

19 March 2012

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

For the

**PIKE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PIP)**

**BETWEEN**

**The Minister for the River Murray**

**-AND-**

**The Minister for Environment and Conservation**

**AND**

**The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**

**-AND-**

**The Renmark to the Border Local Action Planning Association including the members of the Pike River Land Management Group**

**PIP: An integrated Program to ensure the long term ecological and economic sustainability of the Pike region**



**Government  
of South Australia**

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## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Pike Implementation Program: An integrated Program to ensure the long term ecological and economic sustainability of the Pike region.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Pike is a major floodplain and anabranch system of the River Murray in South Australia, which bypasses Lock and Weir 5. Spanning approximately 6700 ha, it is second only to the Riverland Ramsar site in floodplain size in South Australia. It is located near Renmark, and encompasses floodplain between Paringa and Lyrup. The site is a combination of Conservation Park (Pike River), Crown land and private ownership.

The Pike floodplain is a high priority ecological site requiring urgent action to enhance and where possible restore the significant environmental and cultural heritage values of the complex by delivering ecological benefits to the floodplain and its waterways.

The Pike floodplain provides a diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial habitats and a correspondingly diverse flora and fauna. Many of the habitat features found at Pike have been degraded elsewhere, and the system provides the potential to restore an important complex of inter-related habitats at a single location.

The Pike Floodplain region has been identified as a High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystem (CfoC 2010) on a national level due to its unique ecological and hydraulic character. The region has species of national significance such as the Southern Bell Frog, Murray cod, and the Regent Parrot; it also contains an additional 18 species with State Conservation significance. The Pike floodplain has been identified in SA as one of only three floodplains prioritised for major rehabilitation effort.

There are a number of processes that are compromising the ecological integrity of the Pike Floodplain. The key threats are altered flow regimes, elevated highly saline groundwater, obstructions to fish passage, and pest plants and animals. Flow regulation in particular has reduced flooding frequencies and duration, and has resulted in increasing saline groundwater levels. This is having a significant impact on the native fauna and flora.

The outlook for aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems is poor unless there is more frequent, more extensive flooding. In the absence of an increase in environmental flows complemented by engineering intervention, it is evident that this decline will continue.

This floodplain, along with the Chowilla floodplain Icon Site and the Katfish Restoration Program essentially provide the only opportunity in SA for infrastructure to enhance opportunities for broadscale floodplain inundation and hence supplement river flows.

The Pike Implementation Program also considers the requirements for sustainable water for irrigation as well as removal of grazing on the floodplain and control of pest plants and animals. This includes recommending the development of sustainable diversion limits for irrigation, and ensuring current irrigation pumps are modified to cope with the new floodplain watering regime. It also considers initiatives to ensure long term management of on-farm irrigation including reducing likelihood of off-site impacts.

The PIP also includes the Pike Salt Interception Scheme (SIS), which is focused on intercepting saline groundwater on the highland area in order to reduce anabranch and River salinity levels.

## **Cultural Values**

### **Indigenous**

Aboriginal occupation by the Tartangan People along the River Murray system dates back more than 30,000 years (Nichols 2009). Remains of the workings of the Tartangan people are found in the cliffs bordering the Pike floodplain, with artifacts dated between 8,000 and 30,000 years.

Prior to European settlement, the Erawirung Aboriginal group populated the area from above Paringa down to Loxton. They had a keen understanding of plants and animals and incorporated the physical features of the land into their rich mythology (DENR 1994).

A number of sites of Aboriginal significance have been identified throughout the Pike area. The Pike region was utilized for mining stone tools and there is evidence of old campsites in the region with extensive midden heaps.

### **European**

European settlement occurred on the Pike floodplain by 1851 with cattle grazing on the Paringa run which carried up to 24,000 sheep and had extensive frontage to the Pike River.

Irrigation development began in 1887 at Renmark and was the first irrigation development in South Australia. The majority of highland irrigation development occurred in the 1960s.

