

# **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**



**Government  
of South Australia**

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Natural Resources  
Management Council

Natural Resources Management Council

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone            National            (08) 8463 6851

                          International    +61 8463 6851

Website                [www.nrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au)

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Paul Caica  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

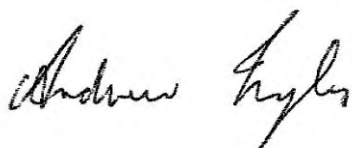
Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Council for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. This report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

This Annual Report includes the reports of each of the eight regional NRM boards and they are accompanied by reports of their NRM groups.

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: 15 November 2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL .....	3
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
THE STATE NRM PLAN .....	5
LINKS BETWEEN THE STATE NRM PLAN AND THE SA STRATEGIC PLAN.....	5
OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES.....	7
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE .....	14
OBJECT OF THE <i>NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT</i> .....	15
ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT .....	15
FUNCTIONS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ...	15
MEMBERSHIP .....	17
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL .....	17
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES.....	18
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.....	18
STAFFING.....	19
STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO NRM COUNCIL BY MINISTER .....	19
HUMAN RESOURCES .....	19
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS .....	19
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE NRM COUNCIL .....	20
FRAUD .....	20
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE (OHS&W).....	20
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT.....	20
CONSULTANTS .....	21
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS .....	21
ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE .....	21
DISABILITY ACTION PLANS .....	21
ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS .....	21
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER.....	21
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.....	22
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT.....	22
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION .....	22
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT.....	22
GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK .....	22
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993.....	23
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	23
PUBLICATIONS .....	23

## **PLANS AND OBJECTIVES**

Natural resources management initiatives undertaken by the NRM Council are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan and with the State Natural Resource Management Plan (2006) ( 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, policies and practices adopted or applied by NRM authorities are consistent with the State NRM Plan' (Section 17(1)(c)).

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

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

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

In developing the State NRM Plan the NRM Council has taken direction from the South Australian Strategic Plan.

The State NRM Plan will contribute to delivering all aspects of South Australia's Strategic Plan. In some cases, contributions to the objectives of the South Australia's Strategic Plan are indirect – for example, strategies under each of the four goals in the State NRM Plan provide for 'expanding opportunities' through education, training and Aboriginal employment. In other cases, the links are strong and explicit and these are shown in the table below, with ticks ✓ indicating the strength of these links.

State NRM Plan	South Australia's Strategic Plan					
Strategic Goals	Growing prosperity	Improving well-being	Attaining sustainability	Fostering creativity and innovation	Building communities	Expanding opportunity
<i>Goal 1</i> Landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change.	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓	
<i>Goal 2</i> Prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits.	✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
<i>Goal 3</i> Communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way.		✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
<i>Goal 4</i> Integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	

Further details of the key links of each goal to South Australia's Strategic Plan targets are contained within the State NRM Plan.

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **NRM Council priorities**

NRM Council conducted a strategic planning day on 17 December 2010, which resulted in the identification of strategic priorities for the 2011 calendar year. Further to NRM Council's statutory responsibilities and ongoing priorities of volunteer and aboriginal engagement in natural resources management, NRM Council identified six priority areas that will be focused on for providing strategic advice in 2011. These were:

1. State NRM Plan
2. Planning and Development
3. Climate Change
4. Water Planning Reform
5. Legislative Review
6. Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting

### **Review of the State NRM Plan**

The *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the Act) requires that the State NRM Plan (the Plan) be reviewed at least every five years (section 74(6)), and that the NRM Council must monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the State NRM Plan and report to the Minister (section 17(1)(d)).

The inaugural State NRM Plan was released in 2006. The review of this Plan was completed in December 2009. A recommendation of the NRM Council from the review of this plan was to develop a new framework for a revised State NRM Plan.

NRM Council held a workshop in May 2011 to discuss the development of the framework into a revised State NRM Plan.

