

# **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012**



**Government  
of South Australia**

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Natural Resources  
Management Council

Natural Resources Management Council  
Annual Report 2011-2012

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October 2012

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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

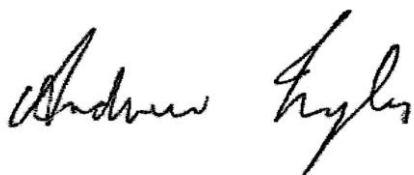
Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Council for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. This report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

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: 21 November 2012

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## **PLANS AND OBJECTIVES**

A new State NRM Plan – ‘*Our Place. Our Future. State Natural Resources Management Plan, South Australia, 2012-2017*’ – was released in June 2012.

Prior to that, the Natural Resources Management Council (NRM Council) has been guided by the *State Natural Resources Management Plan 2006* (State NRM Plan 2006).

### **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 2006 identified a 50-year vision for natural resources management (NRM) in South Australia. That plan contained 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.

The next annual report of the NRM Council will report against the new State NRM Plan - *Our Place. Our Future. State Natural Resources Management Plan, South Australia, 2012-2017*.

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

In many cases, contributions by the NRM Council through the State NRM Plan 2006 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 2006 towards delivering aspects of the objectives of South Australia’s Strategic Plan are detailed in Table 1.

In some cases, contributions to the objectives of South Australia’s Strategic Plan may be indirect – for example, strategies under each of the four goals in the State NRM Plan provided for ‘expanding opportunities’ through education, training and Aboriginal employment.

Table 1. Key links between South Australia's Strategic Plan and the State NRM Plan 2006

State NRM Plan	South Australia's Strategic Plan					
	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.	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	

Source: State Natural Resources Management Plan 2006

The number of ticks indicates the strength of linkages. Further details of the key links of each goal to South Australia's Strategic Plan targets are contained within the State NRM Plan 2006.

The new State NRM Plan 2012-2017 strongly aligns with targets within South Australia's Strategic Plan – in particular, 'Our Environment' and Targets 62, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 76 and 77.

NRM Council has a particular interest in the Cabinet Strategic Priority – 'Premium food and wine from our clean environment'. However there are NRM aspects to each of the seven strategic priorities of government. Activities relating to the Cabinet Strategic Priorities will be reported in the 2012-13 annual report of NRM Council.

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **NRM Council Priorities**

NRM Council conducted a strategic planning day on 2 December 2011, to identify strategic priorities for the 18 months to June 2013. In addition to NRM Council's statutory responsibilities and ongoing priority to encourage stakeholder engagement in NRM, NRM Council identified six priority areas for providing strategic advice in 2012-13:

1. State NRM Plan
2. Basin Plan
3. Climate Change
4. Land Use Planning
5. Water Allocation Planning
6. Food Security, Sustainability and NRM

These have been progressed through focussed discussion sessions and advice has been provided to the Minister, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and through submissions to other bodies.

### **State NRM Plan 2012-2017**

The NRM Act requires that the State NRM 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 in relation to those matters (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 endorsed the revised State NRM Plan in March 2012 and the plan was released by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on World Environment Day, 5 June 2012.

NRM Council, in conjunction with DENR, has engaged with key stakeholders from the beginning of the plan's development through to release of the plan and ongoing implementation.

## **Proposed Basin Plan**

NRM Council worked in alignment with the Department for Water to seek the best possible outcomes for SA in the development of the Proposed Basin Plan for the Murray-Darling Basin. The NRM Council received briefings and made a submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the Proposed Basin Plan, as well as to the State Government submission. These submissions outlined a number of areas for improvement in the Proposed Basin Plan. A number of these have subsequently been addressed in the revision of the Basin Plan.

## **Climate Change**

The South Australian Government released '*Prospering in a Changing Climate – An Adaptation Framework for South Australia*'<sup>1</sup> for public consultation in early 2011. The Adaptation Framework 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. NRM Council received a presentation on climate change adaptation and government policy in June 2012. A number of regional NRM boards are leading or participating in Regional Integrated Vulnerability Assessments, consistent with the Adaptation Framework.

