

SA MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Annual Report 2011-12**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
1. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	6
2. FOREWORD	7
3. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES	9
3.1 Vision	9
3.2 Goals	9
3.3 Guiding Principles for NRM in the Region	9
3.4 Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan	9
3.5 Links between the Board and the state NRM plan	11
4. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES	12
4.1 Regional Natural Resources Management Plan	12
4.2 Implementation of the Regional NRM Plan	13
4.2.1 Aquatic Biodiversity	14
4.2.2 Terrestrial Biodiversity	14
4.2.3 Sustainable Irrigation	15
4.2.4 Water Quality and Local Government Engagement	15
4.2.5 Land Management	16
4.2.6 Atmosphere	16
4.2.7 Capacity Building	17
4.2.8 NRM Education	17
4.2.9 Operations	18
4.2.10 Water Allocation Planning	18
4.2.11 Regional Planning - Monitoring and Evaluation	19
4.2.12 NRM Volunteers	19
5. ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE	20
5.1 Object of the Natural Resources Management Act	20
5.2 Role of the Board	20
5.3 Functions of the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board	21
5.4 Membership	22
5.5 Meetings: general and special	25
5.6 Relationships with Other Agencies	25
5.7 Governance Arrangements	26
5.8 Organisational Structure	26
5.9 Delegated Functions And Powers	26
5.10 Board Committees	27
5.11 Other Committees	27

5.12	NRM Groups	28
6.	MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	28
6.1	Employee numbers, gender and status	28
6.2	Executives	29
6.3	Leave Management	29
6.4	Workforce Diversity	30
6.5	Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements	31
6.6	Performance Development	31
6.7	Leadership And Management Development	32
6.8	Accredited Training Packages	32
6.9	Employment Opportunity Programs	32
6.10	Occupational Health, Safety And Injury Management	32
7.	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	35
7.1	Financial Reports 2011-12	35
7.2	Contractual Arrangements	35
7.3	Account Payment Performance	36
7.4	Fraud	36
7.5	Consultants	36
7.6	Overseas Travel	36
7.7	Other Reporting Matters	36
7.7.1	Disability Action Plans	36
7.7.2	Annual Asbestos Management Report 2011-12	37
7.7.3	Urban Design Charter	38
7.7.4	Freedom of Information	38
7.7.5	Whistleblowers Protection	38
7.7.6	Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports	38
7.7.7	Greening Of Government Operations Framework	39
7.7.8	Regional Impact Assessment Statements	41
7.7.9	Reconciliation Statement	42
7.7.10	Statement Of Fact For Significant Ministerial Directives	42
7.7.11	Statement Of Fact For Significant Functions Assigned By Minister	42
7.7.12	Statement Of Fact For Functions Or Powers Delegated To The Board	42
7.7.13	Statement Of Fact For Functions Or Powers Delegated By The Board	42
7.7.14	Publications Released or Updated During 2011-12	43
8.	GLOSSARY	43
9.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	44
10.	APPENDICES	45
10.1	Organisation structure	45

10.2	Boards and committees listing	46
10.3	NRM Groups Annual Reports	48
10.3.1	Riverland NRM Group	48
10.3.2	Rangelands NRM Group	59
10.3.3	Ranges to River NRM Group	70
10.3.4	Mallee and Coorong NRM Group	83
10.4	SA MURRAY DARLING BASIN NRM BOARD FINANCIAL	92
	STATEMENT	92
10.4.1	Financial Report to 30 June 2012	92

1. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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

Dear Mr Inglis

In accordance with 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 2012.

Yours sincerely



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

2. FOREWORD

On behalf of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board it gives me great pleasure to present our 2011-12 Annual Report. This report shows our progress towards the natural resources management targets as outlined in the Regional NRM Plan.

This report demonstrates key activities of the Board for the financial year 2011-12, showcasing the achievements of our region and highlighting the partnerships that are vital for long-lasting natural resources management.

Natural resources management is about caring for our land, water, plants and animals – balancing people's needs with those of nature. To achieve the goals of the regional NRM Plan, the Board works with a broad range of groups and organisations to deliver a wide range of programs and services.

The Board again this year had a busy year with many key achievements being attained which are highlighted within this report. Key milestones worthy of noting here are the development of; the Basin Plan, EMLR water allocation plan (WAP), Mallee WAP, ALOC project, Sustainable Irrigation, NRM Education and the Stewardship program. The Board is proud to report that it has assessed its performance and believes that 60% of the ambitious and aspirational targets set within the NRM Plan are clearly ahead of schedule or on track, with a number of targets already achieved.

Of particular note this year is the progress towards regional integration. In 2010, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was established to combine environment and natural resources management in the one agency to create a single workforce to support NRM Boards, the community, industry, DENR and other government agencies.

The goal of integration is to increase support for NRM Boards and provide integrated, easy to access services to the community. This process has substantially progressed this year and 30 June 2012 marks the last date at which staff, apart from the regional manager, will be directly employed by the Board.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to recognise this milestone, with heartfelt thanks for the contribution our staff have made. I would also like to celebrate the emerging partnership: an integrated agency between the SA MDB NRM Board and DENR, working towards sustaining natural resources in our region and across the State.

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

The Board welcomed three new community members this year. Rodney Ralph, Allan Piggott and Gioia Small joined the Board in July 2011 and I welcome them and thank them together with existing Board members, for the valuable contributions they have

made to the Board's deliberations. I'd also like to acknowledge the existing Board members for their contribution and commitment.

I would also like to thank the members of all the Committees established by the Board including our Water Resource Advisory Committees, Water Allocation Planning Committees, Local Government Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups for their time and contribution. These advisory committees and reference groups play a vital role in connecting the Board to its communities and ensuring the community voice is strongly heard as we go about our work.

The Board has four NRM Groups. We thank Monique White, Chair of the Ranges to River NRM Group and Ken Stokes, Chair of the Riverland NRM Group for their tireless efforts. Two NRM Groups have seen a change of the guard. We thank David Lindner, who served his final term as Chair of the Rangelands NRM Group, and Alan Piggott, previous Chair of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group. Alan has now joined the Board, where he continues to make a valuable contribution. We welcome and thank Harvey Neal, who commenced his term as Chair of the Rangelands NRM Group, and Gordon Hancock, who commenced as Chair of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group. We thank each of the members of the NRM Groups 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, community engagement 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 region's natural assets. The Board commends them for their involvement in working towards a new integrated organization for the greater benefit of the SA MDB region. The 2011-12 Annual Report highlights many achievements for the year for which much of the thanks go to the dedicated efforts of our staff. I would like to express my appreciation and commend all the members of the staff for their contribution and commitment throughout the year from the members of the Board.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Hon Paul Caica, the Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation as well as the 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 further developing these close working relationships in the future.

Sharon Starick
Presiding Member

3. PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

Natural Resources Management activities undertaken by the SA MBD NRM Board are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity* and with the State NRM Plan.

3.1 Vision

The vision for the SA MDB NRM 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'.

3.2 Goals

The SA MBD 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.

3.3 Guiding Principles for NRM in the Region

In addition to its statutory obligations, the Board has identified the following key strategic directions that it will pursue through the implementation of its Annual Business Plan:

- landscape based approaches to implementation
- community engagement and capacity building
- monitoring and evaluation
- leadership to ensure successful NRM outcomes
- research, development and innovation.

3.4 Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan

Table 1 illustrates where each theme area in the Regional NRM Plan contributed to achieving the visions and goals of the SA Strategic Plan.

Table 1: Links Between SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board Theme Areas and the SA Strategic Plan

Regional NRM Plan	SA Strategic Plan					
Theme Areas	Visions					
	Our Community	Our prosperity	Our environment	Our health	Our education	Our ideas
Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems	Contribution	Contribution	Strong Contribution			
Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits	Contribution	Strong Contribution	Strong Contribution			
Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way	Strong Contribution	Strong Contribution	Strong Contribution		Strong Contribution	
Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.	Contribution	Strong Contribution	Strong Contribution			

3.5 Links between the Board and the state NRM plan

Table 2 illustrates the links between the State NRM Plan and the SA Murray-Darling Basin Regional NRM Plan theme areas.

Table 2: Links between the State NRM Plan and the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board Regional NRM Plan

Regional NRM Plan	State NRM Plan			
Theme Area	Goals			
	Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change	Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits	Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way	Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry
Goal 1: Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems	Strong Contribution	Contribution		
Goal 2: Using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits	Strong Contribution	Strong Contribution		
Goal 3: Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way	Strong Contribution		Strong Contribution	

Goal 4: Integrated management of threats to minimise risks to natural systems, communities and industry.	Contribution			Strong Contribution
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4. OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

4.1 Regional Natural Resources Management Plan

The Regional Natural Resources Management Plan (Regional NRM Plan) was developed through an extensive process of consultation and engagement with the regional community, and was adopted by the then Minister for the River Murray, the Hon Karlene Maywald, on 28 April 2009. 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 2011-2014.

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).

4.2 Implementation of the Regional NRM Plan

The Regional NRM Plan sets the direction for natural resources management in the Region for the next ten 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* (NRM Act), 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

4.2.1 Aquatic Biodiversity

- In 2011-12 the Board's wetland program continued to provide technical support to 31 wetland projects that have community and landholder involvement. This included providing advice on the management of wetlands for ecological benefit, monitoring and the collection of wetland ecological data and assisting with infrastructure operation.
- The Board worked with Local Action Planning (LAP) associations and community groups in the monitoring of a number of wetland sites along the River, collecting data on wetland flora and fauna. A number of on-ground works funded by the Board were successfully undertaken by the LAP Associations. Works included the removal of barriers to flow to improve connectivity between the wetland and River and allow the movement of biota.
- In 2011-12 the Board worked with DENR to undertake a review of existing wetland management plans and ecological data to develop new recommendations for the hydrological regimes and water needs for 22 pool-level connected wetland sites. The review was in partnership with the Department for Water as part of the Wetlands 1A project within the Murray Futures Riverine Recovery Project. As a result of the unregulated flows this year, large areas of temporary wetland sites have continued to be inundated.

4.2.2 Terrestrial Biodiversity

- The Board attracted Caring for our Country (CFoC) and Biodiversity fund investment into the region for long term projects totaling \$6.2 million dollars; covering projects such as the Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Project, BushBids, the Threatened Flora of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges project, Feral grazing management for the Northern mallee and rangelands and restoration of Black Box communities on the higher floodplain.
- The Australian Governments Multiple Ecological Communities Environmental Stewardship project, was delivered. This project was delivered by the SA MDB NRM Region in partnership with Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) and Northern and Yorke (NY) regions. Leading to 1370 hectares of Peppermint Box Grassy woodlands and 7806 hectares of Iron Grass natural temperate grasslands being protected and managed for 15 years. It is estimated that this project alone will bring an investment of approximately \$30 million dollars in to South Australia through payments to landholders in the SA MDB, AMLR and NY regions over the next 15 years.
- Currently the region has more than 10,000 hectares under Heritage Agreement for conservation management listed by title and more than another 10,000 hectares of private land that is being actively managed through programs such as BushBids, Local Action Planning Group incentives and the Fleurieu Swamps Recovery

Project. These areas on private land are really valuable additions to the core of public lands and crown reserve.

- Working with the community and private landholders to enable conservation across tenure and linking our formal protected public lands such as; more than 500 landholders involved in undertaken on-ground works to protect or restore habitat, landholder participation in the Ground Dwelling Birds spring fox baiting campaign, private land sites being dedicated to threatened flora conservation and the engagement of local government in projects such as the Roadside Significant Vegetation Marker scheme to assist planning into the future.
- Linking strongly with the Aboriginal Learning of Country programs, Monarto, Riverland crews and Raukkan to be able to undertake weed control and pest animal control on priority sites for threatened species.

