



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

DRAFT MINUTES

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 31 July 2025

Venue Rural City of Murray Bridge, Council Offices 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge

Briefing

PROGRAM

9:00am	Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee
9:15am	Board Briefing Opens (not open to the public)
10:15am	Board Briefing Close

Annual General Board Meeting

PROGRAM

10:30am	Annual General Meeting Open
2:30pm	General Meeting Close
	Morning Tea and Light Lunch provided

*Being a unified local government sector
working in the best interest of the region and our communities*



MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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ATTACHMENT 3	MDA Region 6 Meeting Minutes
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ATTACHMENT 5	Quarterly Financial Statements
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1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Acknowledgment of Country

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Clause 3.3.1 of the Charter and Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), board members are required to declare any potential conflict of interest(s).

Mayor Ella Winnall advised her position on Country Arts Board for any potential discussion that may broaden on Item 6.12.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A copy of the General Board Meeting Minutes is provided at [Attachment 1](#) (including attendance register).

Motion

"Minutes of the MRLGA General Board Meeting held at the Nildottie Town Hall on 10 April 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)**

Seconded, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)** **Carried**

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

	20 October 2023 - General Meeting	
	Action:	
10	<i>Charter Review and Update</i> <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector</i> <i>MRLGA Ceo to research other lga's voting procedures.</i> <i>Agreed that the item is brought back to the Board Meeting in February 2024.</i> That the MRLGA Board support the proposed changes to the Charter and ask the MRLGA CEO to have them reviewed legally and any feedback brought back to the board before proceeding.	Temporarily on hold until the LGA constitutional review was completed. Councils voted at the LGA AGM November Minutes. AGM-2024-Minutes-22-November-2024.pdf MRLGA will now proceed to do a periodical review of the Charter.
	18 April 2024 – General Meeting	
	Action	
19	That the MRLGA Ceo write to the new Local Government Minister and invite him to meet with the board for a broader conversation about financial sustainability in the Local Government sector. If successful with a meeting MRLGA, Ceo will prepare and agenda and online meeting ahead of time to prepare.	– Invited early June for 25 July Meeting – unable to attend. – Invited to 9 August meeting – unable to attend. – Invited in late March and am working with the advisor on a suitable date. – Invited to 31 July Board Meeting. Unable to attend.

	* There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the above 2 items remain pending.
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7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting		
Action(s)		
1	Roads to Recovery The MRLGA Ceo pursues a conversation about the Roads to Recovery Funding allocations and report back to the Board	– Completed.
2	A.I R&D Application The MRLGA Ceo submits an application to the LGA Research & Development Scheme for an AI project (based on its research to date) and if successful liaise with the MRLGA Ceo network on scope before engaging a consultant.	– No longer an action. (Application not submitted due to scoping issues.)
3	Flood Funding The MRLGA Ceo liaise with Ceo's of flood impacted Councils to understand the scope of shortfall occurring post flood and report back (including the recent \$9m Community and Recreation Asset Restoration Program and insurance claim outcomes)."	– Completed.
4	Policy That draft meeting procedure Option 2 for Appointment of President of the Subsidiary is endorsed by the Board in the interim, awaiting an alternate draft procedure to be presented to the Board at future meeting.	– Scheduled Q4. – After consultation with the Ceo Network, the advice is to proceed with voting (as per Act) after the ABP&B is adopted. Therefore a policy/procedure for voting is not required.
5	Regional Transport Plan That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to investigate alternate methods of a strategic transport plan, gaining feedback from the Regional Transport Committee and Ceo Network on alternatives to a static document before reporting back to the Board.	– On hold until the release of the State Transport Strategy. – Was released March 2025. This work will now be rescheduled for 25/26.
6	Regional Drought Resilience Plan The MRLGA re-engage PIRSA and Ministers (Scriven's) Office regarding MRLGA's role in relation to MR Plan, Drought Resilience and Drought Response.	– Follow up discussions have happened with PIRSA (not the Ministers office as yet).
7	Drought Response The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to continue providing coordination and advocacy for (Murraylands and Riverland) regional drought response, and report back to the board on any impact(s) this may have on the Annual Business Plan (on an as needs basis).	– Ongoing (updates have been provided online (at optional meetings) and via email updates.

