

Mutual Agreement between Landcare Association of South Australia & the Natural Resources Management Boards of South Australia (2016)

Vision

Through shared leadership and collaboration between the NRM Boards and LASA, the South Australian community is confident, aware, engaged and active in ensuring our natural resources are healthy, productive and well managed for our long-term economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Preamble

This partnership agreement documents the joint commitment by the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Boards and the Landcare Association of SA (LASA) to work together to provide leadership and advocacy for community engagement in, and ownership of, the management of our natural resources.

The agreement formalises an enduring and productive relationship between our organisations that uses our collective capacity to achieve the vision. In doing so, the NRM Boards and the Landcare Association of SA will work together and with all sectors of the community and all levels of government, sharing our common values associated with the principles of environmental stewardship.

While the NRM Boards and LASA are independent organisations, we agree to work together to achieve the shared vision and to delivery this agreement. We aim to do this by strengthening the collaborative relationship between NRM Boards and LASA. At the regional level, where we have interests in common, we will form effective working partnerships and collectively produce better outcomes for the community's wellbeing and for natural resource's sustainability. In delivering this agreement we acknowledge that each organisation also has other roles and responsibilities that are separate to and independent of this agreement.

The parties to this agreement also acknowledge that it is the community (individuals, groups and organisations) that does the work of managing natural resources. Building on the history of community action, we will foster communities that are aware, engaged and active in ensuring our landscapes are healthier, better protected, and better managed.

This mutual agreement is modelled on the Statement of Common Purpose developed between the National Landcare Network and the National NRM Working Group.

Parties

This Mutual Agreement is between the eight Natural Resources Management Boards and the Landcare Association of SA.

Landcare Association of South Australia

The Landcare Association of SA is the advocacy and representative body for Landcare¹ in South Australia and is a member of the National Landcare Network. Its membership consists of landcare groups and individuals from across the state, and it is governed by a management committee

¹ Landcare in this document refers to the grassroots movement that encompasses individuals and groups embracing the ethic of caring for their local environment. It includes all 'Care' groups: Land, Coast, Bush, 'Friends of' and farmers' production groups. The Landcare community encompasses all groups who espouse the Landcare ethos, irrespective of title or emphasis.

comprising one landcare member from each region and the Aboriginal Lands Trust. LASA is an independent, non-government, not-for-profit organisation. The role of LASA is to:

1. Assist in setting the future direction of Landcare as a vehicle for indigenous groups, volunteer community groups and individuals undertaking land, water, biodiversity and coastal management activities in natural resource management, in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles in South Australia.
2. To facilitate the exchange of ideas, skills, information and resources between volunteer community groups/individuals in South Australia and between groups and relevant government and non-government agencies.
3. To represent the needs and aspirations of Landcare in South Australia and to advocate to industry, relevant government and non-government agencies.

Natural Resources Management Boards

NRM Boards were established under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and are the peak bodies for the management of natural resources across the state. The eight regional NRM Boards work with all sectors of the community and with all tiers of government to provide strategic leadership and capacity for the management of natural resources. In partnership with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, NRM Boards work across landscapes at a regional and local scale to manage, protect and, in some cases, restore the region's precious natural resources. The role of NRM Boards is to:

1. Lead regional natural resource management decision making by collaborating with its communities, developing regional NRM plans, advising government and preparing innovative solutions.
2. Be a trusted agent for the investment of public money for sustainable landscape outcomes through strategic regional NRM plans and local, regional and state-wide coordination.
3. Connect government and communities to regional NRM issues and solutions.
4. Influence behaviour change and attitudes about the environment that fosters sustainability of resources within the context of livelihoods and lifestyles.

Principles

The NRM Boards and LASA affirm the following principles as fundamental to their working relationship:

- We place the community at the centre of natural resources management and decision making.
- We engage the community in natural resources management from the start.
- There is unity between the parties and we acknowledge and respect that there are a diversity of views.
- We respect the differing roles and capacities that we have.
- We recognise community and institutional values that shape natural resources management.
- The partnership respects the interests the other represents and recognises what the other can contribute in achieving the outcomes of this partnership.
- We bring a commitment to a healthy environment, strong communities and sustainable industries.
- We lead and support community and landholder ownership of and responsibility for natural resources management.
- We will communicate openly and will give each other honest and constructive feedback on what is working and not working in the relationship, to maintain and improve the partnership.
- We recognise that we each have existing relationships at the state, regional and local level.

Outcomes of the partnership

A strong partnership between LASA and SA's NRM Boards will be reflected at various scales. Local and regional outcomes will be better aligned, multi-regional outcomes can be delivered, state NRM objectives can be achieved and the national NRM agenda can be enhanced. Outcomes will include:

- That LASA and NRM Boards identify pathways to bring people into the decision making and delivery of regional NRM plans
- Communities are confident, aware, engaged and active in ensuring our natural resources are healthy, productive and well managed for our livelihoods, lifestyles and landscapes.
- Regional NRM plans are recognised by the community as the basis for NRM decision making in SA.
- Communities that are actively engaged in developing and reviewing regional NRM plans.
- Linkages for community empowerment, ownership, policy development and delivery of NRM.
- Communities are able to share their knowledge and experiences within and between NRM Regions and are able to learn from one another.
- The regional NRM delivery model applied through the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* is further strengthened and the confidence of investors is increased.

Through this mutual agreement, our role is to be the messenger and to take the lead on these matters.

Measuring Success

- Participation by communities in decision making and action for natural resources management results in enduring landscapes.
- LASA and NRM Boards work together for the effective delivery of regional NRM plans.
- Mutual public recognition of the partnership prevails, strengthening the reputations of both partners.
- Collaborative planning and regular joint meetings occur.
- The Australian Government values and has confidence in the partnership.
- We work as partners on mutually agreed priorities when negotiating with the Australian Government.
- We develop an action plan to give this Agreement effect.

Supporting documents:

- State Government's 10 economic priorities for South Australia's future (2014).
- *Our Place Our Future: State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012 – 2017*. Eight regional NRM strategic plans produced by each NRM Board
- *South Australian Community Landcare Plan 2014-19*
- Statement of Common Purpose between the National Landcare Network and the National NRM Regions Working Group.
- Australian Government's National Landcare Programme
- Role statement of NRM Boards

The signatories agree to actively promote this Statement and to be supportive of its intent amongst their wider stakeholders.

We will review this agreement biennially.

This statement is agreed and signed by:



Date: 15/3/16

Chairman, Landcare Association of South Australia



Date: 15/3/16

Presiding Member, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board



Date: 15th March 2016

Presiding Member, SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board



Date: 15th March 2016

Presiding Member, Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board



Date: 15 March 2016

Presiding Member, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board



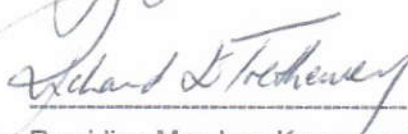
Date: 15 March 2016

A/ Presiding Member, Northern and Yorke NRM Board



Date: 15 March 2016.

Presiding Member, South East NRM Board



Date: 15/3/2016.

Presiding Member, Kangaroo Island NRM Board



Date:

Presiding Member, SA Arid Lands NRM Board