



Government of South Australia

Northern and Yorke Natural
Resources Management Board

NORTHERN & YORKE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

9 December 2004 to 30 June 2005

31 October 2005

Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board

PO Box 175, CRYSTAL BROOK 5523

Telephone 08 8636 2361

Fax 08 8636 2371

Email nynrm@bigpond.com

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Mr Dennis Mutton
Presiding Member
Natural Resources Management Council
GPO Box 2834
ADELAIDE SA 5001

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 Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Yours sincerely



Mervyn Lewis,
Presiding Member
Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board

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INTRODUCTION

This report is for the financial year 2004-05, and is presented to fulfil the requirements of section 38 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

OBJECT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

The objects of this Act include assisting 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 Act is under the control of the Minister administering the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board.

- (1) The functions of a regional NRM board are—

- (a) to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region; and
 - (b) —
 - (i) to prepare a regional NRM plan in accordance with this Act; and
 - (ii) to implement that plan; and
 - (iii) to keep the plan under review to ensure that the objects of this Act are being achieved; and
 - (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; and
 - (d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the board under this or any other Act; and
 - (e) to resolve any issues that may arise between any NRM groups that are relevant to the management of natural resources within its region; and
 - (f) at the request of the Minister or the NRM 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 NRM board may act with respect to a particular matter despite the fact that the matter may not fall within the scope of its regional NRM plan.
- (3) However, if a regional NRM 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 NRM board should (as far as is reasonably practicable) seek to work collaboratively with—
- (a) the other regional NRM boards whose regions adjoin the region of the board; and
 - (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; and
 - (c) NRM groups with areas that fall (wholly or partially) within the region of the board; and

- (d) the constituent councils for the region, and other councils as may be relevant; and
 - (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 NRM board will, with respect to the performance of its functions, report to the Minister.
- (6) If the Minister assigns a function to a regional NRM 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 NRM board must cause a statement of the fact of the assignment to be published in its next annual report.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 25 of the Natural Resources Management Act provides for the appointment of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises nine members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Each of the appointed members of the Board is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the standards stipulated by section 25 (4) of the Natural Resources Management Act for the appointment of members.

The Presiding Member of the Board was appointed on 15 December 2004 for three years. Other members were appointed on 14 April 2005, each for a two or three-year term, as shown below.

Member	Skills and Experience	Period of appointment
Merv Lewis, Presiding Member	Primary production and natural resource management, community services management and delivery, Government program planning, administration and delivery	Three years to 14 December 2007
Malcolm Byerlee	Community affairs at the regional level, primary production/pastoral land management and pest animal and plant control	Two years to 13 April 2007
Catherine Love	Natural and social sciences and coast, estuarine and marine environment	Three years to 13 April 2008
Phyllis Robinson	Local government/local government administration and water resources management	Three years to 13 April 2008

Marcus Strudwicke	Local government/local government administration and urban/regional planning	Two years to 13 April 2007
Helen Thomas	Primary production/pastoral land management and soil conservation and land management	Three years to 13 April 2008
Kerry Ward	Soil conservation and land management and water resource management	Three years to 13 April 2008
Richard Wilkinson	Local government/local government administration and coast, estuarine and marine environment	Two years to 13 April 2007
Neville Wilson	Community affairs at the regional level, primary production/pastoral land management and pest animal and plant control	Two years to 13 April 2007

In addition the following persons were appointed as authorised State and Australian Government representatives.

Person	Authorised Representative of:
Neville Byrne	Department of Environment and Heritage
John Cornish	Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
Bob McLennan	Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
Anthony Whitford	Australian Government

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-05

Only one meeting of the Board was held in 2004-05, held on 27 June 2005 at SA Water Conference Room, Crystal Brook and open to members of the public.

At its inaugural meeting, the Board was concerned primarily with business and governance matters, such as meeting procedures and other policies, board members obligations, financial services and delegations, executive support and other human resource management issues, Board sub-committees and organisational structures in the region, NRM planning and transitional arrangements.

The Board acknowledged the work carried out by the following existing bodies and discussed the role they would play to assist the transition to the newly legislated structure.

- Yorke Peninsula Animal and Plant Control Board
- Northern Yorke Peninsula Animal and Plant Control Board
- Northern Animal and Plant Control Board
- Lower Flinders Animal and Plant Control Board
- Lower North Animal and Plant Control Board
- Goyder Animal and Plant Control Board

- Upper North Animal and Plant Control Board
- Adelaide Plains Animal and Plant Control Board
- Barossa Ranges Animal and Plant Control Board
- Yorke Peninsula Soil Conservation Board
- Mount Remarkable Soil Conservation Board
- Central Flinders Soil Conservation Board
- West Broughton Soil Conservation Board
- Hummocks Soil Conservation Board
- Lower North Soil Conservation Board
- Northern Flinders Ranges Soil Conservation Board
- Gawler Ranges Soil Conservation Board
- Northern and Yorke Agricultural District NRM Committee Inc. and
- Clare Valley Water Resources Planning Committee.