Thursday 6 February 2025 – General Meeting		
Action(s)		
No motions for action.		
Question time to Presenter(s)		
8	Item 6.2 – Resilient Rivers Framework An inquiry was made to PIRSA / Peter Appleford if communique from PIRSA on details of the work can be released within the week (ie 7 February '25)? It was advised PIRSA will look into it.	– PIRSA released a 5 pg communique to the Water Working Group on 6 and 7 March '25.
General Request(s)		
9	Item 5.1 - ALGA Motions Agreed to revisit the options for a motion during an online session in late Feb/early March.	– An online meeting was held on

		Thursday 20 February '25. No further action.
10	Agreed to list Coastal and Jetty Infrastructure / River Infrastructure on next meeting agenda for group discussion	- Completed.
11	A question was asked if the MRLGA has a plan / timing for if/when the WMRR Strategy will be updated.	- Refer to Item 8.2 (under Follow Up).

10 April 2025		
Action		
12	Model Financial Statements The MRLGA Board endorse the MRLGA Ceo to submit feedback on 2025 Model Financial Statements, asking the Subsidiary be required to submit General Purpose Financial Statements as part of an annual audit and report process.	- Completed, although it was advised that 'the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations have remained unchanged since 2007, so is a matter that would require regulatory change rather than through the periodical review of the Model Financial Statements.' - Discussed 31 July 2025. Agreed to revisit in one year (assuming another consultation review will arise)
13	RDRP Letter The MRLGA Board delegate its power to President, Vice President and Ceo to finalise a letter to Minister Scriven about future governance and delivery model associated with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan in light of additional funding coming from the State and Federal Government	- A draft letter is sitting with Ceo, President and VP, pending a final review and issuing.
14	Flood Observation The MRLGA Ceo is to share a copy of the draft flood observations report with SERM, DPC as well as advise SERM, DPC to contact Councils for their reports too.	- Completed.
15	The MRLGA Ceo inquire with OSFB if it would consider altering its closed delivery partner program to others.	- Not yet commenced.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note the actions completed and those underway from the previous meetings.

Moved, Mayor Bailey (MMC)

Seconded, Mayor Thorley (RCMB)

Carried

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

- **Current Policy Work**
- **How ‘we’ represent local government**

Action:

MRLGA Ceo to speak with LGA (President /Ceo) about the process to have items listed on the Ministers Meetings.

- **Advocacy**
 - **ALGA President’s Update**
 - **2025 National General Assembly (NGA)** in Canberra 24-27 June 2025
 - **“Adapting Together”**
 - **Funding Emergency**
 - **Webinar GenAI in Local Government**
 - **2025 Roads Congress in Bendigo**
 - **The items above are open for any discussion** (no motions proposed).

5.2 LGA of SA

- **News**
 - **Topical Update**
 - **LGA Strategic Plan**
 - **Local Government Elections : Voting proposed to be mandatory**
 - **LGA Board Meeting** (link) to July Agenda was provided.
 - **Local Government Ministers Forum**
 - Andrew Lamb from LGA was available to receive questions.

Items discussed:

- LGA’s recruitment for a new Ceo may take approximately 3-6 months
- Drought advocacy has continued
- Remuneration for Mayors and Elected Members
- Biodiversity Bill and Native Vegetation Bill amendments underway. A query was raised if fauna is being addressed as equally as native vegetation.
- Ceo turn over in the sector
- Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill (status)

- **LGA Events**

5.3 SAROC Update

2 October 2025 Renmark (tbc)

A link to the **March Agenda** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/1781749/SAROC-Committee-PUBLIC-Agenda-and-Papers-27-March-2025-Karen-approved.pdf

A link to the **March Minutes** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0039/1788168/ECM_834993_v10_SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Draft-Public-Minutes-27-March-2025.pdf

A link to the **July Agenda** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/1841167/SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Public-Agenda-and-Papers-24-July-2025.pdf

For Discussion & Update

– **SAROC Representatives**

Further to the agenda, Mayor Simone Bailey provided a verbal update.

- Saroc has invited the LG Minister to the next meeting
- Waste updates
- Query around why Mayors did not receive an engagement session to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan, similar to the CEO's.
- Councils are keen to receive notice/information if/when a Minister is visiting the town/area.

