



**Government
of South Australia**

South Australian Arid
Lands Natural Resources
Management Board

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

9 December 2004 to 30 June 2005

31 October 2005

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Mr Dennis Mutton
Presiding Member
Natural Resources Management Council
GPO Box 2834
ADELAIDE
South Australia 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 South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2005.

This first annual report of the board covers the period of establishment of the new Natural Resources Management Boards across the state and it has been an honour to be involved in this. The creation of the South Australian Natural Resources Management Board is a natural evolution for the management of the Arid Lands natural resources. This region has always operated in an integrated way and this is further strengthened by the implementation of the Act.

As the implementation continues the new NRM board will continue to develop working relationships and networks with the community and government both in South Australia and interstate. This is an exciting time to be involved and this approach will ensure coordinated and effective Natural Resource Management into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Reed', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Chris Reed,
Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands 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 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; 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*.

FUNCTION OF THE SAAL NRM BOARD

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises 9 members, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The Presiding Member was appointed on the 16th December 2004 with the remaining members of the Board appointed on 14 April 2005 for a term of either two or three years as outlined below.

Name	Appointment term	Date of membership expiration
Chris Reed (Presiding Member)	3	16 th December 2007
William (Bill) McIntosh	3	14 th April 2008
Maree Morton	3	14 th April 2008
Carolyn Ireland	3	14 th April 2008
Katherine Moseby	3	14 th April 2008
Geoff Mills	2	14 th April 2007
Brenton Arnold	2	14 th April 2007
Ronald (Trevor) Whitelaw	2	14 th April 2007
Frederick Tanner	2	14 th April 2007

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.

One meeting was held during the course of 2004-05 and was attended by all members.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-05

Significant achievements by the Board in 2004-05 included:

Board establishment.

The NRM board was established during this reporting period and as part of this process has held its first meeting. In support of this process the majority of members attended a two-day induction workshop in Adelaide. The SA Arid Lands NRM Board has commenced discussions for the establishment of the regional structure and operating requirements.

REPORTS FROM THE SAAL NRM BOARD

The South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board is progressing its establishment, however it did not provide any reports to the Minister in 2004-05.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED BY BOARD

There was no financial assistance granted by the Board in the 2004 – 2005 financial year and the board undertook no projects in this time.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

There were no significant Ministerial directives during the 2004 – 2005 operations of the board.

STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY MINISTER

There were no significant functions assigned by the Ministerial during the 2004 – 2005 operations of the board.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Section 38 of the Natural Resources Management Act requires the following:

- (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.

There were no specific reports requested by the Minister or the NRM Council during the 2004 – 2005 operations of the board.

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.

Name	No. of formal meetings attended	Remuneration Received (including travel, meals and accommodation)
Chris Reed (Presiding Member)	1	\$13,905.84
William (Bill) McIntosh	1	\$424.75
Maree Morton	1	\$0
Carolyn Ireland	1	\$640.00
Katherine Moseby	1	\$0
Geoff Mills	1	\$640.00
Brenton Arnold	1	\$972.00
Ronald (Trevor) Whitelaw	1	\$0
Frederick Tanner	1	\$0

Employees of the Board:

The Board had no employees during the 2004 – 2005 financial year.

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 6 male and 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

The Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation assumed responsibility for ensuring that the Board's financial report was prepared 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 report is free of material misstatements, including omissions. To the best of our knowledge and belief, all relevant representations were made to the Auditor-General during the audit, including all financial records and related data, other information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit, including minutes of any relevant meetings, where applicable.

FRAUD

DETECTION OF FRAUD

It is declared that 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 had no staff during the 2004 – 2005 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

It is declared that 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.

ENTITIES OF THE BOARD

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

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 does not own any buildings and therefore does not have an asbestos risk reduction program.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians for all lands within the region and for the lands on which the board meets and respects their spiritual relationship with their country.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), the following details comprise the Information Statement of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources management Board (SAAL NRM Board).

The Act gives all South Australians a legally enforceable right of access to documents held by the government, making the business of government open and accountable to all.

Whilst Freedom of information aims to provide access to the maximum amount of information as possible, provisions exist that protect legitimate agency, public and private interests.

Board Structure and Function.

The SAAL NRM Board comprises of nine members, three State Agency representatives and one Australian government representative. Due to the Board being in the early start up phase it has no further structure at this point. The role and functions of the Board are described elsewhere in this annual report.

Ways in which the functions of the Board affect members of the public.

During the period covered by this report the board had a limited number of policies and no programs that affected members of the public. In the longer term the Board has a wide-ranging effect on the general public within the region through the delivery of a wide range of programs and advice on practices relating to the management of Natural Resources within the SA Arid Lands NRM region.