This laid the foundation for the significant developments expected to be achieved in 2005-6, including the establishment of three NRM Groups in the region.

REPORTS FROM THE NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

No reports were requested by the Minister for Environment and Conservation or by the Natural Resources Management Council in 2004-05.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED BY BOARD

No financial assistance, under Section 42 of NRM Act, was provided in 2004-05.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES OR FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE MINISTER

There were no significant Ministerial directives or significant functions assigned by the Minister in 2004-05.

The Natural Resources Management Act 2004 did not become fully operational until July 2005, and, as a consequence, the Board did not assume all of the functions defined in the Act, but rather operated in an establishment phase, in preparation for operating from 1 July 2005.

HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

HUMAN RESOURCES

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.

The Board did not employ any staff during 2004-05. However, an Executive Support Officer was contracted to the Board during May 2005 to assist the Board in its establishment. The costs of the contract was met by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period, the Board consisted of six (6) male and three (3) female members.

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

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE BOARD

Refer to Appendix 1.

FRAUD

DETECTION OF FRAUD

There were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

There were no incidences reported by the Board in the reporting period.

The Board is aware of and abides by OHS&W policies.

CONSULTANTS

USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Board did not engage any consultants in the reporting period.

OTHER MATTERS

STAFFING

The Board did not employ staff in the reporting period of 2004-05.

ENTITIES OF THE BOARD

No regional Groups or Committee were in place during the reporting period.

FINANCE

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within the existing resources of DWLBC. Members are paid sitting fees in accordance with the determination from the Commissioner for Public Employment. Financial details are included in the audited financial reports.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

No member of the Board travelled overseas on the business of the Board during the reporting period.

CONTRACTURAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

ACCOUNT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

DWLBC provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DWLBC Annual Report 2004-05.

DISABILITY ACTION PLANS

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS

The Board did not own or lease buildings or vehicles during the reporting period and therefore there are no energy efficiency issues to report.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

The Board has undertaken no activities relevant to the implementation of the Urban Design Charter.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Board currently operates from premises in a Government-owned SA Water building in Crystal Brook, whose policies adhere to asbestos management.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the country in which it meets is the traditional country for the Kurna, Narrungga, Nukuna, Ngadjuri, Meru, Adjumuntha and Danggali people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Board also acknowledges these indigenous people as the traditional custodians of the Northern and Yorke region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living indigenous people today.

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No request for information was received during the reporting period under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Board in 2004-05.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board appreciates the support and encouragement it has received over the past year from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon John Hill MP, and staff from the Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation.

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS 2004-2005



**Auditor-General's
Department**

9th Floor State Administration Centre,
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide
South Australia 5000

Ref: A05/361

11 January 2006

Mr M Lewis
Presiding Member
Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 175
CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

Telephone: +61 +8 8226 9640
Facsimile: +61 +8 8226 9688
DX 56208 Victoria Square

E-mail: admin@audit.sa.gov.au
Web: <http://www.audit.sa.gov.au>

ABN: 53 327 061 410

Dear Mr Lewis,

2004-05 Audit

The audit of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) for the year ended 30 June 2005 has been completed. The scope of the audit covered major accounting functions associated with the Board including the test verification of financial transactions processed and recorded during the year. The results of the audit were generally satisfactory.

Please find returned herewith the financial statements of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2005, together with my unqualified Independent Audit Report.

Yours sincerely

K I MacPherson
AUDITOR-GENERAL



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE PRESIDING MEMBER NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

SCOPE

In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 37 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have audited the financial report of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board for the financial year ended 30 June 2005. The financial report comprises:

- Statement of Financial Performance;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- A Statement of Cash Flows;
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements;
- Certificate by the Presiding Member of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board and the Chief Finance Officer of the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

The members of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Presiding Member.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia, the financial position of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2005, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

11 JANUARY 2006

K I MacPHERSON
AUDITOR-GENERAL

**NORTHERN AND YORKE
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the Year ended 30 June 2005**

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
Expenses from Ordinary activities		
Service Level Agreement	3	50,281
Board Fees and Expenses	4	18,618
Supplies and Services	5	21,016
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities		89,915
Revenue from Ordinary Activities		
		0
Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities		0
Net Cost of Services from Ordinary Activities		(89,915)
Revenue from/ Payments to SA Government		
Grants received		118,754
Net revenue from SA Government		118,574
Net Result from Ordinary Activity		28,839
Total Changes in Equity other than those Resulting from Transactions with SA Government as Owner		28,839

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NORTHERN AND YORKE
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Year ended 30 June 2005