A link to the SAROC Terms of Reference is below:

[LGA South Australia](#)

Board discussed:

- Consideration for a skills based board
- Voting procedures
- If Regional LGA Subsidiaries are permitted under the new terms of reference to 'assign' representation or proxy. LGA to confirm.
- If a Member's chamber considers an alternate rate notice template, it will inform the MRLGA CEO.
- LGA AGM Items of business are due 11 August 2025.

Action :

MRLGA CEO to confirm the groupings representation clauses (including change in regional LGA president, vice president and proxy (either specific or flexible nomination)).

Motion

"The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA CEO to liaise with Mayor Thorley on a potential motion to the LGA AGM (from Rural City of Murray Bridge) about advocacy towards the withdrawal of Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.

*Moved, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

– **Drought Response and Recovery**

Mayor Paul Simmons (SA Drought Advisory LGA Rep), MRLGA CEO and LGA, Andrew Lamb received questions.

- Mayor Norton acknowledged the effort and breadth of work that Mayor Simmons has achieved over the months and that his representation should continue on the advisory group with the support of MRLGA. All agreed.

- Confirmed that RBS numbers are still on the rise in the region and we will liaise with them directly to observe current numbers and trends.
- Proposed Council Rate Deferral Scheme
- Advocacy for Council Rate rebate

Motion

“The MRLGA Board agree to co-sign a letter from MRLGA to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons as nominee for the role LGA representative on the SA Drought Advisory Working Group.

*Moved, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Seconded, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Carried*

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

6.1 Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland

Action

MRLGA Ceo to invite the new Landscape Board Ceo (when known) to an MRLGA meeting, and inform them of a desire to discuss the region having the States highest landscape levy.

6.2 PIRSA - Principal Regional Advisor

Welcomed Barbara Cowey who re-commenced in the role on Monday 14 July 2025.

A copy of the update is provided in the Minutes **Appendices 1**.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland

No written update provided.

6.4 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)

6.5 Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event

6.6 Murray Darling Association

6.7 SA Drought Hub

6.8 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

6.9 SAPOL

6.10 Department of Environment & Water Latest update on SA harmful algal bloom:

6.11 Country SAPHN

6.12 Country Arts

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note and accept the regional stakeholders written reports and/or minutes shared."

*Moved, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Winnall (BBC)***

Carried

7 State Strategy's

The following State Strategy's or Plans are under review, under development and/or out for consultation.

For Information

7.1 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

Consultation on the Murray Mallee Regional Plan closed 17 June 2025.

The final Plan will be released late 2025 and will be fully digital and accessible via the [Regional Planning Portal\(External link\)](#).

Discussion

- Queries / concern around the methods to determine future housing was raised and Riverland Local Government Forum agreed it would list the item for its next meeting.

7.2 State Waste Strategy

7.3 State Public Health Plan

7.4 State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy

7.5 State 30 Year Transport Plan

7.6 Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

7.7 State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office

7.8 Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill

7.9 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

8 MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items

The following items have been extracted from the Annual Business Plan for highlights, awareness, endorsement or discussion as part of progressing its identified initiatives.

8.1 Waste & Resource Recovery

Quarterly Update

Recruitment

State Waste Strategy - Submission

Waste Education (Annual program)

Kerbside Waste Audit Results

Green Industries SA's Circular Economy Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

Waste Facility Tours

8.2 Public Health & Wellbeing

Preventive Health Partnership

Office of Sport Recreation and Racing Partnership

Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan - Review and Update Milestones

State Public Health Plan (2025-2030) – Strategic Directions Workshop

State Public Transport Strategy – Online Consultation Session

8.3 Climate Ready Regions

8.4 Water Advocacy

Commonwealth Water Reform - Resilience Rivers Framework

Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program	\$494m	23/24 to 26/27 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA
Sustainable Community's Program	\$300m	24/25 to 27/28 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA

Discussion

The types of questions that could be useful to ask of PIRSA:

- If the business case funding is taken from the \$20m
- If access to the \$20m will be through a grant application
- If PIRSA will develop its own criteria for grant application to the \$20m that links investment to locations of water buy backs (or not).
- Will PIRSA be considering the Sefton Report.
- How much of the \$250k for stakeholder engagement has been expended.

SMDC commented that it's been unfortunate not to be consulted with about ground water as its pursued this work. Victoria has advanced work in this space and we should be doing more.