NRM Council in conjunction with DENR has engaged with key stakeholders from the beginning of the Plan's development process through to release of the Plan which is scheduled for late March 2012.

### **Planning and Development**

The NRM Council has a statutory function under the NRM Act to contribute to the adoption of sound natural resource management policies under the Planning Strategy<sup>1</sup> pursuant to the *Development Act 1993*.

Section 74 of the NRM Act states that the State NRM Plan must take into account the provisions of the Planning Strategy and may identify changes considered by the NRM Council to be desirable to the Planning Strategy. The State NRM Plan must also address, adopt or incorporate any plan, policy or strategy specified by the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/planning-strategy>

In August 2010, the NRM Council established a Planning and Development Subcommittee under an agreed Terms of Reference to ensure that the NRM Council functions under the NRM Act in relation to planning and development are appropriately met.

Following a review of the Subcommittee in early 2011, it was disbanded but it was agreed that NRM Council member (Wendy Bell) would continue in her role as the Council's Liaison person with the Department of Planning and Local Government and DENR.

Given the recognition of importance this priority area has across many NRM and planning agencies, NRM Council endorsed in April 2011 that two high level goals lead the direction of discussion around Planning and Development at formal NRM Council meetings. These goals are:

1. To facilitate the integration of NRM objectives and policies in the Planning Strategy
2. To facilitate the enhancement of NRM content in planning policy at the state, regional and local level

At the NRM Council induction day in June 2011, NRM Council was provided with an overview of the interactions between the land use planning and NRM planning systems and a number of key areas of future activity to be progressed by the Department for Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Planning and Local Government<sup>2</sup>.

### **Climate Change**

The NRM Council has continued to strengthen its partnership with the Premier's Climate Change Council (PCCC).

NRM Council in partnership with the PCCC is seeking to ensure that South Australia's natural resources sector and ecosystems are managed sustainably with optimum resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change.

The South Australian Government released a draft "*PROSPERING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE*" – *An Adaptation Framework for South Australia*<sup>3</sup> (draft framework) for public consultation. The Adaptation Framework aims to provide strategic high-level direction for adaptation to climate change in South Australia. It will guide State Government agencies, local government, non-government organisations, regional organisations and the private sector in developing adaptation responses that will increase resilience of South Australia's key sectors and regions. From December 2010-April 2011 both the NRM Council and PCCC participated in the consultation process on the draft framework for SA. Both Councils reviewed all feedback collected during the consultation process and provided advice to the Sustainability and Climate Change Division within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on its inclusion within the final Framework.

Throughout the year the NRM Council focussed on ensuring that links between the draft adaptation framework and the draft of the revised State NRM Plan were made.

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<sup>2</sup> The planning functions of the Department of Planning and Local Government (DPLG) will be incorporated into a new agency – Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. Until the changes have been formalised the existing department – DPLG – will remain.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Water,%20energy%20and%20environment/climate\\_change/documents/adaptation/Draft\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Adaptation\\_Framework.pdf](http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Water,%20energy%20and%20environment/climate_change/documents/adaptation/Draft_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Framework.pdf)



## **Water Planning Reform**

NRM Council has continued to work with the Department for Water to ensure the best possible outcomes for SA in the delivery of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The NRM Council provided a submission on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority *'Guide to the proposed Basin Plan'*<sup>4</sup> and continued to play an active advisory role during the drafting of the proposed Basin Plan.

## **Legislative Review**

The Natural Resources Legislation Review project was undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to consider the effectiveness of the NRM Act, opportunities to further integrate other existing legislation into the NRM Act and improvement of administrative processes. The NRM Council provided input to the review.

## **Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting**

*Natural Resources:* The NRM Council has a statutory responsibility to audit, monitor and evaluate the condition of natural resources across the State. The NRM Council determined that it will lead discussions, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Authority, around a future vision for better aligning State of the Environment Reporting with NRM monitoring.

*Performance of NRM Authorities:* The NRM Act requires the NRM Council to evaluate and report on the performance of NRM authorities established under the Act, which includes the NRM Groups and Committees.

