



Government of South Australia

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources
Management Board

EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board
Annual Report 2005 - 2006

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

30 March 2007

Mr Dennis Mutton
Chair
Natural Resources Management Council
GPO Box 2834
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Mutton

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995* and section 38 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The second year of the Boards operation has seen a consolidation of the establishment of the Board and its structures. The Board membership changed during the year with the resignation of Mr Hayden Davies due to personal reasons, and a vacancy still currently exists. Mr Jim Pollock, Mrs Evelyn Poole, Mr Tony Irvine, Mrs Sandra McCallum, Mrs Cecilia Woolford, Mr Sean O'Brien and Mr Peter Treloar along with myself are the remaining voting members.

Six agency representatives also sit on the Board; there have been some changes this year. Mr Ben Bruce has been appointed to represent PIRSA and Mr John Rumbelow has been appointed to represent Local Government. The other agency representatives are Mr Glyn Ashman (SA Water), Mr Ross Belcher (Department of Environment and Heritage), Mr Jeya Jeyasingham (Australian Government) and Mr Peter Butler (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation).

The Board continues to meet each month throughout the region and the briefing and workshop processes have led to the Board skill base being broadened and strengthened, with a strategic view of the regions Integrated Natural Resources being developed. We are continuing the development of the Boards regional groups and advisory committees to support the board and to provide our links with the community.

I pay tribute to the work of Ms Kate Clarke (General Manager) and all staff as we continue through this time of transition, while maintaining business as usual. Many people continue to contribute beyond their call of duty and I thank them all on behalf of the region.

Although the structural transition is largely complete, the next year will see the continuation of the transition process, in terms of process and cultural change and consolidation of new systems and should see some stability being established with the review of the initial plan.

The contents of this annual report details the progress of this Board over the past year, and I am proud to present it on behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board.

We are mindful of the great challenges ahead particularly those posed by drought and climate change, and the effect they will have on the regions people and communities, but we eagerly seek to do our part in reacting with a positive and sustainable response.

Our mission remains to leave this region well served in the area of integrated sustainable natural resource management for the future, and to have an informed sustainable ethos embedded within our community and personal decision making processes.

I commend the work of the Board and the Annual Report to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Foster', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brian Foster

PRESIDING MEMBER

EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOREWORD - PRESIDING MEMBER

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board has experienced a productive and exciting year, as we have commenced establishment of new partnerships and built on the tremendous efforts of what previously existed across the region. The Board is committed to integrating the combined efforts of community, industry and government to tackle the challenging job of natural resources management in this region. The diverse nature in terms of natural resources and regional demographics require the Board to ensure that effective partnerships are strengthened.

The Board has developed an initial Natural Resources Management (NRM) Plan, which outlines our work over the next two years until the Regional NRM Plan is approved. The development of the Regional NRM Plan provides the next phase in integrating natural resource management activities to promote a whole of landscape approach to future NRM. This process will also allow an opportunity for current and future partners to be involved in Regional plans.

A partnership approach is further facilitated through ensuring the investment of the community through the NRM levy and other funding streams promotes effective outcomes for the Regions NRM. The Board now manages significant State and Australian Government investment, delivered through programs such as the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Landcare Program. This and other funding from local Government and private partners provides the foundation on which the Board can plan for future needs.

The drought, climate change and changing land management practices potentially have profound impacts on all aspects of human activity, as well as ecosystems and biodiversity. The Board is taking a proactive approach to building regional capacity to adapt to ensure that Eyre Peninsula is well placed to external factors that impact on the Boards future direction.

Achieving our combined goals is only possible through partnerships with State and Australian Government agencies, councils, traditional owners, businesses, community groups and landholders.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has played an active role in the establishment of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board. I look forward to your continuing involvement.



Brian Foster
PRESIDING MEMBER
EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

This Annual Report describes the first full year of operation for the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board (the Board). This follows the passage of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the Act) through Parliament and coming into full effect on 1 July 2005. With the enactment of the legislation came the establishment of eight Natural Resources Management (NRM) Boards covering all of South Australia. As one of these Boards, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board will continue to develop partnerships with the community, industry and Government, that will support the development of integrated strategies and actions that will be implemented to manage, protect and restore our precious natural resources. These strategies and actions build upon the structures that had previously been operating within the Eyre Peninsula region.

The Board's most significant milestone for the year was reached on 9 January 2006 when all staff from antecedent Animal and Plant Control, Catchment Water Management and Soil Conservation Boards officially became employees of the new Board. The Board now has full responsibility for the management and delivery of all activities formerly delivered by 11 organisations, which were progressively dissolved over the year.

The focus of our efforts this year has been on implementing existing programs contained within various plans approved under the former arrangements. It has been important to maintain momentum in delivering NRM activities whilst the Board simultaneously develop the way for more holistic and coordinated approaches in the future. A new organisational structure that supports operations over a large geographical area across a diverse range of projects has been developed.

During this busy and productive year, the Board has also established governance arrangements and established four NRM Groups to assist with planning and delivery of NRM programs at a local level. Ensuring involvement of local communities is critical in the success of the management of the regions natural resources.

I would like to express appreciation for the dedicated effort of all staff during this period of transition. I greatly look forward to continued development of the Board, its business systems, staff and partnerships over the coming year.

Kate Clarke

GENERAL MANAGER

EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

INTRODUCTION

OBJECT OF THE *NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT*

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

- (a) recognises and protects the intrinsic values of natural resources;
- (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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (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 Act is under the control of the Minister administering the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

EYRE PENINSULA NRM BOARD AND ITS ACTIVITIES

FUNCTIONS OF THE EYRE PENINSULA NRM BOARD

Section 29 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* describes the functions of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.

- (1) The functions of a regional Natural Resources Management Board are -
 - (a) to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region;
 - (b)
 - (i) to prepare a regional Natural Resources Management plan in accordance with this Act;
 - (ii) to implement that plan;

- (iii) to keep the plan under review to ensure that the objects of this Act are being achieved;
 - (c) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources;
 - (d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the Board under this or any other Act;
 - (e) to resolve any issues that may arise between any Natural Resources Management groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region;
 - (f) at the request of the Minister or the Natural Resources Management Council, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of natural resources within its region, or on the management of those resources, to conduct any inquiry or audit, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (g) such other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a regional Natural Resources Management Board may act with respect to a particular matter despite the fact that the matter may not fall within the scope of its regional Natural Resources Management plan.
- (3) However, if a regional Natural Resources Management Board acts with respect to a particular matter in the circumstances described in subsection (2), the Board must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament (unless the matter is not, in the opinion of the Board, significant).
- (4) In performing its functions, a regional Natural Resources Management Board should (as far as is reasonably practicable) seek to work collaboratively with -
- (a) the other regional Natural Resources Management Boards whose regions adjoin the region of the Board;
 - (b) other State agencies, agencies of the Commonwealth, and agencies of the other States and Territories, that have functions that are relevant to those of the Board;
 - (c) Natural Resources Management groups with areas that fall (wholly or partially) within the region of the Board;
 - (d) the constituent councils for the region, and other councils as may be relevant;
 - (e) relevant industry, environment and community groups and organisations; and
 - (f) persons who own or occupy land within the region of the Board (insofar as may be relevant).
- (5) A regional Natural Resources Management Board will, with respect to the performance of its functions, report to the Minister.

