

# **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013**



**Government  
of South Australia**

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Natural Resources  
Management Council

Natural Resources Management Council  
Annual Report 2012-2013

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

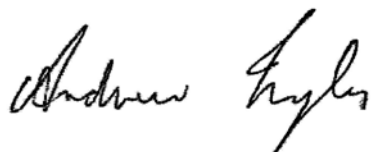
Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Council for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. This report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

Thank you for the support you have shown the NRM Council during this financial year.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Inglis  
**Presiding Member**  
**Natural Resources Management Council**

Date: 11 November 2013

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## PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The NRM Council has been guided by the - *'Our Place. Our Future. State Natural Resources Management Plan, South Australia, 2012-2017'* (State NRM Plan).

### THE STATE NRM PLAN

A key function of the NRM Council is to 'prepare, and to keep under review, the State NRM Plan, and to keep under review the extent to which regional NRM plans and policies and practices adopted or applied by NRM authorities are consistent with the State NRM Plan' (section 17(1)(c) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, hereinafter referred to as the NRM Act). NRM Council is also required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the State NRM Plan (section 17(1)(d) of the NRM Act).

The State NRM Plan identifies a long term vision for natural resource management in South Australia *'We care for the land, water, air and sea that sustain us'*.

The plan contains three goals:

- 1. People taking responsibility for natural resources and making informed decisions**  
Individuals, communities, industry and all levels of government working together, able and willing to manage our natural resources
- 2. Sustainable management and productive uses of land, water, air and sea**  
We all use resources productively, respecting limits and balancing economic, social and environmental sustainability, for the long term.
- 3. Improved condition and resilience of natural systems**  
We care for natural systems to ensure that they can sustain us in the long term.

### LINKS BETWEEN THE STATE NRM PLAN AND THE SA STRATEGIC PLAN

In many cases, contributions by the NRM Council through the State NRM Plan to South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) are strong and explicit, with a particular emphasis on the Goal 'Attaining Sustainability'.

Contributions made by the State NRM Plan towards delivering aspects of the objectives of South Australia's Strategic Plan are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Key links between South Australia’s Strategic Plan and the State NRM Plan.

State NRM Plan 2012 Goals	South Australia’s Strategic Plan 2011 objectives					
	Growing prosperity	Improving wellbeing	Attaining sustainability	Fostering creativity & innovation	Building communities	Expanding opportunity
<b>GOAL 1: People taking responsibility for natural resources and making informed decisions</b>	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
<b>GOAL 2: Sustainable management and productive use of land, water, air and sea</b>	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
<b>GOAL 3: Improved condition and resilience of natural systems</b>	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓

Assessment of linkage based on contribution of NRM goal when achieved to achievement of SASP objective. The number of ticks indicates the strength of linkages

- ✓ = linked
- ✓✓ = strongly linked
- ✓✓✓ = very strongly linked

# HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

## NRM Council Priorities

NRM Council conducted a strategic planning day on 7 June 2013 with the aim to develop its strategic agenda for the following financial year and review and confirm the operational arrangements that underpin its statutory responsibilities.

NRM Council identified that their Strategic Directions for 2013/2014 include:

1. State NRM Plan
2. Leadership and Integration of Policy

*-Land Use Planning and NRM*

*-Water Allocation Planning*

*-Review the effectiveness of resource condition reporting in our State*

## State NRM Plan

Under the NRM Act the NRM Council is responsible for the *preparation* and *review* of the State NRM Plan.

NRM Council has prepared the State NRM Plan with the assistance of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

Implementation of the plan will be guided by thirteen (13) statewide targets. The NRM Council will oversee the collection of information and reporting against these indicators so that it can audit, monitor and evaluate the state and condition of natural resources in the state. NRM Council will also ensure that regional plans are consistent with the State NRM Plan.

The NRM Council has consulted with the NRM community and has identified ten (10) statewide priorities to strengthen the management system that supports the improvement of our states natural assets. Each priority will be managed as a project and coordinated by state agencies and monitored by the NRM Council. NRM Council has identified that it will be a lead coordinator for Priority 4 'Strengthen partnerships between government, local government, NRM boards, industry and non-government organisations and Priority 10 'Improve the support for NRM amongst the broader business and political community'. The NRM Council believes that the State NRM Plan can never be effectively implemented without partnering with key business and government stakeholders that have a significant influence over the management of our natural resources for the long term. The NRM Council has identified that improving the relationship between NRM and Agriculture is a key action over 2013/2014 that will contribute to addressing priority 4 and 10 in the State NRM Plan.