8.5 Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

Part 1 - \$140k Implementation Plan Funding

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board:

- Support the MRLGA Ceo to pursue an agreement with consortium partners that establish a 12 month shared role for drought resilience coordination using the \$140k Implementation Funding.*
- Support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."*

Moved, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)**

Seconded, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)**

Carried

Part 2 - \$300k Delivery Funding

Discussed:

- Due diligence had been conducted to understand if a partnership project across the consortium existed (and it did not).
- That research to date has identified possible gaps in 'preparedness' that is emerging as the following themes below.
- That RDAMR may be pursuing an off farm income 'theme' and mental health 'theme' with delivery funding.
- Councils who have met with Alex Zimmerman (including MMC, DCLW, CDC, MRLGA)

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to negotiate for equal division of delivery funding to each three consortium partners, and for it to progress drought resilience initiatives that may include themes towards Women in Ag, Youth Preventive Health & Creative Arts for Drought Resilience and solutions for local fodder supply, and report back to the Board on its progress".

Moved, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)**

Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)**

Carried

9 FINANCIAL

9.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

Quarterly Financial Statements were provided at [Attachment 5](#).

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 June 2025 with the attached notations listed above.

Moved, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)**

Seconded, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)**

Carried

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

10.1 Confidential Item

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 its recommended the Board considers the Ceo Performance Review item as confidential pursuant to Section 90(3) (d)(i), (d)(ii), (h), (j)(i) and (j)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, and that the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to agenda item is:

(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Motion

"The Board accept the item be treated as confidential.

*Moved, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Seconded, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)** Carried*

All non-board members left the room.

11 2025 / 2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

11.1 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Motion A

"The Board note the feedback from Councils and accept the 25/26 draft Annual Business Plan & Budget as the final version for adoption."

*Moved, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)** Seconded, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Carried*

12 ROUND TABLE

12.1 Berri Barmera Council

Any items from Mayor Ella Winnall

Past items included:

- RLGF has issued a letter to Minister(s) if the River Murray is 'navigable' and are waiting a reply. The reply will be shared with the group.
The background to this issue relates to obstructions in the river and responsibility.
- Office of Small and Family Business
Asked the MRLGA Ceo inquire with Office of Small and Family Business if it would consider altering its (closed) delivery partner program to other
- Bank stabilisation learnings for Ski Club
Asked if others have had success with bank stabilisation to pass back on to its ski club (in terms of products, design, specification or contacts). MRLGA offered to email the Infrastructure committee on their behalf and advise.

12.2 Coorong District Council

Mayor Paul Simmons reminded all:

- The team at CDC has made great progress for East Wellington and water supply with SA Water
- The LGA Roads and Works conference is coming up at "The Bend"

Past items included:

- Impacts from Drought
- Delivering "Unbreakable Farmer" sessions
- Liaising with the PHN on local issues
- CDC has reviewed its hardship policy
- Impacts of Little Corellas are ongoing and growing, including that on mental health.
- Further work and advocacy is being led by Council in light of the withdrawal of health services, and the following challenges and impacts that ensue. 40 submissions from community have been received to support Councils advocacy

12.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Mayor Trevor Norton discussed:

- Request to receive more information about waste charges

Past items included:

- LGA Visit
LGA Ceo, Clinton Jury and a bus of visitors came to DCLW to see a stormwater / cwms project of theirs.
- Changing Places Public Toilet

Promoted a recent project of Council to build a changing places toilet facility. Stated there are only 20 in SA but that they were able to receive 50% funding to build it.

12.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Mayor Caroline Philips confirmed the town now has a Doctor.

Past items included:

- Murraylands Drought Survey
It consulted with Preventive Health about the drought survey and it was a productive conversation around community comments in public surveys. They were supportive of the survey work Council(s) had done.
- 40 Year Anniversary for Farm Fair
Proud to have a farm fair that's been going on for so long, although they may consider scaling it back to 1 day.
- General Practitioner
A Doctor may be coming in April.

12.5 Mid Murray Council

Mayor Simone Bailey discussed:

- If others are experiencing debt from the river murray flood as they have a council report in 2 weeks to discuss the matter at MMC.

