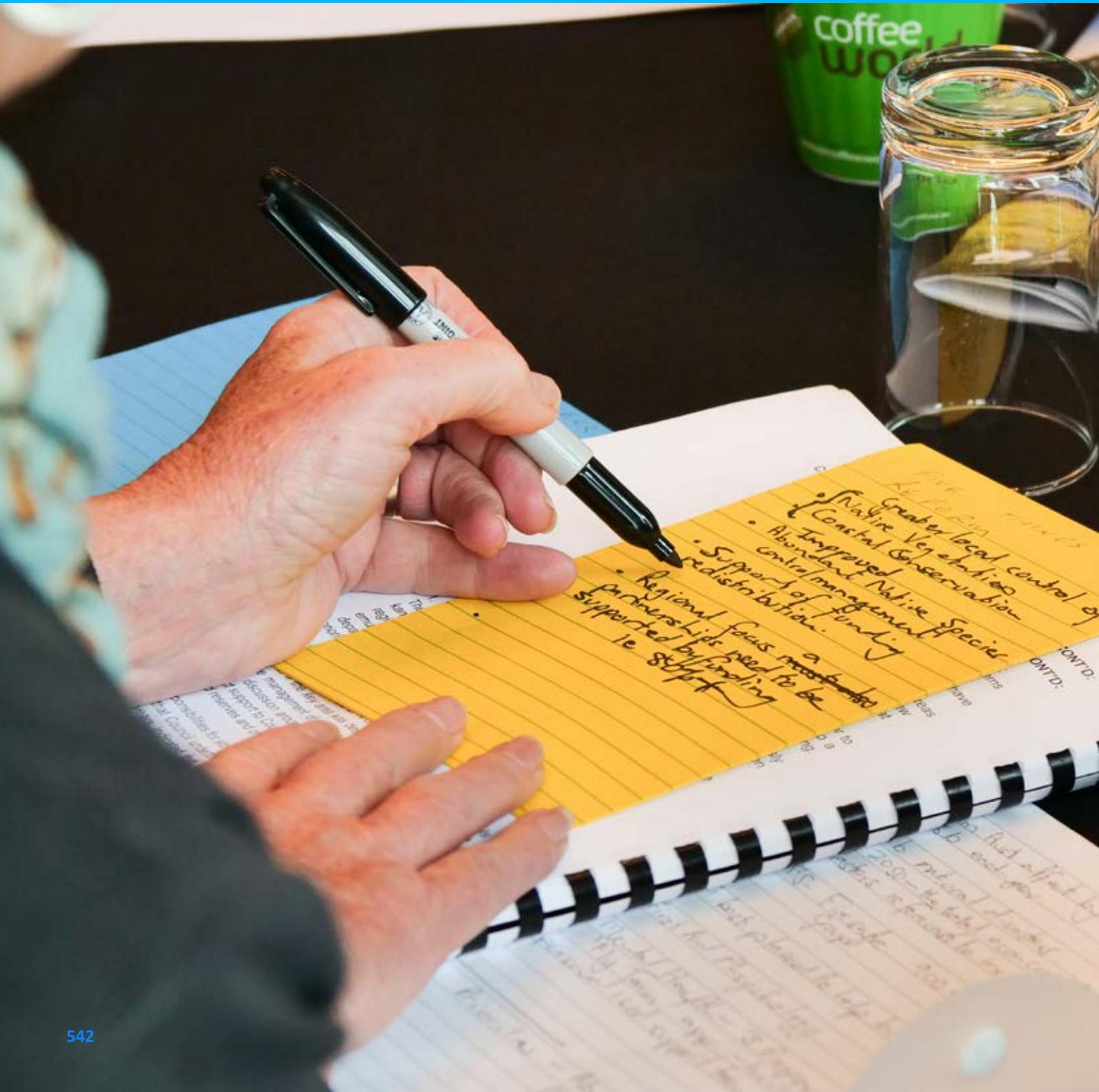


8.5 | Reports From Staff-led Engagement With Community



PHASE: STAFF-LED ENGAGEMENT
SESSION: North Flinders NRM Group
DATE: 9/10/2018
LOCATION: Via phone

Attendees –

Matthew Westover, staff facilitator, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

Brendon Bevan, Ian Ferguson, Lesley Nicholls, Kate Blackmore, Reg Wilton, Ngatina Purnell-Webb and Norton Warnest

Ngatina and Ian both attended the forum in Leigh Creek.

Staff facilitator summary of session

As community members who have been active in driving NRM in their area, the North Flinders NRM Group wanted to prepare a submission to the Landscapes SA consultation. Not all members were able to attend the public session in Leigh Creek.

The group felt that the NRM group model was helping to achieve most of the five principals and felt that this model represents decentralised decision making. The group hope this reform will result in better collaboration across regions. They welcomed the idea of a back to basics approach but also felt that methods used in pest plant and animal control should be best practice and monitoring needs to back that up.