NRM Council also propose that its Aboriginal Advisory Committee (ASAC) have a role in monitoring and reporting on the delivery of priority 2 in the State NRM Plan 'Increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM across South Australia, and increase the recognition and use of Aboriginal knowledge'.

## **Leadership and Integration of Policy**

This focus area embraces the role NRM Council believe is integral to how it delivers on many of its statutory obligations to the Minister. NRM Council has chosen to focus its efforts over 2013/2014 in providing leadership and policy advice around the following topics:

- Land Use Planning and NRM*
- Water Allocation Planning*
- Integration of Resource Condition reporting frameworks for our states natural resources*

### ***Land Use Planning and NRM***

NRM Council has identified the importance of improving the integration of the land use planning and natural resource management system so that they work together to produce more effective and environmentally responsive outcomes.

In early 2013 the State Government announced a review of the State's planning system led by an independent expert panel with the objective of updating South Australia's 20 year old planning legislation and helping to maintain the state's historic reputation as a leader in planning reform.

The NRM Council will have input into this reform with a specific interest in ensuring that NRM policies are better reflected in the Planning Strategy under the *Development Act 1993*.

### ***Water Allocation Planning***

Pursuant to section 80(1) of the NRM Act, the Minister is required to consult with the NRM Council on draft water allocation plans.

In providing advice to the Minister, NRM Council considers:

- The consistency of the relevant draft water allocation plan with the State NRM Plan
- The effectiveness of the water allocation plan in furthering the objects of the NRM Act.

The NRM Council will also contribute to the broader discussion which is to identify how water allocation planning can be more effectively and efficiently managed.

### ***Review the effectiveness of resource condition reporting in our State***

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been evaluating opportunities to improve the effectiveness of future State of the Environment Reports (SoER), which has culminated in the development of the draft SoE Improvement Plan (presented to Council at the May 2013 informal meeting). As a stakeholder, the Council recognises that environmental reporting provides the environment portfolio agencies and Ministers with an important tool to communicate with South Australians about the state and value of environmental assets, and to guide strategic investments. It is also an important mechanism for demonstrating compliance



with the functions of the NRM Council to audit, monitor and evaluate the state and condition of natural resources.

In addition, the State NRM and Condition Reporting Framework (Reporting Framework) is currently being trialled for NRM reporting in South Australia. This Reporting Framework has the capacity to be expanded to include indicators not currently included in the State NRM Plan and has very similar objectives to those proposed in the SoER Improvement Plan. The Reporting Framework acknowledges the need to use and leverage the existing monitoring occurring in NRM regions and agencies, and provides a way of scaling or aggregating regional data for use at a State level for state and condition reporting.

As the NRM Council and EPA share similar objectives, Council would like to contribute to the SoER Improvement Plan, which promotes a whole of government environmental information strategy to better align and coordinate environmental information in our State. The Council would like to provide input to the natural resource condition component of the Improvement Plan in a manner that demonstrates how NRM issues could be fully considered when SoE reports are prepared, including the encouragement of formal arrangements on the development of indicators that are aligned with regional NRM plans and the State NRM Plan.

### **Review of Regional NRM Plans**

On receipt of a draft regional NRM plan, the Minister must consult with NRM Council (section 80(1) of the NRM Act).

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional NRM Plan and the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Regional NRM Plans are scheduled to be reviewed in 2013-14.

### **Aboriginal Engagement in NRM**

The NRM Council continues to support the Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee (ASAC) that it established during 2004-05.

Priority two (2) of the State NRM Plan is to ‘Increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM across South Australia, and increase the recognition and use of Aboriginal knowledge.’

ASAC met twice during 2012-13 on 7 September 2012 and 6/7 February 2013 to provide advice to NRM Council in relation to the engagement of Aboriginal communities in natural resources management, including input on the new State NRM Plan.

During the reporting period ASAC undertook the following initiatives:

- Provided advice to NRM Council regarding Aboriginal employment in NRM and encouraged state government departments to pursue genuine strategies to target and retain Aboriginal employees and to strive to better the target of 2% Aboriginals employed in their organisations.
- Considered Target two (2) in the State NRM Plan: Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources (Representative Measure - “Number of Aboriginal people employed or participating in NRM programs and activities”) and provided advice to NRM Council about how the regions could provide specific reports against this target.

