

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

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
Annual Report 2010-11**

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Mr Andrew Inglis AM  
Presiding Member  
Natural Resources Management Council  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE  
South Australia 5001

Dear Mr Inglis

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 38 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2011.

The Boards Annual Audited Financial Statements have been finalised and approved and are provided as an attachment.

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



Sharon Starick  
**Presiding Member**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**

## FOREWORD

On behalf of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board it gives me great pleasure to present our 2010-11 Annual Report which shows the progress that the Board has made towards achieving natural resources management targets in our region. In doing this, the Board works with the community, key stakeholders and individuals to integrate the management of our key natural resources of caring for the land, our water, plants, animals and balancing people's needs with those of nature. To achieve effective natural resources management the Board relies on the involvement of our communities in participating in our programs, projects and activities including the successful collaboration with Local Government, Local Action Planning Groups and our Committees and Advisory Groups.

The Board had a busy year again with many key achievements being attained which are highlighted within this report. The Board is proud to report that it has assessed its performance and believes that 66% of the targets within the NRM Plan are on track. During the year investments of over \$20 million were secured for the Australian Governments Water for the Future Program which will benefit landholders and the environment and will generate water savings of around 6.6 gigalitres. The Aboriginal Learning on Country initiative was very successful in the region with the Board engaging Aboriginal people to allow them as trainees to gain TAFE SA qualifications while working. The Board engaged 8 trainees between Calperum Stations and Monarto Zoo.

This year saw both Board members and staff involved in many Working Groups to support Regional Integration. The new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) combines environment and natural resource management in the one agency to create a single workforce to support Natural Resource Management (NRM) Boards, the community, DENR and other government agencies. The integration will occur over a two year period to December 2012.

The goal is to increase support for NRM Boards and provide integrated, easy to access services to the community. Natural resources management activities will be combined under one management structure with integrated support services. A new regional delivery structure will bring regional NRM staff previously working for NRM Boards together with regional DENR staff to create a single, integrated workforce.

The role of NRM Boards will be strengthened with a clearer focus on support for community engagement in planning, decision making and delivery.

As part of the integration process the Board welcomes Hugo Hopton as its Regional Manager with a Leadership Management Team in the process of being appointed.

The Board would like to sincerely thank John Johnson, its previous General Manager, who has recently retired. The commitment, involvement and dedication of John is greatly appreciated by the Board and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Along with the retirement of John, the Board this year lost several of its long standing Board members in Bill Paterson, Joanne Pfeiffer, Joe Keynes and Frances Simes whose terms expired during this reporting period. On behalf of the Board we acknowledge the contribution and commitment that all of these members have made, particularly Bill Paterson as Presiding Member for the past three years. New members will be appointed during July 2011 to fill these vacancies.

I was honoured to take up the role of Presiding Member following Bill's departure early in the year and have the privilege of working with such a passionate community, a committed Board and a dedicated staff team.

The Board would like to thank the River Murray Advisory Committee, both the outgoing members and our new members for their time, commitment and input. This Committee provides advice to the Minister for the River Murray and the Board on water allocations, environmental and flow entitlements and best management practices and hopefully the outlook for the future is more encouraging and less challenging with improved inflows and outlooks.

We acknowledge the extensive contribution that the Mallee and Marne Saunders Water Resources Committee members have made over many years of dedicated and committed input in the development of water allocation plans and policies. These two Committees were disbanded this year when the Plans for their areas were finalised.

I would also like to thank the members of all the other Committees established by the Board including our Water Resource Advisory Committees, Water Allocation Planning Committees, Local Government Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups for your time and contribution.

The Board has four Natural Resources Management Groups and thanks the Chairs Monique White (Ranges to River NRM Group), Ken Stokes (Riverland NRM Group), David Lindner (Rangelands NRM Group) and Alan Piggott (Mallee and Coorong NRM Group) and all their members for their valued input, time and commitment that they have given as members of our NRM Groups. These Groups have supported the Board and staff in addressing community issues such as water allocation, land management, consultation and animal and plant control matters.

A special thank you also goes to our dedicated and committed staff for their valuable assistance in supporting the Board in managing the regions natural assets and the Board commends them for their involvement in working towards a new integrated organisation. The 2010-11 Annual Report highlights a lot of achievements for the year for which much of the thanks go to the dedicated efforts of our past General Manager, our new Regional Manager and the staff. I would like to express my appreciation and commend all the members of the staff for their contribution and productivity throughout the year from the members of the Board.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Hon Paul Caica MP, 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.



**Sharon Starick**  
**Presiding Member - SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board**

## 1. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

Natural resources management activities undertaken by the SA MDB NRM 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.

### 1.1. Vision

The vision for the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is:

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

### 1.2. Goals

The SA MDB NRM Board has identified four goals as part of its Regional Natural Resources Management Plan to address natural resources management within the region. These are:

Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems

Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits

Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way

Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.

### 1.3. Guiding Principles for NRM in the Region

In addition, the Board has designed the guiding principles, below, to achieve the goals.

- Work together for success—partnering with the community, government and industries to reach goals and targets for our region.
- Build knowledge—sound decision-making in natural resources management is supported by increased awareness and knowledge that is valued by the region.
- Strive for balance—undertaking natural resources management activities that support a healthy economy that is meeting social and environmental objectives.
- Think innovatively—using creativity and leadership to manage our natural resources for the future.
- Manage holistically—ensuring integrated landscape management by managing landscape components and processes together rather than dealing with issues in isolation.



- Learn from results—using an adaptive management approach to natural resources required to drive and support the long-term goal of ecologically sustainable use.
- Work within limits to ensure the future—working within sustainable limits to protect the capacity of our resources to provide services upon which the wellbeing of current and future generations depends.
- Prevent rather than cure—preventing the degradation of natural resources by dealing with causes is preferable to rehabilitation and treating symptoms.

Both the vision and goals are long-term 50-year statements that describe the Board and community's aspirations for NRM in the region.

#### **1.4. South Australia's Strategic Plan**

The SA MDB NRM Board completed the development of a new —comprehensive Regional NRM Plan as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The Plan was approved by the Minister for the River Murray on the 28 April 2009 and became operational on 1 July 2009. 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 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 and targets of the South Australian Strategic Plan and the State Natural Resources Management Plan.

**Table 1: How the Board's Regional Plan targets contribute to the SA Strategic Plan**

State Strategic Plan Targets			SA MDB Regional Resource Condition Targets												
			W1	W2	W3	L1	L2	B1	B2	B3	A1	A2	P1	P2	P3
	<b>T3.1</b>	Lose no species													
	<b>T3.2</b>	Land Biodiversity													
	<b>T3.3</b>	Soil Protection													
	<b>T3.5</b>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduction													
	<b>T3.9</b>	Sustainable water supply													
	<b>T3.10</b>	River Murray – flows													
	<b>T3.11</b>	River Murray – salinity													
	<b>T3.12</b>	Renewable energy													
	<b>T3.14</b>	Energy efficiency – government buildings													
	<b>T5.6</b>	Volunteering													
	<b>T5.8</b>	Multiculturalism													
	<b>T6.24</b>	Aboriginal employees													
				Primary Alignment											
				Secondary Alignment											

The Board's Regional Natural Resources Management Plan came into effect on the 1 July 2009 and takes 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.

### 1.5. State Natural Resources Management Plan

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

1. Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.

2. Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.
3. Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.
4. Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.

### 1.6. Links between the Board and the State NRM Plan

The Board's Strategic Goals, Strategies and associated Actions are guided by the 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.

To ensure consistency, the Regional NRM Plan was developed in close consultation with state agencies and has many critical links to the State NRM Plan. The Regional NRM Plan's vision aligns well with the State NRM Plan's vision by encompassing the environmental, social and economic aspects of natural resources management. Its guiding principles reflect the same intent as those of the State NRM Plan and the overarching goals provide a regional perspective of the State NRM Plan's goals. There is also natural alignment between the two plans at the target (RCT), milestone (MAT) and strategy (action) levels, recognising the differing terminology between the two plans.

**Table 2: Alignment of RCTs in the Regional Plan to the State NRM Plan**

		SA MDB Regional Resource Condition Targets												
		W1	W2	W3	L1	L2	B1	B2	B3	A1	A2	P1	P2	P3
State NRM Plan Resource Condition Targets	L1	By 2011, land condition will have improved compared to 2006												
	W1	By 2011, all ecosystems dependent on prescribed water resources have improved ecological health compared to 2006												
	W2	By 2020, all aquatic ecosystems have improved ecological health compared to 2006												

	<b>W3</b>	By 2015, no further net loss of wetlands or estuary extent or condition compared to 2006													
	<b>W4</b>	By 2011, an increase in net water quality compared to 2006													
	<b>B1</b>	By 2020, 50% of species and communities in each of the 2006 risk categories have moved to lower risk categories													
	<b>B2</b>	By 2011, no species and ecological communities have moved to a higher risk category from 2006													
	<b>B3</b>	By 2011, no further net loss of natural habitat (terrestrial, marine and aquatic) extent and condition below that of 2006													
	<b>B4</b>	By 2020, a net increase in ecological connectivity across all terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems compared to the 2006 values													
	<b>P1</b>	By 2011, the capacity of people in the community to sustainably manage natural resources will be greater than in 2006													
				Primary Alignment											
				Secondary Alignment											

## 2. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

### 2.1. Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan was 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 came 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.

This volume is a three-year rolling plan which is updated and extended annually. The current Business Plan runs from 2011-14.

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, MATs and actions).

### 2.2. 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 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 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.

The implementation of the Board's Business Plan is delivered via a package of 12 programs:

- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Sustainable Irrigation
- Water Quality & Local Government Engagement
- Land Management
- Atmosphere
- Capacity Building
- NRM Education
- Communications
- Operations
- Water Allocation Planning
- Regional Planning

Key achievements for these programs include:

### **2.2.1. Aquatic Biodiversity**

- Nationally threatened Southern Bell Frogs surveyed at 115 sites
- The removal of barriers and/or opening of structures during high river flows allowed for the re-inundation of 10 wetlands, across 359 hectares, which were previously closed during the drought to achieve evaporative water savings.
- Monitoring of the Markaranka wetland, in collaboration with local landholders, recorded the ecological benefits of inundation such as regeneration of River Red Gums and tree health improvements. Results will help improve wetland management and development of a wetland management plan for landholders.

### **2.2.2. Terrestrial Biodiversity**

- 338 landholders committed to on-farm activities to improve biodiversity

- The Woorinen Recovery Team and landholders in the Bakara area have taken the leap from traditional conservation to habitat restoration. The project, the first on a large scale, aims to improve deep sand and dune habitat for Mallee bird species with restoration completed on 150 hectares in 2010-11.
- Attracting \$4.6 million through the Australian Government's Environmental Stewardship Program will enable landholders to be paid for up to 15 years to conserve threatened vegetation communities as part of their farm's taxable income.

### **2.2.3. Sustainable Irrigation**

- Upgrade of the regional weather station network
- Significant investment of approximately \$20 million was secured from the Australian Government's Water for the Future Program. The benefits to landholders and the environment will include irrigation infrastructure and efficiency improvements that will generate water savings of around 6.6 gigalitres a year
- Salinity tolerances of potato varieties were investigated through a new funding partnership with Woolworths. Tolerance to salinity can vary significantly and the results will be valuable in assisting commercial potato farms to assess varietal selection at individual planting sites.

### **2.2.4. Water Quality and Local Government Engagement**

- Worked with 11 Councils on urban and rural planning to ensure Council's development policy and guidelines reflect best practice in aspects such as water and wastewater management. Board staff have successfully facilitated a cross-Council commitment that will result in Councils strengthening development plans and provide a critical preventative mechanisms to protect natural resources

### **2.2.5. Land Management**

- 3,790 hectares of land protected from soil erosion
- Soil moisture trial sites have been established, which enable dryland farmers to see real time calculations of millimetres of plant available water. This saves growers having to manually log data on a site by site basis.
- Eudunda Robertstown Sheep Connect group supported to continue on-farm grazing trials. The demonstration sites and a study tour allowed sheep producers to share results and knowledge on reducing soil loss without compromising productivity.

### **2.2.6. Atmosphere**

- 20% increase in efficiencies of the Board's vehicle fleet since 2009.
- Development and promotion of case studies on local champions and early adopters of alternative energy generation such as the installation of a solar farm on a Taylorville property and exploration of methane capture from the piggery's settlement pond.

- Collaborative work with the Regional Council of Goyder has resulted in the development of a Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Plan. The plan provides a model for all Councils to ensure climate change planning can be integrated with Local Government's Strategic Management Plans
- A Carbon Forum was jointly coordinated with Regional Development Australia and the Murray Agro-Forestry Working Group. The forum attracted more than 100 people to hear from local experts about carbon trading and measurement.

#### **2.2.7. Capacity Building**

- Support to more than 2,700 volunteers involved in NRM
- 15 Aboriginal trainees completed Certificate II Land Management and Conservation through the Aboriginal Learning and Working on Country programs. The hands-on practical training includes pest control, revegetation and monitoring activities to help protect threatened species.

#### **2.2.8. NRM Education**

- 78% of the region's schools are engaged in the Board's NRM Education Program
- Junior Youth Environment Forums have become well established and are held every term with student participation from Robertstown, Burra, St John's Lutheran Eudunda and Farrell Flat primary schools. Collecting and identifying the macro-invertebrates have proved to be popular activities.

#### **2.2.9. Operations**

- 152,842 hectares protected from rabbit damage
- Key pest species mapped along 400km of the Lower Lakes shoreline
- Early detection in a local garden nursery of the noxious and prohibited water weed, *Salvinia*, alerted retailers to the potential serious damage that can result from this aquatic plant being spread into the environment where it can carpet an entire water body.
- 2,287 goats were removed with control and vegetation protection occurring across 11,600 hectares. Aerial and land based surveys, cameras, tracking devices and the use of Judas Goats were valuable activities to confirm numbers and location and, ultimately, improve landholders' ability to manage goats.