4.2.3 Sustainable Irrigation

- The Board attracted funding through Round 2 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP) and Round 2 of the Private Irrigation Efficiency Program - South Australia (PIIPSA). The combined funding injection of over \$20 million will support the delivery of over 120 individual irrigator projects and generate water savings in excess of 6.5GL. On-ground implementation of the OFIEP and PIIPSA projects commenced in the latter part of 2011-12 and will continue over the next 24-36 months.
- The Board continued to manage and maintain the regional automatic weather monitoring network this year, receiving over 18,000 visits to the dedicated website, demonstrating that the resource is extensively used to inform on-farm decision making.
- In 2011-12 the Board collaborated with the University of Naples (Italy) to conduct an 'IrriEYE' trial in the Bookpurnong Lock 4 irrigation district to assess the effectiveness of satellite based remote sensing input to inform agricultural water management. The water requirements of five irrigated properties in the Bookpurnong district were analysed using satellite based techniques to determine the efficiency of irrigation management practices. The IrriEYE trial will continue during the 2012-13 irrigation season.

4.2.4 Water Quality and Local Government Engagement

- The Board worked with all Councils within the region to ensure development policies and guidelines reflect best practice in NRM, including water and wastewater aspects as well as urban and rural planning.
- The Commonwealth funded *Strengthening Basin Communities* project was completed this year, which increased Councils' commitment to water and

wastewater management that will result in Councils strengthening development plans and provide a critical preventative mechanisms to protect natural resources.

- The relationship between the Board and Local Government strengthened through increased participation in the Murray & Mallee Local Government Assoc. and three Local Government NRM Advisory Groups and through the review of ‘Our Mutual Agreement’ with all Councils within the Murray & Mallee Local Government Association.

4.2.5 Land Management

- The Mannum Palmer Farming Group was established post a severe storm event in 2010. Members developed a Catchment Plan for the region which identifies management actions to help mitigate storm damage in the future. During the project nine land management stock takes were conducted on farm and an Understanding Soils field day was held. The half day event provided hands soil testing and discussions on understanding soils of the district, and their potential to erode.
- Funds secured for two projects developed in consultation with agribusiness targeting grazing management practices in the SA Murray-Darling Basin Rangelands region through Caring for our Country 2012 -13 Investment Project. (1) Responsive Grazing Management project, will link the principles of sound grazing management and the management of total grazing pressure with overall resource management. (2) Soil Reclamation Project investigates and assesses the efficiency of different land management practices to reduce soil loss and erosion.
- 199 land managers consulted, with 109 work proposal agreements signed for on ground works, resulting in 3395 hectares of land at long term risk of erosion identified and managed.
- Sixty hectares of saltbush with 4 kilometres fence and six Drought Lots established resulting in protection of over 104 hectares of land

4.2.6 Atmosphere

- A Regional Integrated Vulnerability Assessment for the SA Murray-Darling Basin region commenced with funding provided through the Natural Disaster Resilience Fund and strong regional partnerships with key sectors. It is an integrated step toward economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the face of long-term climate change. The project builds on risk assessments undertaken within the region.
- The Board is meeting its internal progress target goal of 20% efficiencies increase of the Board’s vehicle fleet since 2009, while a carbon footprint baseline has been established.

- Information sessions on the emerging carbon market and carbon farming opportunities delivered to the community across the region this year.
- The Board is helping natural resource managers incorporating climate change adaptation into their forward planning through a number of programs including local government engagement and the University of Adelaide project entitled “Adapted future landscapes – from aspiration to implementation”.

4.2.7 Capacity Building

- The Aboriginal Partnerships Project aims to increase the participation of the Aboriginal community in Natural Resource Management, increase cultural awareness within the NRM community, and protect and restore cultural assets. A highlight of the project this year has been the continued success of the Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALoC) and the Working on Country programs. These programs provide training and employment to Aboriginal community members. Aboriginal Learning on Country projects continue to take place at Monarto Zoological Park, while the DENR project continues to work on the Pike River, Chowilla and other public land. Two new ALoC projects have begun; one at Raukken and the other at the Kungun Centre in the Riverland, which is hosted by the Aboriginal Lands Trust, with trainees participating in projects along the river from Berri to Mannum. The Riverland Working on Country project has continued with six aboriginal rangers employed and receiving conservation and land management training
- The Board continued to support the region's 11 Local Action Planning (LAP) groups to engage extensively with their local communities in NRM programs. The LAP groups played a major role in the delivery of on-ground works for the SA MDB NRM Board's biodiversity, wetlands, NRM Education and land management programs. They also undertook a variety of activities including raising community awareness, building community skills and knowledge, supporting the recruitment and retention of volunteers, and assisting the community to access technical and financial assistance.

4.2.8 NRM Education

- In 2011-12, over 4500 students and 250 teachers from 72 schools (80% of schools in the region) were involved with the SA MDB NRM Board's NRM Education Program.
- NRM Education supports schools to have a whole school approach to sustainability across all their areas of operation; including curriculum, procurement, decision making and community links. A range of initiatives were delivered through the NRM Education Program this year, including the implementation of school sustainability planners, NRM School Grants, teacher professional development sessions, Education for Sustainability Learning Groups,

classroom education sessions, Waterwatch and Weed Warriors program, youth voice opportunities, assisting schools with on-ground action projects and provision of quality resources.

- The River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) was also very successful in 2011-12, when compared to previous years. The RMYC is an opportunity for like-minded high school students to take action on environmental issues important to them. The RMYC encourages involvement in the environment, supports a youth voice and develops a network of youth environmental leaders. This year, the Lower River Murray Youth Council travelled to the headwaters of the River Murray, where students gained a unique insight into the issues affecting the Basin and the communities who depend upon it.

4.2.9 Operations

- 680,000 hectares protected from rabbit damage. 37,701 kgs of 1080 oats were delivered to landholders.
- 52,000 fox baits have been supplied to landholders, with an estimated 42,000 foxes removed.
- Early detection and removal from 2 local gardens of the noxious and prohibited water weed, Water hyacinth, alerted nursery retailers to the potential serious damage that can result from this aquatic plant being spread into the environment.
- From 2009 – 2012 105,795 goats were removed from the Rangelands as a result of landholders utilisation of the Boards trap yards. A further 1500 goats were removed from the Mallee. 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. Mallee fowl monitoring identifies nesting sites are in improved condition and attributed to reduction of Goats in the vicinity.

4.2.10 Water Allocation Planning

- The Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Wells Prescribed Water Course was adopted by the Minister in May. The revised plan provides licence holders with greater certainty and more flexibility as well as protecting the resource for all water users. This plan replaces the previous water allocation plan and provides new management arrangements for the use of water within the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area including licencing based on volume rather than irrigated area (Hectare equivalents (HaIE)). The plan offers more flexible transfer arrangements as well as new management areas with individual volumetric limits to protect the sustainability of the water resource.

- The development of a River Murray Water Allocation Plan is on track for delivery in mid 2014, with a program of works including an engagement strategy completed this year.
- The SA MDB NRM Board completed consultation on the draft Water Allocation Plan for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, with more than 700 comments provided in 65 submissions. The Board considered or addressed these comments in developing a final draft WAP, which will be presented to the Minister in August 2012.

4.2.11 Regional Planning - Monitoring and Evaluation

- The community stream sampling program has continued to support more than 40 community groups across the SA MDB region. The Program supports communities within the SA MDB region with skills and knowledge to monitor, report, and communicate water quality parameters such as salinity, nutrient levels, turbidity, and pH levels.
- In 2011-12, the Board supported the continued operation and development of an online database that became operational in June 2010.
- The Board commissioned a review of community monitoring in the region, which recommended the hosting of a community monitoring forum and updating of the community monitoring toolkit, which were both undertaken in 2012. The Forum demonstrated the value of local community informing natural resource management. The extent of knowledge and observations presented by the community was impressive. Environmental change was reported from approximately forty monitoring projects.

4.2.12 NRM Volunteers

- Almost 3000 people participated in NRM volunteering in the SA Murray-Darling basin this year. Highlights this year include volunteer celebrations hosted by the Ranges to River NRM group and by the Riverland NRM group.
- 15% of people in this region report involvement in NRM volunteer activity and there are currently 128 NRM community volunteer groups registered with the SA MDB NRM Board and supported through the volunteer program.
- NRM volunteer small grants provided \$48,347 in 2011-12 to 53 local volunteer groups for a range of projects linked to the volunteer strategy objectives.
- Volunteer technical skills and ability to work safely were improved through the delivery of a range of training opportunities for volunteers and volunteer managers, including senior first aid, in safe hands (OHS&W), chainsaw use,

introduction to corporate governance, volunteer management, engaging Gen Y, low scale chemical use, monitoring water quality, frog monitoring and pest plant control.

5. 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* (NRM Act). This report for the 2011-12 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 38 of the NRM Act.

5.1 Object of the Natural Resources Management Act

The objects of the NRM 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—

- (a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources; and
- (b) 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
- (c) 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
- (d) 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
- (e) 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.

5.2 Role of the Board

The Boards' role is defined in the NRM 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.

5.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE SA MURRAY DARLING BASIN NRM BOARD

Section 29 of the NRM Act describes the functions of the SA MDB NRM 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.

5.4 MEMBERSHIP

Section 25 of the NRM Act provides for the appointment of the SA MDB NRM 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 NRM 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 SA MDB NRM Board during the 2011-12 reporting period was:

Member	Basis of appointment	Term of appointment
Sharon Starick	Presiding member	24 February 2011 to present
Anne Hartnett	Community member	2 November 2006 to present
Colin Millburn	Community member	14 February 2008 to present
Emily Jenke	Community member	14 April 2008 to present
Sheridan Alm	Community member	24 July 2008 to present
Rodney Ralph	Community member	14 July 2011 to present
Allan Piggott	Community member	14 July 2011 to present
Gioia small	Community member	14 July 2011 to present
Vacancy		
Gerry Davies	Representing - Primary Industries and Resources SA	
Mandy Rossetto	Representing - Department for Water	
Peter Forward	Representing - SA Water	
Peter Scott	Representing - Environment Protection Authority	
Inez Bormann	Representing - Local Government Association	

5.5 MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 11 general Board meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings not attended	Reason(s) for non-attendance
Sharon Starick	11	0	
Anne Hartnett	10	1	Health
Colin Millburn	11	0	
Emily Jenke	11	0	
Sheridan Alm	8	3	Interstate and work commitments
Rodney Ralph	11	0	
Allan Piggott	9	2	Work commitments
Gioia Small	10	1	Overseas
Vacancy			
Government representatives			
P Scott	9	2	Work commitments
G Davies	11	0	
M Rossetto	9	2	Work commitments
I Bormann	8	3	Work commitments
P Forward	7	2	Appointed September 2011
B Erdmann	1	1	Membership ceased August 2011

5.6 Relationships with Other Agencies

The SA MDB NRM Board under the auspices of the NRM Act 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, industry, community and Local Government organisations to develop the Regional NRM Plan and implement its works programs.

The Board also has a strong relationship with the Australian Government to ensure national priorities are addressed with planning processes and through investments. The Board has signed Service Level Agreements with Government Agencies to assist in the delivery of its programs and injury management services.

5.7 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.

5.8 Organisational Structure

The Board's current organisation structure can be seen as Appendix 10.1

5.9 Delegated Functions And Powers

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

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

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

- S188 Permits
- S192 Protection of certain vegetation and habitats
- S193 Protections orders
- S195 Reparation orders
- S199 Registration
- S230 Recovery of technical costs associated with contraventions

These powers and functions were subsequently delegated to the Regional Manager although the Minister limited the ability to on-delegate these authorities.