- Provided advice in relation to producing a government report card measuring progress towards the Aboriginal targets in the State NRM Plan.
- Provided support and advice relating to the Aboriginal award component of the Premiers NRM Awards for 2013.
- Provided advice about the Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC) programs being offered in some NRM regions. ASAC considered that they have been useful in providing training for Aboriginal people in communities, however too often they do not lead to longer term employment. ASAC recommended longer term employment aspects for Aboriginal people.
- At its February meeting, ASAC had a tour of Raukkan and discussed (and then communicated with NRM Council) the variety of factors that make this Aboriginal township a success. Raukkan has strong leadership, proud Ngarrindgeri heritage and a sense of pride about their history and what they want to achieve in the future; all the ingredients for a healthy community.
- Representation at the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Traditional Ecological Knowledge workshop held in June 2013 at the National Wine Centre.
- Requested NRM Council to consider the chairperson of ASAC as the Aboriginal representative on NRM Council as this would bring about a closer collaboration between the NRM Council and ASAC.

### **Membership of ASAC at 30 June 2013**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Derek Walker	Chair; and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board
Parry Agius (Rose Lester – Deputy)	Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
Timothy Hartman	South East NRM Board
Vacant	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Fraser Vickery	Kangaroo Island NRM Board
Vacant	Eyre Peninsula NRM Board
Claudia Smith	Northern and Yorke NRM Board
Tauto Sansbury	Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
Khatija Thomas	Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement
Vacant	NRM Council
John Chester	Aboriginal Lands Trust

### **NRM Council submissions in relation to NRM Plans and Policies**

During the 2012-13 reporting period, NRM Council provided the following submissions in relation to NRM plans and policies:

<b>NRM Plan / Policy</b>	<b>NRMC Input</b>	<b>Date</b>
State NRM Plan Implementation	Provided ongoing input and advice to the Minister	Ongoing
NRM Reporting Framework	Provided ongoing input in and advice to the Minister	Ongoing
NRM Standard/Guide	Provided ongoing input	Ongoing
Roadmap for Unconventional Gas Projects in SA	Provided a submission to DMITRE	August 2012
National Food Plan	Provided a submission to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	September 2012
Declared Plant Policy Review	Provided in-principle support to the policies and advice to the Minister	October 2012
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan	Provided advice to the Minister on the plan	November 2012
Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Plan	Provided input into the draft plan prior to its release	November 2012
Select Committee Report on Sustainable Farming Practices	Provided a submission to the Select Committee	December 2012
Amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972	Provide a submission to DEWNR	December 2012
Premium Food and Wine from Our Clean Environment concept statement	Provided a submission to PIRSA	February 2013
Draft Harmonised Regulatory Framework for Coal Seam Gas.	Provided a submission to DMITRE	February 2013
Multiple Land Use Framework	Provided a submission to DMITRE	May 2013

### **NRM Council Communications**

NRM Council maintains a website through the NRM gateway which also provides the public with access to regional NRM boards and NRM agencies websites. The website is located at <http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au/council/Home.aspx>

NRM Council distributes a communiqué following each meeting which is available to the public on the website, as well as meeting agendas and minutes.

## **NRM Council Representation on Relevant NRM Bodies**

In order to assist NRM Council in meeting its objectives, members are nominated to a range of bodies, thereby establishing a communication network to have input into strategies and to provide two-way dialogue about relevant NRM issues.

Members representing NRM Council on other bodies during the reporting period were:

<b>NRM Body</b>	<b>NRM Council Representative</b>
Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee	Kerry Colbung (to November 2012)
Climate Change Adaptation Reference Group	Andrew Inglis and Sharon Starick
Community Engagement Board	Andrew Inglis
Kangaroo Management Reference Group	Dianne Ashby, Tim Milne (deputy)
Native Vegetation Council	Dianne Ashby (as the Deputy NRM Council representative; Penny Paton is the NRM Council representative)
NRM Research and Innovation Network	Felicity-ann Lewis
NRM Standard Advisory Group	Roger Wickes
State Bushfire Coordination Committee	Chris Reed (on nomination from NRM Council)
State NRM Plan Committee	Andrew Inglis
Regional Integration Advisory Committee	Andrew Inglis

## **Presentations to NRM Council**

Throughout the year NRM Council received presentations from NRM bodies and agency staff about natural resources management issues. These presentations included:

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment Government Priority	Ian Nightingale	PIRSA
Environmental Protection Agency	Campbell Gemmell	EPA
Carbon Farming Initiative	Tom Krijnen	DAFF (Cwlth)
Roundtable and Roadmap for Unconventional Gas Projects	Barry Goldstein Michael Malavazos	DMITRE
Land Use Planning and NRM	Donna Ferretti	DPTI
Sustainable Water Resource Management	Tim Goodes Julia Grant	DEWNR
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan	Joe Keynes Chris Daniels	NRM Council DEWNR, AMLR Region
Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Draft NRM Plan	Chris Daniels	DEWNR, AMLR Region
State NRM Plan Implementation	Brenton Gear Anna Dutkiewicz	DEWNR

	Mary-Anne Healy	
NRM Reporting Framework	Mary-Anne Healy Brad Page	DEWNR
Biosecurity	Will Zacharin John Virtue	Biosecurity SA
Agriculture and NRM	Garry Hansen Mark Stanley Jack England Trevor Ranford Peter Hackworth Allan Holmes	Grain Producers SA Ag Excellence Alliance Livestock Sector Horticulture Coalition of SA Wine Grape Council of SA DEWNR
NRM Reporting Framework - Report Cards	Brad Page Brenton Gear	DEWNR
Proposed Multiple Land Use Framework	Ted Tyne Stacey Dix	DMITRE
NRM Standard	Anna Dutkiewicz	DEWNR
State of Environment Reporting	Tobias Hill	EPA

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The NRM Council was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the NRM Act. This report for the 2012-13 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 20 of the NRM Act.

### **OBJECTS OF THE *NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT 2004***

The Objects of the Act (Section 7) include assisting in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by establishing an integrated scheme to promote the use and management of natural resources in a manner that—

- (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.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration of the NRM Act. Pursuant to section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994*, certain functions and powers of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board have been conferred on the Minister for the Water and the River Murray (who throughout 2012-2013 was also the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation).

## FUNCTIONS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Section 17 of the NRM Act 2004 sets out the functions of the NRM Council:

- (1) (a) to provide advice to the Minister on the administration and operation of this Act; and
- (b) to audit, monitor and evaluate the state and condition of natural resources across the State, and to evaluate and report on—
  - (i) the performance of the NRM authorities established under this Act; and
  - (ii) the integration of natural resources management practices on account of this Act; and
- (c) to prepare, and to keep under review, the State NRM Plan, and to keep under review the extent to which—
  - (i) regional NRM plans; and
  - (ii) policies and practices adopted or applied by NRM authorities, are consistent with the State NRM Plan; and
- (d) to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of—
  - (i) this Act; and
  - (ii) the State NRM Plan; and
  - (iii) other natural resources management policies initiated by the Government,and to provide reports to the Minister, and to other relevant persons and bodies, in relation to these matters; and
- (e) as far as reasonably practicable and appropriate—
  - (i) to promote the implementation of integrated natural resources management practices and principles under other Acts; and
  - (ii) to contribute to the adoption of sound natural resources management policies under the Planning Strategy under the *Development Act 1993*; and

- (iii) to ensure that natural resources management issues are considered when reports on the state of the environment are being prepared at State level; and
  - (f) to assist in the coordination of natural resources management initiatives across 2 or more regions and to resolve any issues that may arise between regional NRM Boards; and
  - (g) to convene forums on a State-wide basis to discuss natural resources management issues, and to promote public awareness of sound natural resources management practices; and
  - (h) at the request of the Minister, or on its own initiative, to advise the Minister on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within the State, 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
  - (i) such other functions assigned to the council by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) If the Minister assigns a function to the NRM Council under subsection (1)(i) (other than a function that is not, in the opinion of the NRM Council, a significant extension to its current functions), the NRM Council must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.
- (3) In performing its functions, the NRM Council should seek to work collaboratively with—
- (a) 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 council; and
  - (b) local government; and
  - (c) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 13 of the NRM Act provides for the appointment of the NRM Council.

Each of the appointed members of the Council is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the requirements stipulated by Section 13 of the NRM Act. Members appointed were:

Andrew Inglis (Presiding Member)	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Dr Timothy Milne (Deputy Presiding Member)	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Dianne Ashby	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Wendy Bell	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013
Kerry Colbung	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Anita Crisp	Appointed 9.5.2013 to 8.5.2016
Brian Foster	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Joseph Keynes	Appointed 9.5.2013 to 8.5.2016

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis	Appointed 9.5.2013 to 8.5.2016
Peter Riseley	Appointed 9.5.2013 to 8.5.2016
Roger Wickes	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013

During the reporting period the following member resigned:

Kerry Colbung	Appointed 16.6.2011 - resigned 27.11.2012
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Pursuant to Section 13(10) of the NRM Act the Minister may also authorise a person or persons to attend any meeting of the NRM Council in order to represent the interests of the Commonwealth, the State or local government. In this capacity, the following persons attended and participated in meetings of the NRM Council:

Dr Barry Longstaff	Australian Government NRM Team	(Proxy - Simon Goodhand)
Mr Allan Holmes	Chief Executive, DEWNR	(Proxy - Tim Goodes)
Dr Donna Ferretti	Director Strategy, DPTI	(Proxy - Jason Ting)
Dr Campbell Gemmell	Chief Executive, EPA	(Proxy - Peter Dolan)
Mr Scott Ashby	Chief Executive, PIRSA	(Proxy - Trent Mader)
Mr Paul Heithersay	Deputy Chief Executive, DMITRE	(Proxy - Nicky Crawford)

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Nine general NRM Council meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year. Two special meetings were held: one in May 2013 (Agriculture and NRM forum discussion) and one in June 2013 (Strategic Planning Day).

Meetings of the NRM Council are usually held monthly, on the first Friday of each month, except January. The NRM Act states that the meetings of the NRM Council must be accessible to the public. NRM Council must give public notice of its intention to hold a meeting, stating the time and place at which the meeting will be held.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meetings attended	Comments
Andrew Inglis	11	
Timothy Milne	9	
Dianne Ashby	9	
Wendy Bell	7	Term ended April 2013
Kerry Colbung	0	Resigned November 2012
Brian Foster	10	
Joseph Keynes	9	
Felicity-ann Lewis	9	
Roger Wickes	7	Term ended April 2013

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

DEWNR, Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), Department for



Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy (DMITRE) and the Australian Government all have authorised representatives on NRM Council.

Each NRM Council member (with the exception of the Presiding Member) has been allocated an NRM region with which to liaise.

It is the liaison role of NRM Council members to:

- Provide some liaison and communication between the NRM Council and regional NRM boards
- Identify strategic, systemic and cross regional issues from the regions and raise these with the NRM Council Presiding Member and/or Executive Officer, who will retain overall responsibility for including strategic regional issues on NRM Council's agenda
- Provide updates to the NRM boards on State NRM Plan content and implementation and the progress of any NRM Council review and/or adoption processes for regional documents that are underway
- Contribute additional regional knowledge at NRM Council meetings, particularly for the review of regional NRM plans (including water allocation plans) and their consistency with the State NRM Plan.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

NRM Council has developed a number of policies that guide members (and supporting staff) in their responsibilities including:

- A NRM Council Annual Work Plan
- Meeting procedures and member obligations
- Guidelines for presentations
- Paper templates

NRM Council is also guided by other State Government policy and legislation, including the:

- *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995* and *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Regulations 2010*; and
- Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular 'PC016 – Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-Time Boards and Committees'.

## **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO NRM COUNCIL BY MINISTER**

No function was assigned to the NRM Council under Section 17(2) of the NRM Act in the reporting period.

## **MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Members of the NRM Council received the following remuneration, as approved by the Governor:

- Presiding Member: \$258 per four-hour session + \$64.50 per hour for out of session work.

The Presiding Member also receives an annual allowance/retainer as part of the remuneration package.

- Member: \$206 per four-hour session + \$51.50 per hour for out of session work.

Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four-hour session.
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session.

## **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS**

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the NRM Council from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the NRM Council was taken into consideration when members of the skills based council were appointed.

The NRM Council consisted of three females, five males and one vacancy at the conclusion of the 2012-13 reporting period.

### **The following matters are also contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13**

- Superannuation contribution by the Board
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

## **FRAUD**

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the NRM Council.

## **CONSULTANTS**

NRM Council did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

## **OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

There was no overseas travel undertaken by the NRM Council in the reporting period.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

No events occurred in 2012-13 that required the NRM Council to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

As a DEWNR administered entity, the NRM Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site.

## **WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993**

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the NRM Council to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2012-13 financial year.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The NRM Council undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2012-13.

## **RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

As the NRM Council usually meets on Kurna land, the NRM Council begins each meeting with the following reconciliation statement:

“The NRM Council would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The NRM Council also acknowledges the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kurna people today.”

In fulfilling its functions, the NRM Council is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

For meetings held in other parts of South Australia the following recognition is given:

“We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of

Aboriginal peoples to Country. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here.”

The NRM Council receives advice from the Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee on matters relating to Aboriginal engagement in NRM.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The NRM Council appreciates the support and encouragement it has received from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and staff from DEWNR.