#### **2.2.10. Water Allocation Planning**

- 16,735 fish monitored at 57 sites in Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges
- After five years of development, the draft Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan was released for comment. Extensive targeted and public consultation included 25 information sessions with more than 450 people, the majority being water users or landholders, commenting on the draft plan.



### 2.2.11. Regional Planning

- Data from 37 stream monitoring groups made accessible online
- Successful completion of the inaugural Regional Outcome Reporting process
- Adoption of the 2011-12 Business Plan.

### 2.2.12. NRM Volunteers

- The successful completion of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Volunteer Strategy.
- There are currently 128 NRM community volunteer groups registered with the SA MDB NRM Board and supported through the volunteer support project.
- NRM Volunteer Small Grants in 2010-11, with \$51,923.21 of funding going to 57 local volunteer groups for a range of projects linked to the Volunteer Strategy objectives.
- Volunteer celebrations, organised by the NRM Groups in partnership with the Local Action Planning groups, were held at Cambrai, Meningie, Strathalbyn and Berri, to thank local volunteers for all their hard work.
- A range of training opportunities for volunteers and volunteer managers was also provided across the region, including Senior First Aid, In Safe Hands (OHS&W), Volunteer Management, Engaging Gen Y, Low Scale Chemical Use, Monitoring Water Quality, Frog Monitoring and Pest Plant Control.

## 3. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### 3.1. Object of the Natural Resources Management Act

The objects of the Act include - to assist 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

- (f) promotes educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to be involved in the management of natural resources.

### 3.2. Role of the Board

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.

### 3.3. Functions of the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the SA 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.

### 3.4. Membership

Section 25 of the Natural Resources Management Act outlines the composition of the 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 1 member of a regional NRM Board must be a woman and at least 1 member must be a man.
- (7) At least 1 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.

The membership of the Board during 2010-11 was:

Member	Basis of Appointment	Term of Appointment
<b>William (Bill) Paterson</b>	Presiding Member	14 April 2005 to 15 December 2010
<b>Joanne Pfeiffer</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to 13 April 2011
<b>Joe Keynes</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to 13 April 2011
<b>Frances Simes</b>	Community Member	14 April 2005 to 13 April 2011
<b>Anne Hartnett</b>	Community Member	2 November 2006 to present
<b>Colin Milburn</b>	Community Member	14 February 2008 to present
<b>Emily Jenke</b>	Community Member	14 April 2008 to present
<b>Sheridan Alm</b>	Community Member	24 July 2008 to present
<b>George Lovegrove</b>	Community Member	22 July 2010 to present
<b>Sharon Starick</b>	Presiding Member	24 February 2011 to present

#### Government representatives authorised to attend meetings

- Gerry Davies (Primary Industries and Resources SA)
- Mandy Rossetto (Department for Water)
- Brenton Erdmann (SA Water)
- Peter Scott (Environment Protection Authority)
- Rodney Ralph (Local Government Association)

### **3.5. Meetings: general and special**

A total of 12 general Board meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

No special Board meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	No. of Meetings Attended	No. of Meetings Not Attended	Reason (s) for non-attendance
<b>W Paterson</b>	6	0	Term expired 15 December 2010
<b>J Pfeiffer</b>	10	0	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>J Keynes</b>	8	2	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>F Simes</b>	9	1	Term expired 13 April 2011
<b>A Hartnett</b>	12	0	
<b>C Milburn</b>	12	0	
<b>E Jenke</b>	9	3	Other commitments
<b>S Alm</b>	10	2	Other commitments
<b>G Lovegrove</b>	8	4	Other commitments
<b>S Starick</b>	4	0	Appointed 24 February 2011

Government Representatives			
<b>R Barratt</b>	4	0	Membership ceased November 2010
<b>M Martin</b>	5	0	Membership ceased December 2010
<b>S Dominelli</b>	6	1	Commenced December 2010
<b>P Scott</b>	11	1	Other commitments
<b>R Ralph</b>	10	2	Other commitments
<b>G Davies</b>	9	3	Other commitments
<b>M Rossetto</b>	8	1	Other commitments

### 3.6. 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 Department for Water, (DfW), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), SA Water and Primary Industry and Resources SA (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.

### 3.7. 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.

### 3.8. Organisational Structure

The Board's current organisation structure can be seen as Attachment 1.

### 3.9. 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 2010-11:

- Finance Committee

- Executive Committee
- Regional Integration Committee
- Communications Committee
- Policy Committee (disbanded March 2011)
- River Murray Advisory Committee

Membership of these Committees is provided in Attachment 2

### **3.10. Other Committees**

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 were:

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

### **3.11. 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 these NRM groups of their achievements is attached.

## **4. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **4.1. Employee Numbers, Gender and Status**

Total Number of Employees		
Persons	77	
FTEs	71.5	(FTEs shown to 1 decimal place)
Gender	% Persons	% FTEs
Male	49.35	52.73
Female	50.65	47.27
Number of Persons During the 10-11 Financial Year		
Separated from the agency		16
Recruited to the agency		15
Number of Persons at 30 June 2011		
On Leave without Pay		4

#### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY SALARY BRACKET

Salary Bracket	Male	Female	Total
\$0 - \$50,399	4	4	8
\$50,400 - \$64,099	18	17	35
\$64,100 - \$82,099	11	15	26
\$82,100 - \$103,599	4	3	7
\$103,600+	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>77</b>

#### STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IN CURRENT POSITION

FTEs	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	12	9	16.7	0	37.7
Female	3	10.4	20.4	0	33.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71.5</b>
PERSONS	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	12	9	17	0	38
Female	4	11	24	0	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>

#### EXECUTIVES BY GENDER, CLASSIFICATION AND STATUS



	Ongoing		Term Tenured		Term Untenured		Other (Casual)		Total				
Classification	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	%	Female	%	Total
EXECOPS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## 4.2. Leave Management

### AVERAGE DAYS LEAVE PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE

<i>Leave Type</i>	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Sick Leave	5.9	4.35	7.15	5.739
Family Carer's Leave	0.38	0.64	0.726	1.34
Miscellaneous Special Leave	1.27	0.62	0.909	1.129

## 4.3. Workforce Diversity

### ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYEES

Salary Bracket	Aboriginal Employees	Total Employees	% Aboriginal Employees	Target*
\$0 - \$50,399	0	8	0	2%
\$50,400 - \$64,099	1	35	2.86	2%
\$64,100- \$82,099	0	26	0	2%
\$82,100 - \$103,599	0	7	0	2%
\$103,600+	0	1	0	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2%</b>

\* Target from SASP

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY AGE BRACKET BY GENDER**

Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	2010 Workforce Benchmark*
<b>15-19</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	6.4%
<b>20-24</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>	2.6	10.4%
<b>25-29</b>	3	8	<b>11</b>	14.29	11.0%
<b>30-34</b>	4	7	<b>11</b>	14.29	10.1%
<b>35-39</b>	4	9	<b>13</b>	16.88	10.3%
<b>40-44</b>	7	2	<b>9</b>	11.69	11.0%
<b>45-49</b>	5	5	<b>10</b>	12.99	11.5%
<b>50-54</b>	5	5	<b>10</b>	12.99	11.4%
<b>55-59</b>	5	1	<b>6</b>	7.79	9.4%
<b>60-64</b>	4	0	<b>4</b>	5.19	5.5%
<b>65+</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	1.3	3.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>	100.0

*\*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Demographic Statistics, 6291.0.55.001 Labour Force Status (ST LM8) by sex, age, state, marital status – employed – total from Feb78 Supertable, South Australia at May 2010.*

**CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY**

	Male	Female	Total	% Agency	SA Community*
<b>Number of employees born overseas</b>	2	1	3	3.9	20.3%
<b>Number of employees who speak language(s) other than English at home</b>	0	1	1	1.3	16.6%

\* Benchmarks from ABS Publication Basic Community Profile (SA) Cat No. 2001.0, 2006 census.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES (ACCORDING TO COMMONWEALTH DDA DEFINITION)**

Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**TYPES OF DISABILITY (WHERE SPECIFIED)**

Disability	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
Disability requiring workplace adaptation	0	0	0	0
Physical	0	0	0	0
Intellectual	0	0	0	0
Sensory	0	0	0	0
Psychological/ Psychiatric	0	0	0	0

**4.4. Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements****VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BY GENDER**

	Male	Female	Total
Purchased Leave	0	0	0
Flexitime	37	39	76
Compressed Weeks	0	0	0
Part-time	1	15	16
Job Share	0	0	0
Working from Home	0	0	0

**4.5. Performance Development****DOCUMENTED REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Employees with ...	% Total Workforce
A review within the past 12 months	67.53%
A review older than 12 months	19.48%
No review	12.99%

**4.6. Leadership and Management Development**

Training and Development	Total Cost	% of Total Salary Expenditure
Total training and development expenditure	\$30342.00	0.005
Total leadership and management development expenditure	\$9060.00	0.001

#### 4.7. Accredited Training Packages

Classification	Number of Accredited Training Packages
ASO2	1
ASO3	2
ASO5	1
ASO6	1
OPS4	1
PO1	1

#### 4.8. Employment Opportunity Programs

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed.

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

### 5. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT-

**TABLE 1 OHS NOTICES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN**

Number of notifiable occurrences pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Part 7 Division 6	<b>0</b>
Number of notifiable injuries pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Part 7 Division 6	<b>0</b>
Number of notices served pursuant to OHS&W Act s35, s39 and s40 (default, improvement and prohibition notices)	<b>0</b>

**TABLE 2: AGENCY GROSS WORKERS COMPENSATION EXPENDITURE FOR 2010-11 COMPARED WITH 2009-10**

EXPENDITURE	2010-11 (\$m)	2009-10 (\$m)	Variation (\$m) + (-)	% Change + (-)
<b>Income Maintenance</b>	\$0.00	\$5,856.82	(5,856.85)	(100%)
<b>Lump Sum Settlements Redemptions - Sect.42</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Lump Sum Settlements Permanent Disability – Sect. 43</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Medical/Hospital Costs combined</b>	\$433.80	\$2,086.35	(1652.55)	(77.9%)

<b>Other</b>	\$0.00	\$903.41	(903.41)	(100%)
<b>Total Claims Expenditure</b>	<b>\$433.80</b>	<b>\$8,846.58</b>	<b>(8412.78)</b>	<b>(95.1%)</b>

**TABLE 3 MEETING SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

	<b>Base: 2009-10</b>	<b>Performance: 12 months to end of June 2011*</b>			<b>Final Target</b>
	<b>Number s or %</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Notional Quarterly Target**</b>	<b>Variation</b>	<b>Numbers or %</b>
<b>1. Workplace Fatalities</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2. New Workplace Injury Claims</b>	4	2	4	-2	3
<b>3. New Workplace Injury Claims Frequency Rate</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>4. Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate ***</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>5. New Psychological Injury Claims</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>6. Rehabilitation and Return to Work:</b>					
<b>6a. Early Assessment within 2 days</b>	75%	100%	80%	20%	80% or more
<b>6b. Early Intervention within 5 days</b>					90% or more
<b>6c. RTW within 5 business days</b>	100%	0%	-	-	75% or more
<b>7. Claim Determination:</b>					
<b>7a. Claims determined in 10 business days</b>	50%	100%	75%	25%	60% or more
<b>7b. Claims still to be determined after 3 months</b>	0%	0%	3%	-3%	3% or less
<b>8. Income Maintenance Payments for Recent Injuries:</b>					
<b>2009-10 Injuries (at 24 months development)</b>		\$2,328.82	\$3,345.98	-\$1,017.16	Below previous 2 years average
<b>2010-11 Injuries (at 12 months development)</b>		\$0.00	\$1,263.14	-\$1,263.14	Below previous 2 years average
* Except for Target 8, which is YTD. For Targets 5, 6c, 7a and 7b, performance is measured up to the previous quarter to allow reporting lag.					

**\*\* Based on cumulative reduction from base at a constant quarterly figure.**

**\*\*\*Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate** Injury frequency rate for new lost-time injury/disease for each one million hours worked. This frequency rate is calculated for benchmarking and is used by the WorkCover Corporation.

Formula for Lost Time Injury frequency rate (new claims):  

$$\frac{\text{Number of new cases of lost-time injury/disease for year} \times 1,000,000}{\text{Number of hours worked in the year}}$$

## 6. FINANCIAL REPORTING

### 6.1. Financial Performance

The Board's financial reports and audit statement are included as Attachment 3.

The Board also provided rent free accommodation to the Rural Financial Counsellor in the Murray Bridge Office under NRM Act Section 42 (4) and (5).

### 6.2. Contractual Arrangements

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

### 6.3. 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)
<b>Paid by due date*</b>	3624	90.49	19,526,150	87.01
<b>Paid late, within 30 days of due date</b>	336	8.39	2,150,668	9.58
<b>Paid more than 30 days from due date</b>	45	1.12	763,249	3.40

\*Note: The due date is defined under section 11.7 of Treasurer's Instruction 11 *Payment of Creditors' Accounts*. Generally, unless there is a discount or a written agreement between the public authority and the creditor, payment should be within thirty days of the date of the invoice or claim. Some agencies receive invoices significantly later than the invoice date, due to supplier invoicing processes.

### 6.4. Fraud

There were no instances and nature of fraud detected in the Board during the financial year.

### 6.5. Consultants

No consultants were engaged during the financial year.

### 6.6. Overseas Travel

No overseas travel was undertaken during the financial year.

## 7. OTHER REPORTING MATTERS

### 7.1. Disability Action Plans

*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 Regional Manager ensures 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.

### 7.2. Asbestos Management in Government Buildings

#### ANNUAL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT REPORT 2010-11

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 – scheduled for 2011-12
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

### 7.3. Urban Design Charter

The South Australian Government 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 2010-11.