Request

- MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability Round Table
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
- Rating pressure – a story was shared about rate rise pressures to community's and vulnerable (agricultural) areas.
- Foundation SA
- Standpipes Funding
It is anticipating success via a strengthening industry grant program for funding associated with 14 standpipes and getting them automated.
- Regional Partnership Funding
They hope some good news is coming soon.
- LGA OGM
Reiterated that MMC is advocating for adjustments to the FA Grants formula and will be looking forward to the discussion at the upcoming LGA OGM.

12.6 Renmark Paringa Council

Mayor Peter Hunter raised:

- The need to list an agenda items for the Adelaide Freight Bypass (and risks/potential impacts from the delivery stages of this project)
- Provided feedback that the education tours to Brinkley Landfill and Peats Composting was great.
- Saroc is visiting RPC on 2 Oct
- No progress on the 'navigation' of the river letter
- MMR LHN has 2 new resources (post the mental health services review)

Past items included:

- Cr Howie advised she is a representative on the SA Recreation and Boating Safety Committee. It has recently released its Strategy (2025-2030)
<https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australia-recreational-boating-safetystrategy>
- Mayor Hunter met with the SA Mental Health Commissioner in January 2025.
- Navigation of the River will table at the next Riverland Forum for discussion.
- Awareness about limitations of Mental Health Services in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Murray, Mallee and Riverland - Local Health Network
They are seeking an update from Wayne Champion / LHN on the status of the

30 recommendation made in the Mental Health Services review.

- Insurances
They remain disappointed in the insurance support and process post flood.

12.7 Rural City of Murray Bridge

Any items from Mayor Wayne Thorley.

Past items included:

- Boating Safety. What groups currently exist and how can be more work be done to improve river safety (particularly in light of events from Australia Day long weekend).
- Seeking to do more that supports the River Murray to be a tourism icon, and subsequently see more tourism products come to market (such as the possibility of river cruising and connecting with Journey Beyond).
- Grants. Concerns expressed about the outlay Councils have to do as part of the process of applying for grants, and the time it is taking to receive outcomes and subsequent funding.
- Expressed interest in having more online sessions.
- Police Commissioner
A recent meeting with the Police Commissioner went very well. Some items discussed included a strategy for river safety and change for the better. This was timely given recent incidents on the river over the public holiday long weekend.
- Federal Grants
They are experiencing long time frames with federal grant programs at the moment.
- MDBA Conference
Promoted the next MDBA conference on 29 and 30 July will be held at Murray Bridge and invited everyone to get their tickets and come along.

12.8 Southern Mallee District Council

Mayor Ron Valentine tabled:

- That the timing of the federal election meant that the Select Committee undertaking an Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government has dissolved and it will therefore not be publishing a final report, only the interim report will be published. Discussed what process could be taken to get it to the point of a final publication.

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability – still the main focus for the Council
- Decommissioning Assets
- Dentist closed

12.9 MRLGA Ceo – Recognition of Mayor Phillips as President

- MRLGA Ceo Carron McLeod recognised the significant contributions Mayor Phillips has made throughout her three-year term as President. Mayor Phillips has shown great leadership to foster a positive, collaborative and collegiate culture among Mayors and Councils. She brought strategic wisdom, transparency and a consistently constructive, can-do attitude, always demonstrating respect for those around her. We wish to thank her for the enormous time she has provided over the years to progress the vision of the Association and forge a pathway of being stronger together.
- The Board expressed its sincere appreciation with a heartfelt round of applause.

13 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT

Position is declared vacant and MRLGA CEO temporarily assumed Chairperson to conduct the nomination process.

Nominations for position of President was called for.

Mayor Bailey nominated Mayor Winnall.

Mayor Winnall accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Chair announced the sole nomination and asked for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

"That Mayor Winnall is appointed as President of the Subsidiary.

*Moved, **Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

14 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT

The Chair called for nominations for position of Vice President.

Mayor Valentine nominated Mayor Bailey.

Mayor Bailey accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Chair announced the sole nomination and asked for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

"That Mayor Bailey is appointed as Vice President of the Subsidiary.

*Moved, **Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

15 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2025 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
Board Meeting	Thursday 30 October 2025	TBC
Board Meeting	TBC	
Board Meeting	TBC	

* The 2026 Local Government Election timeline will be researched and the above board meetings scheduled accordingly to avoid care taker or other potential conflicting dates.