5.10 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 2011-12:

- Finance and Audit Committee
- Executive Committee
- Natural Resources Management Group Chairs Forum
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Community at the Centre Collective (commenced January 2012) – previously the Communications and Engagement Committee
- GARP, Grant Assessment Review Panel

Membership of these Committees is provided in Appendix 10.2

5.11 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:

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

5.12 NRM GROUPS

The Board supports four community based NRM Groups established under Part 4 of the NRM Act, 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 as Appendix 10.3.

6. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1 EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

Total Number of Employees		
Persons	78	
FTEs	72.4	(FTEs shown to 1 decimal place)
Gender	% Persons	% FTEs
Male	46.15	49.31
Female	53.85	50.69
Number of Persons During the 11-12 Financial Year		
Separated from the agency		11
Recruited to the agency		12
Number of Persons at 30 June 2012		
On Leave without Pay		4

Number of Employees by Salary Bracket

Salary Bracket	Male	Female	Total
\$0 - \$51,599	0	4	4
\$51,600 - \$65,699	23	20	43
\$65,700 - \$84,099	9	16	25
\$84,100 - \$106,199	4	2	6
\$106,200+	0	0	0
TOTAL	36	42	78

Amount of superannuation contributions by the Board

Number of employees	Contribution (\$)
91	\$450,277.00

Status of employees in current position

FTEs	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	13	6	16.7	0	35.7
Female	1.6	15.8	19.3	0	36.7
TOTAL	14.6	21.8	36	0	72.4
PERSONS	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	13	6	17	0	36
Female	2	17	23	0	42
TOTAL	15	23	40	0	78

6.2 Executives

The Board did not have any Executives employed during 2011-12

6.3 Leave Management

Average days leave per full time equivalent employee

Leave Type	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Sick Leave	4.35	7.15	5.739	7.12
Family Carer's Leave	0.64	0.726	1.34	0.92
Miscellaneous Special Leave	0.62	0.909	1.129	0.51

6.4 Workforce Diversity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees

Salary Bracket	Aboriginal Employees	Total Employees	% Aboriginal Employees	Target*
\$0 - \$51,599	0	4	0	2%
\$51,600 - \$65,699	1	43	2.33	2%
\$65,700 - \$84,099	0	25	0	2%
\$84,100 - \$106,199	0	6	0	2%
\$106,200+	0	0	0	2%

* Target from SASP

Number of employees by age bracket by gender

Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	2010 Workforce Benchmark*
15-19	0	0	0	0.00	6.4%
20-24	0	1	1	1.28	10.4%
25-29	2	10	12	15.38	11.0%
30-34	2	9	11	14.10	10.1%
35-39	4	7	11	14.10	10.3%
40-44	5	5	10	12.82	11.0%
45-49	8	4	12	15.38	11.5%
50-54	2	4	6	7.69	11.4%
55-59	5	2	7	8.97	9.4%
60-64	6	0	6	7.69	5.5%
65+	2	0	2	2.56	3.0%
TOTAL	36	42	78	100	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 2011.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

	Male	Female	Total	% Agency	SA Community *
Number of employees born overseas	4	2	6	7.69	20.3%
Number of employees who speak language(s) other than English at home	0	1	1	1.28	16.6%

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

6.5 Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements

Voluntary flexible working arrangements by gender

	Male	Female	Total
Purchased Leave	1	0	1
Flexitime	36	42	78
Compressed Weeks	0	0	0
Part-time	1	15	16
Job Share	0	2	2
Working from Home	0	0	0

6.6 Performance Development

Documented review of individual performance management

Employees with ...	% Total Workforce
A review within the past 12 months	33.33
A review older than 12 months	53.85
No review	12.82

6.7 Leadership And Management Development

Leadership and management training expenditure

Training and Development	Total Cost	% of Total Salary Expenditure
Total training and development expenditure	\$43593.00	0.01
Total leadership and management development expenditure	\$2345.00	0.00

6.8 Accredited Training Packages

Accredited training packages by classification

Classification	Number of Accredited Training Packages
ASO2	2
ASO3	3
ASO4	2
ASO5	4
ASO6	1
ASO7	1
OPS3	7
OPS4	2
OPS5	1
OPS6	1
PO1	6
PO3	1

6.9 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*.

6.10 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

Table 1 OHS Notices and Corrective Action

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

Table 2: Agency gross workers compensation expenditure for 2011-12 compared with 2010-11

EXPENDITURE	2011-12 (\$m)	2010-11 (\$m)	Variation (\$m) + (-)	% Change + (-)
Income Maintenance	\$8,988.86	\$0.00	\$8,988.86	100%
Lump Sum Settlements Redemptions - Sect.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Lump Sum Settlements Permanent Disability – Sect. 43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Medical/Hospital Costs combined	\$2,425.90	\$433.80	\$1,992.10	82%
Other	\$1,395.24	\$0.00	\$1,395.24	100%
Total Claims Expenditure	\$12,810.00	\$433.80	\$12,376.20	96%

Table 3 Meeting Safety Performance Targets

	Base: 2009- 10	Performance: 12 months to end of June 2012*			Final Target
	Numbers or %	Actual	Notional Quarterly Target**	Variation	Numbers or %
1. Workplace Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0
2. New Workplace Injury Claims	4	2	4	-2	3
3. New Workplace Injury Claims Frequency Rate					
4. Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate ***					
5. New Psychological Injury Claims	0				0
6. Rehabilitation and Return to Work:					
6a. Early Assessment within 2 days	75%	100 %	80%	20%	80% or more
6b. Early Intervention within 5 days		100 %	90%		80% or more
6c. RTW within 5 business days	100%	50 %	60%	-10%	75% or more
7. Claim Determination:					
7a. Claims determined in 10 business days	0%	100 %	100%	0%	75% or more
7b. Claims still to be determined after 3 months	0%	33. 33 %	3%	30.33 %	3% or less
8. Income Maintenance Payments for Recent Injuries:					
2010-11 Injuries (at 24 months development)		\$0. 00	\$3,027. 14	- \$3,027 .14	Below previous 2 years average
2011-12 Injuries (at 12 months development)		\$8, 988 .86	\$0.00	\$8,988 .86	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):					
$\frac{\text{Number of new cases of lost-time injury/disease for year} \times 1,000,000}{\text{Number of hours worked in the year}}$					

7. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 Financial Reports 2011-12

The Board's financial reports and audit statement are included as Appendices 10.4.1

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

7.2 Contractual Arrangements

Two contractual arrangements were entered into where the value of the contract exceeds \$4m (GST inclusive) as outlined below:

Contractor	Details	Duration of Contract and Variations	Value
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program for SA for modernisation and reconfiguration of water delivery systems to improve efficiency and productivity of irrigation water use in the SA Murray-Darling Basin	January 2012 to September 2013	\$6.737m
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program for modernisation of on-farm water management to improve the efficiency and productivity of irrigation water use in the Lower Murray-Darling Basin region	June 2012 to March 2015	\$12.676m

7.3 Account Payment Performance

Particulars	Number of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by number)	Value in \$A of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by value)
Paid by due date*	3558	98.21%	\$20,006,117	97.79%
Paid late, within 30 days of due date	64	1.77%	\$423,630	2.07%
Paid more than 30 days from due date	1	0.03%	\$27,493	0.13%

7.4 Fraud

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

7.5 Consultants

No consultants were engaged during the financial year.

7.6 Overseas Travel

No overseas travel was undertaken during the financial year.

7.7 Other Reporting Matters

7.7.1 Disability Action Plans

The Board does not have a specific Disability Plan, but wherever practicable the Board ensures that its services are accessible to people with disabilities. Should an issue arise, the organisation is in a position to address a disability issue immediately and would implement measures to address the issue by either action or within its current policies and procedures.

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

In performing its functions the Board:

- Ensures accessibility of their services to people with disabilities, both as a customer and employee

- Ensures information about their services and programs is inclusive of people with disabilities
- Delivers advice or services to people with disabilities with awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with disabilities
- Provides opportunities for consultation with people with disabilities in decision making processes regarding service delivery and in the implementation of complaints and grievance mechanisms
- The 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.

7.7.2 Annual Asbestos Management Report 2011-12

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 2012-13
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

7.7.3 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 SA MDB NRM Board has not undertaken any activities relevant to the implementation of the Urban Design Charter during the 2011-12 financial year.

7.7.4 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.

During the 2011-12 financial year the Board addressed and responded to six requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.

7.7.5 Whistleblowers Protection

There were no occasions on which public interest has been disclosed to the Board under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* during the 2011-12 financial year.

7.7.6 Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

Performance against annual energy use targets is outlined 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

	Energy Use (GJ)	Business Measures (FTE's)
2006-7	544	65.6
2007-8	511	75.1
2008-9	548.85	78.9
2009-10	539	69.2
2010-11	511	71.5
2011-12	542	78

7.7.7 Greening Of Government Operations Framework

State Government Reporting 2012 (Reporting on Green Team and other Board Initiatives) - Annual sustainability reporting to the State Government.

The South Australia's Strategic Plan 2011 contains a number of targets that focus on protecting our biodiversity, securing sustainable water and energy supplies, and minimising waste. In particular targets

61 Energy efficiency – government buildings is most relevant to this section. (Improve the energy efficiency of government buildings by 30% by 2020 - Milestone of 25% by 2014 and target 67: Zero waste - Reduce waste to landfill by 35% by 2020 (Milestone of 25% by 2014).

The Board will endeavor 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) The Board has made progress toward these and its own sustainability targets.

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*

<i>Action plan tasks</i>	<i>2011-12 progress notes</i>
1. Calculate carbon footprint quarterly to monitor usage on water/energy/waste audit.	Carbon Footprint inventory compiled for years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to form a baseline for Board's target and for measuring progress in reducing carbon footprint and meeting office efficiency goals.
2. Replace halogen down lights with LED or CF when old globes have blown using less power/energy.	Halogen down lights turned off when illumination is sufficient through natural lighting. Light audits at work stations occur periodically, to ensure adequate lighting standards are being met. Fluorescent tube recycling is ongoing. When natural light is not sufficient first option is fluoro lighting before use of halogen down lights.

3. Set default double sided printing and print in black and white from computers and photocopiers.	Completed and ongoing.
4. 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. Waste audits ongoing (results demonstrate food waste reduction). Working with Zero waste where possible on events and encouraging other event organizers in the region to institute recycling systems. Discussions with Zero Waste to have a recycling point for CFL globes at Murray Bridge NRC.
5. Staff turning off lights, computers, air conditioning settings.	Signs on light switches and at air conditioning panels to advising of optimum temperatures for summer and winter. Set to 21° Winter, 25° Summer for better efficiency. Lights switched off in any rooms not occupied at the time.
6. Switched to 100% recycled copier paper.	Completed.
7. Initiatives to save on paper	Ongoing. The Board has implemented “Trim” records management system (2009-10). Electronic work flows. Encouragement of teleconferencing ongoing.
8. Purchasing stationery items made from recycled materials where appropriate ie pens, erasers, pencils, notebooks, plastic rubbish bins, plastic desk tidy trays	Ongoing.
9. Hot desks available in NRM Board offices.	Established and ongoing.
10. Composting/Bokashi bins – Worm farm for waste.	New composting arrangements at Strathalbyn office. Waste reduction demonstrated through periodic waste audits.
11. Car pool operational where possible between staff travelling to and from work and during work hours.	Promoted and ongoing. Car pooling from Adelaide to Murray Bridge is now daily with 2 to 4 participants.
12. Order Fleet SA vehicles with dual fuel or 4 cylinders to maximise efficiency where possible.	The Board has been down-sizing from 6-cylinder to 4-cylinder Camrys; Cruze diesels (Fleet SA is promoting an increase in GMH Cruze purchases). Car pooling is being promoted. Reductions in fuel use have occurred over 2011-12 (see graph below). Vehicles are chosen based on efficiency, fit-for-purpose and safety.
13. Installed skylights in dark areas of	Ongoing.

building.	
14. E-mail messages to save on copy paper consumption – <i>Think before you print on emails and Be green and read from the screen</i>	Promoted.