Today irrigation settlements extend on the south bank of the anabranch system from the Gurra Gurra Lakes complex in the south to Paringa in the north. The majority of the irrigated agriculture closely follows the highland cliffs. Irrigation on the floodplain has been in the main removed due to the impacts of soil salinisation. The main crops grown on the Pike highland are wine grapes, citrus, almonds and stone fruit. Most crops are irrigated either by drip or under canopy systems.

The long history of European and indigenous settlement gives it considerable heritage value as reflected in the '*Pike River Reflections- From Dreamtime to 2009*' history publication (Nicholls, 2009).

### **Economic Values**

The horticultural value of the Pike area is highlighted by figures which show that the district produced 29% of the Riverland's stone fruit, 16% of its nuts and almost 10% of its citrus in the 2003/04 season. The annual average Gross Value of Production (GVP) for the Pike Irrigation area is approximately \$18m.

The economic viability of horticulture is dependent on taking water directly from the Pike River with a current allocation of 22.5 GL for predominantly irrigation (99% volume) but also domestic. There are also 5 approved "Prior Commitment" allocations in the Pike irrigation area with a total volume of 14.8GL.

### **Restoration efforts at Pike**

- a) Concern over the level of environmental impact occurring in the Pike River area both in terms of water quality and floodplain health resulted in the Renmark to the Border Local Action Planning Association (RBLAP) helping to establish the Pike River Land Management Group (PRLMG), a non-incorporated community based committee supported by the RBLAP.
- b) In 2004, the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation ("DWLBC") released the Guidelines for Land & Water Management Plans in the SA Murray-Darling Basin. These guidelines were developed in recognition of the fact that many Land and Water Management Plans (LWMPs) developed in the early to mid 1990's had been written without a clear framework or guidelines, and therefore overall plans lacked a consistent approach. To speed up revision of existing LWMPs the Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation identified four Case Study Areas. The Pike Irrigation Area was one such area.
- c) The PRLMG commissioned a consulting company to upgrade the Pike River LWMP in line with the new guidelines. This was completed in 2005 and provided the impetus for the SA Government and community to come together to address the complex problems identified in the Pike. If left unaddressed it was understood that these problems would affect the long-term sustainability of irrigation in the region and the long-term sustainability of the natural resources, primarily the Pike floodplain.
- d) Since the release of the Pike Land and Water Management Plan in 2005, both community and the SA Government have invested time and resources developing the Pike Implementation Plan which provides a detailed explanation of solutions to protect the assets of the Pike (flowing water courses, permanent wetlands, temporary wetlands, red gum woodlands, lignum shrublands, chenopod shrublands/grasslands, black box woodlands and dunes, threatened species). Both the Implementation Plan and the associated Investment Proposal have been developed and endorsed by the scientific community, the general community and the SA Government.
- e) To obtain maximum benefits for each of the stakeholders involved, it is essential that the PIP integrates projects which address a sustainable water supply for irrigators, domestic and industrial users, salinity problems and the declining health of the floodplain. It is now important that management actions outlined in the Implementation Plan are implemented in an integrated fashion in order to protect the significant ecological, cultural heritage, and economic values of the Pike region.
- f) The Pike Implementation Program Reference Committee includes representatives from Department for Water (DFW), Department for Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDBNRM) Board, South Australian Water Corporation (SA Water) the RBLAP, and the PRLMG.
- g) These stakeholders have expressed their intentions in relation to the Pike Implementation Program by becoming parties to this Memorandum of Understanding.

- h) This Memorandum of Understanding builds on earlier Memorandums entered into on 3 September 2007 and 3 September 2009.

### **Roles of the Signatories to the MoU**

#### **The Minister of the River Murray (through the Department for Water)**

- a) To develop and administer policy to manage the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse including the floodplain and wetlands consistent with the Water Allocation Plan, Basin Salinity Management Strategy, the SA River Murray Salinity Strategy, the Living Murray Strategy, the *River Murray Act 2003* and the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.
- b) To undertake monitoring and evaluation programs e.g. for floodplain health.
- c) To evaluate salinity accountability at irrigator, district and State levels, and report to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.
- d) To provide guidance and technical support to the community for the further development of Management Plans.
- e) To establish salinity accountability and offset frameworks in accordance with the Water Allocation Plan, especially at the district scale.
- f) To incorporate outcomes of the project in the Department's policy development and implementation.
- g) To represent the interests of DFW and the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- h) To ensure consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as Chowilla Icon Site Program and the Katfish Reach Rehabilitation Program.
- i) To provide technical wetland and floodplain ecological management support.
- j) To continue to coordinate environmental water management opportunities at Pike.