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
Assets		
Cash		0
Prepaid expenses		35,051
Total Assets		35,051
Liabilities		
Payables		6,212
Total Liabilities		6,212
Net Assets		28,839
Equity		
Accumulated surplus		28,839
Total Equity	<i>6</i>	28,839
Commitment for expenditure		0
Contingent Assets and Liabilities		0

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**NORTHERN AND YORKE
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year ended 30 June 2005**

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
Funds held at 1 July		0
Cash outflows from Operating Activities		
Service Level Agreement		85,332
Board Fees and Expenses		14,258
Supplies and Services		19,164
Total Outflows from Operating Activities		118,754
Cash inflows from Operating Activities		
		0
Total inflows from Operating Activities		0
Net cash flow from Ordinary Activities	<i>9</i>	(118,754)
Cash flows from SA Government		
Grants received		118,754
Net cash flow		0
Funds held at 30 June		0

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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Board Objectives

(a) Establishment of the Board

The Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) was established pursuant to the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (the NRM Act) on 9 December 2004. The Board is a body corporate. For details of events occurring after the reporting date please refer to note 10.

(b) Board's Objectives

The objectives of the Board are to undertake an active role with respect to the management of natural resources within its region, to prepare and implement a Regional Natural Resources Management Plan and review that Plan to ensure that the objectives of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* are being achieved.

In addition, the Board promotes public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, undertakes and supports educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management and provides mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources.

The Board provides advice on any matter relevant to the condition or management of natural resources within its region and can conduct any inquiry or audit with regard to those natural resources.

The principal source of funds for the Board during the 2004-05 year has been monies appropriated by Parliament to the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation for establishment of the Board and transition to the new integrated structure for the management of the State's natural resources.

2. Statement of Accounting Policy

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements issued pursuant to the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. The accounts are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using historical cost accounting, which does not take into account changing money values.

Australia will be adopting Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2005. The Board will adopt these standards for the first time in the published financial report for the year ended 30 June 2006. The introduction of the AIFRS will have no material effect on the financial report.

3. Service Level Agreement

The Board paid \$85,332 for the provision of services. These services are administrative in nature and included the provision of an Executive Support Officer. \$35,051 of the amount paid relates to the 2005-06 year.

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4. Board Fees and Expenses

	2005
	\$
Board fees	17,228
Other	<u>1,390</u>
Total	<u>18,618</u>

5. Supplies and Services

	2005
	\$
Travel	5,285
Accommodation	3,085
Training	6,676
Office Establishment Costs	5,000
Printing	915
Other	<u>55</u>
Total	<u>21,016</u>

6. Total Equity

Pending the formal wind-up of existing Commissions as of 30 June 2005, it is expected that the Board will be the recipient of a transfer of net assets. At balance sheet date, this transfer had not taken place.

7. Auditors' Remuneration

Audit fees for the Board are initially payable by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

8. Board Members

The following are members of the Board who have served during the course of the reporting period:

Mervyn Lewis
Catherine Love
Phyllis Robinson
Helen Thomas
Malcolm Byerlee
Kerry Ward
Richard Wilkinson
Neville Wilson
Marcus Strudwicke

Aggregate Board Fees and superannuation received or receivable by members of the Board amounted to \$18,618.

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The number of Board members included in the above figures are shown in their relevant Board Fees and superannuation bands:

	Number of Board Members
\$ Nil	2
\$1 to \$9,999	6
\$10,000 to \$19,999	1
	9

9. Cash Flow Reconciliation

Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Net Cost of Services:

Net cash used in operating activities	(118,754)
Cash flows from Government	118,754
Changes in Assets/Liabilities:	
Increase in payables	(6,212)
Increase in prepaid expenses	35,051
Net Result from Ordinary Activities	28,839

10. Events Occurring after Reporting Date

A number of the prescribed bodies (as defined in Schedule 4, Part 18 of the NRM Act) will be dissolved during 2005-06 and any assets, liabilities and equity of these prescribed bodies will be transferred to the NRM Board in accordance with the NRM Act.

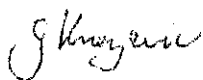
It is expected that the revenue, expenditure and cash flows of the NRM Board will be materially higher during 2005-06 due to the absorption of prescribed bodies (referred to above), the functioning of the Board for a full financial year and the increase in activity as the Board moves towards full operation.

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Certification of the Financial Report

We certify that:

- (a) the financial statements are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Board and give an accurate indication of the financial transactions of the Board for the year then ended;
- (b) as presenting fairly, in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions promulgated under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, the financial position of the entity as at the reporting date and the result of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (c) that internal controls over financial reporting have been effective throughout the reporting period.



George Knezevic
Chief Finance Officer
Department of Water, Land
and Biodiversity Conservation



Mervyn Lewis
Presiding Member
Northern and Yorke
Natural Resources Management
Board