What we heard

The group undertook three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

- What are the **top five things you would like the reform to achieve** for natural resource management in your region?
- What are the **top five things that are currently working well** and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
- The **5 Principles of the reform** - What does this principle mean to you? Does it resonate? How might it address the priorities we've identified?
- **Measuring success** - If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM – WHAT WE WOULD LIKE THE REFORM TO ACHIEVE

Each participant was asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The group then shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

<u>Cross border collaboration</u>	<u>Aboriginal Engagement</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better communication between districts and regions• Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would like to see greater involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM• Develop the bushfood industry (potential income stream for landholders and more involvement with Aboriginal people.

<p><u>Feral Animal Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have staff working across multiple species rather than specialising in just one • Provide baits for other species (foxes, cats, pigs) at Wild Dog injection services 	<p><u>NRM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A less reactive system • A more efficient and streamlined system
<p><u>Compliance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be accountability and some teeth to back up the act. 	<p><u>Community engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued and better community engagement

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each participant was asked to write down the top five things that are currently working well in natural resource management. The group then shared these with each other, grouping them in to themes together.

<p><u>NRM Group model</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working well x3 • Gives more people a better understanding of NRM • Groups are supported by the board • Diverse range of people on the groups • Group model needed in such a large region 	<p><u>Training and workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRM putting on a range of different workshops. • Providing positive education through workshops and bringing people together
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3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The group discussed the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform in relation to how their priorities might be addressed within each principle.

Commentary included –

Decentralised decision making

- Agree with principal x1
- Boards need to remain balanced in terms of knowledge and electing members may change that.
- Staff need to be regionally based and people who have local knowledge and networks.
- Agree, people in the field have a better understanding of NRM issues.

A simple and accessible system

- Agree with principal x3
- There needs to be better access to information
- Yes, keep it streamlined and efficient

Community and land owners at the centre

- Agree with principal
- District group model achieves this
- District groups play a role in this, and groups must be diverse

Back to basics

- Need to maintain a focus on feral predator control
- Needs to be sound methods. Collect data to ensure methods are achieving results
- There still needs to be a focus on threatened wildlife species
- Needs to be a focus on kangaroo control

A whole of landscape approach

- Agree with principal
- Projects should be carried out in water catchments and go across boundaries
- EMU (soil conservation) project was a good example
- Crucial in NRM work but accountability is needed to ensure everyone participates

4. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was two years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Not many people in South Australia understand NRM and what their levy does. A measure of success would be increasing that awareness.	Need to have good data about change in all aspects (budgets, employment, pest species, native species etc) Monitor change over time
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PHASE: STAFF-LED ENGAGEMENT
SESSION: North East Pastoral NRM Group
DATE: 12/10/2018
LOCATION: Manna Hill Hotel

Attendees –

Matthew Westover, staff facilitator, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

NRM Group Members Present:

Richard Williams, Nick Rasheed and David Sawers.

NRM Group Members not present but were invited to contribute:

Sanchia Treloar, Kurt Tschirner, Byron Crawford and Terrance Coulthard.

Other DEW staff present:

Peter Watkins, Ranger in charge at Bimbowrie Conservation Park

Chris Fulton, Community Engagement Officer, NR SAAL

Staff facilitator summary of session

As community members who have been active in driving NRM in their area, the North East Pastoral NRM Group wanted to prepare a submission to the Landscapes SA consultation. Not all members were able to attend the public session in Yunta.

The North East Pastoral NRM Group felt that a lot of the priorities are being achieved by NRM groups who are local decision makers and raising awareness of NRM in their district. They also felt that funding needs to be equitably distributed across the landscape, irrespective of where the levy is collected.

What we heard

The group undertook three facilitated activities, exploring the following topics –

- What are the **top five things you would like the reform to achieve** for natural resource management in your region?
- What are the **top five things that are currently working well** and you would be disappointed if they were lost through this reform process?
- The **5 Principles of the reform** - What does this principle mean to you? Does it resonate? How might it address the priorities we've identified?
- **Measuring success** - If you were the Minister, how would you know that the reform has been successful?

The notes below are written up verbatim.

1. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM – WHAT WE WOULD LIKE THE REFORM TO ACHIEVE

Each participant was asked to write down their top five priorities for the Landscape SA reform process. The group then shared their priorities with each other, grouping them in to themes together. Participants chose headings for each of the clusters of priorities.

<u>Funding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More funding going into on ground programs	<u>Boards</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amalgamate the dog fence board with Landscapes boards so one entity is responsible for all aspects of dog control
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate service charge paid to the department is unfair to levy payers and impacts larger regions with a small levy base • Funds need to be spread equitably across the state and not just spent where the money is collected • Levies collected in densely populated areas should be used to support the region 	
<p><u>Tourism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a focus on tourism impacts. • The state is promoting tourism but not investing in addressing the impacts (erosion, roads, rubbish etc) 	

2. WHAT'S CURRENTLY WORKING WELL?

Each participant was asked to write down the top five things that are currently working well in natural resource management. The group then shared these with each other, grouping them in to themes together.