- (6) If the Minister assigns a function to a regional Natural Resources Management Board under subsection (1)—
 - (a) the Minister must furnish a report on the matter to the Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament; and
 - (b) the regional Natural Resources Management Board must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act requires that the Minister must cause a report to be prepared annually setting out the following information:

- (1) A regional NRM Board must, on or before 31 October in every year, provide to the NRM Council a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June (and need not provide a report under section 6A of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*).
- (2) The report must—
 - (a) include an assessment of the extent to which the regional NRM Board has succeeded in implementing its regional NRM plan; and
 - (b) include the audited accounts and financial statements of the regional NRM Board; and
 - (c) be accompanied by the annual reports of the NRM groups within its region; and
 - (d) include other information required by or under this Act or the regulations.

SPECIFIC REPORTS

Section 39 of the Natural Resources Management Act states that:

- (1) The Minister or the NRM Council may, by written notice to a regional NRM Board, require the Board to provide to the Minister or the NRM Council, within a period stated in the notice or at stated intervals, any report or reports relating to the performance, exercise or discharge of its functions, powers or responsibilities, as the Minister or the NRM Council (as the case may be) thinks fit.
- (2) If a requirement is imposed under subsection (1), the regional NRM Board must cause a statement of the fact of the imposition of the requirement to be published in its next annual report.

It is noted no specific reports were requested by the Minister for Environment and Conservation or the Natural Resources Management Council during the 2005-2006 year.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) was established in December 2004. The *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the Act) provides the legislative framework for the creation of eight natural resources management (NRM) regions, each with a community driven NRM board. This report, for the financial year 2005-06, is presented to fulfill the requirements of Section 38 of the Act.

The role of the Board is to ensure integrated water, soil, and pest animal and plant management across landscapes that in the past were dealt with individually under separate programs. The Board replaced existing Animal and Plant Control, Catchment Water Management and Soil Conservation Boards and the Eyre Peninsula Interim Integrated NRM Group.

The Board's roles are defined in the Act and include:

- taking an active role in the management of natural resources within the region and providing advice on natural resource issues;
- preparing a regional natural resources management plan;
- implementing the Board's three-year business plan;
- promoting public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM;
- providing advice on the assessment of activities or proposals referred under legislation or on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources; and
- undertaking and supporting educational activities and increasing community capacity to undertake sustainable natural resource management.

The Board provides leadership, sets long-term targets for NRM, identifies priority areas for investment and involves and empowers communities. The Board invests in a large number of projects across the region to protect and restore natural assets and to promote sustainable production.

The Board also develops, implements and manages Regional Investment Strategies that deliver Australian and State Government investments to regions via the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the National Landcare Program (NLP).

The Board's activities rely on strong and effective relationships between local government, the State and Australian Governments, industry, landholders, traditional owners, schools and community groups.

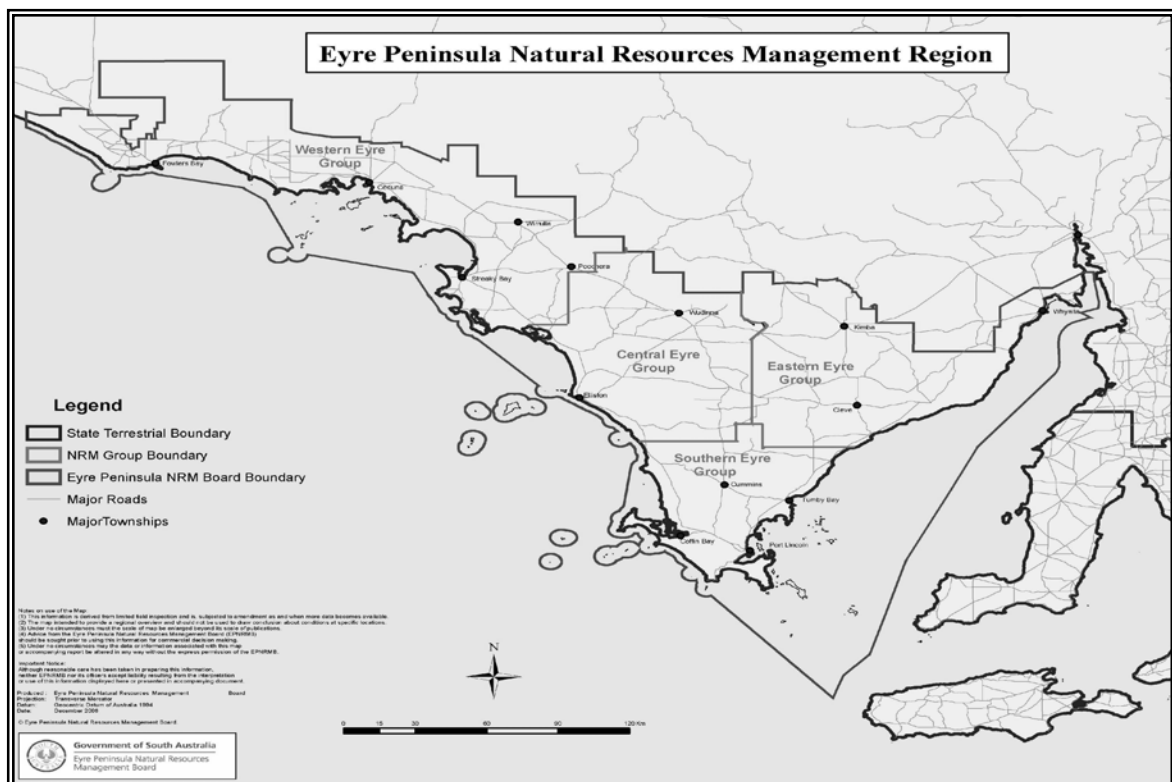
In order to maintain close links with the community, the Board has also established four NRM Groups within its region; these are the Western Eyre NRM Group, Central Eyre NRM Group, Southern Eyre NRM Group and the Eastern Eyre NRM Group. These Groups are primarily responsible for engaging communities and delivery of programs that address local priority issues within a regional setting.

THE BOARD REGION

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board region covers a significant area of the state and includes part of the upper Spencer Gulf and the City of Whyalla, stretches across the southern boundaries of the Gawler Ranges, west of Ceduna to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain and south to Port Lincoln. The surrounding coastal and marine environments are included along with important offshore islands (see Figure 1).

The Board's region covers over 80,000 square kilometres of South Australia and supports a population of about 55,000. The Eyre Peninsula has significant areas of natural vegetation cover (55%) and contains important mallee habitat, several woodland communities and a high number of endemic species. The region features fresh and saline wetlands and a long and relatively undisturbed coastline with important adjacent marine habitats.

The economic industries of Eyre Peninsula are based on agriculture (traditionally grain and wool, with olives and grapes increasing), seafood (fishing and aquaculture), tourism and mineral resources. The contribution to the State's economy by the Eyre Peninsula region is significant.