## **Land Use Planning**

The NRM Council has a statutory function under the NRM Act (section 17(e)(ii)) to contribute to the adoption of sound natural resource management policies under the Planning Strategy pursuant to the *Development Act 1993*.

Section 74(4) of the NRM Act states that the State NRM Plan must take into account the provisions of the Planning Strategy and NRM Council may identify desired changes to the Planning Strategy. The improvement of connections between NRM and statutory land-use planning was identified as a priority to strengthen the NRM system in the State NRM Plan. Guiding Target 5 in the plan also relates to the integration of NRM and land-use planning, with three representative measures suggested. Thus, while the State NRM Plan does not identify any specific changes to the Planning Strategy, the NRM Council continues to recognise the importance of the alignment between the NRM and land-use planning systems. The attendance of a representative of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure at NRM Council meetings facilitates the input of planning expertise into NRM Council discussions and advice.

NRM Council received an update on these initiatives at its November 2011 meeting. This included a report: '*A review of the Natural Resources Management and Development Planning Systems in South Australia*'.

NRM Council also noted the review of NRM modules of the SA Planning Policy Library, with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board leading some of that work.

NRM Council member Wendy Bell also continues to play a key role as the Council's liaison person with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and DENR on this priority.

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<sup>1</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 Allocation Planning**

In addition to its input into the Proposed Basin Plan for the Murray-Darling Basin, the NRM Council has reviewed a number of draft Water Allocation Plans<sup>2</sup>. These have included the draft Water Allocation Plans for the: Mallee Prescribed Wells Area; Tintinara Coonalpyn Prescribed Wells Area; and Western Mt Lofty Ranges Prescribed Water Resources Area.

## **Food Security, Sustainability and NRM**

The new State NRM Plan 2012-2017 includes the goal: “Sustainable management and productive use of land, water, air and sea”. The two related targets are:

- All NRM planning and investment decisions take into account ecological, social and production considerations; and to
- Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources.

The seven guiding targets relating to Goal 3 (“Improved condition and resilience of natural systems”) are also closely linked to food security, sustainability and NRM. These include the guiding target to improve soil and land condition.

A submission was made to the Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices and further activities will be reported in the 2012-13 annual report.

## **Legislative Review**

The Natural Resources Legislation Review project was undertaken by DENR 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 (section 17(1)(b) of the NRM Act). Appendix 1 of the new State NRM Plan 2012-2017 includes a summary assessment of the state and condition of South Australia’s natural resources, including a snapshot of condition and trends across the NRM regions. This assessment was based on State of the Environment reporting, State of the Region sections of regional NRM plans, other monitoring and evaluation reports and expert opinion. While the assessment is somewhat subjective, work underway should improve our ability to assess and report on state-wide and regional trends in natural resource condition.

The NRM Council continues to encourage better alignment of State of the Environment Reporting with NRM monitoring, now being progressed through the NRM Reporting Framework. The NRM Reporting Framework is a key initiative to enable the NRM Council to fulfil its statutory functions. NRM Council has received a number of updates on the progress of this initiative and looks forward to receiving the first report cards on the condition of natural resources in the coming financial year. In particular NRM Council contributed to the social aspects of Environmental Reporting.

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<sup>2</sup> As required under sections 79(6) and 80(1), with reference also to section 76(2), of the NRM Act.

*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 (section 17(1)(b)(i) of the NRM Act), which includes the NRM Groups.

A 'Review of NRM groups and committees in South Australia' was initiated by NRM Council in early 2011. The NRM Council provided its report to the Minister in February 2012. The report fulfilled a responsibility of the NRM Council under the NRM Act to report on and evaluate the performance of NRM entities (Section 17 (1b)). The Minister noted the report in March 2012 and asked that the NRM Council provide the report to NRM Boards to review the findings and to implement the recommendations where appropriate.

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

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

The review, with support from DENR, was completed in February 2012 and the Minister noted the outcomes and recommendations of the review on 22 March 2012.