<p><u>NRM System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current system is working well, it just needs more funding 	<p><u>NRM Group model</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure how NRM would work in remote areas without NRM groups. • NRM groups have raised the profile of NRM in the regions.
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3. THE 5 PRINCIPLES

The group discussed the 5 principles which the Minister has developed to help guide the legislation reform in relation to how their priorities might be addressed within each principle.

Commentary included –

Decentralised decision making

- Already being done by the board and its NRM groups
- Needs to be done carefully in remote areas so not to overload people who are active in other parts of the community
- Majority of decision makers are city based and don't have an understanding of living in remote areas

A simple and accessible system

- Need to have regionally based staff who spend more time in the field
- Need to have more longer-term funding sources to invest longer term in issues
- Needs a clearer way of prioritising what introduced species are invested in. Funding priorities change before an issue is fully dealt with

Community and land owners at the centre

- Agree, people living and working in the regions will make the best decisions
- Still needs to be well funded to support decisions

Back to basics

- Yes, makes sense

A whole of landscape approach

- Already happening most of the time
- Baiting services for wild dogs need to be free of charge across the whole state

4. MEASURING SUCCESS

Participants were asked to imagine that it was two years from now, and that they were the Minister for the Environment and Water. They were asked to write down how they would know that the Landscapes SA reform had been successful.

Tough to measure. Most NRM issues require long term solutions and cannot be measured in a few years.
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PHASE: DEW staff consultation
SESSION: POINT PEARCE
TIME/DATE: 11am – 1.30pm 24th October 2018
FACILITATOR: Lachlan Sutherland

NOTE: Point Pearce requested time to consider what they have put forward. Lachlan has provided Ed Newchurch with a copy of the below summary and asked him to get back to him with any comments as soon as possible.

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

A group of 10 participants from the Point Pearce Aboriginal Community and a representative from the Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation participated in the session.

The Coastal zone

- Because of the way Narungga Country (Yorke Peninsula) was colonised by Europeans the only areas not held freehold occur along the coastal fringe.
- The coast was a recurring topic during the session and Narungga see this zone as key to caring for their cultural heritage, engagement in natural resources management and pursuing economic development opportunities (tourism, ranger employment, visitor management, native plant harvesting).
- NRM and the coastal zone held opportunities to address the high unemployment of the Aboriginal community on Narungga Country
- Narungga seek access to, and care and control of Crown Lands along their coastlines (currently under care and control of local government)

Inclusion

- Point Pearce noted there are no NRM engagement initiatives currently in place
- NRM needs to engage the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and come to Point Pearce and involve the community in NRM engagement
- Community sought continued commitment from Northern and Yorke Board for the proposed Narungga Healthy Country Planning process
- Community sought transparent communication from the Board

Engagement

- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Point Pearce seek Landscapes Boards to partner with Aboriginal communities, bringing them in at the very start of projects and through to their completion
- Aboriginal Nations and communities need to be recognised as NRM partners, just like primary producers

Resourcing and support

- Dedicated funding needs to be made available for Aboriginal led and controlled projects
- Community seeks employment and training opportunities

Economic development

- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Point Pearce community raised concerns with the way local Council manage roadside vegetation (prefer DPTI managed approach to use of chainsaws not local Council use of hydro axe)
- Point Pearce and Narungga Nation want access to the roadside vegetation for seed collection and timber collection purposes
- Seek support from government to secure contracts to manage roadside vegetation

Board membership

- Landscapes Boards need dedicated and identified Aboriginal members (not skills based)
- It was suggested that one male and one female member was needed
- Aboriginal board members needed to be appropriately qualified in terms of being strong, knowledgeable, experienced and inclusive and they need to know what's happening on Country

Aboriginal advisory body

- The group considered that Aboriginal advisory bodies like those in the South East and Eyre Peninsula could provide support to the Aboriginal Board member
- Body could lead putting proposals to the Board and look for funding

Elections

- Concerns about who would be eligible to be elected. Would there be any barriers to Aboriginal people nominating
- No support for election process.

Accountability

- NRM Board has not been accountable to Narungga Nation or Point Pearce community
 - Only small help for the Indigenous Protected Area at Wardang Island
- Need to start communicating, coming to Point Pearce and meeting with Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Transparent dissemination of information is required so Point Pearce knows what is available, what opportunities exist and where we can step in. Information on grant and funding opportunities distributed when they 'first' released.
- Accountability means developing meaningful and sustainable projects in partnership between Point Pearce, NRM and Narungga Nation.

What success looks like?

- Economic development through NRM is occurring
- Point Pearce and Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation get first options on any small projects (e.g. weed eradication, roadside vegetation control)
- Income for local families and small businesses established to care for Country
- Ventures on our Country involving tourism
- Road side and pest plant and animal control contracts
- Care and control of the coastal zone – Coastal ranger program.