VISION AND VALUES

In short, the purpose of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board is to work with the community and our partners to manage, protect and restore the region's precious natural resources for current and future generations. To build support for this purpose the Board has developed the following vision for the region:

***Shaping the future management of Eyre Peninsula's Natural Resources
whilst providing leadership for the sustainable and
productive management of the natural resources of Eyre Peninsula.***

To build support for the Board so that it can engage partners, inspire and lead communities, industry and government to achieve this vision, it is important that the organisation articulates its own vision and the values that will drive it.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2005 - 2007

EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS

The Eyre Peninsula Initial Natural Resources Management Plan was endorsed by the Minister of Environment and Conservation on 14 May 2006.

The Initial Plan was prepared on the basis that is brought together existing plans and programs developed under repealed legislation as well as the current integrated Natural Resources Management plan for the region of which will continue to be implemented while the Board prepares its comprehensive plan.

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board's Initial Plan also saw endorsement of the Eyre Peninsula Catchment Water Management Plan and this was included within the Initial Natural Resources Management Plan.

The Initial Natural Resources Management Plan includes the following goals:

Control and Management of Pest Animals and Plants (Bio-security)

- Prevent new and emerging pest plant problems on Eyre Peninsula;
- A significant reduction in the impact of current pest problems;
- An informed community who understands economic, social and environmental impacts of pests;
- A coordinated integrated approach to animal and plant control across Eyre Peninsula region; and
- Appropriate plans, policies and resources that meet the needs of the Eyre Peninsula region and statutory requirements of the Act.

Water

- Protect and Manage water resources;
- Efficient use of water resources;
- Additional water supplies; and
- Informed and involved community.

Soil Conservation

- Appropriate management of land degradation and land management issues;
- Management of issues relating to change in land use particularly associated with increasing demand for lifestyle living and impact on coastal areas;
- Management of water and wind erosion;
- Undertaking Property Management Planning;

- Dryland salinity management;
- Management of soil fertility; and
- Vegetation management and revegetation associated with agriculture.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Aspirational Targets

Integrated Natural Resources Management aspirational targets were identified within the Interim Natural Resources Management Group plan as:

- Achieve a balance between the capacity of the regional water resources and the environmental, economic and social water needs of Eyre Peninsula;
- Eyre Peninsula will support a comprehensive system of ecologically viable areas in which healthy native flora and fauna populations will be strategically linked and sustainably managed for conservation, economic and social purposes;
- To ensure that the ecological integrity of the Eyre Peninsula coastal and marine resources is maintained and that coastal and marine resources are fairly and equitably used by the public and commercial interests alike.
- To encourage economic use of Eyre Peninsula soils and mineral resources within their sustainable capacity, recognising the needs and a balance between utilisation for economic purposes and natural systems;
- Manage all air land coast and marine based activities to ensure the air quality of the Eyre Peninsula is maintained.

Additional Goals identified by the Board

Additional Goals identified by the Board also included:

- Undertake comprehensive planning; and
- Implementation of a regional structure to support community engagement and communication

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Through development of the Eyre Peninsula Initial Natural Resources Management Plan, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board has been cognisant of aligning the organisation to the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan – *Creating Opportunity*.

Key Objectives from South Australia's Strategic Plan

The major focus with relation to the South Australia's Strategic Plan has been in the area of Attaining Sustainability and Building Communities.

Attaining Sustainability

- Protection of land and marine biodiversity;
- Securing water future; and
- Addressing relevant issues from National Water Initiative.

Building Communities

- Membership of Government agencies;
- Effective partnership of State, local Governments and regions; and
- Identifying volunteer programs and supporting current volunteer practices.

LINKS TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC PLAN AND STATE NRM PLAN

NRM activities in the region are consistent with the South Australian Strategic Plan and the State NRM Plan. The South Australian Strategic Plan, *Creating Opportunity*, is the overarching document to guide the State's future development. The Plan contains numerous targets under six key objectives:

- Growing prosperity
- Improving wellbeing
- Attaining sustainability
- Fostering creativity
- Building communities
- Expanding opportunity

Initial NRM Plan	State Strategic Plan					
Program Areas	Objectives					
	Growing prosperity	Improving wellbeing	Attaining sustainability	Fostering creativity	Building communities	Expanding opportunity
Promote Landscape Scale Management (Soil Conservation)	✓	✓	✓			✓
Control Pest Animals and Plants	✓	✓				✓
Manage Water Resources	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Plan, Manage, Monitor and Evaluate Outcomes			✓		✓	

The State NRM Plan identifies a 50-year vision for natural resource management. It sets bold targets for improving the health of ecosystems through a partnership approach between governments, private and community sectors and individuals. The State NRM Plan contains four goals:

- landscape scale management that maintains healthy natural systems and is adaptive to climate change;
- prosperous communities and industries using and managing natural resources within ecologically sustainable limits;
- communities, governments and industries with the capability, commitment and connections to manage natural resources in an integrated way; and
- integrated management of biological threats to minimise risk to natural systems, communities and industry.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

An integrated “whole-of-government” approach to NRM requires effective partnerships with State Government agencies. The Board has established cooperative arrangements with the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), Primary Industry and Resources SA (PIRSA), Planning SA, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and SA Water. The Board has a strong partnership with the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) for the development of Regional Plans, through the NHT Agreements. As the State Government’s lead agency for NRM, the Board works closely with DWLBC in the development and implementation of NRM and Water Allocation Plans, and Regional Investment Strategies, which deliver Australian and State Government investments via NHT and NLP to the Region.

The Board also has strong relationships with the Australian Government to ensure national priorities are address with local planning processes. The Board also has a strong connection with the Australian Government through NHT Investments and support provided by the Natural Resources Management facilitator network.

HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAJOR INITIATIVES

INITIAL PLAN

The Initial Plan, which was approved by the Minister for Environment and Conservation and Parliament in May 2006, will guide the Board's activities and investments until 1 July 2008, when the Regional NRM Plan takes effect. The Initial Plan meets all the requirements of the Act and is consistent with the State NRM Plan.

The Initial Plan contains the Catchment Water Management Boards' commitments for 2006-08 through the Catchment Water management Plan, the ongoing operations of the Animal and Plant Control Boards and Soil Conservation Boards and the investments outlined by the Eyre Peninsula Interim Integrated NRM Group.

All of the antecedent boards' program and project commitments have been aligned under the following NRM programs:

- Protect and Manage Water Resources;
- Efficient Use of Water Resources;
- Additional Water Resources;
- Informed and Involved Community;
- Control and Management of Pest Animals and Plants;
- NHT2 Program Management;
- Regional Investment Strategy;
- National Landcare Program;
- Reimbursement of levy collection costs; and
- Governance.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL NRM PLAN

This Plan will set out the long-term vision for the region and will guide the actions of the Board and other investors and key players over the next three to five years, from July 2008. The Board is required to prepare a Regional NRM Plan in accordance with requirements of the Act.

The Plan must include:

- A ten year strategic plan for the region;
- A three year business plan for our Board, which identifies the staff, physical and financial resources required to implement the plan;
- The Board's goals and how they will be implemented, including through working with councils and other bodies;

- Information on the condition of natural resources and issues related to their use, management and conservation at regional and local level; and
- How the Board will monitor the state and condition of natural resources and related trends.