#### **The Minister for the Environment and Conservation (through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources)**

- a) To provide guidance and technical support to the community for the further development of the Pike Floodplain Management Plan.
- b) To incorporate outcomes of the project in the Department's policy development and implementation.
- c) Represent the interests of the SA Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- d) Involved in negotiations with DENR license holders in relation to land management issues.
- e) Provides technical land management support and advice.
- k) Ensures consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as the Chowilla Icon Site Program and the Katfish Reach Rehabilitation Program.
- f) Provides technical wetland and floodplain ecological management support

#### **SA MDB NRM Board**

- a) To provide support to the community to build capacity through a range of projects and programs.
- b) To assist irrigators to meet the requirements of the River Murray Water Allocation Plan and incorporate outcomes of the PIP in the Natural Resources Management Plan and when the Water Allocation Plan is reviewed and amended.
- c) To provide recognition to the broader community and to the appropriate Ministers for the in-kind work provided by the RBLAP and the PRLMG.

## **RBLAP**

- a) To provide support to the community through a range of projects such as crop surveys and water use efficiency, to assist in improved on-ground actions.
- b) To provide linkage to other RBLAP key projects.
- c) To encourage community involvement in environmental management programs.
- d) To review and incorporate outcomes of the PIP into on-ground actions.

## **RBLAP through PRLMG**

- a) To provide a leadership role in the community, especially to other irrigators and industry groups within the region.
- b) To act as a community advisory group in the development of legislation and policy.
- c) To represent the views of the irrigators and wider community in the Pike River irrigation area.
- d) To foster improved irrigation practices in the Pike River area through actions such as best management practice, water use measurement and evaluation, case study implementation, research and development projects and individual and district monitoring and reporting.
- e) To refine and self manage salinity accountability and offer offset options at the individual and district scale.
- f) To coordinate the collection of data from irrigators and report at a district scale.
- g) To contribute to broader environmental programs through further development and implementation of the Pike Land and Water Management Plan.
- h) To provide in kind work and on farm assistance where practical.

## **AGREED TERMS:**

### **SCOPE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

- This Memorandum:
  - Briefly outlines the historical progression of issues in the Pike River Region;
  - Outlines the expectations of the Parties;
  - Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of each Party in progressing the objectives of the Memorandum;
  - Expressly acknowledges the integral role that the membership of the PRLMG plays in both the sustainable management of natural resources and processes in the region and in the successful implementation of this Memorandum; and
  - Establishes a framework to support an integrated and cooperative approach for progressing the aim of the Memorandum through the development of an agreed work plan.

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

- The provisions of this Memorandum are intended to describe the manner and extent to which the parties will work together in partnership to further develop and implement comprehensive actions outlined in the Pike Implementation Plan that assists in sound decision making and provides the framework for ecological restoration which is complementary to social, cultural, recreational and economic values of the Pike region.
- This Memorandum records the current level of understanding between the parties and is a record of their intentions in respect of the issues described in this Memorandum.

- The parties also agree that this Memorandum does not constitute any offer or invitation which is capable of acceptance.

#### **STATUS OF THE PIKE RIVER LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP**

- The Parties acknowledge that the members of the PRLMG play an integral role in achieving the purposes of this Memorandum.
- The support for this Memorandum of the members of the PRLMG is indicated by the signature of the Chair of the PRLMG on behalf of the named members on the document which appears attached hereto and marked as **Annexure 1**.