Sustainability Highlights for 2011-12

Vehicle Fuel Use:

The SA MDB NRM Board has been able to demonstrate progress toward targets and savings. One significant reduction is shown in fuel use, where the target of 20% has been met ahead of schedule.

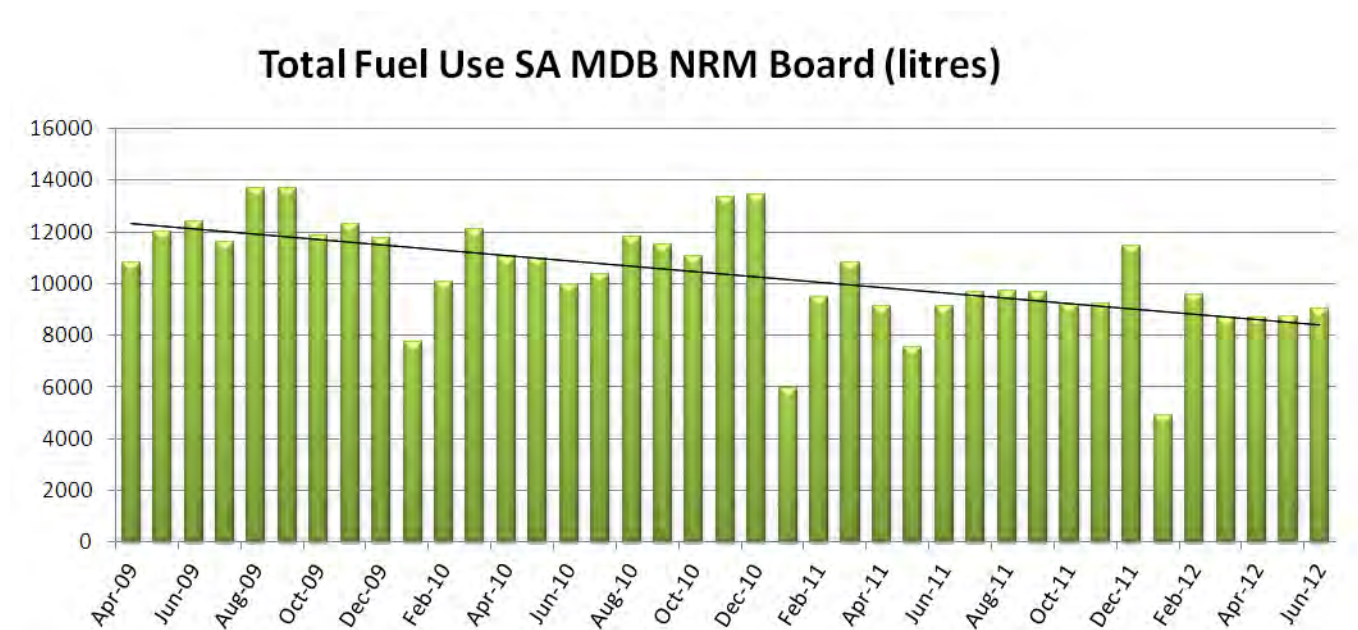


Figure 1. Progress on fuel efficiencies with 20% reductions to July 2011. The 20% target start point is April 2009 when the Regional NRM Plan was signed.

Office Power use:

Electricity supply to all SA MDB NRM Board offices has changed to whole of government arrangement where 20% green energy (currently) will transition to 40% over 2014.

7.7.8 Regional Impact Assessment Statements

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2011-12 financial year.

7.7.9 Reconciliation Statement

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

7.7.10 Statement Of Fact For Significant Ministerial Directives

A Ministerial Directive has been issued to the Board by the Minister in relation to Section 10 (5) of the NRM Act. The directive outlines the partnership arrangements with the DENR.

7.7.11 Statement Of Fact For Significant Functions Assigned By Minister

Under Section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994* the ministerial functions and powers of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation in relation to the SA MDB Board the following sections of the NRM Act 2004 were conferred on the then Minister for the River Murray on 27 January 2005.

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

7.7.12 Statement Of Fact For Functions Or Powers Delegated To The Board

There were no new significant functions or powers delegated to the Board by the Minister in 2011-12.

7.7.13 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 NRM Act. This enables Board staff to undertake operational Board business.

7.7.14 Publications Released or Updated During 2011-12

Publications released or updated during the year were:

- 2011-12 Business Plan
- Review of participatory monitoring in the South Australia Murray-Darling NRM region – August 2011
- South Australia Murray-Darling Basin NRM Achievement report 2010-11 – December 2011
- Report on the strategic evaluation of the Land Management Program Volumes 1 and 2 – May/June 2012
- Change exchange participatory monitoring in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Region – June 2012
- Community stream sampling seasonal summary: Spring 2011
- Community stream sampling seasonal summary: Summer 2011-12
- Community stream sampling seasonal summary: Autumn 2012
- South Australia Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board Communications Strategy Research – June 2012
- Adopted Mallee Water Allocation Plan
- 2010-11 Annual water use report for the Mallee PWA
- The 11/12 Angas Bremer Annual water use report was developed by the Angas Bremer Water management committee on behalf of the Board
- The Current, October 2011
- NRM Matters, Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter
- The Drift, Monthly
- Board Communiqué, monthly
- NRM Education calendar – Upper / Lower 2012
- Waterwatch – snapshot – 2011-12
- Draft South Australian Murray-Darling NRM Plan: Business Plan 2012-13 to 2012-15
- Draft 2012-13 Business Plan Fact Sheet: Proposed Amendments to the Board's Business Plan.
- Draft 2012-13 Business Plan Fact Sheet: Introducing the NRM Water Levy for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resources.

8. GLOSSARY

ALoc	Aboriginal Learning on Country
AMLR	Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
CF0C	Caring for our Country
DEH	Department for Environment and Heritage

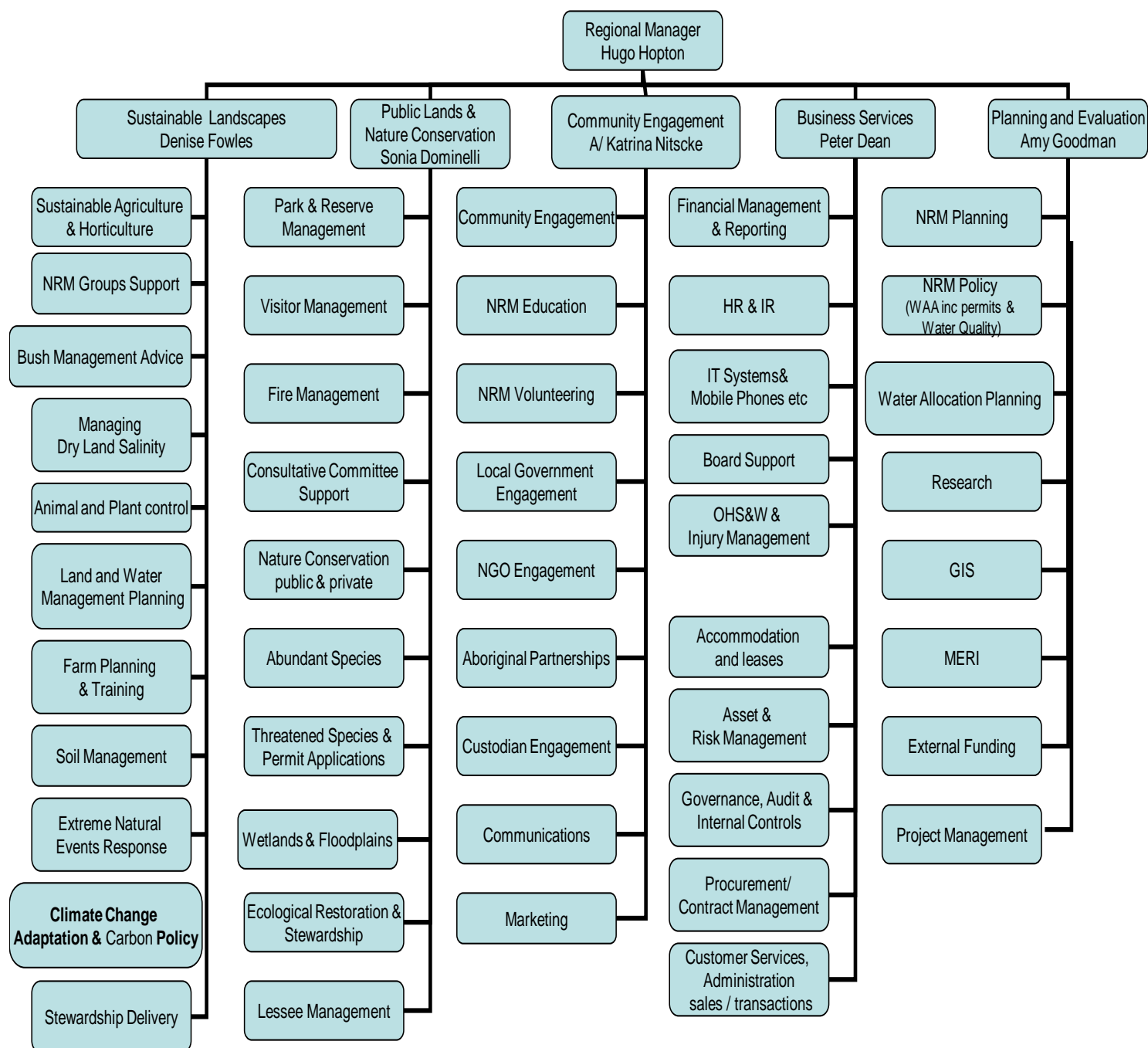
DENR	Department for Environment and Natural Resources
DfW	Department for Water
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FTE	Full time equivalent
FOI	Freedom of Information
GJ	Gigajoules
GL	Gigalitre
GoGo	Greening of Government Operations
Group (the Group)	Natural Resources Management Group
HaIE	Hectare Irrigation Equivalents
LAP	Local Action Planning
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NY	Northern and Yorke
OFIEP	On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program
PIIPSA	Private Irrigation Efficiency Program
PIRSA	Primary Industry and Resources SA
RMYC	River Murray Youth Council
SA MDB NRM	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
The Board	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board would like to thank the Minister for Water and the River Murray, the Hon Paul Caica MP, and staff of the SA Department for Water, the staff of the SA Department for Environment and Natural Resources, SA Water Corporation, Primary Industries and Resources SA, Environment Protection Authority, Local Government, industry and the community for the support and encouragement that it has received over the past year.

10.APPENDICES

10.1 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



10.2 **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 2012 had established the following Committees and its membership was :

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Executive Committee	S Starick (Chair) E Jenke A Piggott G Davies M Rossetto H Hopton (Regional Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
Finance and Audit Committee	C Milburn (Chair) S Starick R Ralph G Small P Dean (Manager Business Services) M Tschirpigg (Finance Manager) H Hopton (Regional Manager) J Munchenberg (Administrative Support)
NRM Group Chairs Forum	S Starick (Chair) A Hartnett K Stokes – Chair Riverland NRM Group N Harvey – Chair Rangelands NRM Group M White – Chair Ranges to River NRM Group G Hancock – Chair Mallee and Coorong NRM Group H Hopton (Regional Manager) D Fowles (Manager Sustainable Landscapes) P Michelmore (Operations Manager) S Weinert (Administrative Support)
Community at the Centre Collective	E Jenke (Chair) A Hartnett P Scott NRM Group Representatives C Stephenson (Community Engagement Manager) S Gunter (Communications Manager)

River Murray Advisory Committee	Sheridan Alm (Chairperson) Sharon Starick (Presiding member) 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 Dean Brown Technical Support Cameron Welsh – River Murray WAP – NRM Board Hugo Hopton — SA MDB NRM Board Kym Walton/Gerry Davies – PIRSA Jarrod Eaton – Department for Water Lynn 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.