### 7.4. 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 no formal applications for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during 2010-11.

### 7.5. Whistleblowers Protection

There were no occasions on which public interest has been disclosed to the Board under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*.

### 7.6. Energy Efficiency Action Plans

Performance against annual energy use targets is outlined below.

The Board has achieved the government target of a 25% improvement on the base year by 2014 as can be seen in the table below.

Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) aims to reduce the energy consumption of Australian Government operations with particular emphasis on building energy efficiency.



**PERFORMANCE AGAINST ANNUAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS**

	<b>Energy Use (GJ)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>GHG Emissions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Business Measure<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>Base Year 2006/2007:</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>26.75</b>	<b>65.6 FTE'S</b>
<b>Base Year 2006/2007:</b>	MJ/business measure1/annum		
<b>Year Being Reported: 2010-11</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>25.16</b>	<b>71.5 FTE'S</b>
<b>Portfolio Target 2010-11</b>	MJ/business measure1/annum		
<b>Final Portfolio Target (for 2014)</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85FTE'S</b>

The Board will endeavour to work closely with agencies to progressively continue improvements in environmental performance in accordance with the key actions of its sustainability action plan.

**7.7. Greening Of Government Operations Framework****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 3: waste management  
 GoGO Priority Area 5: travel and fleet management

The Board has developed an 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 (Green Team Plan 2008-2014)

Objective 3 in the South Australia's Strategic Plan (Attaining Sustainability) contains a number of targets that focus on protecting our biodiversity, securing sustainable water and energy supplies, and minimising waste. The Board will endeavour to work closely with agencies to progress improvements in environmental performance in accordance with the key actions of its sustainability action plan. The Board has developed an 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 (Green Team Plan 2008-2014).

A “Whole of Region” Green team was established in 2010-11. The Board’s intention is to lead by example and it has increased its capacity amongst staff to capture carbon footprint information and to work toward internal carbon emission reductions.

2010-11 actions include:

- Implementing carbon accounting
- Baseline energy auditing and emissions profile for the SA MDB NRM Board operations
- Work with the SA MDB NRM Board Green Team to progress internal initiatives to reduce emission profile
- Establish a fleet vehicle policy
- Contribute to Board targets and State government targets

Liaison with DENR on a regional scale is ongoing. Finding an appropriate common model that will suit the future integrated management is part of ongoing discussions.

#### **ACTION PLAN 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 offices 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 tasks	2010-11 progress notes
1. Calculate carbon footprint quarterly to monitor usage on water/energy/waste audit.	Annual update completed as part of broader Board goal in reducing carbon footprint and meeting state strategic plan and regional NRM plan targets office efficiency goals. External auditor engaged over 2010-2011.
2. Revegetate around buildings this year and next year with natives. Purchased indoor plants to increase CO2 absorption.	Native plantings and negotiation with owners ongoing. New plants planted at Murray Bridge Office over 2010-11, selections by owners and some non native.
3. Replace halogen down lights with LED or CF when old globes have blown using less power/energy.	Ongoing action.
4. Set default double sided printing and	Completed and ongoing.

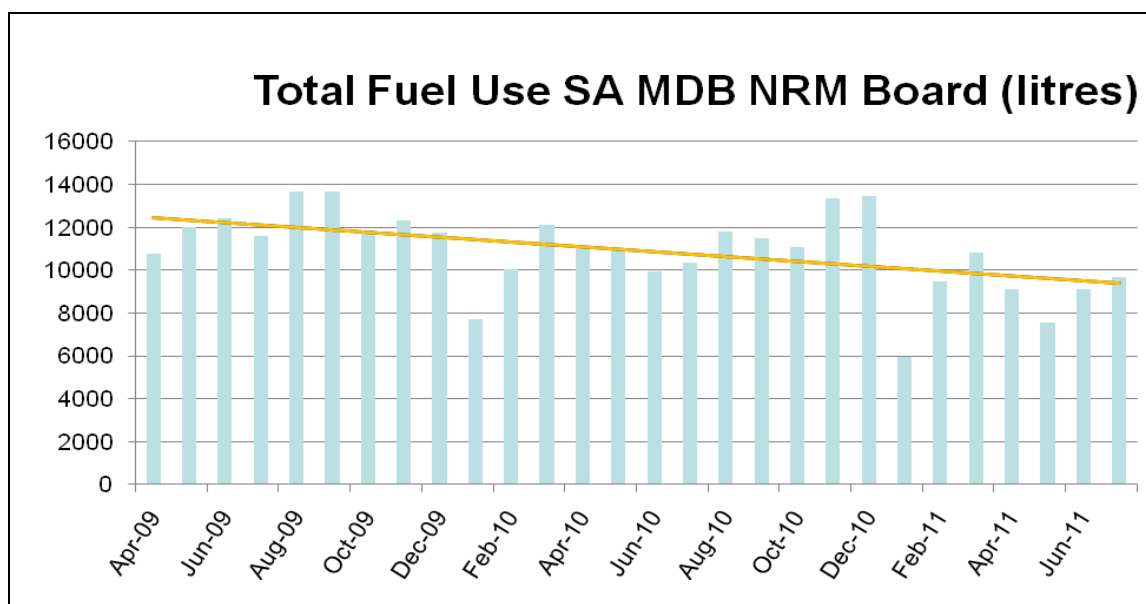
print in black and white from computers and photocopiers.	
5. Recycling Weekly pick up of waste paper, toilet paper towels, cardboard, plastics, bottles and cans for recycling and monthly pick up of documents disposed in secure locked bin.	Recycling occurs at all Board offices. Working with Zero Waste where possible on events and encouraging other event organizers in the region to establish recycling systems.
6. Staff turning off lights, computers, air conditioning, Piccadilly Urn when not in use and Friday afternoons to save energy.	Signs at air conditioning panels to advising of optimum temperatures for summer and winter.
7. Switched to 100% recycled copier paper.	Utilising 80% “Australian” Brand as decided by Green Team.
8. Trial using data sticks at Board meetings and other initiatives to save on paper.	Ongoing. The Board has an electronic records management system (2009-10) and work flow system implemented 2010-11 year. Both minimise paper usage for all staff.
9. Purchasing stationery items made from recycled materials where appropriate ie pens, erasers, pencils, notebooks, plastic rubbish bins, plastic desk tidy trays	Ongoing. Promoted to administration staff.
10. Hot desks available in NRM Board offices. Laptops use less energy than computers where suitable.	Established and ongoing.
11. Composting/Bokashi bins – Worm farm for waste.	New composting arrangements (Sept 09) continuing with waste reduction demonstrated from the 2008 figures.
12. Car pool operational where possible between staff travelling to and from work and during work hours.	Promoted and ongoing. Fleet fuel reductions evident.
13. Order Fleet SA vehicles with dual fuel or 4 cylinders to maximise efficiency where possible.	The Board has been down-sizing from 6-cylinder Commodores to 4-cylinder Camry. Car pooling is being promoted. Reductions in fuel use have occurred over 2010-11 (see graph below). Fleet options paper prepared and submitted to management.
14. Install rainwater tanks for toilet and bathroom water use.	No new offices converted over 2010-11
15. Set air conditioning thermostats higher in summer/lower in winter. Set to 21° Winter, 25° Summer for better efficiency.	Ongoing. Implemented at Strathalbyn office as part of relocation and air conditioning installation
16. Installed skylights in dark areas of	Ongoing. Strathalbyn offices retrofitted and

building.	lighting audit undertaken in 2011.
17. E-mail messages to save on copy paper consumption – Think before you print on emails and Be green and read from the screen	Promoted to staff.
18. Promote local produce – Food miles and support for local producers	NRM Local Produce Challenge held in Murray Bridge office and promoted to other offices and the broader community.

### Sustainability Highlights for 2010-2011

#### Vehicle Fuel Use:

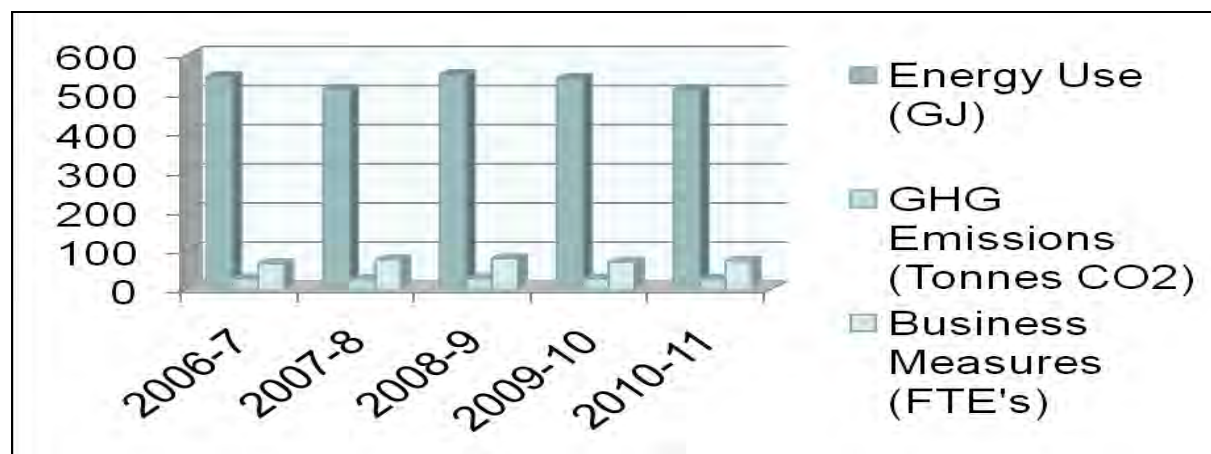
The Board has been able to demonstrate progress in meeting targets and achieving savings. Progress on fuel efficiencies recorded 20% reductions to July 2011. The Board's target start point is April 2009 when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to approximately 5 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> mitigated over two years.



*Figure 1: Shows a 20% fleet fuel use reduction to July 2011*

**Office Power Use:**

SA MDB NRM Board 2010-11 – consumed 7,197 mj/person/annum Tenant Light and Power (TLP), meeting the target in the State EEGO policy (7,500 mj/person/annum for Office, TLP).



**Figure 2:** Power use / Staff numbers /Yearly comparisons shows that energy use reduced over 2010-11. Energy efficiency progress with 7% reductions in 2010-11 compared to the 2008-9 year. (Target start point April 2009) when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to 1.83 tonne reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2010-11.

All SA MDB NRM Board offices are being progressively moved toward 20% green energy as the electricity contracts fall due. Office energy efficiency is the first priority being address via the Green Team Plan 2008-2014.

Progress on energy efficiencies with 7% reductions in 2010-11 compared to the 2008-9 year. (Target start point April 2009) when the Regional NRM Plan was signed. This equates to 1.83 tonne reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2010-11 (See graph below).

SA MDB NRM Board 2010-11 – consumed 7,197 mj/person/annum Tenant Light and Power (TLP), meeting the target in the State EEGO policy (7,500 mj/person/annum for Office, TLP).

## 7.8. Regional Impact Assessment Statements

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2010-11 financial year.

## 7.9. Reconciliation Statements

The SAMDB NRM 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 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 George Lovegrove, pursuant to section 25(2)(b) of the Act.

The Board also has engaged the indigenous community in projects and committees wherever possible and has employed staff to actively engage with the aboriginal communities across the region.

#### **7.10. Statement of Fact for Significant Ministerial Directives**

There were no significant Ministerial Directives to the Board in accordance with s10(5) of the Act.

#### **7.11. Statement of Fact for Significant Functions Assigned By Minister**

There were no significant Ministerial functions assigned to the Board in accordance with s29(6)(b) of the Act.

#### **7.12. Statement of Fact for Functions or Powers Delegated to the Board**

There were no significant additional functions or powers delegated to the Board under the NRM Act or any other Act in accordance with Regulation 9e of the NRM (General) Regulations 2005.

#### **7.13. Statement of Fact for Functions or Powers Delegated by the Board**

The Board has delegated appropriate procurement, finance and contracting powers to relevant members of staff of the Board in accordance with Regulation 9d of the NRM (General) Regulations 2005 and s36 of the Act. This enables Board staff to undertake operational Board business.

#### **7.14. Specific Reports**

No additional reports were requested.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Board would like to thank the Minister for the River Murray, Hon Paul Caica MP, and staff of the SA Department for Water, the staff of the SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 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 in 2010-11.

## **9. PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OR UPDATED DURING 2010-11**

Publications released or updated during the year were:

- 2011-12 Business Plan
- Regional Outcomes Report – November 2010
- Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resource Area and associated fact sheets on
  - Providing for Low Flows
  - Allocation and transfer policy overview
  - Consultation process
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Draft Mallee Water Allocation Plan and fact sheets on
  - Volumetric Conversion
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Adopted Peake Roby and Sherlock Water Allocation Plan
- SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Volunteer Strategy
- Aquatic Macro Invertebrate Identification Key
- Little things make a big impact
- Making every drop count
- Reflections and Learning Outcomes from 2009-10
- 2010-11 Regional Investment Report
- Working together on NRM – a snapshot of our progress – December 2010

## 10. GLOSSARY

<b>The Board</b>	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
<b>DEH</b>	Department for Environment and Heritage
<b>DENR</b>	Department for Environment and Natural Resources
<b>DfW</b>	Department for Water
<b>DWLBC</b>	Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation
<b>EEGO</b>	Energy Efficiency in Government Operations
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Authority
<b>FTE</b>	Full time equivalent
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>GJ</b>	Gigajoules
<b>GL</b>	Gigalitre
<b>GoGo</b>	Greening of Government Operations
<b>Group (the Group)</b>	Natural Resources Management Group
<b>MAT</b>	Management Action Target
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>PIRSA</b>	Primary Industry and Resources SA
<b>RCT</b>	Resource Condition Target
<b>SA MDB NRM</b>	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## **11. RIVERLAND NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**



# **RIVERLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Ms Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 57 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 2011.