#### **STATUS OF THE PIKE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PIP) REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The Coordinators responsible for achieving the actions identified in the PIP reports to the PIP Reference Committee which:

- Provides strategic direction for the Pike Implementation Program
- Provides advice/guidance to the Coordinators of the Floodplain, Sustainable Water Supply and SIS components of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Reviews progress of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Ensures integration of activities relevant to the Pike Implementation Program across different programs and departments to maximise synergies, maintain efficiencies and minimise confusion at project officer and public levels.
- Oversees the delivery of Program activities/outcomes.
- Ensure effort and expenditure is appropriate to stakeholder expectations.
- Addresses any issue that has major implications for the program.
- Reconcile differences in opinion and approach, and resolve disputes arising from them.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the PIP Reference Committee appears attached hereto and marked as **Annexure 2**.

#### **CO-OPERATIVE ACTIONS**

The Parties agree that in order to achieve the purpose of the Memorandum the Parties intend to undertake the following co-operative actions:

- The **Minister of the River Murray** (through DFW) will:
  - Implement the Minister's commitment to support the Pike Implementation Program;
  - Coordinate the overall Pike Implementation Program and all of its components (Pike Floodplain Program, Pike Sustainable water Supply Program, Pike SIS).
  - Chair the PIP Reference Committee; and provide representation on the PIP Reference Committee;
  - Provide assistance to the community in developing and implementing the Land and Water Management Plan, for example, by providing access to the Salinity Response Team and the purchase of technical services;
  - Facilitate ongoing technical support for the life of the PIP;
  - Work with funding bodies and the PRLMG to seek appropriate levels of funding to assist with the project;
  - Provide linkages with other projects and programs that may assist in the delivery of the Pike Implementation Plan;
  - Provide assistance with work programs and priority setting;

- Assist the community in understanding policy requirements such as salinity accountability.
- The **Minister for the Environment and Conservation** (through DENR) will:
  - Provide representation on the Pike Implementation Program Reference Committee;
  - Provide assistance to the community in developing and implementing Biodiversity and Floodplain Plans;
  - Facilitate ongoing technical support for the life of the project;
  - Work with funding bodies and the PRLMG to seek appropriate levels of funding to assist with the project;
  - Provide linkages with other projects and programs that may assist in the delivery of the Pike Implementation Plan;
  - Provide assistance with work programs and priority setting;
  - Assist the community in understanding policy requirements.
- The **SA MDB NRM Board** will:
  - Provide representation on the Pike Implementation Program Reference Committee;
  - Provide input into the technical resources required to complete the project;
  - Provide assistance to the community in developing and implementing the Land and Water Management Plan. For example, access to the Improving Irrigation Efficiency project, other Board funded / driven programs and assistance with work programs and priority setting;
  - Assist irrigators to ensure accurate data collection, dissemination of technical information and access to technical support.
  - Work with funding bodies and the PRLMG to seek appropriate levels of funding to assist with the project;
  - Provide linkages with other projects and programs that may assist in the delivery of the Pike Implementation Plan;
  - Provide assistance with work programs and priority setting;
  - Assist the community in understanding policy requirements.
- **RBLAP** will:
  - Provide representation on the PIP Reference Committee;
  - Provide input into the technical resources required to complete the project;
  - Provide executive support to the PRLMG, including financial and project reporting to funding bodies;
  - Provide technical coordination / support to the community for the development and implementation of the Land and Water Management Plan;
  - Assist the PRLMG source funding through advice and assistance with applications;
  - Provide coordination of individual Local Action Planning projects on behalf of PRLMG which are consistent with the Pike River LWMP;
  - Provide a linkage with other projects and programs that may assist in the delivery of the PIP.
  - Assist irrigators to ensure accurate data collection, dissemination of technical information and access to technical support;
  - Provide assistance with work programs and priority setting.
- **RBLAP** through **PRLMG** will:

- Provide representation on the Pike Implementation Program Reference Committee;
- Co-ordinate the collection of data from irrigators in the agreed format and timeframes, and report at the district level;
- Encourage irrigators in the Pike River area to be actively involved, with a target of 95% of water used in the district to be incorporated in the case study;
- Determine and implement a methodology for seeking agreement from irrigators for the disclosure of information;
- Provide representation for the Pike River irrigators;
- Foster responsibility for on-going maintenance and recurring costs of infrastructure / technology;
- Assist in sourcing additional funding to assist with the project;
- Assist irrigators to ensure accurate data collection, dissemination of technical information and access to technical support;
- Provide in kind support, which is to be recognised as a financial input;
- Coordinate donations of water for environmental purposes.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF THE PARTIES**