The Concept Statement for the Plan was released for consultation in August 2006. The Plan is due for completion and approval in 2008.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Board developed an Investment Strategy linked to Natural Heritage Trust funding. Projects funded for the 2005-06 period included:

- Program Management
- Indigenous Capacity Building and Partnerships Program
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Salinity, Water logging and Stream Management (Cummins Wanilla Basin (Phase 2))
- The Charlton Gully Sub-Catchment Project
- A Coordinated Approach to Wetland Management (Stage 2)
- Big and Little Swamps Catchment Project (Phase 2)
- Southern Eyre Integrated Pest Management Program
- Eastern Eyre Integrated Pest Management Program
- Strategic Biodiversity – Part 2 BMA's and Strategic Planning
- West Coast Integrated Pest Management Program
- Asparagus Weeds Control Program
- Strategic Biodiversity – Part 5 Ark on Eyre
- Support for Conservation Initiatives on Eyre Peninsula
- Restoring Sheoak Grassy Woodlands on Eyre Peninsula (Phase 2)
- Strategic Biodiversity – Part 4 Threatened Fauna Recovery
- Strategic Biodiversity – Part 3 Threatened flora Recovery
- Integrated Coastal Management on Eyre Peninsula (Phase 2)
- Feral Bird Threat Abatement – Interstate and Interagency Regional Starling Control
- Bushfire Response:
 - Boundary Fencing
 - Bushfire Recuperation
 - SA Works Program
 - Bushfire Re-establishment Program

These projects fit with the strategic priorities as outlined in the Interim Natural Resources Management Group Plan (endorsed 2004).

In addition funding was sourced through the National Landcare Program to fund:

- Improving the water use efficiency on Lower Eyre Peninsula Cropping Systems
- Protecting soil by increasing adoption of No-Till across Eyre Peninsula
- Community Landcare Coordinator Year 2

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The 2005-06 financial year saw the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board commence the process to prepare the regions first integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Plan.) In bringing together the work program for the Initial Natural Resources Management Plan 2006-07, a set of priority Natural Resources Management activities were highlighted from the existing Plans. Priority activities from 2005-06 forming the foundation of the Initial Natural Resources Management Plan include:

- The review of Water Allocation Plans for the prescribed groundwater areas of the Southern and Musgrave Basins;
- On-going activity to control pest plants and animals across the region, including research into best practice techniques, compliance, integrated control actions to protect Natural Resources Management values, building awareness and understanding for community involvement, and data gathering for continuous improvement of management practices;
- Researching and building policy for the protection of ecosystems dependant on ground and surface water;
- Introduction and community awareness raising of Water Affecting Activities and compliance associated with these issues;
- Research and data collection using electromagnetic survey techniques to assess groundwater resources in the Uley South and Coffin Bay aquifers; and
- Establishment of Natural Resources Management Groups and Advisory Committees.

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board commenced this reporting period with no staff and projects being undertaken through delegation to Animal Plant Control Boards, Eyre Peninsula Catchment Water Management Board and the Interim Natural Resource Management Group.

Staff appointments across the year saw the:

- Appointment of General Manager on 10 October 2006; and

- Transition of staff from previous bodies to employment with the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

A summary of the significant achievements and initiatives made by the Board programs between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006 is provided below:

1. Strategic integration and investment in natural resources management

Significant achievements include:

- The preparation of the 2005-06 Regional Investment Strategy seeking Natural Heritage Trust funding for a range of natural resource management projects on Eyre Peninsula. A total of \$2.7 million was invested by Natural Heritage Trust with in-kind contributions of \$2.99 million from landholders, state Government agencies and industries;
- Natural Resources Management staff helped to secure over \$800,000 from the Australian Government Community Water Grants Scheme;
- A total Envirofund investment on Eyre Peninsula of \$318,745;
- Delivery of National Landcare Program projects for 2005-06 across the region invested \$849,275 from National Landcare Program funds with in-kind contributions of \$120,000 per year from landholders, State Government agencies and industries;
- Delivery of the Regional Competitive Component project for 2005-06 invested \$45,000 per year for 3 years (total \$135,000) with in-kind contributions of \$120,000 per year from landholders, University of Ballarat, SA and WA State Government agencies, local Government and ABB; and
- Development of 2006-07 Natural Heritage Trust Investment Strategy with Natural Heritage Trust investment of \$2.712 Million and in-kind contributions of \$2.615 million from landholders, state Government agencies, local Government and industries.

2. Catchment Water Management

Water Resources Management Program

Significant achievements include:

- Roll out of year one of the three year Catchment Water Management component of the Initial Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Plan.

Key achievements under the four goals of the Catchment Management program include:

1. Protect and Manage Water Resources

- The completion of a comprehensive review of water monitoring on Eyre Peninsula in partnership with the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation;
- Financial support and supervision for the National Heritage Trust funded 'A Coordinated Approach to Wetlands Management Project' including a comprehensive monitoring program, assessment of baseline conditions and on-ground works;
- Farm dams assessment of the Tod River Catchment to defined sustainable yields for the ongoing assessment of farm dam permit applications;
- Numerical groundwater model development for the Uley Basins aquifers in conjunction with SA Water and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation to assist in the management and allocation of the Prescribed Water Resources;
- The employment of a Water Resources Assessment Officer to develop a strategy for the management of Water Affecting Activities and ongoing support in the permit application process;
- The review of the Water Allocation Plans for the Eyre Peninsulas two Prescribed Wells Areas (County Musgrave and Southern Basins) involving:
 - Establishing a Water Allocation Plans review subcommittee;
 - Developing and distributing a communication package to 22 licensed water users, 2 local Councils and partnering agencies;
 - Compilation of survey and assessment findings (phone survey and questionnaires with 20 written responses received);
 - Community information session;
 - Provision of comments from key stakeholders; and
 - Preparation of Water Allocation Plans review reports.

2. Efficient Use of Water Resources

- As part of the community awareness program, a continued commitment has been made to the WaterCare program to ensure promotional and awareness-raising advertisements and media releases are circulated across the region;
- As part of the schools program, direct contact has been made with schools through a term email newsletter to advise teachers and school staff of local water programs and issues in addition to support and advice being provided to schools interested in initiating a water-related school project or applying for grant funds;
- National Water Week, World Wetlands Day and the annual Frog Census are being managed in partnership with the Department for Environment and Heritage and the Australian Water Association;

- Best Practice guidelines are being developed for a range of water resource management issues including; crop spraying, hard water and water affecting activities;
- An audit of the number, location and use of rainwater tanks across the region has been undertaken, with data to inform policy development and target water conservation initiatives.

3. Additional Water Supplies

- As part of the Wise Water Managers Program the Board is assisting councils, schools and community groups develop projects that promote the use of alternative water resources;
- In 2005-06 the Board was involved in providing assistance in preparing and reviewing several funding applications contributing to the success of the community in gaining over \$800,000 in funding under the Australian Government Community Water Grants program for projects ranging from rainwater tank installation to construction of dams for stormwater harvesting;
- As part of the 'Sustainable supplies for small communities' program, an assessment of the water supply requirements of small communities on the Eyre Peninsula is being carried out in order to provide information and coordinate action with local Government and relevant community groups to develop sustainable supply plans (promoting self sufficiency) for communities not presently serviced by the regions reticulated water supply.

4. Informed and Involved Community

- A communications strategy has been developed for the water resources program which includes the ongoing development of advertisements, media releases, fact sheets, best practice guidelines and the facilitation of workshops and community information sessions.