Attendance Register

31 July 2025

MRLGA BOARD MEMBERS

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Mayor Caroline Phillips, President and Chair
District Council Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Mayor Trevor Norton
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Mayor Simone Bailey
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Mayor Peter Hunter
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Mayor Wayne Thorley
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Mayor Ron Valentine

MRLGA

Ceo	Carron McLeod
(Waste) Education Program lead	Gina Handby

CEO NETWORK

Coorong District Council (CDC)	Bridget Mather
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Ben Scales
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) – Part	Heather Barclay

Deputy Mayors

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ATTENDING & INVITED GUESTS

PIRSA	Barb Cowey
LGA	Andrew Lamb

APOLOGIES

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Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) Board Meeting – 31 July 2025

Barb Cowey – Principal Regional Adviser - PIRSA Murraylands & Riverland Region

Staffing

The temporary arrangements to backfill the Principle Regional Advisor Murraylands Riverland have now ended and Barb Cowey has returned to her role. Dara Frankel who supported the team during Barb's absence has now been assigned to the Sustainable Communities program.

Sustainable Communities

The South Australian Sustainable Communities Program provides \$20 million to mitigate the social and economic impacts of water recovery in River Murray communities. The funding is for direct in-place investment in priority projects that are identified and co-designed with community. Projects will include those that aim to:

- retain and create new jobs
- establish new industries
- support existing industries to diversify and value add.

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies_and_recovery/water_recovery/sustainable_communities_program

Algae

To further support the public in getting relevant and timely information the State Government has now established a one-stop-shop of information which is available at www.sa.gov.au/algalbloom

SARDI Algal Bloom Situational updates, which assists with determining the impacts and threats from this current bloom, have also been provided to the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sectors and RecFish SA since 11 April 2025. These updates are provided twice a week depending on satellite data availability and are available on the PIRSA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/hab

Latest public health advice, including water quality alerts, is also available on the SA Health website

The Department of Environment and Water (DEW), supported by EPA and PIRSA through SARDI, has developed an initial Algal Bloom Water Quality Dashboard.

Currently the dashboard covers 18 metropolitan sites, including West Lakes, Port River, Patawalonga River and off the end of four jetties, and 22 sites in the Coorong¹⁸ where State Government agencies are taking weekly water samples.

Small businesses will be eligible for grants up to \$10,000, while the hardest hit commercial fisheries and aquaculture licence holders will be able to apply for up to \$100,000, as part of a \$28m state and federal government support package to tackle the impact of the algal bloom currently affecting parts of SA's coast. Head to algalbloom.sa.gov.au for updates.

Expression of interest for affected businesses can be fill out at [Algal Bloom Support Package –... | Department of State Development](#).

Drought

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) Board Meeting – 31 July 2025

Barb Cowey – Principal Regional Adviser - PIRSA Murraylands & Riverland Region

https://pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies_and_recovery/drought

PIRSA's website has all of the relevant drought program links.

- Commissioner for Drought Support - Mr Alex Zimmermann has been appointed Commissioner for Drought Support. **Mobile 0473216732; Email alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au**

Drought Support Package

The State Government is investing \$73 million to support farmers affected by drought in SA.

The package has been designed in direct consultation with primary producers, including a roundtable with farmers and key industry bodies.

Assistance measures in the package include:

- A further \$13 million for On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants for rebates that assist with projects to manage drought conditions and strengthen drought preparedness
- An additional \$4 million to assist charities with freight costs to transport donated fodder to assist farmers with feeding livestock
- Immediate financial relief by providing rebates for Emergency Services Levy and commercial vehicle registration fees for primary producers receiving the Commonwealth's Farm Household Allowance
- \$2.5 million for an immediate and comprehensive strategy to boost mental health and resilience in drought affected areas
- \$1 million for Rural Financial Counselling Support
- \$3.5 million in additional supports for rural small businesses
- \$3.1 million to assist with culling pests and manage kangaroo populations
- \$4.5 million to support producers with the implementation of electronic identification (eID) for sheep and farmed goats
- \$1.4 million to co-invest with councils in the upgrade of regional standpipes
- \$1.1 million to support the provision of standpipes for critical water needs in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu
- \$500,000 to make bulk water available from Bundaleer and Beetaloo Reservoirs
- \$2 million to assist sport and recreation clubs in drought affected areas through the Active Club Program
- \$400,000 to develop and encourage new regional events in drought affected areas through the Regional Event Fund
- \$250,000 to provide financial support for country students affected by drought to attend camps and excursions
- A further \$250,000 for grants of up to \$5,000 for the Connecting Communities Events Program, for groups to host events that foster social connections and provide support;
- \$17.4 million for Future Drought Fund Preparedness and Resilience programs.