- The Parties acknowledge that the ability to undertake some co-operative actions is subject to factors beyond the control of the Parties, such as the provision of funding from Murray Futures: Riverine Recovery Program, Murray Darling Basin Authority programs, or other government priorities.
- All Parties acknowledge that the Memorandum does not alter any relevant rights and obligations arising under any law of the State or the Commonwealth of Australia.
- All parties acknowledge that this Memorandum does not create a legally binding contract between the Parties; however, the Parties sign this Memorandum in the expectation that it will be honoured.

#### **EQUIPMENT PURCHASED USING GOVERNMENT GRANTS OR TRUSTS**

- Any equipment purchased by any Party using Government Grants or Trusts must be purchased and used in accordance with the conditions of the Grant or Trust.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- The Minister shall treat as confidential all confidential information obtained by the Minister from any other Party in connection with this Memorandum and must not divulge such information to any other person except to employees of The Minister who need to know that information or to Parliament, the Governor, Cabinet, a Parliamentary or Cabinet committee or sub-committee or any other Minister of the South Australian Government.
- Parties (not including the Minister) shall treat as confidential all confidential information obtained by it from the Minister in connection with this Memorandum and must not divulge such information to any other person except to its own employees and then only to those persons who need to know that information.
- The above two confidentiality clauses do not apply to information which was rightfully in the possession of a party prior to the execution of this Memorandum or which is already public knowledge or becomes so at a future date (otherwise than as a result of a breach of the above clauses).
- The parties agree to open disclosure of district-collated information for reporting purposes.

- The obligations as to confidentiality under these clauses shall survive any expiry or termination of this Memorandum.

#### **COSTS**

- The parties shall each bear their own costs and incidental to the negotiation, preparation and execution of this Memorandum, including any costs incurred in relation to the discussions which are contemplated by this Memorandum.
- Any actions taken by the parties under, or in reliance on this Memorandum will be at their own risk and expense.

#### **TERMINATION**

- This Memorandum shall terminate on 19 March 2015 after the date upon which it was signed by all Parties.

#### **MODIFICATION OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

- The Parties agree that the Parties will review this Memorandum at intervals not exceeding 12 months.
- Any modification of this Memorandum must be in writing and signed by all parties.

**EXECUTED AS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Agreement is executed by affixing the  
**THE COMMON SEAL** of

The Minister for the River Murray and Minister for the Environment in the presence of:

  
.....  
ANDREW DENNARD

Witness  
Print Name: ANDREW DENNARD



This Agreement is executed by affixing the  
**COMMON SEAL** of


The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board in the presence of:

Signed:  .....

Name: SHERIDAN AUM

Office Held: BOARD MEMBER



  
HUGO HOSTEN  
REMARKS MANAGER

This Agreement is executed by affixing the  
**COMMON SEAL** of


The Remark to the Border Local Action Planning Association Inc. in the presence of:

Signed:  .....

Name: Michael Pamborero

Office Held: Chairman






## **ANNEXURE 1**

In addition to their participation in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pike Implementation Program ("the Memorandum") as members of the RBLAP which is a Party to the Memorandum, the members listed below, of the **Pike River Land Management Group** express their support for and endorsement of the Memorandum.

**Bruce Hewett (Chair)**  
**Dino Sigismondi**  
**Louis Curtis**  
**Lui DiCerbo**  
**Rohan Frahn**  
**Bill Berends**  
**Sam Albanese**  
**Garry Christiansen**  
**Leroy Sims**  
**Sam Lloyd**  
**Nathan Willmott**  
**John Minchella**  
**Rob Lippis**



.....  
**CHAIR**  
**PIKE RIVER LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNEXURE 2**

### **Pike Implementation Program (PIP) Reference Committee: Terms of Reference**

#### **Role:**

- Provides strategic direction for the Pike Implementation Program.
- Provides advice/guidance to the Coordinators of the Floodplain, Sustainable Water Supply and SIS components of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Reviews progress of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Ensures integration of activities relevant to the Pike Implementation Program across different programs and Departments to maximise synergies, maintain efficiencies and minimise confusion at project officer and public levels.
- Oversees delivery of activities/outcomes.
- Ensure effort and expenditure is appropriate to stakeholder expectations.
- Address any issue that has major implications for the program.
- Reconcile differences in opinion and approach, and resolve disputes arising from them.