3. Policy protection for natural resources - Animal and Plant Control

Animal and Plant Control

Significant achievements include:

- Completion of Southern Eyre Operational Plan (adopted by Southern Eyre Animal and Plant Control Board);
- Completed review of Southern Eyre Strategic Plan for 2003-07 (adopted by Southern Eyre Animal and Plant Control Board);
- Appointment of new Authorised Officer in Southern Eyre Peninsula region in January 2006;
- Authorised Officers undertook regular weed inspections and monitoring throughout the region. This included roadside inspections for proclaimed and invasive plant species, weed seed inspections such as on the Iron Knob to Kimba Pipeline project and agricultural weed monitoring;
- Emergency Response Plan completed for responding to potential biological disasters such as mouse and locust plagues;

- Pest policies were drafted for declared pest plant and animal species;
- Authorised Officers completed an audit of boundary deer fences on properties where deer are farmed to ensure they meet the required standard. Authorised Officers have been following up on any properties requiring attention. Inspections showed a high level of maintenance was required to prevent escape of deer, this was quickly acted upon;
- Highway Monitoring Policy developed to ensure regular inspections would control weed infestations before they become established. The western sub-region on Eyre Peninsula was identified as a highly used area for traffic travelling from Eastern to Western Australia. With the increase in Tourism and freight movements, most new infestations were occurring along highways;
- A new sub-species of Bridal Creeper was identified through the Integrated Weed Management program (*Asparagus*);
- Rabbit, dingo and fox control programs implemented;
- Policy Manual developed covering all animals and plants found in Western Eyre Peninsula region. These policies assist staff with work programs and priorities while also informing the community of what is expected of them;
- Western region Database in development for declared animal and plant infestation locations. As a result, Authorised Officers can now make informed decisions and prioritise work programs;
- Secured funding from Transport SA for roadside control of Boxthorns across the region;
- Major Boxthorn removal program completed near Arno Bay on approximately 100ha of coastal land;
- Olive mapping in Wanilla Forest commenced followed with ripping and poisoning control program;
- Collection days conducted with landholders to distribute Horehound biological control Plume Moth on private properties;
- Inspections of Horehound biological control Plume Moth across region.
- Good progress has been made on a number of declared weed species through encouraging efforts by landholders across the region. Many inspections and liaison with landholders have shown that many infestations have been eradicated on individual properties (though viable seed banks may still exist);
- The Western region has developed good working relationships with Department of Environment and Heritage, local Government, Primary Industries and Resources South Australia, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, SARDI, Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board, PESTAT Pty Ltd, Animal Control Technologies and ABB Grain. Officers have also provided training days for ALT and wish to expand this relationship further; and
- Two batches of Salvation Jane biological control Flea Beetle collected from Jamestown in Northern and Yorke region with assistance from landholders for distribution on properties on Eyre Peninsula.

4. Protecting and enhancing natural resources

Asparagus Weeds Control Program

Significant achievements include:

- Establishment of new Bridal Creeper biological control agent in conjunction with CSIRO, the Leaf-eating Beetle (*Crioceris spp.*) – one of only 5 sites in Australia;
- Establishment of over 250 new Bridal Creeper biological control sites across the region;
- Establishment of over 100 Bridal Creeper biological control sites in areas of high biodiversity within the Black Tuesday 2005 fire affected area;
- Major spread of Bridal Creeper rust fungus using the 'Sporewater method';
- Developed partnerships with SA Water, HydroTAS, Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm and Electra Net;
- Conducted up to 21 training workshops;
- Completed and released 2 new facts sheets and bookmarks on Bridal Creeper control;
- Control measures put in place for 10 hectares of Bridal Veil; and
- Marked increase in effectiveness of rust fungus and leaf hopper Bridal Creeper biological controls. Many sites becoming defoliated prior to seed set.

Vertebrate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

The vertebrate Integrated Pest Management program has recently become a consolidation of the West Coast, Eastern Eyre and Southern Eyre Integrated Pest Management programs.

Significant achievements include:

- Presented with an Australian Campaign for Rabbit Eradication award in 2005 for a coordinated commitment to rabbit control including innovation and education;
- Excellent community participation, with over 900 participants involved in coordinated pest management in neighbouring groups;
- Highly effective partnership of several agencies plus the community, facilitating a coordinated landscape scale approach to threat abatement;
- Attendance at major field days and hosted a Major Field Day at Venus Bay in April 2005, attended by over 100 community members and featuring demonstrations, displays and expert guest speakers;
- Increased involvement with local schools, providing education in classroom and field settings about native and pest animals and conservation;
- Presentation at Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference;
- Regular production of newsletters to update participants and stakeholders about progress of the program;
- Regular enquiries are received for other regions and interstate about various aspects of the success of the program; and

- Migratory wader and shore-nesting bird surveys implemented and associated training for staff and community members.

Habitat Management for Species Survival

This project aims to secure viable populations of Eyre Peninsula's native flora and fauna through a landscape scale management approach that maintains healthy natural ecosystems. This project focuses on threatened species and communities in particular, which will otherwise not be specifically dealt with in the region. The project contributes significantly to elements of the State Natural Resources Management Plan and the final No Species Loss, A Biodiversity Strategy for South Australia 2006-1016.

Significant achievements include:

- 13 newsletters, 6 fact sheets and a number of posters and brochures distributed;
- 10 newspaper articles, 2 TV stories, 7 radio interviews;
- 4 community workshops and 1 field day delivered;
- 5 presentations conducted;
- 2 major reports completed (Aleppo Pine Guidelines and Draft Flora Recovery Plan);
- Landholder involvement in Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo surveys;
- Involvement from Friends of Parks Groups, Greencorps, Arno Bay Progress Association, Cummins, Miltaburra and Tumby Bay Area Schools in threatened flora project;
- Providing ongoing technical advice to Natural Resources Management staff to identify opportunities for on-ground works that deliver threatened species outcomes;
- Annual monitoring of 12 threatened flora species; and
- Support for Millennium Seed Bank project.

A coordinated Approach to Wetland Management

Significant achievements include:

- Baseline surveys of inland wetlands and report produced detailing a classification of the consanguineous suites of inland wetlands, including detailed information on representative wetland condition,
- Capacity building through technical support and information delivered to the community and stakeholders including a forum, field days and workshops held for the community, Natural Resources Management staff and stakeholders;
- Addition of 2 significant wetlands to 'A Directory of Important Wetland in Australia';
- On-ground works at priority wetlands to protect over 100ha of wetlands; and
- Information gathering to potentially declare some wetlands as wetlands of national significance.