10.3 NRM GROUPS ANNUAL REPORTS

10.3.1 Riverland NRM Group

RIVERLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Letter of Transmittal

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 section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Riverland Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2012.



Ken Stokes
Presiding Member
Riverland Natural Resources Management Group

FOREWORD

The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group met on 11 occasions during the year. The meetings focused on developing an understanding of the challenges that volunteer groups and the community face in contributing to the South Australian Murray-Darling Natural Resources Management Board's (the Board) objective of actively managing the natural resources of the region according to the Board's plan. In recognising the contributions of volunteer groups and individuals to NRM it has facilitated an event recognising the work and contributions of volunteers in the Riverland area. It is hoped that this will develop into a significant event in future years.

Members took an active role in various subcommittees of the Board and activities of community organisations involved in NRM committees. It has also taken a keen interest in the various NRM projects in the Riverland area both in projects being undertaken and supporting organisations seeking funding from the Board.

The Riverland NRM Group has accepted its Work Plans accepted by the NRM Board. The Riverland NRM Group is continuing to work to act as an interface between the community and the Board to facilitate a better understanding of natural resources management and the role of the board and community in that work.

A number of members have resigned and new members have joined which has helped to keep the Group invigorated. The Riverland NRM Group looks forward to continuing to carry out its role in helping to manage the natural resources of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board and its plans.

Ken Stokes
Presiding Member

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 (the Board) 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 2004* (NRM Act)
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- 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 2011-12 period.

- Hosted a Riverland Group Volunteer Function.
- Received a number of presentations on natural resource management initiatives by agencies and community groups.
- Riverland NRM Group Work Plan 2012-13 approved by the Board.
- Riverland NRM Group Commitment Statement supplied to the Board.
- Produced an Annual Rainfall Recording Chart for the 2012 calendar year for distribution to the community.
- Attended the NRM Board and NRM Groups Combined meeting and Induction Day.
- Group representative attended the 4th National Natural Resource Management Knowledge Conference.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group was established on 21 February 2006 under the auspices of the NRM Act. This report for the 2011-12 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the NRM Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Groups' role is defined in the NRM 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 NRM 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
- 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 NRM 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 NRM Group during the 2011-12 reporting period was:

Members

Ken Stokes (Chairperson)
Tony Meissner
Bruce Hewett
Frances Simes
Gary Frahn
Nick Bakkum
Wayne Piltz

Past Members during the 2011-12 period

Gavin McMahon
Michelle Campbell
Kate Thorn
Robert Twyford

Meetings: General and Special

A total of 11 general Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

A total of 0 special Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Ken Stokes	11	Term - July '11 to June '12	
Bruce Hewett	10	Term – July '11 to June '12	Other Commitments
Gavin McMahon	6	Attended 6 out of 6 meetings Term July to December '11	Term expired
Tony Meissner	10	Term – July '11 to June '12	Other Commitments
Frances Simes	10	Term – July '11 to June '12	Other Commitments
Michelle Campbell	3	Attended 3 out of 6 meetings Term – July to December '11	Term expired
Kate Thorn	4	Attended 4 out of 6 meetings Term – July to December '11	Term expired
Nick Bakkum	3	Attended 3 out of 5 meetings Term – January to June '12	New member
Gary Frahn	4	Attended 4 out of 5 meetings Term – January to June '12	New member
Robert Twyford	1	Resigned due to ill health	
Wayne Piltz	3	Attended 3 out of 4 meetings Term – January to June '12	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 Landcare Group
- River Murray Youth Council
- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- River Murray Advisory Committee (RMAC)
- Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP)
- Chowilla Pig Control Project – Steering Committee & Operations Committee
- Mayor’s Forum
- Community at the Centre Collective (CCC)

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

No Governance arrangements.

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

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Riverland NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

Under Section 52 of the NRM Act the significant functions are assigned by the Board to the Riverland NRM Group.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

Not Applicable.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the NRM Act requires that:

- 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.
- 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 NRM Act requires that:
- 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*).

The report must-

- include a copy of the audited accounts and financial statements of the NRM Group, and
- include other information required by or under the regulations.
- In regards to Section 57(2)(b) there are no regulations applying.

COMMITTEES LISTING

Members of the Riverland NRM Group are members of or associated with the following Committees:

- Riverland Group Volunteer Function Committee
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Group Chair's Forum
- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP)
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Chowilla Pig Control Project – Steering Committee & Operations Committee
- Mayor's Forum
- Community at the Centre Collective (CCC)
- Program Evaluation Panel

- Operations Team Liaison
- Riverland West Landcare
- Renmark to the Border LAP
- Environmental Educating Working Group
- Upper Murray NRM Education Group
- Chowilla Floodplain Icon Site Reference Committee
- Pike River Land Management Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister for Water and the River Murray, the Hon Paul Caica, 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.

10.3.2 Rangelands NRM Group

RANGELANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Letter of Transmittal

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

Dear Ms Starick

In accordance with the requirements of section 59 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 2012.

Kind regards



Harvey Neal
Presiding Member
Rangelands 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 (SA MDB NRM) 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 2004* (NRM Act)
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- 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 Rangelands NRM group area, with guests including:

- Ian Falkenberg – District Ranger
- Members of the Natural Resources, SAMDB Regional Management team – D Fowles, C Stephenson, P Dean
- SA MDB Board members - Rod Ralph, C Milburn
- NRM Community Officer - Andy Nicholls
- Sustainable Landscapes, Senior Authorised Officer - Jok Duncan
- Sustainable Landscapes, Senior Authorised Officer – John Wood
- Business Support, Volunteer Support – Miranda Leckie
- Community Engagement, Volunteer Support - D Packer
- Public Lands & Nature Conservation - Jem Tesoriero
- Sustainable Landscapes - G Lundstrom
- Sustainable Landscapes - Sarah Lance
- Sustainable Landscapes - Kym Haebich
- Sustainable Landscapes – Bernadette Lawson

PRESENTATIONS TO THE GROUP/TOURS ATTENDED DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED:

- The Group has undertaken a tour at Woolgangi Station to better understand natural resource issues around the area. Group Members saw the restored clay pan and weed eradication project, observing the resultant natural establishment of flora species from ripping across the water flow surface
- The DENR Senior Authorised Officer from Burra Office continues to regularly participate in the Rangelands NRM Group meetings, providing informative updates on developments in the Region
- Since November 2011 a SA MDB Board representative has regularly participated in the Rangelands NRM Group meetings. Broad representatives have provided valuable contributions and improved the communication between the Group and the Board.

Other Presentations & Meetings the Group has taken part in:

- Board Dinner
- Burra and Eudunda Shows in NRM marquee
- Burra Rangelands Action Group (BRAG)
- Chairs Forum
- Conservation Action Planning meetings and workshops
- Combined Board/Induction Day
- Communications Meeting to improve Boards engagement with the community
- Community at the Centre Collective
- Feral Pig Steering Committee
- Hotspots Evaluations Meetings
- Landscape Scale Focus areas
- NRM Group Knowledge Conference
- Plant Propagation Workshop
- Program Evaluation meeting – Land Management paper prepared by the Board
- Rangelands Goats Strategy Working Group Meeting
- Reflections and Learning Workshop
- Reviewed the Razor Back Iron One Project
- Riverland Biosphere Feral Goat and Rabbit Control Steering Committee
- State NRM Planning meeting
- The Chair met with the Regional Manager
- Tree planting at the Worlds End Gorge with NRM Education Program
- Various Board meetings throughout the year
- Worlds End Action meetings

Other achievements included:

- Assisted in half degree block survey of kangaroos and goats for data for the Board
- Landscape focus planning and comprehensive mapping of the Rangelands area for consideration by the Board.
- The Group have developed a comprehensive Work Plan and Communications Strategy Plan to help deliver outcomes of the Board Regional Plan
- Thorough development of the Goat Management Options Paper
- Trailing and learning about grazing regeneration

ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR THE GROUP:

The Group is working closely with the Worlds End Action Group and Regional Council of Goyder to reinstall two water monitoring stations, however to achieve this it requires the Board's support and commitment and the Group is working with the Board on this matter.

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* (NRM Act). This report for the 2011-12 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 NRM 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
 - (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 NRM Act provides for the appointment of the Rangelands NRM 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 2011-12 was:

Members

- Harvey Neal (Chairperson)
- Jacki Matthey
- Jo Gebhardt
- James Robertson
- Ian Warnes (Part Year)
- John Oates (Part Year)
- Robert Perry (Part Year)
- David Lindner (Chair person – Retired)
- Jane Kellock (Retired)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 5 general Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year. A total of 1 special Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments	Reason for non attendance
Harvey Neal	6	Chairperson as at December 2011	
Jacki Matthey	2		Work Commitments
Jo Gebhardt	4		Work Commitments
James Robertson	2		Work and Study Commitments
Ian Warnes	3	Commenced February 2012	
John Oates	2	Commenced February 2012	
Robert Perry	3	Commenced February 2012	
David Lindner	3	Retired November 2011	
Jane Kellock	1	Retired November 2011	Work Commitments

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Rangelands NRM Group members regularly network with the committees listed on page 10 of this report. The Group also liaises with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff in the Group area.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Rangelands Work Plan 2012-13

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 Ministerial or Board directives.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

No functions have been assigned by the Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

- Group members participated in numerous Workshops in relation to the Regional Outcomes Report including Terrestrial Biodiversity, Pest Plant and Animals, People, Land Management, Water Allocation Planning and Water Quality.
- The Group was consulted on how best to acknowledge NRM volunteer contributions. A "Volunteer Celebrations in the Rangelands NRM Group area" is planned to be held during the financial year.
- The Group was consulted on applications for NRM Volunteer Small Grants and NRM Education Grants and advised the Board of its recommendations.

- The Board set up a new committee, the Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP), to review grant applications, and required one representative and proxy from each of the NRM Groups.
- Group members participate in numerous Board committees including the Regional Integration Committee (Chair), NRM Group Chairs Forum (Chair), Communications Committee, GARP and Hotspot Evaluation.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

No functions have been delegated by the Group

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the NRM 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 NRM 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

Rangelands NRM Group members contribute to the following community committees:

- BRAG
- 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
- Mid North Grasslands Working Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

GLOSSARY

BRAG	Burra Rangelands Action Group
DENR	The Department for Environment and Natural Resources
	Grant and Review Assessment Panel
GARP	
NRM	Natural Resources Management
SAMDB	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

10.3.3 Ranges to River NRM Group

RANGES TO RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Letter of Transmittal

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

Dear Ms Starick

In accordance with the requirements of section 59 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Kind Regards



Monique White
Presiding Member
Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group

FOREWORD

As the Chairperson of Ranges to River Natural Resource Management (NRM) Group 2011-12 has been a year of highs and crashing lows. Despite this the Group has managed to maintain their passion and enthusiasm for improved NRM in the Region.

For me the highs have all been about people. People who freely give their valuable time to participate in NRM. My role has given me the opportunity to meet with many volunteers and share their passion. I would like to thank all of our 'unsung heroes' for their efforts and wish them well in future endeavours. Without you our progress toward Board goals would be slow.

I would also like to thank our retiring Group Members who have guided me and our activities so passionately during their membership, with new Members the Group will head in new directions and continue its service to NRM.

The lows are probably shared by many in NRM that feeling of 'Is the effort worth it' when you are unsuccessful in responding to a community issue. Fortunately I am supported by a group of Members who are always there to refocus our efforts and approach the problem from another direction always with the goal of better NRM in mind.

The New Year will bring new Group Members and new challenges, 'Bring it on'.