### **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). At its August 2011 meeting, NRM Council considered the amendments to the Alinytjara Wilurara Regional NRM Plan and endorsed the plan, complimenting the presentation of the plan.

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional NRM Plan is scheduled to be reviewed in 2012-13.

### **Aboriginal Engagement in NRM**

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

The new State NRM Plan includes some important targets relating to Aboriginal engagement in natural resources management and increasing understanding of geological features and landscapes that are culturally important for Aboriginal people.

ASAC membership terms elapsed on 29 April 2011. The NRM Council took the opportunity to review and update the terms of reference of ASAC, as well as to develop a governance statement, prior to the appointment of new members. The revised terms of reference and governance statement were noted by the Minister on 30 November 2011.

The terms of reference were refocussed with a strong emphasis on providing advice to NRM Council on the development and implementation of Aboriginal targets in the State NRM Plan.

ASAC members were appointed by the NRM Council on 1 December 2011 for a three year term. At the time of this appointment there were two vacancies. Mr Tauto Sansbury was subsequently appointed on 2 March 2012. A vacancy still exists for a representative from the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board.

During the reporting period 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 by DENR for the planning for marine parks.
- Provided advice on Aboriginal strategies for the draft revised State NRM Plan.
- Provided Aboriginal knowledge and expertise to the assessment of the NRM Community Grants program (through member Rose Lester).
- Provided support and advice relating to the Aboriginal award component of the Premiers NRM Awards for 2011.
- Claudia Smith was appointed to represent ASAC on the Kangaroo Management Reference Group.
- Developed a template for reporting to NRM Council on targets in the State NRM Plan.

ASAC met twice during 2011-12 on 19 December 2011 and 13 June 2012 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.

### **Membership of ASAC**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Derek Walker	Independent Chair
Parry Agius (Rose Lester – Deputy)	Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
Timothy Hartman	South East NRM Board
Leanne Liddle	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Fraser Vickery	Kangaroo Island NRM Board
Margaret Binell	Eyre Peninsula NRM Board
Claudia Smith	Northern & Yorke NRM Board
Tauto Sansbury	Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
Khatija Thomas	Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement
Kerry Colbung	NRM Council
John Chester	Aboriginal Lands Trust

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

During the 2011-12 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>
Third Party Significant Environmental Benefit offset for the clearance of native vegetation under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i>	Provided in-principle support to the policy and proposed government amendment	July 2011
Alinytjara Wilurara Regional NRM Plan <sup>3</sup>	Endorsed the Plan and provided supporting advice to the Minister	August 2011
Mallee Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan <sup>4</sup>	Provided advice to the Minister on the plan	August 2011
Water Allocation Plan consultation and approval process	Provided advice to the Minister on the process for consultation and approval of Water Allocation Plans	September 2011
Tintinara Coonalpyn Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan <sup>3</sup>	Provided advice to the Minister on the plan	November 2011
Policy on the implementation of unbundling water rights in South Australia	Provided advice to the Department for Water on the draft policy and provided in principle support	November 2011
Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan <sup>4</sup>	Provided advice to the Minister on the plan	February 2012
Environment Protection Authority's proposed licence fee structures for the operation of desalination plants	Provided input on the policy	March 2012
Proposed Basin Plan	Provided a submission to the Minister on the Proposed Basin Plan	March 2012
Resources and Energy Sector Infrastructure Council (RESIC) Consultation Paper	Provided advice to DMITRE on the consultation paper	April 2012
Submissions on Commonwealth matters which impact on NRM Boards	Responded to the Presiding Member, AW NRM Board	April 2012
Proposed Basin Plan	Submission sent to Murray-Darling Basin Authority	April 2012
National Wildlife Corridors Plan	Provided advice and in principle support for the draft plan	April 2012
Sustainable Farming Practices	Submission made to Select Committee of Parliament	June 2012
Regional Integration Project	Provided ongoing advice to DENR on the regional integration project	Ongoing

<sup>3</sup> As required under sections 79(6) and 80(1) of the NRM Act.