A "Review of NRM groups and board appointed committees" was initiated by NRM Council in early 2011 with support from DENR, and is aligned with the regional integration project.

This project contributes towards two of NRM Council's statutory responsibilities under the the NRM Act:

1. To provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on the administration and operation of the NRM Act (Section 17 (1a))
2. To evaluate and report on the performance of NRM entities (Section 17 (1b))

It is expected that the report will be received by the Minister in early 2012.

## **Review of regional NRM Plans**

Under the NRM Act, the NRM Council is required to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on the consistency of regional NRM plans and water allocation plans with the State NRM Plan. NRM Council established the NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee (CASc) to evaluate regional NRM plans and to provide recommendations for Council's consideration.

CASc was not required to meet as the Committee had evaluated all of the eight regional NRM plans in previous reporting periods under its terms of reference. As a result the membership of CASc was allowed to elapse during the year.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://apo.org.au/research/guide-proposed-basin-plan>

NRM Council agreed that the future role of CASC would be investigated before determining whether to re-establish it as a committee of NRM Council.

### **Aboriginal Engagement in NRM**

The NRM Council continues to support the Aboriginal State-wide Advisory Committee (ASAC) that it established during 2004-05. ASAC met twice during 2010-11 on 19 August 2010 and 7 April 2011 to continue to advocate and provide advice to NRM Council in relation to the engagement of Aboriginal communities in natural resources management.

The membership of ASAC elapsed during the reporting period and NRM Council began the process for re-establishing the committee through liaison with the Minister and seeking nominations from the regional NRM boards.

NRM Council conducted a review of ASAC during the reporting period and determined that the terms of reference needed to be refocussed with a strong emphasis on providing advice to NRM Council on the development and implementation of Aboriginal targets in the revised State NRM Plan. Furthermore, NRM Council determined that a Governance Framework would be developed for ASAC to provide a strong foundation for their work.

Over the course of the financial year ASAC undertook the following initiatives:

- Provided advice to NRM Council on strengthening governance arrangements in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region.
- Provided advice, through the NRM Council, on community engagement to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the planning for marine parks.
- Provided advice on Aboriginal strategies for the draft revised State NRM Plan.
- A member of ASAC, Rose Lester, provided Aboriginal knowledge and expertise to the assessment of the NRM Community Grants program.
- Provided support and advice relating to the Aboriginal award component of the Premiers NRM Awards for 2011.

### **Volunteers in Natural Resources Management**

The NRM Volunteer Committee was established in November 2006 by the NRM Council.

Committee members were appointed for their specific knowledge, experience and skills in volunteer management including their ability to consider volunteering from a strategic, state-wide perspective.

The NRM Volunteer Committee changed its meeting regime from six weekly to quarterly and its focus from being operational in developing its State-wide recognition framework and its key stakeholder base to focus on policy and advocacy.

The Committee met four times during 2010-11, to continue to discuss, deliberate and provide advice to NRM Council on issues concerning state-wide consistency in support for volunteers in natural resources management.

The NRM Volunteer Committee met on the following dates during the reporting period:

- 17 August 2010

- 16 November 2010
- 13 December 2010
- 12 April 2011.

The Committee has been instrumental in shaping an improved, more co-ordinated NRM volunteer sector by:

- creating the “Charting the Way Forward” document
- establishing the NRM Volunteer Coordinators Network
- instigating the Memorandum of Understanding between NGOs
- delivering the 2007, 2009 and preparing for the 2011 Premier’s NRM Awards in conjunction with the SA Landcare Awards
- providing advice to the NRM Council.

The Committee extended its focus to motivate and protect the support and engagement of volunteers and stakeholders through policy and advice to the NRM Council on State issues relating to volunteering.

The NRM Council reviewed the Committee at its April 2011 meeting and determined that the Committee had achieved its terms of reference and that there would be no requirement to re-establish the committee following the expiration of the membership on 29 April 2011. NRM Council indicated that it was still keen to pursue matters relating to volunteer engagement in NRM but recognised that this could be done through the support of DENR and the regional NRM Boards without the need for re-establishing the Committee.