Monique White

Presiding Member

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 (SA MDB) 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 2004* (NRM Act)
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- 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 Ranges to River NRM group area, with guests including:

- SA MDB Board members – G Small, E Jenke
- Goowla to Wellington LAP – Tony Randall
- Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group – Steve Coombe
- Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group - Harry Seagar
- Mount Pleasant Natural Resources Centre - F McGoldrick
- Member of the Public - D Basham
- Members of the Natural Resources, SAMDB Regional Management team – D Fowles, C Stephenson, K Nitschke, P Dean
- Business Support, Volunteer Support – Miranda Leckie
- Planning & Evaluation - Amy Lee
- Planning & Evaluation - Renata Rix
- Sustainable Landscapes - G Lundstrom
- Sustainable Landscapes - Kym Haebich
- Sustainable Landscapes – Bernadette Lawson
- Sustainable Landscapes – Kylie Moritz
- Sustainable Landscapes – Mardi van der Weilen

PRESENTATIONS TO THE GROUP/TOURS ATTENDED DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED:

The Group has undertaken tours of:

- Turtle Shed (part of Eastern Fleurieu School Milang Campus)
- Low Flow Bypass in the Eden Valley area

Since April 2012 a SA MDB Board representative has regularly participated in the Ranges to River NRM Group meetings. Broad representatives have provided valuable contributions and improved the communication between the Group and the Board

Other Presentations and Meetings the Group has taken part in:

- AgEx Alliance
- Angus Bremer Water Management Committee
- Balance Carbon/Carbon Foot Print meeting
- Board Dinner
- Board's Atmosphere Program
- Board's Wetland Consultation
- Callington Show
- Capacity Building Workshop
- Carbon Farming Workshop
- Change Exchange
- Combined Board/Induction Day
- Communications and Engagement Committee meeting
- Community at the Centre Collective meeting
- Corporate Governance Workshop
- Eastern Mount Lofty Community Advisory Committee WAP
- Environmental Works and Measures Workshops
- Future of the Lower Murray Swamps Committee
- Government Climate Change and Carbon Tax
- Grants Assessment and Review Panel
- Grant Writing Workshop
- Goolwa to Wellington LAP Terramin Mine Presentation
- Habitat Restoration Workshop
- Hotspots Evaluation Panel Meetings
- Integrated Modelling for Policy Support
- Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
- Joined the Mallee & Coorong NRM Group for a Visit
- Local Government Advisory Committee
- Lower Murray Drought Reference Group
- Lower Murray Farmers and Sustainable Soils
- Lower Murray Reference Group
- LMSRIA National Workshop
- MDBA Briefing
- MDBA Plan Meeting
- Mount Pleasant Show
- NRM Conference
- NRM Group Chairs Forum (Chair)
- NRM Group Knowledge Conference
- Natural Resources Commit of Parliament Meeting
- Paskeville Field Day
- Premier and Water Ministers Forum on the MDBA Plan
- Reflections and Learning Workshop
- Reconnecting Agriculture with Land-Use Policy
- River Murray Advisory Committee

- Terramin – Water for Irrigation
- Tungkillo Landcare Group Meeting
- South East Drainage Tour
- Strategic Evaluation Panel meetings
- Strathalbyn Show
- Various Board meetings throughout the year (Chair)
- Western Mount Lofty WAP

Other achievements included:

- Volunteer Celebration Day at the Monarto Zoo on 27 May 2012. Nearly 100 volunteers attended. Overall it was a huge success.
- Landholders Approvals Brochure has been printed and provided to all relevant Authorised Officers within DENR and is available to members of the public
- Environmental survey completed by Group Members to assist SA Off-road Motorcycling and Facilities Master Plan
- Completed the Ranges to River NRM Group Work Plan
- Provided feedback on the MDBA Plan
- Improved communication with the Board and within the Group via attendance of a regular Board Member to the meetings and the Secure Group Member Website
- 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 expiry of Monarto Heritage Agreements, the proposed Monarto Drag Strip, and Terramin Mine.
- 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.
- Current and future involvement in the Low Flow Bypass Group Project – Departmental Steering Committee

ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR THE GROUP:

- Due to the proposed development of a Drag racing strip at Monarto, the area is at risk of losing up to 16 protected native plant and animal species and jeopardises considerable investments made by the NRM Board through re-vegetation, volunteers and the ALOC programs.
- Development of land needs due consideration for NRM to avoid ongoing and piecemeal degradation of the Natural Resources that the Board seeks to protect, occurring within the Region. The NRM Group wants to ensure that the planning policy framework does not allow land for development to be

considered as an isolated space irrespective of its value to the broader ecosystem. This is particularly important in the Monarto region where historical planning that included protection of remnants and revegetation and more recent community NRM projects have developed a corridor of high biodiversity and significant environmental value.

- There have been three vacancies on the Group that have not been able to be filled, despite advertising and considerable effort headhunting by group members. The Board is endeavouring to fill these as a matter of urgency to ensure the Group can operate successfully.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Ranges to River NRM Group was established on 21 February 2006 under the auspices of the NRM Act. This report for the 2011-12 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 NRM 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

Section 52 of the NRM Act describes the functions of the Ranges to River NRM 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 NRM Act provides for the appointment of the Ranges to River NRM 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 Group during 2011-12 was:

Members

- Monique White (Chair)
- Deana Mildren
- Peter Ward
- Warren Jacobs (part year)
- Annie Atkinson (part year)
- Ceris Crosby (part year)
- Matthew Starick (part year)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 10 general Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

A total of 0 special Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Monique White	9	Work commitments
Deana Mildren	10	
Peter Ward	10	
Warren Jacobs	5	Commenced as Member February 2012
Annie Atkinson	5	Resigned from the Group 1 st June 2012 due to Work commitments

Ceris Crosby	7	Resigned from the Group 8 June 2012 due to Work commitments
Matthew Starick	1	Resigned from the Group October 2011 due to Work commitments

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Ranges to River NRM Group members regularly network with the committees listed on page 10 of this report. The Group also liaises with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff in the Group area.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Ranges to River Work Plan 2012-13.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Financial transactions are completed by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act the Ranges to River NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the South Australian Murray Darling-Basin NRM Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

- The Board sought a nomination from the Group to participate in the Hotspot Evaluation Panel for 2012.
- The Monarto Zoo volunteer celebration
- The Group was consulted on applications for NRM Volunteer Small Grants and NRM Education Grants and advised the Board of its recommendations.
- The Board set up a new committee, the Grant Assessment and Review Panel, to review grant applications, and required one representative and proxy from each of the NRM Groups. The entire group has continued to review proposals providing responses to the Grant Assessment and Review Panel member for discussion during panel meetings.
- NRM Group Survey

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

Nil

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

Nil

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the NRM 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 NRM 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

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

- Mt Pleasant Natural Resources Centre Management Committee
- Tungkillio Landcare Group
- Communications and Engagement Committee
- Strategic 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
- IVA Steering Committee
- Motorcycle SA Project Steering Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

GLOSSARY

DENR	Department for Environment and Natural Resources
ELMR CAC	Eastern Mount Lofty Community Advisory Committee
GARP	Grants Assessment and Review Panel
IVA	Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
LAP	Local Action Plan
LMSRIA	Lower Murray Sustainable Soils Reclaimed Irrigation Areas
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
SA MDB	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
RMAC	River Murray Advisory Committee
WAP	Water Allocation Plan

10.3.4 Mallee and Coorong NRM Group

MALLEE AND COORONG NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Government of South Australia

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Letter of Transmittal

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

Dear Ms Starick

In accordance with the requirements of section 59 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 2012.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Hancock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gordon Hancock
Presiding Member
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 2004* (NRM Act)
- Organisational Structure
- Management of Human Resources
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Fraud
- Consultants
- Overseas Travel
- 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 guests including:-

- Coorong Tatiara LAP - Graham Gates, Tracey Strugnell
- Murray Mallee LAP –Rowena Danks, Alanna Morgan
- Operations Team Leader Mallee Coorong – Paul Gillen, Steve Baltussen
- Mallee Water – Joy & Rob Ziersch (monitoring), Cameron Welsh Water Allocation Planning),
- Soil Issues – Berni Lawson

Other SA MDB NRM Board guests have included:

- SA MDB NRM Board Regional Manager and members of the Regional Management team – Hugo Hopton, Denise Fowles, Claire Stephenson, Katrina Nitschke and Peter Dean

- SA MDB NRM Board members Allan Piggott, Anne Hartnett, Peter Scott and Rod Ralph
 - Sustainable Farming – Leighton Pearce
 - Regional Integration – Phil McNamara
 - Climate and Energy – Greg Lundstrom
- The Group has undertaken a number of tours to better understand natural resource issues around the area. Tours have included:
 - Coorong and South East Drains Bus tour with Minister Caica and other invited guests
 - Property at Parilla South which has an African Rue
 - Pelican Path on Meningie’s lakefront – part of the Meningie Lakefront habitat restoration project. This highlights the waterfront, with totems and embedded slate containing information on the local history and area.
 - Karoonda Nature Park- a nature trail on the edge of Karoonda which highlights local native plant species. This project has been supported by the Murray Mallee LAP.
 - 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 2011-12 year they have been:
 - Don Anderson, Karoonda resident on the history of the Karoonda Nature Park and recent involvement to get the walking trail established and signed.
 - Group members joined in with the launch of the reviewed Coorong LAP plan at Coomandook which also included a Carbon Forum with a number of guest speakers
 - Robert Simcock, Tailem Bend resident and Councillor on local issues relevant to the Tailem Bend and the Coorong Council area.
 - Andrew Dawes, Coorong Councillor and Meningie Lakes Hub coordinator
 - Group members have accompanied Bernadette Lawson (Principal project Manager, Land Management) when viewing properties in the area with soil degradation issues.
 - A combined meeting was held with the Northern NRM Group of the South East NRM Board and discussed many issues that were being experienced by the two adjoining areas.
 - The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group have produced and distributed to landowners in the area an ‘Animal and Plant Control 2012’ circular. This is to promote the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group, and promote best practice Pest animal and plant control. Small articles have also appeared in Council community newsletters and LAP newsletters on the Group.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management Group was established in December 2004 under the auspices of the NRM Act. This report for the 2011-12 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 57 of the NRM Act.

ROLE OF THE GROUP

The Groups' role is defined in the NRM 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 active in resource management in the area, through membership and attendance at meetings
- 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 NRM Act describes the functions of the Mallee and Coorong NRM 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
 - (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 NRM Act provides for the appointment of the Mallee and Coorong NRM 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 the 2011-12 reporting period was:

Members

- Allan Piggott, Chairman (until September 2011)(resigned January 2012)
- Gordon Hancock, Chairman (from September 2011)
- Keith Scobie
- Clem Mason
- Damian Berger
- Steve Murray
- Jenny Roberts
- Andrew Hansen (from February 2012)

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of 9 general Group meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Reason for non attendance
Allan Piggott (part year)	3	Work commitments
Keith Scobie	9	
Clem Mason	9	
Gordon Hancock	8	Council commitments
Damian Berger	6	Work commitments
Steve Murray	8	Work commitments
Jenny Roberts	7	Personal
Andrew Hansen (part year)	4	Previous commitments

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group members regularly network with the committees listed on page 10 of this report. The Group also liaises with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff in the Group area.

The Group have also been heavily involved with the preparation and content of the Mallee Water Allocation Plan, which has just been adopted by the Minister.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Mallee and Coorong Work Plan 2012-13

Financial performance

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

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL OR BOARD DIRECTIVES

Under Section 47 of the NRM Act, the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group area is solely contained in and under the direction of the SA MDB NRM Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD

The SA MDB NRM Board representative on the Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee is Gordon Hancock, member and current Chair of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group.