Ken Stokes  
**Chairperson**  
**Riverland 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 South Australian 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
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

Achievements of the Riverland NRM Group during the 2010-11 period.

- Hosted a Riverland Group Volunteer Function.
- Met with Renmark to Border LAP and landholders to assess pig issues on Chowilla floodplain with a view to implementing a Control Program.
- Hosted a Community Science Forum in Renmark.
- Produced an Annual Rainfall Recording Chart for the 2011 calendar year for distribution to community.
- Received a number of presentations on natural resource management initiatives by agencies and community groups.
- Identified possible approach to landscape investment for NRM in the Riverland area.
- Met with the River Murray Youth Council.
- Discussed specific land management (Soil erosion) issues at Murtho with appropriate staff.

## ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group was established on 21 February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Groups' 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.
- 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 Riverland 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 Riverland Group during 2010-11 was:

- Ken Stokes (Chairperson)
- Gavin McMahon
- Michelle Campbell
- Kate Thorn
- Bruce Hewett
- Tony Meissner
- Frances Simes
- Mardi Miles (resigned 27 September 2010)
- Dean Kerley (resigned 31 January 2011)
- Dave Reilly (resigned 31 January 2011)

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of nine general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

A total of zero special Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Reason for non attendance</b>
Ken Stokes	8		Other Commitments
Gavin McMahon	7		Other Commitments
Michelle Campbell	9		
Kate Thorn	9		
Bruce Hewett	4		New member
Tony Meissner	4		New member
Frances Simes	1		New member

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The Riverland NRM Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. See list of Group member's community links.

- Loxton to Bookpurnong LAP
- Berri Barmera LAP
- Renmark to the Border LAP
- Riverland West LAP
- Lake Bonney Management Group
- Central Irrigation Trust
- Riverland Futures Taskforce
- River Murray Youth Council

- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee (RMAC)
- Banrock
- Investment and Evaluation Working Group
- Regional Integration Committee (RIC)
- SA River Communities Group
- Riverland Horticultural Reference Group
- Berri Barmera Council
- Pig Project Steering Committee
- Mayor's Forum
- Grant and Review Panel (GARP)

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Section 52 of the NRM Act outlines the functions of NRM Groups. These functions are described in this annual report. No additional governance arrangements were completed in the reporting period.

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES**

There were no significant board directives given to the group in accordance with sections 10(5), 47(3)(b) and 53(5) of the Act.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

No additional functions have been assigned by the Board in accordance with section 52(1)(e) of the Act.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Not additional functions or powers have been delegated by the Board to the Group in accordance with s36(1)(f) of the Act.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Group in accordance with s55 of the Act.

## **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

No additional reports were requested.

## 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 requires 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.

## COMMITTEES LISTING

**Committees that the members are involved in or represent the Group on:**

- Hotspots Evaluation Panel meeting.
- Riverland Group Volunteer Function Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Upper Murray NRM Education Group
- Chairman's Forum
- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Investment and Evaluation Working Group
- Regional Integration Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Riverland Futures
- Pig Project Steering Committee
- Mayors' Forum

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Riverland NRM Group would like to thank Hon Paul Caica, MP, Minister for the River Murray and staff of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

## **12. RANGELANDS NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**



# **RANGELANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Mrs Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 57 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. David Lindner."

David Lindner  
**Chairperson**  
**Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group**

## **FOREWORD**

The Rangelands NRM Group has increased its effectiveness to work with the community by writing a strategic plan together with a communications plan that works within the 3 year rolling business plan of the Board. This outlines the priorities that are required to achieve long term improvements in our natural resources which are often outside the focus of current projects. Furthermore, a whole of landscape approach which was started in October 2010 will be further massaged in the next financial year and presented to the Board as advice of issues emerging or requiring attention in our area of responsibility.

Group members have benefited from site visits and highlighting local issues such as the opuntia problem, together with the increase or explosion of noxious weeds. This experience has reinforced that other areas which may not have these problems still require attention to maintain a healthy landscape that has biodiversity and productive community value.

The employment of a capacity building person who works closely with our NRM Group and the Regional Council of Goyder has given numerous positive outcomes. As this Group area has very few community groups functioning to achieve on ground works, this person's ability to work with these organisations and the general public has greatly assisted in lifting the profile of natural resource management.

The members of the Rangelands NRM Group look forward to keeping close contact with the Board and to maintaining a good working relationship with Board staff and the community so that the SAMDB NRM Board's Regional Plan is realised and the natural resources of the district remain healthy and resilient.

**David Lindner**  
**Chair**  
**Rangelands NRM 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 South Australian 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
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Presentations to the Group/and tours attended during the year included:-**

- Group members attended the Board/Group Annual Forum in Burra in July 2010, where the Board outlined its proposed Landscape Scale Focus areas concept.
- Group toured the "unofficial" 4WD and motor bike area south of Morgan to view land degradation.
- DENR Ranger from Burra Office continues to regularly participate in the Rangelands NRM Group meetings, providing informative updates on developments in the Region.
- Presentation on the "Australian Land Management Program" for landowners - by Co-ordinator of Mt Pleasant NRC.
- Group member attended the Board's Wombat Workshops at Cambrai and Eudunda on 6/10/10 and 20/10/10 respectively.

- Presentation by Capacity Building Regional Co-ordinator on Capacity Building projects and their potential to be involved with Worlds End and Ngadjuri ALOC project.
- Weed Mapping by Rangelands NRM staff for the Opuntia Program 2010/11.
- Mallee Eco Services Manager presented on the Riverland Biosphere integrated goat and rabbit control project.
- Tour of Hiles Lagoon (inundated with water), Mulga Valley Creek (unofficial motorcycle and 4WD area), Pandappa vegetation regeneration and the Board's Roadside Recovery Program for Wheel Cactus at Terowie.
- One Group member attended the Board run "Groundwater Workshop" 4-7/4/11 at Berri.
- Tour of land west of Morgan to look at the colonisation and increase of native shrubs which is impacting on productivity, biodiversity and soil stability.

**Other achievements included:-**

- The Board's NRM Community Officer was instrumental in arranging attendance at and participation of Group members and staff at the Merino Field Day and Burra, Clare, Kapunda and Eudunda Shows and feedback from the community was very positive.
- A free standing 1.8m high banner which depicts the Group's focus and issues was produced and is used at shows, meetings, conferences and was displayed at the local Council office.
- Group has participated in workshops to develop a comprehensive Landscape Scale Focus map of the Rangelands area for consideration by the Board.
- The Group have developed a comprehensive Work Plan and Communications and Strategy Plan to help deliver outcomes of the Board Regional Plan.

**Issues of concern for the Group:-**

- Removal of water monitoring equipment in the Burra Creek and related loss of valuable water data.
- Monitoring and water quality in the Rangelands area (including sourcing opportunities to fund water monitoring and equipment in the Burra Creek)
- Completion of the Goat Management Options Paper and its implementation.
- Wombat numbers, survey and options
- Succession Planning (as there may be 4 vacancies on the Group in January 2012)

- Reduction in funding for Crown Land work on declared plants and animals

**Potential issues of concern for the Group:-**

- Redevelopment of the old Burra Mine including dewatering the Monster Mine by Phoenix Mine and its effect on groundwater.
- The wet summer has created an explosion of weeds that will have impacts on the land long term.

**ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Rangelands Natural Resources Management Group was established on 16 February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

**ROLE OF THE GROUP**

The Groups' 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:

- (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

- (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 Rangelands 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 Rangelands NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

### Members

- David Lindner (Chair)
- Harvey Neal
- Kevin Smith (Term expired December 2010)
- Jane Kellock
- Jacki Matthey
- Alicia Patten (resigned June 2011)
- Jo Gebhardt
- James Robertson

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 6 general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

1 telephone Group meeting was held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
David Lindner	7		
Harvey Neal	6		Personal commitments
Kevin Smith	3	Resigned 31/1/2011	
Jane Kellock	5		Family commitments
Jacki Matthey	5		Work commitments
Alicia Patten	2	Resigned 26/5/2011	Family commitments
Jo Gebhardt	7		
James Robertson	3	Appointed 1/2/2011	Work commitments

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Group members regularly network with a number of other agencies. Attendance by DENR Senior Ranger at Group meetings has been highly valued by both parties.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Group formulated a Work Plan and Communications and Strategy Plan for 2010-11 which was revised and updated throughout the year.

The Group has provided input with staff on the Rangelands Operations Plan (declared plants and animal priorities).

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES**

The Board directed the Group to define a Rangelands Landscape Focus area for 2010-2011 and beyond. A facilitator was engaged by the Board to assist the four NRM Groups achieve landscape scale planning for their respective areas with initial discussions commencing on 13/10/10 at Morgan.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

No additional functions have been assigned by the Board in accordance with section 52(1)(e) of the Act.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

No additional functions or powers have been delegated by the Board to the Group in accordance with s36(1)(f) of the Act.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Group in accordance with s55 of the Act.

## **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

No additional reports were requested.

## **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 requires 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.

## COMMITTEES LISTING

Rangelands NRM Group members contribute to the following community committees:-

- BRAG (Burra Rangelands Action Group)
- Worlds End Gorge Community Consultation Group
- Chowilla Community Reference Committee
- Riverland Biosphere Feral Goat and Rabbit Control Steering Committee
- Rangelands Goats Strategy Working Group
- Feral Pig Steering Committee
- Grasslands Working Group

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

## **13. RANGES TO RIVER NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **RANGES TO RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Mrs Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 57 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 2011.



Monique White  
**Chairperson**  
**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 South Australian 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
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Presentations to the Group/Tours attended during the year included:-**

- Group members participated in the Board/Groups Annual Conference held at Burra on 22-23/7/10, which focussed on the Board's concept of landscape scale change.
- The Board's response to the 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide and Mount Barker Urban Growth Ministerial DPA including issues such as transport linkages, remnant vegetation mapping, energy efficiency, Water sensitive Urban Design and Governance/Consultation.
- Principal Project Officer - Biodiversity, informed the Group about current projects including Bush Bids, Woodland Bush Bids, Environmental Stewardship, Fleurieu Peninsular Swamps, Threatened Flora in Easter Hills area, Southern Hairy Nosed wombat awareness, Habitat 141 and Nature Conservancy's plan to undertake a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) in the R2R area.

- Principal Project Officer (Land Management) spoke on the Management and Protection of Land.
- Group members visited the Aboriginal Learning on Country Project at Monarto Zoo, touring the areas worked on by the Project, gaining an understanding of future direction of Monarto Zoo development.
- An overview of the Land Management Program by the Central Service Area Manager of the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board was given, after which the SA Murray Darling Basin (SAMDB) NRM Board's Principal Project Officer (Land Management) gave a neighbouring Board overview.
- Water Allocation Planning Manager gave two consecutive monthly presentation updates to the Group on the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (EMLR WAP).
- Senior Project Officer/Environmental Engineer updated the Group on the Off-Road Strategy and Facilities Master Plan by Motorcycling SA.
- By invitation from the Mallee/Coorong NRM Group, three members attended a bus tour of the SE Drainage system.
- The Mannum to Wellington LAP Project Officer presented on the Pest Plant Control of Spiny Rush at Rocky Gully Wetland Murray Bridge.

#### **Other achievements included:-**

- Increased encouragement for interaction by the Group with the four Local Action Planning Groups (Mannum to Wellington, Mid Murray, Eastern Hills and Murray Plains and Goolwa to Wellington) within the Ranges to River area. This is being achieved by the LAP's being included on the Group meeting Agenda and providing written reports and/or attending to highlight local issues to the Group. Where possible, the Group has forwarded the issue to the Board for follow up and action. Some issues raised included Whites Road roadside vegetation clearance, expiry of Monarto Heritage Agreements and encouragement of landowners to convert to full Heritage Agreements, Terramin Mine, Ferries McDonald Road realignment and development applications.
- The installation of two Ferry signs on the Mannum downstream and Swan Reach Ferries, are updated monthly with River Murray flow data.
- The Group firmly believes in having an active presence in the community and attended local shows to promote NRM, which further built on previous years' attendances. This was achieved at the Mt Pleasant Show in March 2011, where cross boundary collaboration with the adjoining Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board and Groups and local NRM community groups occurred. Group members and staff disseminated information and advice for small property owners in the Hills.

Group members also attended the Mount Barker Show (26/3/11), Strathalbyn Show (4/10/10) and supported local Landcare group activities at the Callington Show and Wistow mini Show in October 2010.

- Group members actively participated in programs associated with natural resources management at the local level through their involvement with Murray Darling Basin Commission CAC Lower Lakes Consultation, EMLR WAP CAC, Lower Murray Drought Reference Group, Murray Plains Crop Competition, R2R Local Government Advisory Committee, River Murray Advisory Committee, Mt Pleasant NRC, Tungkillio Landcare Group.
- Group members attended the Board's Communication Committee meetings, MAT Workshops (Sustainable Irrigation and People), Hotspots NRM Evaluation meetings, Reflections and Learning Workshop, community consultation meetings for the EMLR WAP,

**Ongoing issues that continue to be highlighted to the Group include:-**

- Off- Road Vehicle use in inappropriate areas causing land management destruction. Further to this, the R2R Group Chair is now the NRM Groups representative on the SA Motorcycle Reference Group that plans to find a solution this issue.
- Various issues around Native Vegetation clearance in the area.
- One vacancy on the Group remained unfilled for the year, which prohibited the Group from reaching an official quorum on three occasions.

**New issues arising that required Group attention:-**

- The Rural City of Murray Bridge launched its "Imagine your Rural City Murray Bridge 2020- Our Place, Our future" on 2/2/2011. The community was invited to input their ideas including the NRM Group.