<sup>4</sup> As required under sections 79(6) and 80(1), with reference also to section 76(2), of the NRM Act.

<b>NRM Plan / Policy</b>	<b>NRMC Input</b>	<b>Date</b>
Regional NRM Board Membership Process	Provided advice to the Minister regarding the appointment process and nominations to the regional NRM boards	Ongoing

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

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 (ASAC)	Kerry Colbung
Climate Change Adaptation Reference Group	Andrew Inglis and Sharon Starick
Community Engagement Board	Andrew Inglis
Kangaroo Management Reference Group	Sharon Starick, David Lindner (on nomination from NRM Council)
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
State Bushfire Coordination Committee	Chris Reed (on nomination from NRM Council)
State NRM Plan Committee	Andrew Inglis
Regional Integration Advisory Committee	Andrew Inglis
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>
Third party Significant Environmental Benefit offset of the	Paul Gould	DENR

clearance of native vegetation under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i>		
National Food Plan	Don Plowman	PIRSA
Alinytjara Wilurara Regional NRM Plan	Phil Smith Karan Smith	DENR AW NRM Board
Regional Integration Project	John Schutz	DENR
Marine Parks in South Australia	Chris Thomas	DENR
Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan	Peter Dolan	EPA
State of the Environment Report 2013	Tobias Hills	EPA
Natural Resources Legislation Review Project	Merridie Martin	DENR
Proposed Basin Plan	Mandy Rosetto Di Favier	DFW
Natural Resources Management and Land Use Planning	Merridie Martin	DENR
Draft Policy on the Management of Over-Abundant and Impact-Causing Wildlife	Michael Grieg Fiona Fulbohm	DENR
Clean, Green Food Taskforce (later renamed Premium Food and Wine from Our Clean Environment)	Ian Nightingale	PIRSA
NRM Reporting Framework	Brad Page	DENR
Social Aspects and Impacts of NRM	Wendy Bell Melissa Nursey-Bray	NRM Council University of Adelaide
Climate Change	Darren Ray Stephanie Ziersch Rohan Hamden Stephen Laird	Bureau of Meteorology DENR

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The NRM Council was established on 9 December 2004 under the auspices of the NRM Act. This report for the 2011-12 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 2011-12 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
Brian Foster	Appointed 16.6.2011 to 29.4.2014
Joseph Keynes	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
Roger Wickes	Appointed 30.4.2010 to 29.4.2013

During the reporting period the following deputy member resigned:

David Morcom (deputy to Felicity-ann Lewis)	Appointed 6.5.2010 to 29.4.2013
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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:

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

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Ten general NRM Council meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year. Two special meetings were held: one in August 2011 (Draft State NRM Plan workshop) and one in December 2011 (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	12	
Timothy Milne	12	
Dianne Ashby	9	
Wendy Bell	11	

Kerry Colbung	4	Unable to attend 2011 meetings due to illness and work commitments
Brian Foster	11	
Joseph Keynes	8	
Felicity-ann Lewis	9	
Roger Wickes	11	

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

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

The NRM Council is a signatory to ‘*Delivering NRM Together*’ 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 collective intent to work together to achieve and deliver the objects of the NRM Act. The 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 developed a number of policies that guide members (and supporting staff) in their responsibilities including:

- a draft Governance Framework including a decision making framework (to be finalised in 2012-13)
- Meeting procedures and member obligations
- Guidelines for presentations

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 DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from existing DENR 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 four females and five males at the conclusion of the 2011-12 reporting period.

### **The following matters are also contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-2012**

- 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
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report

## **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.

## **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

The NRM Council does not own any non-residential buildings and is, therefore, not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

The South Australian Government adopted the South Australian Urban Design Charter as a 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 2011-12 Annual Report.

## **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 2011-12 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*.

## **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 2011-12 Annual Report.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The NRM Council undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2011-12.

## **RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

As the NRM Council usually meets on Kaurna 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 Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The NRM Council also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kaurna 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 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Review of NRM Groups and Committees in South Australia*

State Natural Resources Management Plan 2012-2017  
*‘Our Place, Our Future’*