Lower Eyre Peninsula Bushfire Re-establishment Program

Significant achievements include:

- Coordination and delivery of 4 individual projects within SA Works Fire Reestablishment Program:
 - Charlton Gully Project
 - North Shields Project
 - Revegetation Recovery Project
 - Feral Deer Control,
- Coordination and delivery of Bushfire Recuperation Funds and Soil Conservation Council and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board funding support for delving and clay spreading;
- Provided support to Lower Eyre Bushfire Reestablishment Facilitators;
- Provided support to Lower Eyre Pest Management Group and Port Lincoln Prison in securing funding for revegetation and weed management in fire affected area;
- 5 media releases, 2 radio interviews, 1 television interview and 2 school presentations;
- Assisted with set-up and delivery of 4 native plant distribution days at Cummins Recovery Centre;
- 4,700 trees propagated and planted in fire ground by 110 participants from Tumby Bay Area School, Reynella East R-7 and Friends of Kyeema Conservation Park;
- 9,134 trees propagated and planted by students from Urrbrae and Cummins Area Schools (250 participants) with assistance from Greencorps, Conservation Volunteers Australia and 2 Walkerville Rotarians;
- Three deliveries totalling over 9,000 donated native seedlings from Whyalla Revegetation Group;
- 13,000 trees donated collaboratively by Employment SA and Walkerville Rotary Group and distributed between 36 landholders in fire affected area; and
- Port Lincoln Prison propagated 2,000 native seedlings for planting in 2007.

Integrated Coast and Marine Management

This program follows on from the original National Heritage Trust Coastcare program and seeks to maintain the community's capacity and momentum relating to coastal and marine management. 2005/06 projects are approved, however works are still in progress on many.

Significant on ground works achievements include:

- Carrow Wells beach access rationalisation and management to prevent further dune blow-out and protect remnant vegetation;
- Arno Bay Boardwalk project – Stage II constructing an extensive network of walkways helping to protect Samphire and Mangrove ecosystems;
- Port Neill sand dunes weed control – succulent and boxthorn removal with the Green Corps team;
- Implementing the Murray's Point management plan;
- Arno Bay Beach Access Walkways;
- Louth Bay Foreshore cliff top revegetation;
- Redbanks revegetation;
- Picnic point car park rationalisation at Point Drummond;
- Samphire protection at the Ledge, Coffins / Kellidie Bay;
- Speeds Point – delineation of camping and parking areas using boulder fencing and strategic revegetation;
- 1,200 trees planted on the Tumby Bay Foreshore dune by participants from Tumby Bay Area School;
- Tumby Island Conservation Park – boxthorn control;
- The Monument vehicle access rationalisation;
- The Tumby Island beach access stair and walkways;

Other significant projects include:

- Point Lowly Cuttlefish Boardwalk project awareness;
- Arno Bay Boardwalk Plant Identification signs;
- Arno Bay sand-dune Revegetation Awareness;
- Whyalla Coastal flora booklet;
- Garden escapes brochure;
- Numerous school visits and site / field inspections;
- Four Coastal Councils Group meetings, Ceduna, Whyalla, Coffin Bay and Elliston. These meetings include senior staff and elected members from all Eyre Peninsula Local Government areas with a stake in coastal management. The meetings offer a forum for the discussion and resolution of coastal management issues, assist the dissemination of information relating to coast and marine management and the broader management of our natural resources, and provide direction to Natural Resources Management staff involved in the coast and marine programs on Eyre Peninsula.

5. Raising Community awareness, understanding and involvement

Indigenous Engagement

Significant achievements include:

- Two information packages produced and distributed ('How to engage with the Indigenous community' and 'How to participate in Natural Resources Management');
- Conducted 5 Indigenous Focus Group meetings; and
- 3 x 6 workshop series on capacity building for indigenous groups to increase participation in NRM activities. Average of 10 participants per series for a total of 180 person-days.

Regional Support

Significant achievements include:

- Employment of 5 x 1.0FTE Natural Resources Management Coordinators / Facilitators;
- 110ha of revegetation and 250ha of remnant vegetation protection achieved;
- 80 days of revegetation/vegetation management technical advice for the region;
- Support and assistance at 50 regional meetings;
- Coordination of activities and collection of data;
- Production of 3 issues of The Long Run land management publication;
- 10 school visits / workshops;
- Assistance with 25 Envirofund applications;
- Held Saltbush, Lucerne, bio-solids, clay spreading/delving days on Eastern Eyre Peninsula with about 250-300 landholders attending and attracting high quality technical advice to the region for landholders to feed off, share effective practical examples and implement land use change at the property level;
- Spent all funding allocated to projects on Eastern Eyre Peninsula demonstrating huge community support for projects and the need for continued support from Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board to see the effectiveness of on-ground works in the future;
- Land management planning and succession planning for sustainable future, drought and risk management with good technical Natural Resources Management advice being passed on to about 44 landholders to date with more to come and follow up planning;
- Approx 245ha of Lucerne was established to reduce recharge;
- Useful Electro-magnetic mapping through the Driver River project thorough paddock scale mapping has been undertaken on various properties to assist in identifying the source of salinity. This information has been interpreted to help identify sub soil constraints and can now be further applied to targeting On-ground works. This is good for showing what is happening at depth, such as shallow groundwater or the movement of salt plumes in the landscape, which gives us the ability to predict where salt may be appear in future and where to target areas for treatment. This is useful to help determine what crops are suited to a location for the long term. Part of the Driver River Project is to define areas where the crops should be changed from annuals to perennials to

increase crop water use and halt rising water tables that may eventually salinise good cropping areas;

- 82ha of saltbush established to reduce salinity;
- 46km of fencing Lucerne, saltbush and revegetation;
- 185ha of gypsum was used to ameliorate soils;
- 482ha of clay spreading/delving was completed to control erosion, improve productivity and soil moisture availability for plants;
- Some small scale drainage works completed to improve the flow of water within a key drainage line;
- 3 culverts removed and replaced with correct levels for improved water flow;
- 234km of revegetation was completed to improve wildlife habitat, reduce recharge, windbreaks, linking smaller patches of remanant vegetation with larger areas creating wildlife corridors;
- 25km of fencing was used to protect remnant native vegetation from stock improving wildlife habitat and encouraging regeneration;
- 7 successful Community water grants were written for sustainable use of water on Eastern Eyre Peninsula in 2005; and
- Improved inter agency partnerships with the Department for Environment and Heritage, Minnipa Agricultural Centre, Rural Solutions SA by participating in projects like Grain and Graze.

It is important to note that while these figure represent the amount that the Board has paid an incentive for, the landholders themselves actually completed a larger amount than is reported on, for instance, a landholder may be paid an inventive for 20ha of Clay spreading/Lucerne establishment, when in fact he may actually complete 100ha with the intent on adopting a landscape change approach himself after funding has ceased.

Watercare

Significant achievements include:

- Financial and in-kind support for delivery of State-wide Watercare media campaign including coverage in regional print, radio and broadcast media;
- Waterwise Schools program promotion and accreditation of local schools.

6. Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting for Continuous Improvement

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This project builds on the review of current monitoring and data in the region, data needs assessment and the development of data sharing arrangements undertaken in the 2004-05 Investment Strategy.

Significant achievements include:

- Monitoring Plan developed;

- Review of Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets;
- Evaluation of projects contributions towards achieving Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets;
- Developed and delivered community training in Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Field inspection of mitigation works;
- Field inspection and data collection for benchmark establishment;
- Consultative program conducted to develop monitoring and evaluation framework for the region; and
- Independent technical assessment.

BOARD OPERATIONS

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Board will continue to implement commitments of the plans and programs of the following antecedent boards and bodies through the Initial Plan until 1 July 2008:

- Eyre Peninsula Catchment Water Management Boards;
- Southern, Central, Western, Far Western and Eastern Soil Conservation Boards;
- Southern, Eastern, Elliston Le Hunte and Western Animal and Plant Control Boards;
- Eyre Peninsula Interim Integrated NRM Group.