The Group was also consulted on the following NRM Volunteer Small Grants and NRM Education small grants:

- Mantung Maggea Land Management Group for Mallee Fowl & habitat conservation project
- Pangarinda Arboretum Committee for work at Tailem Bend
- Trainee farm hand attendance at SANTFA conference
- Geranium Primary School for an Indigenous garden
- Coonalpyn Primary School for a student excursion to recycling depot in Adelaide.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GROUP

Nil

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR FUNCTIONS OR POWERS DELEGATED BY THE GROUP

Nil

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 56 – Accounts and Audit of the NRM 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 NRM 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

The Mallee and Coorong NRM Group have representatives which regularly attend meetings on the following committees:

- Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Group
- Coorong Tatiara Local Action Planning Group
- Group Chairs forum
- River Murray Advisory Committee
- Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee
- Community at the Centre Collective
- Grant Review and Assessment Panel
- Mallee Coorong Local Government NRM Advisory Group
- Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area Committee
- Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth Community Reference Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group would like to thank the Minister and staff of SA MBD NRM Board, the Murray Mallee LAP and the Coorong LAP for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

10.4 SA MURRAY DARLING BASIN NRM BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

10.4.1 Financial Report to 30 June 2012

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(1)(b) 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 2012. The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2012
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2012
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2012
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2012
- Disaggregated Disclosures - Expenses and Income for the year ended 30 June 2012
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- a Certificate from the Presiding Member, Regional Manager and Manager Business Services

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 the 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 2012, 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
29 October 2012

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 2012 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



Hugo Hopton
Regional Manager



Peter Dean
Manager Business Services

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Grants and subsidies	5	7,465	1,680
Staff benefits	6	5,417	5,643
Supplies and Services	7	6,412	11,351
Other expenses	8	80	1
Depreciation	9	103	106
Net loss on disposal of assets	10	30	245
Board, Group and Committee expenses		198	184
Borrowing costs		-	1
Total Expenses		19,795	19,211
INCOME			
Regional NRM and Water Levies	12	8,251	6,154
Caring for Our Country	13	5,188	5,113
Grants Received	14	7,875	6,664
Interest revenues	15	195	132
Other income		793	1,258
Total Income		22,302	19,321
NET RESULT		2,597	110
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in land and buildings asset revaluation surplus		-	287
Total Comprehensive Result		2,597	397

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 2012

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	16	7,653	4,477
Receivables	17	2,870	2,602
Total Current Assets		10,523	7,079
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:			
Property, Plant and Equipment	18	979	1,082
Total Non-Current Assets		979	1,082
Total Assets		11,502	8,171
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Payables	19.1	2,874	1,460
Borrowings		-	6
Staff Benefits	21.1	986	563
Provisions	20.1	85	17
Total Current Liabilities		3,745	2,046
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Payables	19.2	-	72
Staff Benefits	21.2	-	836
Provisions	20.2	-	57
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	965
Total Liabilities		3,745	3,011
NET ASSETS		7,757	5,160
EQUITY:			
Asset Revaluation Surplus		287	287
Retained Earnings		7,470	4,873
TOTAL EQUITY		7,757	5,160
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 2012

	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$'000	Retained Earnings \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
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
Balance 1 July 2011	287	4,873	5,160
Net result for 2011-12	-	2,597	2,597
Total comprehensive result for 2011-12	-	2,597	2,597
Balance at 30 June 2012	287	7,470	7,757

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 2012

		2012 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000	2011 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Cash Outflows:	Note		
Payments to staff, Board, Group & Committee members		(6,028)	(5,909)
Payments to suppliers, service providers, grantees		(13,539)	(16,246)
GST paid to ATO		(1,014)	(1,188)
Cash used in operations		(20,581)	(23,343)
Cash Inflows:			
NRM Levies & other revenue received		22,672	24,595
Interest received		195	132
GST recovered from the ATO		916	1,288
Cash generated from operations		23,783	25,995
Net cash generated by operating activities	26	3,202	2,652
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Cash Outflows:			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(20)	(99)
Cash used in investing activities		(20)	(99)
Cash Inflows:			
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	†
Cash generated from investing activities		-	†
Net cash used in investing activities		(20)	(98)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Cash Outflows:			
Repayment of borrowings		(6)	(12)
Cash used in financing activities		(6)	(12)
Net cash used in financing activities		(6)	(12)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		3,176	2,542
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD		4,477	1,935
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	26	7,653	4,477

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.

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.

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

...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 2012 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'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.

Regional NRM Integration

In May 2010, the Minister for Environment announced as part of the Machinery of Government changes both the Board and the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will transition to a single delivery model so as to improve the delivery of environment and natural resources management (NRM) in South Australia. The changes will place greater emphasis on the statutory role for the Board. Regional delivery for both DENR and the Board will occur through an agreed Annual Implementation Plan and will take place through a single regional delivery structure.

On 16 April 2012, The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, pursuant to sub-section 24(3) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act), directed the Board, established pursuant to section 23 of the NRM Act, to;

- Use the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to provide the Board's business - support and NRM services in the region;
- Enter into an agreement with DENR for these services. This agreement will include the delivery of support services to the Board to ensure it is able to meet its statutory requirements under the NRM Act and an annual work plan for the delivery of the Board's Business Plan. This agreement will detail the services, projects and funds to deliver the Board's annual work plan; and
- Fund the services and projects set out in the agreement.

During 2011-12 a Regional Management Team (RMT) DENR, was appointed to manage the Board's region as part of the single delivery model under a cost sharing initiative, between the Board and DENR. The RMT comprise former employees of the Board and DENR and the Board share of the expense relating to the RMT is charged back to the Board under a Fee for Service arrangement. Further, during 2012, Cabinet made a

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 provide 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.

- As at 1 July 2012, DEWNR will have responsibility for the staff previously employed under the NRM Act.
- All staff will be employed by the Chief Executive, DEWNR under the Public Sector Act and be located within the agency DEWNR.
- DEWNR is responsible for the management, supervision, liability, occupational health, safety, welfare and human resources functions of the staff that will undertake services under the Agreement with DEWNR.
- Staff undertaking services on behalf of the Board will be assigned to the Board under the NRM Act.
- The payment for staff salaries will be recharged under a fee for service arrangement to the Board.

The financial effect of this machinery of government change is that all liabilities related to staff have been classified as current. As at 30 June 2012, the Board employed 78 employees with a cost of \$5.4 million. From 1 July 2012, the salary and related expenditure will be recharged to the Board under a Fee for Service arrangement.

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.

government transactions, classified according to their nature.

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.

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.

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.

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 Sustainability, 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).

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 is 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.
- 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.

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 and 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.

The Board reviewed its processes and documentation for providing financial assistance to local government, State Government agencies, community groups and private bodies. The Board identified where it had previously procured services or outcomes through a contract, these outcomes often related to grant funding that stipulated a specific service provider to deliver the outcomes of the grant. As a result the Board amended its processes and issued these payments as grants rather than contracts in 2011/12.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 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 has been classified as a current liability to reflect the transfer of staff to DEWNR on 1 July 2012.

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.

future payments. This calculation is consistent with the Board's experience of staff retention and leave taken.

The long service leave provision has been classified as a current liability to reflect the transfer of staff to DEWNR on 1 July 2012. Refer to Note 2.3.

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 2012 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

The Board did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during 2011-12.

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective, have not been adopted by the Board for the period ending 30 June 2012. The Board has assessed the impact of the new and amended standards and interpretations and considers there will be no impact on the accounting policies or the financial statements of the Board.

4 Activities of the Board

In achieving its objectives, the Board 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 and 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.

The Board also plays a role in facilitating actions related to managing aquatic threatened species. 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 also 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 all of the activities of this unit was transferred to the Department for Water during 2010-11.

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 2012.

DISAGGREGATED DISCLOSURES - EXPENSES AND INCOME
For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Atmosphere		Biodiversity		Regional Planning		Land		People		Water		Fever Murray Environmental Manager Unit		Total	
	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's
EXPENSES																
Grants and donations	-	-	2,129	282	-	-	150	1	2,240	85	3,180	1,312	-	-	7,455	1,490
Staff benefits	68	71	927	624	479	599	1,818	1,561	1,073	646	1,000	1,218	-	276	4,417	5,543
Supplies and services	55	22	5,699	3,172	1,167	1,323	2,820	2,460	1,117	2,338	949	1,174	-	692	6,412	11,351
Other expenses	-	-	16	-	-	-	42	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	80	-
Depreciation	17	17	17	18	17	17	18	18	17	18	17	18	-	-	103	106
Assets written off	4	-	5	212	-	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scouts, Groups and Committee expenses	30	28	31	23	-	30	31	23	21	29	33	31	-	-	30	245
Total Expenses	146	158	4,215	4,387	1,714	1,977	4,821	4,524	4,291	3,288	5,135	3,753	-	1,186	19,195	19,211
INCOME																
Regional NPWS and Water Licence	113	103	621	268	1,145	565	3,239	2,720	1,265	715	1,896	1,871	-	-	8,351	6,154
Grants from the State Government	-	-	2,011	1,656	682	867	739	681	1,695	1,593	120	150	-	-	3,350	3,113
Grants from the Local Community	25	-	2,090	1,301	174	191	213	1,755	1,349	1,624	4,716	1,500	-	240	7,879	6,664
Interest Received	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	79	132	-	-	181	32
Other income	-	-	203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	138	103	5,005	3,885	1,941	1,653	4,181	6,131	4,266	3,514	6,709	3,633	-	261	22,532	19,231
Net result	(8)	(55)	789	(501)	227	(316)	(640)	1,607	(20)	228	1,574	(120)	-	(525)	(863)	(110)

The Board has determined that assets and liabilities cannot be reliably attributed to individual Activities/ Themes.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Grants and Subsidies	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Grants and subsidies paid to entities within the SA Government	618	239
Total Grants and subsidies - SA Government entities	618	239
Grants and Subsidies paid to entities external to the SA Government:		
Local Government and community groups	2,324	45
Other	4,523	1,396
Total Grants and subsidies - Non SA Government entities	6,847	1,441
Total Grants and subsidies	7,465	1,680

6. Staff Benefits

Salaries and Wages	4,266	4,377
Annual Leave	328	396
Long Service Leave	118	145
Superannuation	443	459
Payroll Tax	262	266
Total Staff Benefits	5,417	5,643

Remuneration of Staff

The number of staff whose total cost of employment to the Board falls within the following bands:

	2012	2011
	No	No
\$140,700 - \$150,699	-	1
\$160,700 - \$190,699	-	1
Total number of staff	-	2

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 \$0 (\$336,000) as staff formerly shown in this note are now included in DENR's accounts. (Refer Note 2.3)

7. Supplies and Services

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Supplies and services provided by entities within the SA Government:		
Contractors	572	304
Total Supplies and Services - SA Government entities	572	304
Supplies and services provided by entities external to SA Government:		
Contractors	2,472	8,104
Office Accommodation and services	842	846
Motor Vehicles Expense	587	789
Fees for Service	416	-
IT Services	334	250
Postage, Printing & Stationery	171	153
Minor Equipment	132	220
Travel	63	103
Consultants	-	156
Other	723	426
Total Supplies and Services - Non SA Government entities	5,846	11,047
Total Supplies and Services	6,412	11,351

Consultancies

The number and dollar amount of consultancies paid/payable that fell

within the following bands:

Between \$10,000 and \$50,000

Above \$50,000

Total paid/payable to the consultants engaged

	2012		2011
No.	\$'000	No.	\$'000
-	-	1	14
-	-	2	142
-	-	3	156

8. Other Expenses

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Unexpended Grants returned	78	1
Other	2	-
Total Other Expenses	80	1

