along the coastal areas of the Coorong
- SA MDB NRM Board Staff regularly gave updates to members on programs that are currently running or have been run within the Board area.
- Tours of the Ngarkat Conservation Park (Nanam Well, Pine Hut Soak and the Fish Ponds), Lower Lakes and the Proposed Wellington Weir site were carried out during the year. The Group also attended the Karoonda Farm Fair where the Board provides a Natural Resources Management tent.
- Group members have accompanied Berni Lawson when viewing properties in the area with soil degradation issues
- The Group has considered cost sharing applications for both the Mallee Water Resources Committee and Peake Roby & Sherlock.
- The Group liaise regularly with Southern Mallee, Karoonda and Coorong Councils providing regular articles to be included in their Council newsletters.
- A Mallee and Coorong NRM Group banner has been produced for use at forums and fairs.
- The Group hosted a science forum in Tailem Bend
- Letters were sent to 45 landholders who participated in the rabbit ripping survey, outlining the results.
- The group corresponded with the Board regarding the introduction of a National Vendor Declaration Form
- Minutes are received from the Team Leaders and Officers meetings for member information
- Regular water monitoring reports are presented to the Group from Mallee Water Resources Committee
- The Group suggested that priority roads for weeds could be introduced in the future.

- The Group are concerned with the retention of MM LAP staff are concerned that the positions are not more permanent.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2007-08 financial years fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Boards' role is defined in the Natural Resources Management Act and includes:

- Taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- Preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- Implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- Providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- Undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

FUNCTIONS OF THE MALLEE COORONG NRM GROUP

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Mallee Coorong Natural Resources Management Group:

- (4) The functions of a regional NRM group are:
- (a) to be actively involved in the development and implementation of any relevant regional NRM plan at the local level (to the extent specified or envisaged by that plan or specified by the relevant board or boards); and
 - (b) to develop, implement or participate in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level; and
 - (c) to promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its area and to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management; and
 - (d) to provide advice to regional NRM boards, and other bodies and agencies, with respect to the assessment of various activities, proposals, situations or circumstances within its area; and
 - (h) Such other functions prescribed by the regulations or assigned to the NRM group by a regional NRM board, or by or under this or any other Act.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 48 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the four Natural Resources Management Group.

The Group consists of up to 7 members, appointed by the regional NRM board, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the board, knowledge, skills and experience determined by the board or boards to enable the NRM group to carry out its functions effectively.

The membership of the Mallee Coorong Group during 2008-09 was:

Members

- Allan Piggott, Chairman
- Keith Scobie
- Clem Mason
- Gordon Hancock
- Damian Berger
- Steve Murray
- Donna Nussio

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 9 general Group meetings were held during the 2008-09 financial year.

No special Group meetings were held during the 2008-09 financial year.

Meeting Attendances

Member	No Meetings Attended	No, Meetings not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
A Piggott	8	1	Work Commitments
K Scobie	9	-	
C Mason	8	1	Other Commitments
G Hancock	9	-	
D Berger	8	1	Work Commitments
S Murray	5	4	Work Commitments & Personal
D Nussio	7	2	Work Commitments

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Group
- Coorong Local Action Planning Group
- Regional Integration Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Mallee Water Resources Committee
- Box Flat Dingo Control Committee
- Investment & Program Committee
- Mallee Sustainable Farming Group
- Mallee Coorong Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Ramsar Task Force

- Department of Environment & Heritage – Mallee
- Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area Committee

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

No governance policies or arrangements were developed in the reporting period.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Mallee Coorong NRM Groups funding is provided through the accounts of the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and as such no separate financial reports are required to be prepared or audited. Funding for the NRM Group is included in the Board's accounts and reported therein.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT BOARD DIRECTIVES

No significant board directives given to the group in accordance with Sections 47 and 53 of the Natural Resources Management Act during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

No formal significant functions assigned by the Board in accordance with Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

There were no functions or powers delegated to the Mallee Coorong Natural Resources Management Group by the SA MDB NRM Board during this reporting period.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

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REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

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- (1) An NRM group must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the regional NRM board or boards that have responsibility for the NRM group a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must-
 - (a) include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM group, and
 - (b) include other information required by or under the regulations.

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SPECIFIC REPORTS

Section 58 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

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- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM group must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

COMMITTEES LISTING

The following Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members are involved in the following Committees of the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and other associated Committees

Allan Piggott	Regional Integration Committee Coorong Local Action Planning Group Broomrape Ministerial Advisory Committee
Clem Mason	River Murray Advisory Committee
Gordon Hancock	Mallee Water Resources Committee Box Flat Dingo Control Committee Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area Committee
Steve Murray	Coorong Local Action Planning Group
Donna Nussio	Investment & Program Committee
Damian Berger	Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Group Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee Mallee Sustainable Farming Group
Keith Scobie	Mallee & Coorong Local Government NRM Advisory Group Coorong Local Action Planning Group Ramsar Task Force Lower Lakes, Coorong & Murray Mouth Icon Site Community Reference Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.