**Issue of concern:-**

- For the duration of the financial year, there has been a one membership vacancy on the Group that has not been able to be filled, despite advertising and considerable effort headhunting by group members. This resulted in increased workload for existing members, difficulty in achieving a quorum and decreased ability to capture community issues.

## ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group was established on 21 February 2006 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Groups' 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

The activities of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group are defined according to Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act:-

- (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
  - (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 Ranges to River 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 Ranges to River NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

- Monique White (Chair)
- Matthew Starick
- Deana Mildren
- Annie Atkinson
- Ceris Crosby
- Paul Barnes
- Peter Ward

## **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of 9 general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

1 special Group meeting was held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
M White	10	Chair	
C Crosby	8		Family commitments
M Starick	6		Work commitments
P Barnes	1	Resigned 16/1/10	Work commitments
D Mildren	10		
A Atkinson	4		Work commitments and illness
P Ward	5	Appointed to Group 8/2/11	

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

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

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Ranges to River Work Plan 2010-2011 revised and updated.

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES**

There were no significant board directives given to the group in accordance with sections 10(5), 47(3)(b) and 53(5) of the Act.

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

The Board directed the Group to define a R2R Landscape Focus area for 2010-2011 and beyond. A facilitator was engaged by the Board to assist the four NRM Groups achieve landscape scale planning for their respective areas with initial discussions for R2R commencing on 21/9/10 with a special information session on biodiversity projects within the Group area.

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

Not additional functions or powers have been delegated by the Board to the Group in accordance with s36(1)(f) of the Act.

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Group in accordance with s55 of the Act.

### **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

No additional reports were requested.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

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

- (5) 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.
- (6) 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 requires that:

- (5) 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*).
- (6) 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.

## **COMMITTEES LISTING**

Ranges to River NRM Group members actively contribute to the following Committees:-

- Mt Pleasant Natural Resources Centre Management Committee
- Tungkillo Landcare Group
- Communications and Engagement Committee
- Hotspots Evaluation Committee
- Ranges to River Local Government NRM Advisory Committee
- Lower Murray River Drought Reference Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- EMLR WAP CAC
- Group Chairs Forum
- Mt Barker Bushcare Group
- Paiwalla Habitat Wetlands Trust

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

## **14. MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

# **MALLEE AND COORONG NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government of South Australia**

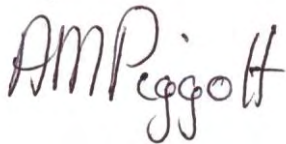
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

Sharon Starick  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Sharon

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 57 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allan Piggott', written in a cursive style.

Allan Piggott  
**Chairperson**  
**Mallee and 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 South Australian 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
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act
- Disability Action Plans
- Asbestos Management in Government Buildings
- Urban Design Charter
- Freedom of Information
- Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework
- Regional Impact Assessment Statements
- Reconciliation Statement

## OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

- Meetings are held in a variety of locations throughout the Mallee and Coorong NRM group area, with regular guests including:-
  - Coorong & Murray Mallee LAP – Graham Gates, Rowena Danks,
  - Operations Team Leader Mallee and Coorong – Paul Gillen, Steve Baltussen
  - Mallee Water – Joy & Rob Ziersch, Cameron Welsh, Sarah Kuchel
  - Soil Issues – Bernadette Lawson
- Other SA MDB NRM Board guests have included:
  - Bill Paterson Former Presiding Member SA MDB NRM Board
  - Jeremy Nelson – Land and Water management
  - Michael Cutting – Woolworths funded research project on potatoes in the Mallee
  - Jem Tesoriero and Miranda Leckie – Volunteer celebrations
  - Amy Goodman – Business plan review
  - Merridie Martin and Hugo Hopton – updates on DENR Integration
- The Group has undertaken a number of tours to better understand natural resource issues around the area. Tours have included:
  - Lower Lakes – Tauwicheere Barrages and the Narrung Bund
  - Box Flat area in Ngarkat Conservation Park
  - Woorinen Recovery Project, Mantung
- To further the knowledge of members and bring them up to date a number of guest speakers have attended and informed the Group. In the 2010-11 year they have been:
  - Students from Lameroo Regional community School presented the River health program they run at their school
  - Students from East Murray Area School spoke about the NRM funded East Murray Family Grove project
- In addition to these speakers, the Group has held meetings in conjunction with the Karoonda Farm Fair and a Silverleaf Nightshade control workshop (which it co-hosted) to enable members to participate in these events.
- Group members have supported Bernadette Lawson (Principal project Manager, Land Management) when dealing with properties in the area that have soil degradation issues.
- Group members participated in the Mallee Water Allocation Plan public consultation process.
- The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group held a Science Forum at Karoonda in October with approximately 20 people attending to listen to eight speakers on a variety of agriculture and climate related topics.
- In April 2011, the Group hosted a volunteer celebration to thank the many volunteers across the Mallee and Coorong region for their efforts. The day included the Coorong LAP and the Murray Mallee LAP speaking of different programs in the area and Lew Westbrook who elaborated on a Mallee fowl tour he attended in Western Australia. Participants enjoyed a bus tour in the afternoon.



## ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the Natural Resources Management Act.

### ROLE OF THE GROUP

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

- Work collaboratively with NRM Groups who adjoin the Mallee and Coorong area
- Take an active role in the management of natural resources within the region
- Provide advice on natural resource issues
- Support the Board on natural resource management implementation
- Support committees and groups active in resource management in the area, through membership
- Promote public awareness on natural resource management in the area
- Preparing an annual work plan for the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE MALLEE AND COORONG NRM GROUP

Section 52 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Mallee and Coorong 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
  - (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 Mallee and Coorong 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 and Coorong NRM Group during 2010-11 was:

- Allan Piggott (Chairman)
- Keith Scobie
- Clem Mason
- Gordon Hancock
- Damian Berger
- Steve Murray
- Donna Nussio (resigned January 2011)
- Jenny Roberts (from February 2012)

## **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of nine general Group meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Allan Piggott	9	
Keith Scobie	9	
Clem Mason	6	Work Commitments
Gordon Hancock	6	Council commitments
Damian Berger	7	Work commitments
Steve Murray	6	Work and personal commitments
Donna Nussio (resigned)	2	Personal commitments
Jenny Roberts	5	New member

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members regularly network with the committees listed on page 8 of this report. The Group also liaises with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff at Lamerloo.

The Group have also been heavily involved with the preparation and content of, and public consultation for, the Draft Mallee Water Allocation Plan, which is currently awaiting adoption.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Mallee and Coorong Work Plan 2011.

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Financial transactions are completed by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES**

There were no significant board directives given to the group in accordance with sections 10(5), 47(3)(b) and 53(5) of the Act.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD**

No additional functions have been assigned by the Board in accordance with section 52(1)(e) of the Act.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP**

No additional functions or powers have been delegated by the Board to the Group in accordance with s36(1)(f) of the Act.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP**

There were no functions or powers delegated by the Group in accordance with s55 of the Act.

#### **SPECIFIC REPORTS**

No additional reports were requested.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

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

- (7) 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.
- (8) 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 requires that:

- (7) 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*).
- (8) 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.

## **COMMITTEES LISTING**

- Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Group (LAP)
- Coorong Local Action Planning Group
- Group chairs forum
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Mallee Water Resources Committee
- Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee
- Communications Committee
- Grant review and Assessment Panel
- Mallee Sustainable Farming Group
- Mallee Coorong Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Community Reference Committee
- Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area Committee

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Group would like to thank Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for the River Murray and staff of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Board, the Murray Mallee LAP and the Coorong LAP for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

## **GLOSSARY**

LAP                Local Action Plan

## 15. APPENDIX 1 - 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 as at the 30 June 2011 had established the following Committees and its membership was :

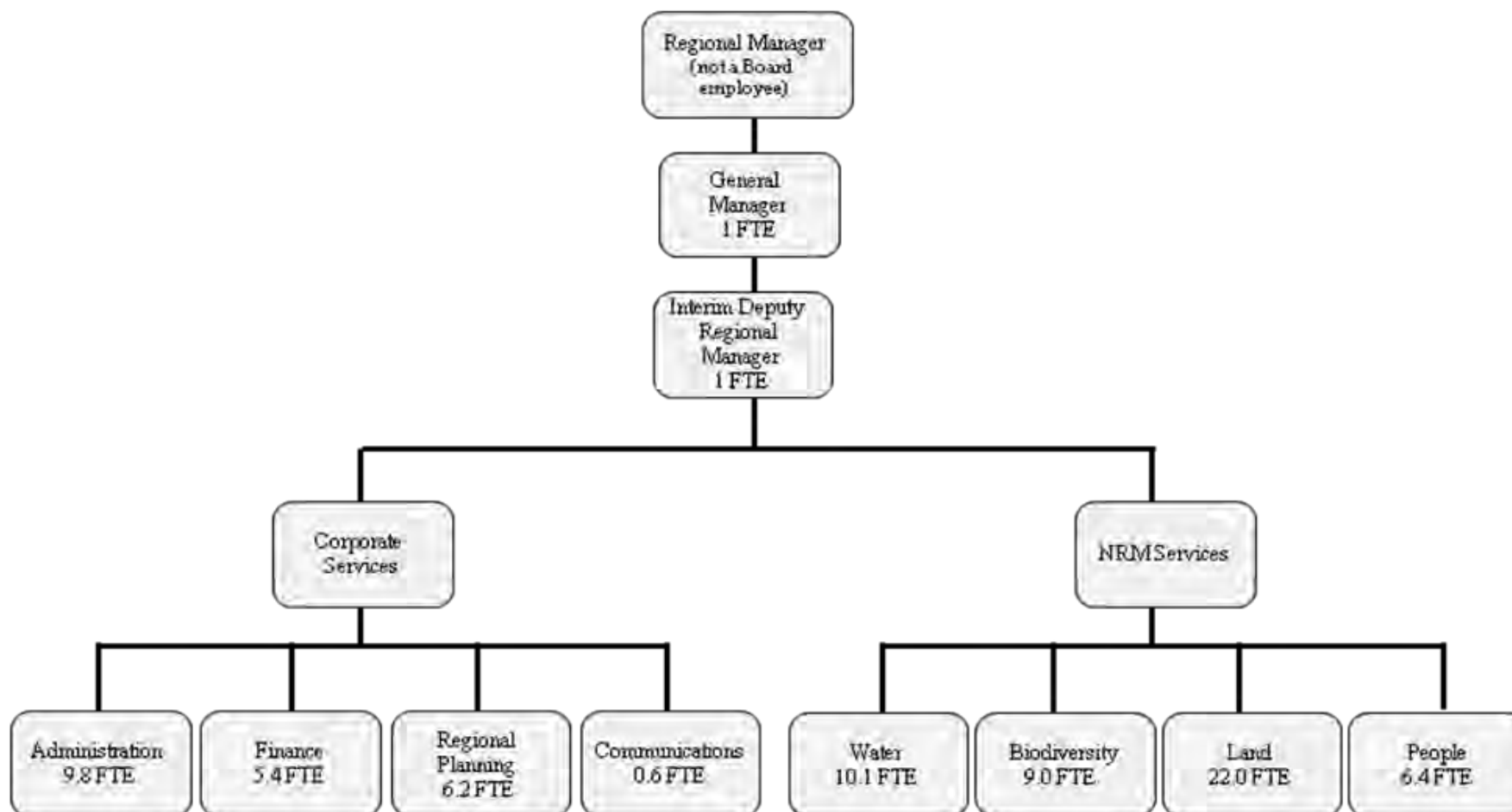
COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
<b>Executive Committee</b>	S Starick (Chair) S Alm A Hartnett E Jenke G Davies M Rossetto S Dominelli H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Finance Committee</b>	C Milburn (Chair) S Starick S Alm A Hartnett M Tschirpigg (Finance Manager) H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Regional Integration Committee</b>	S Starick (Chair) A Hartnett K Stokes – Chair Riverland NRM Group D Lindner – Chair Rangelands NRM Group M White – Chair Ranges to River NRM Group A Piggott – Chair Mallee and Coorong NRM Group H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Deputy General Manager) P Michelmore (Operations Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
<b>Communications Committee</b>	E Jenke (Chair) A Hartnett S Alm P Scott D Mildren M Campbell Kerry Rosser (Communications and Engagement Manager) K Smith (Administrative Support)

<b>River Murray Advisory Committee</b>	Sheridan Alm (Chairperson) Joanne Pfeiffer Clem Mason Michelle Campbell Henry Jones Greg McCarron Ray Najar Neil Schillabeer Darryl Webb Richard Wheaton Monique White Shirley Smith David Peake Brent Fletcher David Ludas Stuart Andrew Bruce Hewitt Robert Smyth Ken Stokes Trevor Twigden Graeme Thompson D Brown <b>Technical Support</b> Peter Waanders – Wetland Management – NRM Board Bianca Lewis/Cameron Welsh – River Murray WAP – NRM Board Hugo Hopton/Denise Fowles — NRM Board Kym Walton/Gerry Davies – PIRSA Jarrod Eaton/Julie Cann – Department for Water Jim Cawthorne – Drought until position expire L Schmaal – Administrative Support
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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.

## 16. APPENDIX 2 – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AT 30 JUNE 2011

For the period ending 30 June 2011 the Board had a total number of 71.5 FTE approved positions as shown on the organisation chart below.



## 17. APPENDIX 3 – FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011



Government of South Australia  
Auditor-General's Department

*Our ref: A11/358*

31 October 2011

9th Floor  
State Administration Centre  
200 Victoria Square  
Adelaide SA 5000  
DX 56208  
Victoria Square  
Tel +618 8226 9640  
Fax +618 8226 9688  
ABN 53 327 061 410  
audgensa@audit.sa.gov.au  
www.audit.sa.gov.au

Ms S Starick  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Ms Starick

**South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
2010-11 audit**

The audit of the accounts of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2011 has been completed.