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
9. Depreciation		
Buildings	16	11
Computer Equipment	11	17
Furniture & Furnishings	4	4
Infrastructure	-	3
Minor Plant & Equipment	41	39
Motor Vehicles	14	14
Office Equipment	17	18
Total Depreciation	103	106
10. Net loss on disposal of assets		
Infrastructure		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	212
Net loss from disposal of infrastructure	-	(212)
Buildings		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	-	34
Net loss from disposal of buildings	-	(34)
Computer Equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	-	1
Less net book value of assets disposed	15	-
Net loss from disposal of computer equipment	(15)	1
Office Equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less net book value of assets disposed	15	-
Net loss from disposal of office equipment	(15)	-
Total assets		
Total proceeds from disposal	-	1
Less total value of assets disposed	30	246
Total net loss from disposal of assets	(30)	(245)
11. Auditors' Remuneration		
Audit fees paid / payable to the Auditor - General's Department	34	40
Total audit fees	34	40
No other services were provided by the Auditor - General's Department		
12. Regional NRM and Water Levies		
Regional NRM and Water Levies received/recalvable from entities external to the SA Government:		
Regional NRM Levy collected through Councils	1,994	1,448
Water Levy collected through Department for Water	6,257	4,708
Total Regional NRM and Water Levies - Non SA Government entities	8,251	6,154
Total Regional NRM and Water Levies	8,251	6,154
13. Caring for Our Country		
Caring for Our Country - Regional Component made up of the following programs:		
Protecting the Murray-Coorong Basin from the Threat of Boneseed	104	-
Riverland Restoration - Reinforcing Regents, Regeneration and Revegetation	485	-
Restoring Terrestrial Native Habitats in the SAMDB	2,102	1,394
Restoring Aquatic Habitats in the SAMDB	1,121	505
Increasing Community Engagement and Participation	-	1,416
Aboriginal Partnerships Project	384	451
Protecting the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth RAMSAR	-	241
Improving Land Management in the SAMDB	538	590
Engaging Farming Groups in Improved NRM	111	144
Rehabilitation of the Pike Mundi Wetland Complex Floodplain	246	275
Destruction of the Feral Pig Population in the Riverland Ramsar Wetlands	97	97
Total Caring for Our Country	5,188	5,113

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.

Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry	165	150
Department of the Environment Water Heritage & Arts	-	512
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	5,395	1,450
Other	24	-
Total Commonwealth Funding	5,584	2,112
Grants received from SA Government entities		
State Complementary NRM Fund	888	930
Department for Water	316	337
Department for Water - Water Levy Relief	-	837
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	140	776
Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA	-	871
Native Vegetation Council	490	530
Other	394	36
Total Grants - SA Government entities	2,228	4,320
Grants received/receivable from entities external to the SA Government		
Other	63	232
Total Grants - Non SA Government Grants	63	232
Total Grants Received	7,875	6,664
15. Interest revenues		
Interest from entities within the SA Government	195	132
Total interest revenues	195	132
16. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Bank balance and cash on hand	7,653	4,477
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,653	4,477
17. Receivables		
Receivables	2,919	2,440
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(193)	(12)
GST Receivable	64	93
Accrued interest	26	18
Prepayments	54	63
Total Current Receivables	2,870	2,602
Government / Non Government Receivables		
Receivables from SA Government entities		
Receivables	699	876
Total Receivables from SA Government entities	699	876
Receivables from Non SA Government entities		
Receivables	2,027	1,550
GST Receivable	64	93
Accrued interest	26	18
Prepayments	54	63
Total Receivables from Non SA Government entities	2,171	1,724
Total Receivables	2,870	2,602
Movement in the allowance for doubtful debts		
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	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	(12)	-
Increase in the allowance	(161)	(12)
Carrying amount at the end of the period	(193)	(12)

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.

Total Buildings	577	593
Computer Equipment		
Computer Equipment at cost	51	178
Less: Accumulated depreciation	44	152
Total Computer Equipment	7	26
Furniture, Fixtures & Furnishings		
Furniture, Fixtures & Furnishings at cost	40	40
Less: Accumulated depreciation	21	17
Total Furniture, Fixtures & Furnishings	19	23
Infrastructure		
Infrastructure at cost	15	15
Less: Accumulated depreciation	1	1
Total Infrastructure	14	14
Minor Plant & Equipment		
Minor Plant & Equipment at cost	355	349
Less: Accumulated depreciation	247	206
Total Minor Plant & Equipment	108	143
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles at cost	164	164
Less: Accumulated depreciation	92	78
Total Motor Vehicles	72	86
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment at cost	72	154
Less: Accumulated depreciation	52	109
Total Office Equipment	20	45
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	979	1,092

Valuation of land and buildings

The valuation of land and buildings was performed by John Dewes, 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 2012

Reconciliation of Non-Current Assets

The following Table shows the movement of Non-Current Assets during 2011-12.

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Computer Equipment \$'000	Furniture & Fixtures \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Minor Plant & Equipment \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Office Equipment \$'000	2012 Total \$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	162	593	26	23	14	143	86	45	1,092
Additions	-	-	7	-	-	6	-	7	20
Assets Written Off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	(2)
Assets transferred	-	-	(15)	-	-	-	-	(13)	(28)
Depreciation	-	(18)	(11)	(4)	-	(41)	(14)	(17)	(103)
Carrying amount at the end of the period	162	577	7	19	14	108	72	20	979

	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'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)	(108)
Carrying amount at the end of the period	162	593	26	23	14	143	86	45	1,092

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
19. Payables		
19.1 Current:		
Creditors	2,234	1,250
Accrued Expenses	317	132
Staff on-costs	123	78
Total current payables	2,674	1,460
19.2 Non-Current:		
Staff on-costs	-	72
Total non-current payables	-	72
Payables to non-SA Government entities		
Creditors	2,234	1,250
Accrued expenses	317	132
Staff on-costs	123	150
Total payables to non-SA Government entities	2,674	1,532
Total payables	2,674	1,532

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. All staff on-costs have been classified as current due to the transfer of staff to DEWNR on 1 July 2012 as disclosed in Note 2.3.

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	85	17
	85	17
20.2 Non Current:		
Workers Compensation	-	57
	-	57
Total Provisions	85	74

	\$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period 1 July 11	74
Increase in provisions recognised	11
Carrying amount at the end of the period 30 June 12	85

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. The workers compensation provision has been classified as current due to the transfer of staff to DEWNR on 1 July 2012 as disclosed in Note 2.3.

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
21. Staff Benefits		
21.1 Current:		
Annual leave	291	381
Accrued salaries and wages	16	119
Long service leave	679	63
Total current staff benefits	986	563
21.2 Non Current:		
Long service leave	-	836
Total non current staff benefits	-	836
Total staff benefits	986	1,399

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 2012 is \$1,109,000 (\$541,000) and \$0 (\$908,000) respectively. All staff benefits have been classified as current due to the transfer of staff to DEWNR on 1 July 2012 as disclosed in Note 2.3.

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 2011 benchmark 5 years to 0 years and includes a 10% premium. This has resulted in an increase in the long service leave liability of \$201,000 and employee benefit expenses of \$220,000. The future effects of changes to the benchmark calculation will not impact the Board as all staff move to DEWNR effective 1 July 2012.

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:

Within one year	565	553
Later than one year and not longer than five years	1,515	1,687
Later than five years	1,704	378
Total lease commitments	3,784	2,618

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)

Within one year	14,931	969
Later than one year and not longer than five years	1,673	488
Later than five years	-	62
Total other commitments	16,604	1,517

Several projects in the form of grants and contracts have been committed as at 30 June 2012. These projects are undertaken by Local Action Planning Groups, community groups, government agencies and landholders. During the year the Board was successful in attracting funding totalling almost \$20m which is to be expended, by way of grants to landholders, through to 2015. The majority of the commitments listed relate to this funding. The value of these projects is not reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position. A large number of grants to landholders in relation to this funding were signed by the Board prior to 30 June 2012. The Board has a signed agreement with the Commonwealth to receive the funds as the funding agreements conditions are met.

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
Later than one year and not longer than five years	-	4,975
Total remuneration commitments	-	8,651

There are nil remuneration commitments. As part of Machinery of Government changes, on 1 July 2012 all staff will transfer to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

23. Contingent assets and liabilities

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

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			2012		2011	
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
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	16	Cash and cash equivalents	7,653	7,653	4,477	4,477
Receivables	17	Receivables (at cost)	1,463	1,463	192	192
Total financial assets			9,116	9,116	4,669	4,669
Financial liabilities						
Payables	19	Liabilities (at cost)	2,551	2,551	1,382	1,382
Borrowings		Liabilities (at cost)	-	-	6	6
Total financial liabilities			2,551	2,551	1,388	1,388

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 aging 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
2012				
Not impaired				
Receivables	12	3	14	29
2011				
Not impaired				
Receivables	-	-	-	-

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.

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.

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 2011/12 financial year were:

The Board

Mrs Sharon Starick (Presiding Member)
 Ms Anne Hartnett
 Mr Colin Milburn
 Ms Emily Jenke
 Ms Sheridan Alm
 Mr Rodney Ralph
 Mr Allan Piggot
 Ms Gioia Small
 Mr George Lovegrove

Appointed 14/7/11
 Appointed 14/7/11
 Appointed 14/7/11
 Resigned 26/7/11

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 2011/12 financial year were:

Groups

Mallee & Coorong NRM Group

Allan Piggot (Chairperson) Term expired 31/1/12
 Damien Berger
 Gordon Hancock (Chairperson)
 Clement Mason
 Stephen Murray
 Keith Scobie
 Jennifer Roberts
 Andrew Hansen

Appointed 1/2/12

Rangelands NRM Group

David Lindner (Chairperson) Term expired 31/1/12
 Christopher Neal (Chairperson)
 Jacalyn Matley
 Jane Kellock
 Joanne Gebhardt
 James Robertson
 Ian Warnes
 Robert Perry
 John Oates

Term expired 31/1/12

Appointed 1/2/12
 Appointed 1/2/12
 Appointed 1/2/12

Ranges to River NRM Group

Monique White (Chairperson)
 Ceris Crosby
 Matthew Starick
 Deana Midren
 Peter Ward
 Elizabeth Atkinson
 Warren Jacobs

Term expired 31/1/12

Resigned 1/6/12
 Appointed 1/2/12

Riverland NRM Group

Kenneth Stokes (Chairperson)
 Michelle Campbell
 Gavin McMahon
 Kate Thorn
 * Frances Simes
 Anthony Meissner
 Bruce Hewett
 Robert Twylford
 Wayne Piltz
 Nicholas Bakum
 Gary Frahn

Resigned 31/1/12

Term expired 31/1/12
 Term expired 31/1/12

Appointed 1/2/12-Resigned 19/2/12
 Appointed 23/2/12
 Appointed 1/2/12
 Appointed 1/2/12

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

	2012	2011
	No	No
\$1 - \$9,999	34	38
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	3
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
Total number of Board, Group and Committee members	41	42

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 \$192,000 (\$178,000). 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	
		2012	2011
Colin Milburn	Riverland Rural Contractors Pty Ltd	\$ 99,000	\$ 188,000
Emily Jenke	Emily Jenke Community Engagement & Facilitator	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Sharon Starick	Unity College Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Joseph Keynes	Keyneton Station	\$ -	\$ 9,000

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

26. Note to the Statement of Cash Flows	2012	2011
26.1 Reconciliation of Cash and cash equivalents	\$'000	\$'000
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	7,651	4,475
Cash on Hand	2	2
	<u>7,653</u>	<u>4,477</u>
26.2 Reconciliation of net cash generated by operating activities to net result:		
Net cash generated by operating activities	3,202	2,652
Add/(less) non-cash items		
Depreciation	(103)	(106)
Loss on assets written off or disposed	(30)	(245)
Movement in assets and liabilities		
Increase/(Decrease) in Receivables	268	(3,763)
(Increase)/Decrease in Payables	(1,142)	1,499
Decrease in Staff Benefits	413	82
Increase in Provisions	(11)	(9)
Net result	<u>2,597</u>	<u>110</u>