SOURCES OF INCOME

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Board received natural resources levy contributions via Councils within the Board's region. Councils are required to impose a separate levy on rateable land (Division 1 levy) in the Board area in order to recover the contributions made to the Board. Additional levies, based on licensed water allocations (Division 2 levy) are collected from proclaimed water areas within the region. Investment Strategy and National Landcare Program funds represent contributions, Natural Heritage Trust (100 per cent Commonwealth) and National Landcare Program (100 per cent Commonwealth) funding initiatives.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

In June 2005, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board issued directives to the following Boards:

- Eyre Peninsula Catchment Water Management Board
- Southern Eyre Animal Plant Control Board
- Elliston Le Hunte Animal Plant Control Board
- Western Eyre Animal Plant Control Board
- Eastern Eyre Animal Plant Control Board
- Lower Eyre Soil Conservation Board
- Eastern Eyre Soil Conservation Board
- Western Eyre Soil Conservation Board
- Far Western Eyre Soil Conservation Board
- Central Eyre Soil Conservation Board

These included:

- Direction by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board to the aforementioned Boards to the effect that the Board should not perform or exercise any of its functions under the repealed Act without the express written permission of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.
- Delegation of specified powers and functions of the under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board to each of the aforementioned Boards.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Interim delegated authority to Executive Support Officer/Chief Executive Officer to enter into contracts, engage consultants and procure goods and services on behalf of the Board to value of \$50 000 and to approve expenditure to \$20 000.

The General Manager was also delegated powers under Regulation 11 of the *Public Sector Management Act*.

ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

Particulars	Number of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by number)	Value of \$A of accounts paid	Percentage of accounts paid (by value)
Paid within 30 days	290	85.54	2,736,000	98.93
Paid within 31 to 60 days	44	12.98	27,324	0.99
Paid within 61 to 100 days	5	1.47	2,008	0.07

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board travelled overseas on the business of the Board during the reporting period.

DETECTION OF FRAUD

During the 2005-06 financial year no known instances of fraud were detected within the agency. The Department has instituted risk management procedures and an internal audit process in order to minimise the opportunities for fraud to occur.

USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board did not engage any consultants during the 2005-06 reporting period.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the 2005-06 reporting period.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Section 25 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises 9 members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The Act requires the Board to comprise members who collectively have a range of skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- Community affairs at the regional level;
- Primary production or pastoral land management;
- Soil conservation and land management;
- Conservation and biodiversity management;
- Water resources management;
- Business administration;
- Local Government or local Government administration;
- Urban or regional planning;
- Aboriginal interest in the land and water, and Aboriginal heritage;
- Pest animal and plant control;
- Natural and social science;
- If relevant—coast, estuarine and marine management, fisheries or aquaculture.

Government. In addition to these representatives, the Board includes State Government Agency staff and representatives from the Australian Government and local

The Membership of the Board as at 30 June 2006 consisted of the following:

- Brian Foster (Presiding Member)
- Anthony Irvine
- James Pollock
- Sean O'Brien
- Evelyn Poole
- Sandra McCallum
- Peter Treloar
- Cecilia Woolford
- Hadyn Davey (**resigned in January 2006; this position has since remained vacant*)

Agency Representation to the Board as at 30 June 2006 consisted of the following:

- Glyn Ashman (SA Water)
- Ross Belcher (Department of Environment and Heritage)
- Peter Carr (Primary Industries and Resources SA)
- Jeya Jeyasingham (Australian Government)
- Peter Butler (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation)
- John Rumbelow (Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association)

BOARD MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Meetings of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board were held:

14 July 2005	9 February 2006
11 August 2005	9 March 2006
8 September 2005	13 April 2006
13 October 2005	8 May 2006
8 November 2005	8 June 2006
8 December 2005	

Member	Number of Meetings Attended	Number of Meetings Not Attended	Reason for Non-attendance
Brian Foster	10	1	Work Commitments
Tony Irvine	9	2	Work Commitments
James Pollock	9	2	Work Commitments
Sean O'Brien	10	1	Work Commitments
Evelyn Poole	9	2	Work Commitments
Sandra McCallum	10	1	Illness
Peter Treloar	7	4	Work Commitments
Cecilia Woolford	9	2	Work Commitments
Hadyn Davey	2	4	Work Commitments
Peter Carr (PIRSA)	9	2	Work Commitments
Peter Butler (DWLBC)	8	1	Work Commitments
Hadyn Hanna (DWLBC)	2	0	
Glyn Ashman (SA Water)	10	1	Work Commitments
Ross Belcher (DEH)	10	1	Work Commitments
Vance Tomas (EPLGA)	2	3	Work Commitments
John Rumbelow (EPLGA)	1	0	
Jeya Jeyasingham (AG)	3	7	Work Commitments
Peter Creaser (AG)	0	1	Work Commitments

Members of the Board received the following remuneration:

- Presiding Member: \$190 per four-hour session. The Presiding Member also receives an annual allowance / retainer as part of the remuneration package.
- Member: \$160 per four-hour session.

Expenses are paid in accordance with the Premier and Cabinet Circular 16.

NRM GROUPS AND GROUP COMMITTEE

NRM GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Under the Act, the Board is able to create committees to provide advice in specific areas of expertise or NRM activity. The following committees were established in 2005-06:

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUPS

- Southern Eyre NRM Group
- Western Eyre NRM Group
- Eastern Eyre NRM Group
- Central Eyre NRM Group

Note: Groups were appointed but did not meet in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

- Executive Committee
- Audit and Finance Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Strategic Directions Committee
- Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Committee

MEMBERSHIP OF NRM GROUPS

The Board supports four community-based NRM Groups in the Central, Eastern, Western and Southern sectors of the region. These Groups support the work of the Board by planning and delivering sustainable water and land management and biodiversity protection at the local level.

Upon establishment, the NRM Groups assumed the functions and powers as defined in the Act. No additional functions were delegated in 2005-06. NRM Groups are authorised to approve expenditure consistent with Regional NRM Plan goals and strategies and within the budgets approved by the Board. No budgets were devolved to NRM Groups in 2005-06.

The role of NRM Groups includes:

- Supporting the Board in the engagement of the community through effective communications and on-ground action;
- Providing assistance to the Board in the development and ongoing review of NRM plans for the region; and

- Having primary responsibility, as directed by the Board, for the management and implementation and review of NRM programs at the local level.