The audit coverage and its conduct is directed to meeting statutory audit responsibilities under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and also the requirements of Australian Auditing Standards.

The audit covered the principal areas of the financial operations of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and included the test review of systems and processes, internal controls and financial transactions.

The two important outcomes from the annual audit process are:

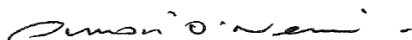
- The issue of the Independent Auditor's Report (IAR) on the integrity of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's financial report.
- The Audit management letter advising of system, process and internal control matters including recommendations for improvement, which was forwarded to the Board on 30 August 2011.

Returned herewith is South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's financial report together with the IAR, which is unmodified.



Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the management and staff of South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board in providing assistance to Galpins staff (contract auditors) during the conduct of the 2010-11 audit.

Yours sincerely



Simon O'Neill  
**Auditor-General**

enc

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**Government of South Australia**  
Auditor-General's Department

9th Floor  
State Administration Centre  
200 Victoria Square  
Adelaide SA 5000  
DX 56208  
Victoria Square  
Tel +618 8226 9640  
Fax +618 8226 9688  
ABN 53 327 061 410  
audgensa@audit.sa.gov.au  
www.audit.sa.gov.au

**To the Presiding Member**  
**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 report of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2011. The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2011
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2011
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2011
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2011
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income for the year ended 30 June 2011
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- a certificate from the Presiding Member, Regional Manager and Finance Manager.

**The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the members of Board determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report 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 comply with relevant ethical requirements and that the auditor plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 Board, as well as the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

**Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2011, 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**  
31 October 2011

**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 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 2011 and the results of its operation and cash flows for the financial year.

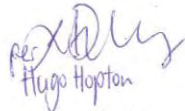
We certify that the internal controls employed by the Board for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statements have been effective throughout the reporting period.



**Sharon Starick**

Presiding Member

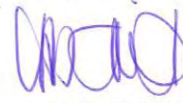
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board



**Hugo Hopton**

Regional Manager

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board



**Margaret Tschirpigg**

Finance Manager

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Grants and subsidies	5	1,680	403
Staff benefits	6	5,643	6,245
Supplies and Services	7	11,351	14,925
Other expenses	8	1	745
Depreciation	9	106	102
Net loss on disposal of assets	10	245	340
Board, Group and Committee expenses		184	215
Borrowing costs		1	2
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>19,211</b>	<b>22,977</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Regional NRM and Water Levies	12	6,154	5,540
Caring for Our Country	13	5,113	5,757
Grants Received	14	6,664	9,758
Interest revenues	15	132	103
Other income		1,258	1,362
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>19,321</b>	<b>22,520</b>
<b>NET RESULT</b>		<b>110</b>	<b>(457)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Changes in land and buildings asset revaluation surplus		287	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>		<b>397</b>	<b>(457)</b>

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.

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	16	4,477	1,935
Receivables	17	2,802	6,365
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>7,079</b>	<b>8,300</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	18	1,092	1,058
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,058</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>8,171</b>	<b>9,358</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
Payables	19.1	1,460	2,943
Borrowings		6	12
Staff Benefits	21.1	563	595
Provisions	20.1	17	15
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,046</b>	<b>3,565</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
Payables	19.2	72	88
Borrowings		-	6
Staff Benefits	21.2	836	886
Provisions	20.2	57	50
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>965</b>	<b>1,030</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>3,011</b>	<b>4,595</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,160</b>	<b>4,763</b>
<b>EQUITY:</b>			
Asset Revaluation Surplus		287	-
Retained Earnings		4,873	4,763
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>5,160</b>	<b>4,763</b>

The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner.

Unrecognised contractual commitments

22

Contingent assets and liabilities

23

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 2011**

	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$'000	Retained Earnings \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance 1 July 2009	-	5,220	5,220
Net result for 2009-10	-	(457)	(457)
Total comprehensive result for 2009-10	-	(457)	(457)
Balance at 30 June 2010	-	4,763	4,763
Balance 1 July 2010	-	4,763	4,763
Net result for 2010-11	-	110	110
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	287	-	287
Total comprehensive result for 2010-11	287	110	397
Balance at 30 June 2011	287	4,873	5,160

All changes in equity are attributable to SA Government as owner.

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

**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2011**

		2011 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000	2010 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
<b>Cash Outflows:</b>	Note		
Payments to staff, Board, Group & Committee members		(5,909)	(5,266)
Payments to suppliers, service providers, grantees		(16,246)	(18,394)
GST paid to ATO		(1,188)	(1,594)
Cash used in operations		(23,343)	(26,254)
<b>Cash Inflows:</b>			
NRM Levies & other revenue received		24,595	24,109
Interest received		132	103
GST recovered from the ATO		1,268	1,645
Cash generated from operations		25,995	25,857
Net cash generated by/(used) in operating activities	26	2,652	(397)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
<b>Cash Outflows:</b>			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(99)	(288)
Cash used in investing activities		(99)	(288)
<b>Cash Inflows:</b>			
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		1	-
Cash generated from investing activities		1	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(98)	(288)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
<b>Cash Outflows:</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		(12)	(11)
Cash used in financing activities		(12)	(11)
Net cash used in financing activities		(12)	(11)
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>2,542</b>	<b>(696)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD</b>		<b>1,935</b>	<b>2,631</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	26	<b>4,477</b>	<b>1,935</b>

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



## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 1 Objectives

## 1.1 Establishment of the 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 a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRM Plan) which was adopted by the Minister for the River Murray on 28 April 2009, for implementation on 1 July 2009. The NRM Plan contains a three-year investment plan which identifies strategies, management action targets and the Board's investment themes as detailed in Note 4.

The Board serves the Government and the people of South Australia by achieving excellence in the provision of Natural Resources Management.

In May 2010, the Minister for Environment and Conservation announced as part of the Machinery of Government, that the Board and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) will transition into a single delivery model, so as to improve the delivery of environment and natural resource management in South Australia.

A new department – Department of Environment and Natural Resources was established on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010. During 2010-11 the General Manager of the Board was replaced with a Regional Manager with responsibility for the activities of Board and the activities of the former DEH, as part of the single delivery model under a cost sharing arrangement. There were no other financial impacts on the Board during the period.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Board

The objectives of the Board as defined in the NRM Act are:

- 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 NRM Act, to implement the plan and to keep the plan under review to ensure the objects of the NRM Act are being achieved;
- to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational activities with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programmes or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources;
- to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the Board under this or any other Act;
- to resolve any issues that may arise between the NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region;
- at the request of the Minister or the NRM Council; or of 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
- any other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister by or under this or any other Act.

## 2 Statement of significant accounting policies

## 2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with relevant Australian accounting standards and Treasurer's Instructions and accounting policy statements promulgated under the provision of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987.

Except for Australian Accounting Standard, AASB 2009-12, 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 reporting period ending 30 June 2011.

*Don*

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**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. Areas involving a higher degree of judgement or where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are outlined in the applicable notes;
- accounting policies are selected and applied 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 this financial report:
  - a) revenues, expenses, financial assets and liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at reporting date, classified according to their nature. A threshold of \$100,000 for separate identification of these items applies;
  - b) staff whose normal remuneration is equal to or greater than the base executive remuneration level (within \$10,000 bandwidths) and the aggregate of the remuneration paid or payable or otherwise made available, directly or indirectly by the entity to those staff; and
  - c) 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.
  - d) expenses incurred as a result of engaging consultants (as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income).

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, except for certain assets that were valued in accordance with the valuation policy applicable.

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

The financial statements have been prepared based 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 2011 and the comparative information presented.

**2.3 Reporting entity**

The Board was established on 9 December 2004 pursuant to section 23 (1) of the NRM Act.

The Board operates under a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRM Plan) which was approved by the Minister for the River Murray in April 2009.

The Board is an administrative unit acting on behalf of the Crown.

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

**NRM Groups**

The function of the NRM Groups is defined by the NRM Act 2004, (section 52) and the NRM Group Charter. The NRM Act provides that the NRM Groups are subject to the direction of the Board (section 72(3)(b)).

In accordance with a direction issued by the Board under the NRM Groups Charter, the NRM Groups do not have the power to enter into contracts or procure goods or services in their own right; rather they make recommendations for projects undertaken by the Board. The Board has ensured NRM Group projects undertaken by the Board and the related financial information has been incorporated in the accounts and financial statements of the Board for financial reporting purposes.



## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**2.4 Comparative information**

The presentation and classification of items in the financial statements are consistent with prior periods except where specific accounting standards and/or accounting policy statements have required a change.

Where presentation or classification of items in the financial statements have been amended, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation or classification in these financial statements unless impracticable.

**2.5 Rounding**

All amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

**2.6 Taxation**

The Board is not subject to income tax. The Board is liable for payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, goods and services tax (GST), emergency services levy and local government rates. Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods or services is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item applicable; and
- receivables and payables, which 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 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.

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 commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

**2.7 Events after the reporting period**

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements, where an event occurs after 30 June and before the date the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provides information about conditions that existed at 30 June.

Note disclosure is made about events between 30 June and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to a condition which arose after 30 June and which may have a material impact on the results of subsequent years.

**2.8 Income**

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

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

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose income where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100,000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following are specific recognition criteria:

**Regional NRM and Water Levies**

Under the NRM Act the Board receives two forms of levies, being the Regional NRM Levy and the NRM Water Levy.

The Regional NRM Levy is collected by constituent councils from ratepayers and is based on the value of rateable land. Councils can seek to recover any outgoing costs associated with the collection of the levy.

The Water based Levy is collected by the Department for Water which collects from licensed water users. This Levy is based on water allocated and water used. This income is recorded as revenue when the Board has gained control of the funds, or obtains the right to receive the funds.

Contributions from constituent councils collected 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. Levies are recognised as revenue when the Board obtains control of the funding.

**Natural Resources Management Fund**

The Natural Resources Management Fund (NRM Fund) was established pursuant to subsection 117(1) of the NRM Act. The Minister for Environment and Conservation administers the NRM Fund and may apply any part of the NRM Fund in making payments to the Board. The Board receives the following Commonwealth and State Funding through this fund.

**Commonwealth Funding- Caring for Our Country**

The State and the Board entered into a Regional Proponent Agreement for the implementation of the Commonwealth's Caring for our Country initiative from 1 July 2008.

In order to ensure the continuity of regional base level funding from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013 this agreement was varied by both parties in January 2010 whilst a new multilateral National Partnership Agreement and a cross-jurisdictional implementation plan was finalised by the Commonwealth for the 2009-2013 regional base level funding.

The goal of Caring for our Country is an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. Caring for our Country has six National Priority Areas for Investment.

Under the Agreement to reflect the intent of the Commonwealth, the State and the Board work together as partners with the community and other stakeholders, in natural resource management for the Region. Pursuant to that commitment the Commonwealth agreed to fund programs undertaken by the Board.

**Grants received**

Grants received predominantly represent contributions from State government agencies and various Commonwealth government agencies toward various activities of the Board.

To complement the Commonwealth's Caring for Our Country initiative, the Government of South Australia implemented the State NRM Program. Through a Proponent Agreement the State agreed to fund projects to be undertaken by the Board through the Regional NRM Plan that meet the priority areas for investment at achieving the goals of the State NRM Plan. The Proponent Agreement covers the arrangements for the implementation of the State NRM Program 2009-2010 to 2012-2013, with funding for any projects post 2009-2010 subject to Ministerial approval.

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

**Commonwealth and Grant Contributions received**

Contributions are recognised as an asset and income when the Board obtains control of the contributions or obtains the right to receive the contributions and the income recognition criteria are met (i.e. 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:

- Contributions with unconditional stipulations - this will be when the agreement becomes enforceable ie the earlier of when the receiving entity has formally been advised that the contribution (eg grant application) has been approved; agreement/contract is executed; and/or the contribution is received.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Contributions with conditional stipulations - this will be when the enforceable stipulations specified in the agreement occur or are satisfied; that is income would be recognised for contributions received or receivable under the agreement.

All contributions received by the Board have been contributions with unconditional stipulations attached and have been recognised as an asset and income upon receipt.

**Interest income**

Interest income is recognised when earned.

**Net gain on sale of non-current assets**

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

**Other income**

Other income includes revenue generated through contracting of animal and plant control services conducted on Crown or private land and Payroll Tax refunds. All income relates to the operating activities of the Board. Other Income is recognised when the service has been performed.

**2.9 Expenses**

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

Expenses have been aggregated 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.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose expenses where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100,000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

The following are specific recognition criteria:

**Staff benefits expenses**

Staff benefit expenses includes all cost related to employment including wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits and leave entitlements. These are recognised when incurred.

**Superannuation**

The amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income represents the contributions made by the Board to the superannuation plan in respect of current services of current Board staff. The Department of Treasury and Finance centrally recognises the superannuation liability in the whole of government financial statements. In addition where staff belong to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme the liability is held with that Fund.

**Depreciation**

All non-current assets, having a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Assets' residual values and useful lives are periodically reviewed and adjusted if appropriate.

Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate.

Land is not depreciated.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

**Grants and Subsidies**

The Board provided financial assistance to local government, State Government agencies, community groups and private bodies during the year. Funds are paid by way of grants and all recipients are required to comply with conditions relevant to each grant. The details of amounts provided, organisations receiving grants and the purpose for each grant are shown in the Annual Report, as required under section 42 of the NRM Act.

For contributions payable, the contribution will be recognised as a liability and expense when the entity has a present obligation to pay the contribution and the expense recognition criteria are met.

All contributions paid by the Board have been contributions with unconditional stipulations attached.

**Borrowing costs**

All borrowing costs are recognised as expenses.

**2.10 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 asset 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.

**2.11 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 settled within twelve months and more than twelve months, the Board has separately disclosed the amounts expected to be recovered after more than twelve months.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose financial assets where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100,000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position include cash at bank and on hand.

