



**Government  
of South Australia**

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South Australian  
Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources  
Management Board

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-  
DARLING BASIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**9 December 2004 to 30 June 2005**

31 October 2005

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

31<sup>st</sup> October 2005

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 Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2005. I certify that the report complies with the requirements of the NRM Act, NRM Regulations and Premier and Cabinet Circular 16.

The Board held its inaugural meeting on 9th June 2005 and at that meeting the Board members expressed their enthusiasm for meeting the challenge of providing strategic leadership in natural resources management within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin. I believe that the Board's skills and experience will prove most valuable in setting a strong focus and direction for regional natural resources management. The Board looks forward to working with the government and the Natural Resources Management Council on this exciting initiative of integrating soil, water, pest plant and animal management in South Australia.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board members look forward to the next phase of natural resources management in the region.



Hon David Wotton,  
**Presiding Member**  
**South Australian Murray-Darling Basin 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*.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Section 29 of the Natural Resources Management Act describes the functions of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin 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 Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board comprises 9 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 was appointed on 16 December 2004 and the other Board members were appointed on 14 April 2005.

### **Presiding Member**

David Wotton	from 16 December 2004 until 15 December 2007.
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### **Members**

Joanne Pfeiffer	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2008
Frances Simes	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2008
Elizabeth Nicholls	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2007
Dianne Davidson	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2007
William Paterson	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2007

David Ingerson	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2007
Derek Walker	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2008
Joe Keynes	from 14 April 2005 until 13 April 2008
Roger Wickes	SA Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
Gerry Davies	Primary Industries and Resources SA
John Riggs	Environment Protection Authority
Ken Stokes	SA Department for Environment and Heritage
Ros Waldron	Australian Government

One meeting was held during the course of 2004-05.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-05**

Significant achievements by the Board in 2004-05 included:

### **REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY-DARLING BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is advancing its knowledge of the scope of natural resources management issues across the region. It has not provided any reports to the Minister in 2004-05.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED BY BOARD**

The Board did not grant financial assistance to any body, group, or person during 2004-05.

## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES**

The Board did not receive any significant Ministerial Directives in 2004-05.

### **STATEMENT OF FACT FOR SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY MINISTER**

The Board was not assigned any significant functions by the Minister in 2004-05.

## 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.

No written notice requesting the Board to report on the performance, exercise or discharge of functions, powers or responsibilities was issued in this year of the Board's operation.

## 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.

Employees of the Board:

The Board had no employees during the reporting period.

## **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 five male and four 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 did not employ or appoint any staff during 2004-05.

### **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*.

### **ENTITIES OF THE BOARD**

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

### **ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD**

Due to the Board being in the early start up phase it has no further structure at this point.

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

## **RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

The Board would like to acknowledge the land on which it met in 2004-05 is the traditional lands for the Ngarrindjeri people and that it 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. Mr Derek Walker, an indigenous person, has been appointed as a member of the Board.

The Board will involve and engage the indigenous community in projects and committees wherever possible.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

During 2004-05 there were no applications for information 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 the River Murray, Hon Karlene Maywald MP, and the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon John Hill MP, and staff from the Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation.

**APPENDIX 1**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2004-2005**



Auditor-General's  
Department

8th Floor State Administration Centre,  
200 Victoria Square  
Adelaide  
South Australia 5000

Ref: A05/358

6 January 2006

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Mr D Wotton  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 1374  
BERRI SA 5343

ABN: 53 327 061 410

Dear Mr Wotton,

#### 2004-05 Audit

The audit of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin 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 MURRAY DARLING BASIN 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 Murray Darling Basin 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 Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and the Chief Finance Officer of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

The Members of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin 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 South Australian Murray Darling Basin 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 South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as at 30 June 2005, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

6 January 2006

**K I MacPHERSON  
AUDITOR-GENERAL**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY DARLING BASIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
<b>Expenses from Ordinary activities</b>		
Board Fees and Expenses	3	23,336
Supplies and Services	4	19,998
Service Level Agreement	5	40,814
<b>Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>84,148</b>
<b>Revenue from Ordinary Activities</b>		
		0
<b>Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>(84,148)</b>
<b>Revenue from Payments to SA Government</b>		
Grants received		99,613
<b>Net revenue from SA Government</b>		<b>99,613</b>
<b>Net Result from Ordinary Activity</b>		<b>15,465</b>
<b>Total Changes in Equity other than those Resulting from Transactions with SA Government as Owner</b>		<b>15,465</b>

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY DARLING BASIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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

	<i>Note</i>	2005 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash		0
Prepaid expenses		26,893
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>26,893</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables		11,428
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>11,428</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>15,465</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated surplus		15,465
<b>Total Equity</b>	<i>6</i>	<b>15,465</b>
Commitment for expenditure		0
Contingent Assets and Liabilities		0





**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY DARLING BASIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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

	2005	
	<i>Note</i>	\$
<b>Funds held at 1 July</b>		0
<b>Cash outflows from Operating Activities</b>		
Board Fees and Expenses		14,733
Supplies and Services		17,173
Service Level Agreement		67,707
<b>Total Outflows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>99,613</b>
<b>Cash inflows from Operating Activities</b>		
		0
<b>Total inflows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Net cash flow from Ordinary Activities</b>	9	<b>(99,613)</b>
<b>Cash flows from SA Government</b>		
Grants received		99,613
<b>Net cash flow from SA Government</b>		<b>99,613</b>
<b>Net cash flow</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Funds held at 30 June</b>		<b>0</b>



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. Board Objectives

#### (a) Establishment of the Board

The South Australian Murray Darling Basin 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 Treasury'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. Board Fees and Expenses

	2005
	\$
Board fees	22,072
Other	1,264
Total	<u>23,336</u>



**4. Supplies and Services**

	2005
	\$
Travel	5,748
Accommodation	2,078
Training	6,124
Printing	916
Office set-up	5,000
Other	132
Total	<u>19,998</u>

**5. Payments to SA Government**

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. \$26,893 of the amount paid relates to the 2005-06 year.

**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:

Hon David Wotton  
Joanne Pfeiffer  
Joe Keynes  
Frances Simes  
David Ingerson  
William Paterson  
Eizabeth Nicholls  
Dianne Davidson  
Derek Walker

Aggregate Board Fees and superannuation received or receivable by members of the Board amounted to \$23,336.



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	<b>(99,613)</b>
Cash flows from Government	99,613
Changes in Assets/Liabilities:	
Increase in payables	(11,428)
Increase in prepaid expenses	26,893
Net Result from Ordinary Activities	<b>15,465</b>

**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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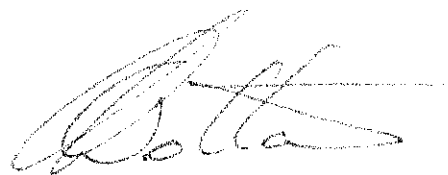
## Certification of the Financial Report

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



David Wotton  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Murray Darling  
Basin Natural Resources  
Management Board