#### **Reporting relationships:**

- Members actively report back to agencies, on-ground staff, or stakeholders they are representing (or establish procedures to do so).
- Members bring information on potential issues/related activities to the attention to the PIP Reference Committee for discussion and information.
- Provides advice and information to the Pike Project Coordinator.
- Advises stakeholders they are representing of progress on the Pike Implementation Program and invites representatives to consider issues relevant to the business of the Pike Reference Committee.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Chair:** Tony Herbert, Principal Project Officer, DFW

**Executive Officer:** Brad Hollis, Pike Floodplain Manager, DFW

#### **Membership:**

- Renee Thompson, Policy Officer, DFW
- Mick Punturiero, Chair Renmark to the Border LAP
- Bruce Hewett, Chair Pike Land and Water Management Group
- Leroy Sims, Pike Community Representative
- Brenton Erdmann, Manager River Murray Operations Unit (SA Water)
- Sonia Dominelli, Manager Public Lands and Nature Conservation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation, SA MDB NRM Board.
- Phillip Conniff, Manager Riverine Recovery Program, DFW
- Chris Wright, Manager Salinity Policy, DFW
- Susie Pendle, Coordinator, Renmark to the Border LAP

All signatories to the Pike MoU are represented on the Pike Implementation Program Reference Committee.

## **ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Tony Herbert:** Principal Project Officer, DFW (chair of the PIP Reference Committee)

- Represent the interests of DFW and the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain
- Ensures consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as Chowilla and Katfish.
- Provides technical wetland and floodplain ecological management support
- Provides an information conduit to and from Senior Management in DFW to ensure senior management are well informed and supportive of the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Advocates for the PIP in high level DFW forums in Adelaide.

**Brad Hollis:** Pike Floodplain Manager, DFW

- Coordinates, integrates and initiates a range of floodplain investigations (spanning surface water management, groundwater management, land management and community engagement) aimed at identifying and implementing a preferred suite of actions to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- Responsible for managing the Pike floodplain budget and reporting back through the Pike Floodplain Steering Committee and PIP Reference Committee on project progress and expenditure against key milestones.
- Provides technical wetland and floodplain ecological support.
- Represent the interests of the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- Ensures integration between the Pike Floodplain Steering Committee, the Pike SIS Steering Committee and the Pike Sustainable Water Supply Steering Committee.

**Leroy Sims:** Pike Community Representative

- Represents the interests of the local Pike community members.
- Provides an information conduit to and from the local Pike community to ensure other Pike community members are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

**Bruce Hewett:** Chair of the Pike River Land and Water Management Group

- Represents the interests of the Pike River Land and Water Management Group as well as the broader Pike community.
- Provides an information conduit to and from the Pike River Land and Water Management Group and the community to ensure Pike community members are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

**Manager – Public Lands and Nature Conservation,** Department of Environment and Conservation (DENR)

- Represents the interests of DENR and the SA MDB NRM Board in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- Involved in negotiations with DENR license holders in relation to land management issues.