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

During the 2010-11 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>
DENR Corporate Plan	Provided feedback to DENR on its Corporate Plan 2010-2014	July 2010
Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board <i>- Implementation Steps</i>	Provided extensive advice to the Minister regarding his proposed implementation steps for improving governance in the Alinytjara Wilurara region	September 2010
Peake, Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan	Provided advice to the Minister on the plan	October 2010
Draft Climate Change Adaptation Framework	Discussed and endorsed the draft framework prior to it being distributed for public comment	October 2010
NRM Governance System	Response prepared on the NRM Governance System- Foundations and principles for meeting future challenges report	November 2010

<b>NRM Plan / Policy</b>	<b>NRMC Input</b>	<b>Date</b>
Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan	Developed an attachment to the SA Government submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Authority	December 2010
NRM Council Work Plan 2011	Work plan for 2011 prepared and sent to the CE's NRM Group and the Minister	February 2011
Draft South Australian Forest Industry Strategy	Developed a submission on the strategy	February 2011
Draft <i>Aquaculture (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2010</i>	Developed a submission on the amendment bill	March 2011
Natural Resources Legislation Review Project	Developed a submission to DENR with advice on the project	March 2011
Lower Limestone Coast Policy Issues Discussion Paper	Developed a submission to the Department of Water	April 2011
Caring for our Country	Developed a submission in response to the review of the Caring for our Country program	April 2011
Regional NRM Board Membership Process	Provided advice to the Minister regarding the appointment process and nominations to the NRM boards	Ongoing

### **Advice to the Minister on the administration and operation of the Act**

NRM Council was pleased to acknowledge the Minister's support in progressing a comprehensive reform agenda for natural resources management, including the review of the NRM Act, the review of the State NRM Plan and Regional Integration.

### **Education and capacity building**

NRM Council maintains a website through the NRM gateway which also provides the public access to regional NRM boards and NRM agencies websites. The website is located at [www.nrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au).

NRM Council adopted the Draft Capacity for Delivery of NRM in SA Framework in principle to assist in informing the State NRM Plan in June 2010. The Framework was consolidated by the Engaging NRM Community Capacity Steering Committee after that time and taken to NRM Boards, Volunteer Committee and Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee for further input and consultation. It was then presented to the State NRM Plan Steering Committee to inform the revised State NRM Plan.

The report proposed that **capacity building** programs be planned for, implemented, monitored and evaluated considering:

(1) the **key capacities** of:

- the extent to which sound **governance** arrangements are in place and working.

- the strength of distributed **leadership** to drive the NRM arrangements.
- the level of **strategic focus** employed setting the priority directions.
- the body of **shared values and beliefs** at all levels to enable effective delivery.
- the scope & extent of **networks and relationship** to 'enable' the arrangements.
- the levels of **engagement** between the Commonwealth, State, the regions and the community to enable awareness, understanding and commitment.
- the availability and accessibility of **information** to build knowledge.
- the adequacy of **financial resources**.
- the number of **ready, willing and able people**.
- the availability and accessibility of **physical resources**.

(2) at the **3 tiers of community**:

1. the **Institutions** governments, NRM Boards and Groups and Local Government;
2. the **Organisations** production, community & environment groups; and
3. the **Individuals** volunteers, producers, businesses.