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above.

Cash is measured at nominal value.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Receivables**

Receivables include amounts receivable from goods and services, GST input tax credits recoverable, prepayments and other accruals.

Receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Receivables are generally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement. Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Accrued revenue arises when goods and services have been provided but no invoice has been raised by the Board at the reporting date.

**Non-current asset acquisition and recognition**

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.

The Statement of Financial Position includes Property, Plant and Equipment controlled by the Board.

Where assets are acquired at no value, or minimal 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 tangible assets with a value equal to or in excess of \$5,000 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.

Periodically, the Board re-values its land, buildings and infrastructure assets. However, if at any time management considers that the carrying amount of an asset materially differs from its fair value, then the asset will be re-valued regardless of when the last valuation took place. Non-current tangible assets that are acquired between revaluations are held at cost until the next valuation, where they are re-valued to fair value.

Any revaluation increment is credited to the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset class previously recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, in which case the increase is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Any revaluation decrease is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except to the extent that it offsets a previous revaluation increase for the same asset class, in which case the decrease is debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve to the extent of the credit balance existing in revaluations reserve for that asset class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the net amounts are restated to the re-valued amounts of the asset.

Upon disposal or de-recognition, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is transferred to retained earnings.

**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.

**2.12 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 more than twelve months.

The notes accompanying the financial statements disclose financial liabilities where the counterparty/transaction is with an entity within the SA Government as at the reporting date, classified according to their nature.

Transactions with SA Government entities below the threshold of \$100,000 have been included with the non-government transactions, classified according to their nature.



## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Payables**

Payables include creditors, accrued expenses and staff on-costs.

Creditors represent the amounts owing for goods and services received prior to the end of the reporting period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Creditors include all unpaid invoices received relating to the normal operations of the Board.

Accrued expenses represent goods and services provided by other parties during the period that are unpaid at the end of the reporting period and 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 date the invoice is first received.

Staff benefit on-costs include payroll tax, WorkCover and superannuation contributions in 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. There is no liability for payments to beneficiaries as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at reporting date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to the South Australian Superannuation Board and the Local Government Superannuation Board.

**Borrowings**

The Board measures financial liabilities including borrowings/debt at historical cost, except for interest free loans (measured at the present value of expected repayments).

**Leases**

The Board has no finance leases.

The Board entered into operating lease agreements in relation to vehicles, office premises and office equipment whereby the lessors effectively retain all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the property held under the operating leases. Refer note 22.1.

Lease payments are included as expenditure in equal instalments over the accounting periods covered by the lease terms. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The straight-line basis is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

**Staff benefits**

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

**Wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave**

The liability for salary and wages are 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. In the unusual event where salary and wages and annual leave are payable later than 12 months, the liability will be measured at present value.

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

**Long service leave**

The liability for long service leave is recognised after staff have completed 5 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 the short hand method was not materially different from the liability measured using the present value of expected future payments. This calculation is consistent with the Board's experience of staff retention and leave taken.

The portion of the long service provision that is classified as current reflects the amount that the Board expects will be paid to staff in the following twelve months.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Workers Compensation**

The Board is registered with Work Cover as an exempt employer and has entered a service level agreement with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to provide insurance cover for work caused injuries.

The workers compensation provision is an actuarial estimate of the outstanding liability as at 30 June 2011 provided by a consulting actuary engaged through the Public Sector Workforce Relations Division of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The provision is for the estimated cost of ongoing payments to employees as required under current legislation.

The Board is responsible for the payment of workers compensation claims.

**2.13 Unrecognised contractual commitments and contingent assets and liabilities**

Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing arrangements 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 commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

**3 New and revised accounting standards and policies**

In accordance with amendments to APS 4.8 within Accounting Policy Framework II *General Purpose Financial Statements Framework*, effective 1 July 2010, the Board has disclosed all staff whose normal remuneration is equal to or greater than the base executive level remuneration. Previously APS 4.8 within APF II required the Board to disclose all staff whose normal remuneration was equal to or greater than \$100,000. This change is reflected in Note 6.

The Board did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during 2010-11.

**4 Activities of the Board**

In achieving its objectives, the Board provides a range of services classified into the following Activities:

**Activity 1: People**

The People program recognises the significant role that people play in natural resources management outcomes. This program has a strong focus on raising the awareness of the communities within the Region and then engaging those people by building their understanding and involvement in the natural resources management projects implemented.

The program also has a specific focus on engaging the Region's Aboriginal populations in NRM. This program aims to ensure the continued use, support and reinvigoration of traditional knowledge to underpin the natural resource outcomes for the Region.

**Activity 2: Water**

The Water program is focused on three groups of strategies:

- sustainably managing all water resources
- improving water quality
- achieving environmental water requirements.

Water resource assessment and water allocation planning are key elements of the program and are a statutory obligation of the Board.

Working with the irrigation community ensures that water is used sustainably throughout the Region. The Board also invests in sustainable water management through the development and implementation of land and water management plans.

**Activity 3: Biodiversity**

The Biodiversity program contributes to the Region-wide programs that focus on protecting, improving and increasing the area of natural ecosystems in the Region. The Board facilitates community groups to undertake on-ground works in priority areas. The Board's role in this program is to provide technical support for groups implementing projects and to build the understanding and involvement of the wider community in biodiversity activities.

The Board also plays a role in facilitating actions related to managing aquatic threatened species.

*2011*

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Protecting and managing priority wetlands and floodplains is a feature of this program. The Board works with key local community groups to develop wetland and floodplain management plans, implement on-ground works and to monitor wetland and floodplain health.

The Board works closely with the community, the Department for Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in implementing the Biodiversity program.

**Activity 4: Land**

The Land program is focused on working with industry, government and farmer groups to improve soil and land condition to increase productive capacity and reduce the impacts of land degradation processes.

The Land program focuses on rain-fed production systems with the management of irrigated land falling under the Water Asset. The Board's statutory obligation to undertake pest plant and animal control activities is contained within the Land program.

**Activity 5: Atmosphere**

The Atmosphere program focuses on raising awareness of the issue of climate change and the potential impacts on the Region. The Board promotes renewable energy and its uptake within the Region. The Board also focuses on improving its own energy efficiency and emissions through improvements in its buildings and vehicle fleet.

**Activity 6: Regional Planning**

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement activities are fundamental to NRM. Implementing the regional NRM plan requires structures of actions to provide accurate, cost-effective and timely performance data to inform our decisions. Regional Planning ensures that we learn, enhance understanding, demonstrate accountability and continuously improve our actions to achieve NRM outcomes.

**Activity 7: River Murray Environmental Manager Unit**

Activities include the management and implementation of environmental flow strategies and co-ordinated wetland and floodplain management. The responsibility for some of the activities of this unit was transferred to the Department for Water during 2009-10, with the balance of staff and activities transferred during the current period.

The disaggregated disclosures schedule presents expenses and income information attributable to each of the activities as reflected in the Board's NRM Plan for the year ended 30 June 2011.



**DISAGGREGATED DISCLOSURES - EXPENSES AND INCOME**  
For the year ended 30 June 2011

	Atmosphere	Biodiversity	Regional Planning	Land	People	Water	River Murray Environmental Unit	Total	Total
	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2010 \$000's
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
Grants and subsidies	-	282	-	1	85	1,312	-	1,680	403
Staff benefits	71	674	599	1,961	846	1,218	274	5,643	6,245
Supplies and Services	22	3,172	1,323	2,460	2,308	1,174	892	11,351	14,925
Other expenses	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	745
Depreciation	17	18	17	18	18	18	-	106	102
Assets written off/transferred for nil consideration	-	212	-	33	-	-	-	245	340
Borrowing costs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Board, Group and Committee expenses	28	29	38	29	29	31	-	184	215
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>4,387</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>19,211</b>	<b>22,977</b>
<b>INCOME</b>									
Regional NRM and Water Levies	103	208	926	2,730	316	1,871	-	6,154	5,540
Caring for Our Country	-	1,896	867	661	1,569	120	-	5,113	5,757
Grants Received	-	1,301	191	1,755	1,624	1,500	293	6,664	9,758
Interest Received	-	-	-	-	-	132	-	132	103
Other income	-	441	9	432	5	10	361	1,258	1,362
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3,846</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>5,578</b>	<b>3,514</b>	<b>3,633</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>19,321</b>	<b>22,520</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>(541)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>(512)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>(457)</b>

The Board has determined that assets and liabilities cannot be reliably attributed to individual Activities/ Themes. Comparatives have not been provided as new programs have been implemented this financial year.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Grants and Subsidies	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Grants and Subsidies paid to:		
Local Government and community groups	45	110
Other	1,635	293
<b>Total Grants and subsidies</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>403</b>

6. Staff Benefits		
Salaries and Wages	4,918	5,461
Superannuation	459	499
Payroll Tax	266	285
<b>Total Staff Benefits</b>	<b>5,643</b>	<b>6,245</b>

Remuneration of Staff	2011 No	2010 No
The number of staff whose total cost of employment to the Board falls within the following bands:		
\$130,700 - \$140,699	-	1
\$140,700 - \$150,699	1	-
\$180,700 - \$190,699	1	1
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

The table includes all staff who received remuneration equal to or greater than the base executive remuneration level during the year. Remuneration of staff reflects all costs of employment including salaries and wages, payments in lieu of leave, superannuation contributions, fringe benefits tax, and any other salary sacrifice benefits. The total remuneration received by these staff members for the year was \$336,000 (\$324,000).

## Accounting Policy Change

In accordance with the revised Accounting Policy Framework II *General Purpose Financial Statements Framework*, the Board has changed its accounting policy and now discloses all staff who receive remuneration equal to or greater than the base executive remuneration level rather than all staff who receive remuneration equal to or greater than \$100,000. The impact of the change in accounting policy is the number of staff disclosed has reduced by 2 for 2011 and 2 for 2010.

7. Supplies and Services	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Supplies and services provided by entities within the SA Government:		
Contractors	304	216
<b>Total Supplies and Services - SA Government entities</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>216</b>
Supplies and services provided by entities external to SA Government:		
Contractors	8,104	11,693
Motor Vehicles Expense	789	792
Office Accommodation and services	846	790
IT Services	250	255
Minor Equipment	220	221
Consultants	156	22
Postage, Printing & Stationery	153	219
Travel	103	118
Other	426	599
<b>Total Supplies and Services - Non SA Government entities</b>	<b>11,047</b>	<b>14,709</b>
<b>Total Supplies and Services</b>	<b>11,351</b>	<b>14,925</b>

Consultancies	No.	2011 \$'000	No.	2010 \$'000
The number and dollar amount of consultancies paid/payable that fell within the following bands:				
Between \$10,000 and \$50,000	1	14	1	22
Above \$50,000	2	142	-	-
<b>Total paid/payable to the consultants engaged</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

8. Other Expenses	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Unexpended Grants returned	1	745
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>745</b>

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## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>9. Depreciation</b>		
Buildings	11	8
Computer Equipment	17	19
Furniture & Furnishings	4	4
Infrastructure	3	5
Minor Plant & Equipment	39	36
Motor Vehicles	14	12
Office Equipment	18	18
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>102</b>

**Change in depreciation due to a revaluation**

The Board revalued its buildings during 2011. As a result of the revaluation, depreciation on these assets has increased in the current reporting period. Depreciation expense increased by \$3,000 as a result of the revaluation.

**10. Net loss on disposal of assets**

<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	212	-
<b>Net loss from disposal of infrastructure</b>	<b>(212)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	34	-
<b>Net loss from disposal of buildings</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Computer Equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	1	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	160
<b>Net loss from disposal of computer equipment</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(160)</b>
<b>Furniture Fittings &amp; Fixtures</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	95
<b>Net loss from disposal of furniture fittings &amp; fixtures</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(95)</b>
<b>Minor Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	34
<b>Net loss from disposal of minor plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(34)</b>
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	51
<b>Net loss from disposal of office equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(51)</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		
Total proceeds from disposal	1	-
Less total value of assets disposed	246	340
<b>Total net loss from disposal of assets</b>	<b>(245)</b>	<b>(340)</b>

**11. Auditors' Remuneration**

Audit fees paid / payable to the Auditor - General's Department	40	32
<b>Total audit fees</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>
No other services were provided by the Auditor - General's Department		

**12. Regional NRM and Water Levies**

<b>Regional NRM and Water Levies received/receivable from entities external to the SA Government:</b>		
Regional NRM Levy collected through Councils	1,448	1,086
Water Levy collected through Department for Water	4,706	4,454
<b>Total Regional NRM and Water Levies - Non SA Government entities</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>5,540</b>
<b>Total Regional NRM and Water Levies</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>5,540</b>

**13. Caring for Our Country**

Caring for Our Country - Regional Component made up of the following programs:		
Coastal Environments & Critical Aquatic Habitats Program 4,5,6,7	-	281
Biodiversity and Natural Icons Program 9,10,11	-	267
Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement Program 12,13,15	-	468
Restoring Terrestrial Native Habitats in the SAMDB	1,394	1,394
Restoring Aquatic Habitats in the SAMDB	505	505
Increasing Community Engagement and Participation	1,416	1,416
Aboriginal Partnerships Project	451	451
Protecting the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth RAMSAR	241	241
Improving Land Management in the SAMDB	590	590
Engaging Farming Groups in Improved NRM	144	144
Rehabilitation of the Pike Mundic Wetland Complex Floodplain	275	-
Destruction of the Feral Pig Population in the Riverland Ramsar Wetlands	97	-
<b>Total Caring for Our Country</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>5,757</b>