- Provides technical land management support and advice.
- Ensures consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as Chowilla and Katfish.
- Provides technical wetland and floodplain ecological management support.
- Provides an information conduit to and from DENR: Murrayland Region to ensure DENR staff are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.
- Advocates for the PIP at high level DENR forums in Adelaide.
- Provides an information conduit to and from the SA MDB NRM Board to ensure the Board and its staff are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

**Brenton Erdmann, Manager River Murray Operations Unit (SA Water)**

- Represents the interests of SA Water and the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- Ensures consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as Chowilla.
- Provides technical engineering support, particularly in relation to new and modified regulating infrastructure.
- Provides an information conduit to and from SA Water to ensure staff within SA Water are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

**Mick Punturiero: Chair of the Renmark-Border LAP**

- Represents the interests of the local Pike community and the Renmark to the Border LAP
- Provides an information conduit to and from the Renmark to the Border LAP and the local community to ensure other community members are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

**Chris Wright: Manager Salinity Policy (DFW)**

- Represents the interests of the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain
- Provides regular status reports on the progress of the proposed Pike SIS and key salinity policy issues affecting the PIP.

**Renee Thompson: Coordinator of the Pike Sustainable Water Supply Program (DFW)**

- Represents the interests of the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.
- Provides regular status reports on the progress of the Sustainable Water Supply Program for Pike.
- Ensures integration between the Pike Floodplain Steering Committee and the Sustainable Water Supply Steering Committee for Pike.

**Amy Goodman: Manager Planning and Evaluation, SA MDB NRM Board**

- Represents the interests of the SA MDB NRM Board and the State Government in its aspiration to improve the ecological condition of the Pike floodplain.

- Ensures consistency of approach with other high priority landscape scale rehabilitation programs such as Chowilla and Katfish.
- Provides an information conduit to and from the SA MDB NRM Board to ensure the Board and its staff are well informed on the progress of the Pike Implementation Program.

No member has been invited onto this committee to represent the interests of themselves. Discussion and voting during meetings will need to reflect this sentiment.

## **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### **Frequency**

Meetings will be held on an “as-needs” basis, but should not be held more than three months apart unless the committee deems otherwise. Meeting times and venues are to be set by the Committee.

### **Agenda**

An agenda will be compiled and circulated one week before the planned meeting time. Items for discussion should be notified to the Executive Officer in time to be included on the agenda.

The Chair shall adhere to the agenda, ensuring that members remain focused on the issues and that meetings run to time.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded and approved by the Committee at the next meeting as an accurate record of the meeting.

Copies shall be forwarded to all members and attendees of the meeting.

### **Executive Officer**

An Executive Officer shall be appointed to support the committee.

The Executive Officer will receive agenda items, prepare and distribute agendas, distribute papers for discussion and response, record and circulate minutes of each meeting, book the meeting room, and assist in setting up the meeting room for meetings.

### **Quorum**

At least five members of the Reference Committee are required to form a quorum (one of those members must be a community member).

### **Voting**

All voting members shall carry equal voting rights. A majority of votes is required to carry an action assuming a Quorum exists. The Chair shall only vote when a deadlock exists.

### **Sub- committees**

The Reference Committee may establish such sub-committees as members think fit to provide assistance with specific functions. Sub-committees shall report regularly to

the Reference Committee, and may or may not include members of the Reference Committee. Sub-committees shall develop and document a charter for their operation.

#### **Guests**

Observers or guests may attend meetings at the request or invitation of the Chairperson. Observers and guests have no voting rights.

#### **Review and Amendment to these Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference can be amended by a decision of a quorate meeting. Proposed amendments must be tabled at least one meeting prior to a decision being taken on amendments.

The committee must review the Terms of Reference every three years.

#### **Dispute Resolution**

Reasonable effort must be applied to the resolution of any disputes within the Reference Committee.

If disputes cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the Reference Committee, the matter will be referred to the DFW Director of the Pike Floodplain Program.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

Where a member has a financial interest (which be it actual, potential or perceived) they are required to declare their interest prior to discussion being undertaken on that particular Agenda Item. It is then the discretion of the Chair of the Pike Reference Committee as to whether that member is required to leave the room during discussion of the Item by the broader Committee; or whether they can remain present but abstain from any discussion and voting on that Agenda item.

Definition of financial interest: A financial (pecuniary) interest involves an actual, potential or perceived financial gain or loss. Money does not need to change hands for an interest to be pecuniary. People have a pecuniary interest if they (or a relative, or a close associate) own property, hold shares, have a position in a company bidding for government work, or receive benefits such as concessions, discounts, gifts or hospitality from a particular source.