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

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

Members on nominated bodies during the reporting period were:

<b>NRM Body</b>	<b>NRM Council Representative</b>
Volunteer Committee	Joe Keynes
Engaging NRM Community Capacity Steering Group	Sharon Starick and Wendy Bell
Kangaroo Management Reference Group	Sharon Starick and Karina Lester (for ASAC)
Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee (ASAC)	Karina Lester (Chair)
Premiers Drought Taskforce	Sharon Starick
NRM Research Alliance Board	Sharon Starick (until April 2011), Felicity-ann Lewis (from May 2011)
NRM Council Assessment Subcommittee (CASc)	Vicki-Jo Russell and Sharon Starick
Climate Change Adaptation Reference Group	Sharon Starick, John Leake and Vicki-Jo Russell
State NRM Plan Steering Committee	Roger Wickes, Sharon Starick and Vicki-Jo Russell
State Bushfire Coordination Committee	Chris Reed (on nomination from NRM Council)
NRM Planners Network Forum	Wendy Bell
Southern Water Information Management Board	John Leake
Development and Planning Sub Committee	John Leake and Felicity-Ann

	Lewis
Planning Institute of Australia – Environmental Planning Chapter	Wendy Bell
Review of NRM Groups and Committees Reference Group	Sharon Starick and Joe Keynes

### **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>
The new Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the regional integration process	Allan Holmes	DENR
The new Department for Water	Scott Ashby	DfW
Regional Delivery Model	John Schutz	DENR
Primary Industries and Resources SA – vision, goals and future challenges/opportunities	Geoff Knight	PIRSA
State NRM Plan	Brenton Gear	DENR
Environment Protection Authority – strategic direction	Helen Fulcher	EPA
South Australian Planning System	Ian Nightingale	DPLG
Climate Change Adaptation Framework	Andrew Klos	DPC
Sustainable Landscapes	Greg Cock	PIRSA
Guide to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan	Mandy Rossetto and Linda Carruthers	DfW
Integration of NRM Regional Delivery	Peter Alexander	DENR
Peak Body presentations	Tim Kelly and Wendy Campana	Conservation Council of SA and Local Government Association of SA
Water Planning Management Reform Program	Kylie O’Connell	DfW

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The NRM Council was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. This report for the 2010-11 financial year fulfils the requirements of Section 20 of the NRM Act.

## **OBJECT OF THE *NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT***

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

- (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 Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. Pursuant to section 6 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1994*, certain functions and powers of the Minister for Environment and Conservation in relation to the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board have been conferred on the Minister for the River Murray (who throughout 2010-11 was also the Minister for 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:

- (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 for the appointment of members. Members appointed are:

Andrew Inglis (Presiding Member)	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Brian Foster	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Dianne Ashby	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Kerry Colbung	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Dr Timothy Milne	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Wendy Bell	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013
Roger Wickes	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013
Joseph Keynes	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
Felicity-ann Lewis	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
David Morcom (deputy to Felicity-ann Lewis)	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013

During the reporting period the following members' terms expired:

Sharon Starick (Presiding Member)	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Vicki-Jo Russell	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Karina Lester	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
Anthony Cheshire	Appointed 30.4.2008 to 29.4.2011
John Leake	Appointed 10.9.2009 to 29.4.2011

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:

Mr Scott Ashby	Chief Executive, DfW	(Proxy – Tim Goodes)
Mr Geoff Knight	Chief Executive, PIRSA	(Proxy – Helen Lamont)
Mr Allan Holmes	Chief Executive, DENR	(Proxy – Greg Leaman)
Ms Helen Fulcher	Chief Executive, EPA	(Proxy – Peter Dolan)
Dr Barry Longstaff	Australian Government NRM Team	(Proxy – Simon Goodhand)
Mr Ian Nightingale	Chief Executive, DPLG	(Proxy – Donna Ferretti)

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Eight general NRM Council meetings were held during the 2010-11 financial year. Two special meetings were held, one in December 2010 (strategic planning day) and one in May 2011 (workshop progressing the State NRM Plan).

In addition, an extraordinary meeting was held with the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board in Port Lincoln on 13 October 2010.