These measures build upon the \$18 million in support measures outlined in November 2024, which included an initial round of [On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants](#), [donated fodder transport assistance](#), health and wellbeing support, grants for the [Connecting Communities Events Program](#), mentoring and counselling.

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Sky Light have been engaged to deliver mental health services in region – please see attached flyer with Cathy's details

Fruit Fly

No new Queensland fruit fly outbreaks have been declared in the Riverland with the total remaining number of outbreaks are stable at 56. Over the 12-week period from 21 April to 13 July 2025, No flies were detected in 25 of the 56 Riverland outbreak areas, with detected occurring in 31 of the 56 Riverland outbreak areas.

PIRSA will begin Sterile fly releases in the Riverland starting the week of 21 July, using targeted heat mapping.

The end dates for all outbreaks are as follows:

- Riverland: 23 December 2025
- Ceduna: 11 November 2025 (Mediterranean Fruit Fly)
- Glynde: 6 December 2025
- Salisbury North: 6 December 2025

For more information about fruit fly, self-baiting, or the latest outbreak advice, visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au or call the 24-Hour Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010.

PIRSA Family and Business (FaB) mentors are available to support Riverland residents through this challenging time. FaB mentors are available for a free, informal, confidential, and independent conversation in person or over the phone.

Riverland and Murraylands FaB mentors include Robyn Cain (0411 633 085), John Chase (0419 848 672), and Brent Fletcher (0439 409 430). Learn more at pir.sa.gov.au/fabs or call the FaB mentors directly.

Cross Border Industry Taskforce

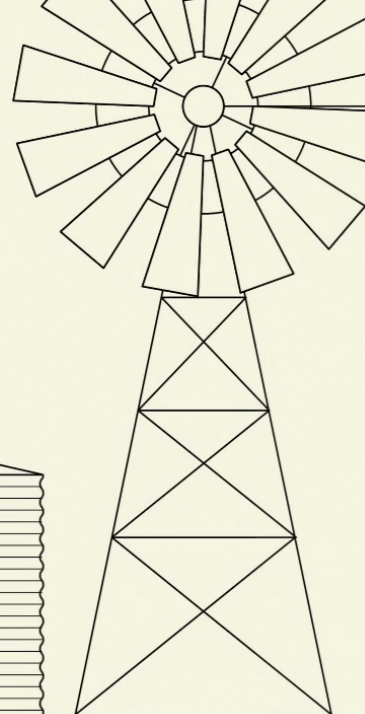
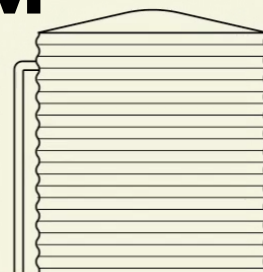
The Taskforce is established to advance the development of suitably skilled and qualified local workforce to meet the current and future workforce and skills needs of the irrigated agriculture/ horticulture, critical minerals and renewable industry sectors in the cross-border region of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

While an initial three key industry sectors acknowledgement that the cross over of workforce and skills needs will extend to many other sectors.

Future 3 Months

- Meet with Councils individually to identify current and future priorities
- Continue to support drought communities through both current programs and Future Drought Fund projects
- State RDA Summit, 5th September
- Work with industry and interest groups on priority projects

STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITIES: COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM



Feeling a bit lost and not sure who to talk to?

Maybe you know someone who's having a tough time with their mental health but won't open up?

I'm here to help.

As a Community Mental Health Coach, I offer a free, down-to-earth service to give you (or someone you care about) support.

We can chat one-on-one over the phone, face to face or I am available to come and talk with your team or workplace. I'll listen—really listen—and help you find simple, practical ways to feel better. I can connect you with services, supports, and people in your community who can make a difference in your life.

You don't have to figure it all out on your own.

Let's take it one step at a time, together.

For more information contact:

Cathy - 0427 481 580

Droughtsupport@skylight.org.au



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