The members of the NRM Groups are as shown below:

Central Eyre NRM Group	Eastern Eyre NRM Group	Southern Eyre NRM Group	Western Eyre NRM Group
Leighton George (Chair)	Eddie Elleway (Chair)	Freeman Puckridge (Chair)	Ian Cawood (Chair)
Peter Hitchcock	John Grund	Merrick Savage	Andrew Bates
Bill Nosworthy	Ben Ranford	Andrew Mills	Pia Richter
Peter O'Brien	Andrea Hanneman	Gaile Bobrige	Karen Cotton
Christoper Lymn	Jodie Jones	Georgina Lewis	Allen Stott
Carly Bennet	Tricia Siviour	Donald Langford	Trevor Watson
Marion Dudley	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant

APPENDIX 1- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE AGENCY

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE BOARD

FINANCE

APPENDIX 2- HUMAN RESOURCES

EMPLOYMENT AND RECRUITMENT STATISTICS

Total Number of Employees	
Persons	43
FTE's	27.58

Gender	% Persons	% FTEs
Male	21	9.32
Female	22	18.26

Number of Persons during the 05/06 Financial Year	
Separated from the agency	1
Recruited to the agency	43

Number of Persons at 30 June 2006	
On Leave without Pay	1

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY SALARY BRACKET				
Salary Bracket	Male	Female	Total	Superannuation
\$0 - \$40,399	4	6	10	\$5,418
\$40,400 - \$54,999	15	11	26	\$43,209
\$55,000 - \$67,999	2	4	6	\$15,821
\$68,000 - \$88,999	0	0	0	\$0
\$89,000+	0	1	1	\$9,042
TOTAL	21	22	43	\$73,490

STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IN CURRENT POSITION					
FTE'S	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	0	7.00	1.0	1.32	9.32
Female	0	14.9	2.0	1.36	18.26
TOTAL	0	21.9	3.0	2.68	27.58
PERSONS	Ongoing	Short-Term Contract	Long-Term Contract	Other (Casual)	Total
Male	8	7	1	5	21
Female	0	17	2	3	22
TOTAL	8	24	3	8	43

EXECUTIVE EMPLOYMENT

NUMBER OF EXECUTIVES BY STATUS IN CURRENT POSITION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION								
Classification	Ongoing		Contract Tenured		Contract Untenured		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Level A	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

LEAVE MANAGEMENT

AVERAGE DAYS LEAVE TAKEN PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE			
Leave Type	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Sick Leave	N/A	N/A	45.73
Family Carer's Leave	N/A	N/A	2.47
Special Leave with Pay	N/A	N/A	2.43

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY AGE BRACKET BY GENDER					
Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	South Australian Workforce Benchmark*
15-19	0	0	0	0.00	7.9
20-24	1	2	3	6.98	10.7
25-29	4	5	9	20.93	9.8
30-34	2	4	6	13.95	10.5
35-39	2	5	7	16.28	11.4
40-44	3	2	5	11.63	12.4
45-49	1	4	5	11.63	12.4
50-54	4	0	4	9.30	10.9
55-59	4	0	4	9.30	8.3
60-64	0	0	0	0.00	4.4
65+	0	0	0	0.00	1.3
TOTAL	21	22	43	100.00	100.0

*Benchmark as at January 2006 from ABS Supertable LM8

NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL &/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYEES					
	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency	Target*
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander People	0	0	0	0	2%

* Target from South Australia's Strategic Plan

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY					
	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency	SA Community*
Number of employees born overseas	0	0	0	0	20.3%
Number of employees who speak language(s) other than English at home	1	0	1	1	15.5%
TOTAL	1	0	1	1	35.80%

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

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WITH ONGOING DISABILITIES REQUIRING WORKPLACE ADAPTION				
	Male	Female	Total	% of Agency
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES USING VOLUNTARY FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BY GENDER			
Arrangement	Male	Female	Total
Purchased Leave	0	0	0
Flexitime	21	22	43
Compressed Weeks	0	0	0
Part-time Job Share	0	2	2
Working from Home	0	0	0

EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

DOCUMENTED REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
Employees with...	% Total Workforce
a plan reviewed within the past 12 months	0
a plan older than 12 months	0
no plan	0

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period, the Board consisted of 5 male and 3 female members, with one position vacant since February 2006.

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

Requirement	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1. OHS legislative requirements Number of notifiable occurrences pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Division 6.6 Number of notifiable injuries pursuant to OHS&W Regulations Division 6.6 Number of notices served pursuant to OHS&W Act s35, s39 and s40 (default, improvement and prohibition notices)	N/A	N/A	0
2. Injury Management legislative requirements Total number of employees who participated in the rehabilitation program Total number of employees rehabilitated and reassigned to alternative duties Total number of employees rehabilitated back to their original work Number of open claims as at 30 June 2006 Percentage of workers compensation expenditure over gross annual remuneration	N/A	N/A	0
3. Number of claims Number of new workers compensation claims in the financial year Number of fatalities, lost time injuries, medical treatment only Total number of whole working days lost	N/A	N/A	0
4. Cost of workers compensation Cost of new claims for financial year Cost of all claims excluding lump sum payments Amount paid for lump sum payments on the settlement of a claim (under the WRC Act) Total amount recovered form external sources (WRC Act s54) including from a negligent third party Budget allocation for workers compensation	N/A	N/A	0
5. Trends Injury frequency rate for new lost-time injury/disease for each million hours worked Most frequent cause (mechanism) of injury Most expensive cause (mechanism) of injury	N/A	N/A	0
6. Meeting the organisation's strategic targets	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX 3- OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

The members of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1984*.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board acknowledges that the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for a number of indigenous communities including the Barngala, Naou, Wirrangu and West Coast communities and that the Board respects their traditional relationship with their country.

The Board also acknowledges the Barngala, Naou, Wirrangu and West Coast people as the custodians of the Eyre Peninsula region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Aboriginal people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board has undertaken no activities relevant to the implementation of the Urban Design Charter.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board does not own any buildings and therefore does not have an asbestos reduction program.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

No Regional Impact Statements were undertaken by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board in the 2005-06 period.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORT

Currently the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board is not able to report on the energy use and progress in meeting targets and reductions.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

There were no directives issued by the Minister for Environment and Conservation that related to the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE MINISTER

There were no additional functions assigned to the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board by the Minister for Environment and Conservation during the period.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENTS

The Manager of Corporate Services is the Board's designated Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer. No requests for information were received in 2005-06 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

The Board is committed to undertaking extensive public consultation prior to the formulation of any major policies relating to the Board's functions. Any Board policy may be viewed by contacting the Board's offices between 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday. Instructions on how to make an application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* can also be obtained from the Board's offices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board appreciates the support and encouragement and acknowledges the work of the previous Catchment Water Management Boards, Soil Conservation Boards, Animal and Plant Control Boards and the Eyre Peninsula Interim Integrated NRM Group.

The Board also acknowledges the support and encouragement it has received from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Natural Resources Management Council, the Australian Government and the staff of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Department of Environment and Heritage, PIRSA and local Government.

APPENDIX 4- PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OR UPDATED DURING 2005-06

The following publications were released or updated by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board during the 2005-06 reporting period:

- Investment Strategy
- Initial Plan
- Long Run
- West Coast Babbler
- Weeds and Seeds Newsletter
- West Coast Integrated Pest Management Newsletter
- Water Resources Information Sheet – Water Affecting Activities

Copies of these publications can be obtained by contacting the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board on (08) 8682 5655.

APPENDIX 5- LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AG	Australian Government
APC	Animal and Plant Control Board
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific, Industrial and Research Organisation
CWMB	Catchment Water Management Board
DEH	Department for Environment and Heritage
DWLBC	Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
EP	Eyre Peninsula
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPLGA	Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association
EPNRM	Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NRM Act	<i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i>
NWI	National Water Initiative
PIRSA	Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
SARDI	South Australian Research and Development Institute
SCB	Soils Conservation Board