Arrangements that enable the public to participate in the formulation of the boards policies and delivery of functions.

The Board was established with a clear focus on community-based membership and these members have a direct impact on the policies of the board. In addition to this the meetings of the board are advertised and open to the public. The board has also commenced a process of open communication with the public within the region, highlighting the discussions of the board and inviting any feedback and comment from the public. This approach is supported by legislation that requires consultation.

Documents held by the Board.

Documents held by the Board are in a range of formats including electronic and hard copy. They consist of accounting records, administrative documents (including correspondence, operational records, meeting minutes and agendas) and Policy documents.

Meeting Minutes and agendas are available free of charge from the Boards website (www.saalnm.sa.gov.au) or by contacting the Board on (08) 8648 5194.

The Policies adopted by the board are:

Code of conduct for Board members and Employees;
Communication Policy; and
Financial delegations.

Enquiries regarding or copies of all policies can be obtained by contacting the Executive Support officer
South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board
PO Box 2227
Port Augusta 5700.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The Board undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2004-05.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board appreciates the support and encouragement it has received over the past year from the community of the South Australian Arid Lands Region, the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon John Hill MP, the Outback Areas Community Development Trust and its staff and the staff from all government agencies.

PUBLICATIONS

The board produced no publications in the 2004 – 2005 reporting year.

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS 2004-2005



**Auditor-General's
Department**

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21 December 2005

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Mr C Reed
Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board
PO Box 2227
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

Dear Mr Reed,

2004-05 Audit

The audit of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

SCOPE

In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 37(2) of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, I have audited the financial report of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board and the Chief Finance Officer of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

The Members of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the South Australian Arid Lands 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 applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia, the financial position of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2005, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

21 December 2005

**K I MacPHERSON
AUDITOR-GENERAL**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS
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	23,906
Board Fees and Expenses	4	17,920
Supplies and Services	5	20,742
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities		62,568
Revenue from Ordinary Activities		
		0
Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities		0
Net Cost of Services from Ordinary Activities		(62,568)
Revenue from/ Payments to SA Government		
Grants received		101,917
Net revenue from SA Government		101,917
Net Result from Ordinary Activity		39,349
Total Changes in Equity other than those Resulting from Transactions with SA Government as Owner		39,349

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Year ended 30 June 2005

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
Assets		
Cash		0
Prepaid expenses		43,801
Total Assets		43,801
Liabilities		
Payables		4,452
Total Liabilities		4,452
Net Assets		39,349
Equity		
Accumulated surplus		39,349
Total Equity	<i>6</i>	39,349
Commitment for expenditure		0
Contingent Assets and Liabilities		0

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS
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		67,707
Board Fees and Expenses		14,497
Supplies and Services		19,713
Total Outflows from Operating Activities		101,917
Cash inflows from Operating Activities		
		0
Total inflows from Operating Activities		0
Net cash flow from Ordinary Activities	<i>9</i>	(101,917)
Cash flows from SA Government		
Grants received		101,917
Net cash flow from SA Government		101,917
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 South Australian Arid Lands 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 \$67,707 for the provision of services. These services are administrative in nature and included the provision of an Executive Support Officer. \$43,801 of the amount paid relates to the 2005-06 year.

4. Board Fees and Expenses

	2005
	\$
Board fees	16,463
Other	1,457
Total	<u>17,920</u>

5. Supplies and Services

	2005
	\$
Travel	5,312
Accommodation	3,073
Training	6,386
Office set-up	5,000
Printing	916
Other	55
Total	<u>20,742</u>

6. Payables and Equity

The payables represent sitting fees and associated travel reimbursements for Board members attendance at Board meetings held during 2004-05 but not paid as at 30 June 2005.

Pending the formal wind-up of existing Prescribed Bodies during the 2005-06 year, it is expected that the Board will be the recipient of a transfer of net assets. At balance sheet date, no transfers had 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:

Christopher Reed
Carolyn Ireland
Maree Morton
Katherine Moseby
Frederick Tanner
Geoffrey Mills
Bill McIntosh
Trevor Whitelaw
Brenton Arnold

Aggregate Board Fees and other costs received or receivable by members of the Board amounted to \$17,920.

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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	1
\$1 to \$9,999	7
\$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	(101,917)
Cash flows from Government	101,917
Changes in Assets/Liabilities:	
Increase in payables	(4,452)
Increase in prepaid expenses	43,801
Net Result from Ordinary Activities	39,349

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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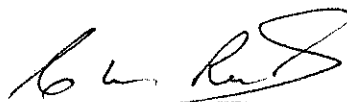
Certification of the Financial Report

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



Chris Reed
Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management
Board