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
Sharon Starick	8	Term ended 29 April 2011
Karina Lester	7	Term ended 29 April 2011
Vicki-Jo Russell	8	Term ended 29 April 2011
John Leake	8	Term ended 29 April 2011
Wendy Bell	7	
Anthony Cheshire	7	Term ended 29 April 2011
Roger Wickes	7	
Felicity-ann Lewis	6	
Joseph Keynes	7	
David Morcom	3	Deputy to Felicity-ann Lewis
Andrew Inglis	0	New Presiding Member – appointed 16 June 2011
Brian Foster	0	New member – appointed 16 June 2011
Dianne Ashby	0	New member – appointed 16 June 2011
Dr Timothy Milne	0	New member – appointed 16 June 2011
Kerry Colbung	0	New member – appointed 16 June 2011

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The Department for Water, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, SA Water, Primary Industries and Resources SA, the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Planning and Local Government and the Australian Government all have authorised representatives on NRM Council.

The NRM Council has signed a “Delivering NRM Together” document which outlines the commitment of the NRM Council, NRM Boards and NRM agencies to work together to deliver natural resources management outcomes for South Australia.

NRM Council and the Regional NRM Boards have signed a Statement of Intent. The document is a statement of our collective intent to work together to achieve and deliver the objects of the NRM Act. Our common goal is the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in South Australia through an integrated approach to the use and management of the State’s natural resources.

## **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

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

- Governance Framework
- Meeting procedures and member obligations
- NRM Council decision making framework
- Policy development
- Guidelines for presentations
- Guidelines for distribution of correspondence

## **STAFFING**

The NRM Council utilises the services of the staff and facilities of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the Department's Annual Report 2010-11 under section 6A of the Public Sector Act 2009.

Assigned staff during the reporting period:

Rachel Pfitzner	NRM Council Business Manager
David Hanna	Project Officer
Hannah Pitcher	Executive Assistant
Sara Bann	Administrative Support
Deb Rav	Project Officer
Mica Balela	NRM Project Officer

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

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

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

- Presiding Member: \$258 per four-hour session. The Presiding Member also receives an annual allowance/retainer as part of the remuneration package.
- Member: \$206 per four-hour session.

Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee:

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

Volunteer Committee:

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

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

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 four females and five males (plus one male deputy member) at the end of the 2010-11 reporting period.

Members are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and the equal opportunity policies and programs of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE NRM COUNCIL**

The Council is not a corporate entity and has no separate funds of its own. As such, reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

**Account Payment Performance**

DENR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Council through DTF (Shared Services). Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

**Contractual Arrangements**

The Committee 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.

Financial services are provided to the NRM Council by DENR and reporting on strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DENR 2010-2011 Annual Report.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE (OHS&W)**

There were no OHS&W incidents reported by the NRM Council in the reporting period.

As a user of DENR facilities and equipment, the NRM Council is aware of and abides by DENR’s OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING EXPENDITURE**

<b>Training and Development</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>% of Total Salary Expenditure</b>
Total training and development expenditure	\$0	0%
Total leadership and management development expenditure	\$0	0%

## **CONSULTANTS**

Throughout 2010-11, the NRM Council engaged one consultant who undertook the following work on behalf of the NRM Council:

- In December 2010, Natalie Fuller of Natalie Fuller and Associates was engaged to facilitate NRM Council's strategic planning day at a cost of \$3600.

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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

## **ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE**

DENR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the NRM Council. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **DISABILITY ACTION PLANS**

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

Members of the NRM Council are aware of and abide by their obligations under the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *State Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS**

The NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

The government adopted the South Australian Urban Design Charter as whole-of-government urban policy. The Charter was publicly 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 NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

The NRM Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **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 as 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.”

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

As a DENR controlled entity, the NRM Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DENR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The NRM Council undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2010-11.

## **GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK**

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

GoGO Priority Area 1: energy management

GoGO Priority Area 2: water conservation and wastewater management

GoGO Priority Area 3: waste management

GoGO Priority Area 4: built facilities management

GoGO Priority Area 5: travel and fleet management

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR 2010-11 Annual Report.

### **WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993**

There were no instances where public interest has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The NRM Council appreciates the support and encouragement it has received from the Minister for Environment and Conservation and staff from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Fact Sheet:

*Water for Good* - Action 48.