The Commonwealth revenue has terms which specify that the funding must be spent by June 2013. Revenue was recognised upon receipt of funds as the probability of repayment to the Commonwealth Government is unlikely.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>14. Grants Received</b>		
<b>Commonwealth Funding</b>		
Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry	150	150
Department of the Environment Water Heritage & Arts	512	634
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	1,450	-
Other	-	40
<b>Total Commonwealth Funding</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>824</b>
<b>Grants received from SA Government entities</b>		
State Complementary NRM Fund	930	498
Department for Water	337	1,986
Department for Water - Water Levy Relief	837	905
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Department for Environment & Heritage)	776	1,731
Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA	871	-
Native Vegetation Council	530	778
Other	39	5
<b>Total Grants - SA Government entities</b>	<b>4,320</b>	<b>5,903</b>
<b>Grants received/receivable from entities external to the SA Government</b>		
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	-	2,824
Other	232	207
<b>Total Grants - Non SA Government Grants</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>3,031</b>
<b>Total Grants Received</b>	<b>6,664</b>	<b>9,758</b>
<b>15. Interest revenues</b>		
Interest from entities within the SA Government	132	103
<b>Total interest revenues</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>16. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Bank balance and cash on hand	4,477	1,935
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>1,935</b>
<b>17. Receivables</b>		
Receivables	2,440	6,312
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(12)	-
GST Receivable	93	-
Accrued Interest	18	7
Prepayments	63	46
<b>Total Current Receivables</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>6,365</b>
<b>Government / Non Government Receivables</b>		
<b>Receivables from SA Government entities</b>		
Receivables	878	1,780
<b>Total Receivables from SA Government entities</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,780</b>
<b>Receivables from Non SA Government entities</b>		
Receivables	1,550	4,532
GST Receivable	93	-
Accrued Interest	18	7
Prepayments	63	46
<b>Total Receivables from Non SA Government entities</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>4,585</b>
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>6,365</b>
<b>Movement in the allowance for doubtful debts</b>		
The allowance for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that a receivable is un-collectable.		
An allowance for doubtful debts has been recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for specific debtors assessed on a collective basis for which such evidence exists.		
Movements in the allowance for doubtful debts	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	-	-
Increase in the allowance	12	-
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the period</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>

**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. Receivables, prepayments 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 24.

b. Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information - please refer to Table 24.1 in Note 24.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

18. Property, Plant and Equipment	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>Land</b>		
Land at fair value	162	-
<b>Total Land</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
Buildings at fair value	593	533
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	29
<b>Total Buildings</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>Computer Equipment</b>		
Computer Equipment at cost	178	144
Less: Accumulated depreciation	152	135
<b>Total Computer Equipment</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Furniture, Fixtures &amp; Furnishings</b>		
Furniture, Fixtures & Furnishings at cost	40	40
Less: Accumulated depreciation	17	13
<b>Total Furniture, Fixtures &amp; Furnishings</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Infrastructure at cost	15	234
Less: Accumulated depreciation	1	5
<b>Total Infrastructure</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Minor Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
Minor Plant & Equipment at cost	349	307
Less: Accumulated depreciation	206	168
<b>Total Minor Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
Motor Vehicles at cost	164	164
Less: Accumulated depreciation	78	64
<b>Total Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Office Equipment at cost	154	178
Less: Accumulated depreciation	109	128
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,058</b>

## Valuation of land and buildings

The valuation of land and buildings was performed by John Dawes, CDA, NDA, CDFM, Dip. Vals, FAPI, an independent valuer, as at 30 June, 2011. The valuer arrived at fair value based on recent market transactions for similar land and buildings in the area taking into account zoning and restricted use.

## Impairment

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant, and equipment assets at 30 June 2011.

## Reconciliation of Non-Current Assets

The following Table shows the movement of Non-Current Assets during 2010-11.

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Computer Equipment \$'000	Furniture Fixtures & \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Minor Plant & Equipment \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Office Equipment \$'000	2011 Total \$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	-	504	9	27	229	139	100	50	1,058
Additions	-	9	34	-	-	43	-	13	99
Assets Written Off	-	(34)	-	-	(212)	-	-	-	(246)
Assets transferred	114	(114)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment/(decrement)	48	239	-	-	-	-	-	-	287
Depreciation	-	(11)	(17)	(4)	(3)	(39)	(14)	(18)	(106)
Carrying amount at the end of the period	<b>162</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,092</b>

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

**Reconciliation of Non-Current Assets**

The following Table shows the movement of Non-Current Assets during 2009-10

	Buildings \$'000	Computer Equipment \$'000	Furniture Fittings & Fixtures \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Minor Plant & Equipment \$'000	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment \$'000	2010 Total \$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	512	188	126	15	157	102	112	1,212
Additions	-	-	-	219	52	10	7	288
Assets Written Off	-	(160)	(95)	-	(34)	-	(51)	(340)
Depreciation	(8)	(19)	(4)	(5)	(36)	(12)	(18)	(102)
Carrying amount at the end of the period	504	9	27	229	139	100	50	1,058

**19. Payables**
**19.1 Current:**

Creditors	1,250	2,691
Accrued Expenses	132	167
Staff on-costs	78	78
GST Payable	-	7
<b>Total current payables</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>2,943</b>

**19.2 Non-Current:**

Staff on-costs	72	88
<b>Total non-current payables</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>88</b>

**Government / Non Government Payables**
**Payables to SA Government entities**

Creditors	-	285
<b>Total payables to other SA Government entities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>285</b>

**Payables to non-SA Government entities**

Creditors	1,250	2,406
Accrued expenses	132	167
Staff on-costs	150	166
GST Payable	-	7
<b>Total payables to non-SA Government entities</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>2,746</b>

<b>Total payables</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>3,031</b>
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**Interest rate and credit risk**

Creditors and accruals are raised for all amounts owed to the Board (billed and un-billed) but unpaid. Creditors 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 24.

b. Categorisation of financial instruments and risk exposure information - please refer to Table 24.1 in Note 24.

**20. Provisions**
**20.1 Current:**

Workers Compensation	17	15
	17	15

**20.2 Non Current:**

Workers Compensation	57	50
	57	50

<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>
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	<b>\$'000</b>
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period 1 July 10	65
Increase in provisions recognised	9
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the period 30 June 11</b>	<b>74</b>

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.

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<b>21. Staff Benefits</b>		
<b>21.1 Current:</b>		
Annual leave	381	379
Accrued salaries and wages	119	185
Long service leave	63	31
<b>Total current staff benefits</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>21.2 Non Current:</b>		
Long service leave	836	886
<b>Total non current staff benefits</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>886</b>
<b>Total staff benefits</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,481</b>

Staff benefit on-costs such as payroll tax and other similar on-costs, are recognised as liabilities and expenses when the staff benefits to which they relate are recognised. These staff benefit on-costs are disclosed as Payables in Note 19. The total current and non-current liability (i.e aggregate staff benefit plus related on-costs) for 2011 is \$641,000 and \$908,000 respectively.

As a result of an actuarial assessment performed by the Department of Treasury and Finance, the benchmark for the measurement of long service leave liability has changed from the 2010 benchmark 5.5 years to 5 years. There is no net financial effect in the current financial year as a result of the changes. The impact on future periods is impracticable to estimate as the benchmark is calculated using a number of assumptions - a key consumption is the long-term discount rate. With current conditions, the long-term discount rate is experiencing significant movement.

**22. Unrecognised contractual commitments****22.1 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:

Not later than one year	553	427
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,687	1,588
Later than five years	378	678
<b>Total lease commitments</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>2,693</b>

Operating lease commitments comprise the following:

The property leases which are non-cancellable. Rental is payable monthly with reviews indexed annually, alternating between market value and CPI indexation. Options exist to renew the leases at the end of the current term.

The equipment leases which are non-cancellable. Lease payments are payable monthly and options exist to renew or cancel the lease at the end of the current term.

**22.2 Other commitments (excluding GST)**

Not later than one year	969	5,167
Later than one year and not later than five years	486	42
Later than five years	62	-
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>5,209</b>

Several projects in the form of grants and contracts have been committed as at 30 June 2011. These projects are undertaken by Local Action Planning Groups, community groups and government agencies. The value of these projects is not reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position.

**22.3 Remuneration 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:

Within one year	3,676	3,102
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,975	4,758
<b>Total remuneration commitments</b>	<b>8,651</b>	<b>7,860</b>

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

**23. Contingent assets and liabilities**

The Board is not aware of any contingent assets or liabilities.



## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

## 24. Financial Instruments

## Interest Rate Risk Exposure

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 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies.

Table 24.1 - Categorisation of financial instruments			2011		2010	
Statement of Financial Position line item	Note	Category of financial asset and financial liabilities	Carrying Amount \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000	Fair Value \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	16	Cash and cash equivalents	4,477	4,477	1,935	1,935
Receivables	17	Receivables (at cost)	192	192	3,136	3,136
<b>Total financial assets</b>			<b>4,669</b>	<b>4,669</b>	<b>5,071</b>	<b>5,071</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>						
Payables	19	Liabilities (at cost)	1,382	1,382	2,858	2,858
Borrowings		Liabilities (at cost)	6	6	18	18
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>			<b>1,388</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>2,876</b>	<b>2,876</b>

The amount of receivables and payables stated above do not include those arising from statutory obligations, including levies, workers compensation liability, staff on-costs, and GST. They are carried at cost.

## Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Board's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Board. The Board measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on a regular basis. The Board has minimal concentration of credit risk.

Provisions for impairment of financial assets is 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. At reporting date, there is no evidence to indicate that any of the financial assets are impaired.

The following table discloses the ageing of financial assets.

Table 24.2 - Ageing analysis of financial assets				
	Overdue for < 30 days \$'000	Past due by Overdue for 30 - 60 days \$'000	Overdue > 60 days \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>2011</b>				
<b>Not impaired</b>				
Receivables	-	-	-	-
<b>2010</b>				
<b>Not impaired</b>				
Receivables	29	44	314	387

The amount of receivables stated above do not include those arising from statutory obligations, including levies. They are carried at cost.

## 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

The Board is funded principally from NRM Levy funds, State and Australian Government grants.

## Market Risk

Market risk for the Board is primarily through interest rate risk. There is no exposure to foreign currency or other price risks.

## Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis has not been undertaken for the interest rate risk for 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.



## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

**25. Remuneration of Board, Group and Committee Members and Related Party Disclosures**
**Remuneration of Board Members**

Members that were entitled to receive remuneration for membership during the 2010/11 financial year were:

**The Board**

Mr William Paterson (Presiding Member) Term expired 15/12/10  
 Mrs Sharon Starick (Presiding Member) Appointed 24/2/11  
 Mrs Joanne Pfeiffer  
 Ms Frances Simes  
 Mr Joe Keynes  
 Ms Anne Hartnett  
 Mr Colin Milburn  
 Ms Emily Jenke  
 Ms Sheridan Alm  
 Mr George Lovegrove

Some members of the Board are also members of other Board Committees, and their remuneration is included in the table below.

**Remuneration of Groups and Committee Members**

Members that were entitled to receive remuneration for membership during the 2010/11 financial year were:

**Groups**
**Mallee & Coorong NRM Group**

Allan Piggott (Chairperson)  
 Damien Berger  
 Gordon Hancock  
 Clement Mason  
 Stephen Murray  
 Keith Scobie  
 \* Donna Haslam  
 Jennifer Roberts

**Rangelands NRM Group**

David Lindner (Chairperson)  
 Christopher Neal  
 Kevin Smith  
 Jacalyn Matley  
 Jane Kellock  
 Joanne Gebhardt  
 Alicia Patten  
 James Robertson

**Ranges to River NRM Group**

Monique White (Chairperson)  
 Ceris Crosby  
 Matthew Starick  
 Paul Barnes  
 Deana Mildren  
 Peter Ward  
 Elizabeth (Annie) Atkinson

**Riverland NRM Group**

Kenneth Stokes (Chairperson)  
 Michelle Campbell  
 Dean Kerley  
 David Reilly  
 Gavin McMahon  
 Kate Thorn  
 \* Mardi Miles  
 \* Frances Simes

**Committee**
**Mallee Water Resources Committee**

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

The number of Board, Group and Committee members whose income from the entity falls within the following bands is:

	2011 No	2010 No
\$1 - \$9,999	38	40
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3	2
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
<b>Total number of Board, Group and Committee members</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>

Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing Board, Group and 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 \$178,000 (\$201,000). The figures recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income also includes other Board, Group and Committee expenses such as travelling and meeting expenses.

\* In accordance with Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 016, government employees did not receive any remuneration, except for travel allowance, for Board/Committee duties during the financial year.

Unless otherwise disclosed, transactions between members are on conditions no more favourable than those that is reasonable to expect the entity would have adopted if dealing with the related party at arm's length in the same circumstances

**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	
		2011	2010
Colin Milburn	Riverland Rural Contractors Pty Ltd	\$ 188,000	\$ 29,000
Joseph Keynes	Keyneton Station	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,000
Emily Jenke	Emily Jenke Community Engagement & Facilitator	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Sharon Starick	Unity College Inc	\$ 1,000	\$ -

## South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

<b>26. Note to the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>26.1 Reconciliation of Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Board considers cash and cash equivalents to include cash on hand and in banks and those investments that are able to be converted to cash within two working days		
Cash at Bank	4,475	1,933
Cash on Hand	2	2
	<u>4,477</u>	<u>1,935</u>
<b>26.2 Reconciliation of net used in operating activities to net result:</b>		
<b>Net cash generated/(used) in operating activities</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>(397)</b>
<b>Add/(less) non-cash items</b>		
Depreciation	(106)	(102)
Loss on assets written off or disposed	(245)	(340)
<b>Movement in assets and liabilities</b>		
Decrease Receivables	(3,763)	(270)
Decrease/(Increase) Payables	1,499	855
Decrease/(Increase) in Staff Benefits	82	(194)
Increase in Provisions	(9)	(9)
<b>Net result</b>	<u><b>110</b></u>	<u><b>(457)</b></u>