Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Group
Minutes

Meeting No. 13, 15 April 2026, 10:45 – 3:45 pm

Chardonnay Lodge, Coonawarra

Objectives

- Discuss resource condition indicators for the confined aquifer and an approach to work with stakeholders to develop.
- Discuss what a management area summary could look like to inform stakeholders about resource condition and what to expect in the process.
- Finalise discussions around the structure of forest water licences and provide a review of forest water accounting.
- Discuss the challenges and opportunities of adaptive management, particularly where forestry and irrigation sit together.

Attendees:

Group Attendees – Dr Penny Schulz (Chair), Pete Bissell, Alan Rossouw, Belinda Williamson, Claire Davies, Claire Harding, Graeme Hamilton, Kerry DeGaris, Kylie Boston (11.10am), Melissa Herpich, Peter Balnaves, Simon Sherriff, Terry Buckley, Wayne Hancock.

LC Landscape Board Staff Attendees – Liz Perkins, Sue Botting, Chelsea Burns, Indigo Crawley.

Apologies – Darren Shelden, Ryan Judd

Welcome and agenda

The Chairs welcomed everyone and thanked Group members and staff for their attendance and gave an acknowledgement of country.

Agenda check and minutes

Minutes from Meeting 12 were confirmed as true and correct.

Moved by: Kerry DeGaris. Seconded by: Graeme Hamilton. All were in favour.

CONFIRMED

Confined aquifer: artesian pressure, hydraulic head and hydraulic gradient

Liz Perkins presented on the proposed acceptable impact approach for the confined aquifer.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed artesian pressure and current and future confined aquifer resource condition impacts.
- It was discussed what are the proposed indicators for the confined aquifer.
- It was discussed that this approach will build on the work done in 2015 for targeted engagement on acceptable impact.
- The Group supported a proposed targeted consultation with confined aquifer users to work through acceptable impact, potential tools or levers such an adaptive management framework.

Management area summary / resource condition update

Liz Perkins presented an example of a management area summary including resource condition which could be used to support communication of the amendment process.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed and provided feedback on the draft proposed management area summary. There was general support for the summary at management area level which could be built on as the process progresses.
- There was a recommendation from the Group to the Landscape Board that they strongly advocate for increased accuracy and reliability of licensing extraction/use data that is available since the transition to mywater. Accurate data is of critical importance to the amendment process and decision making.

Forest water licences and forest water accounting

Liz Perkins presented on the framework and legislation which underpins forest water licences and forest water accounting in the Lower Limestone Coast.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed in detail specific principles and accounting measures for forest water allocations in the current Plan. Research and reviews related to the deemed rate since adoption of the Plan was also discussed.
- It was presented to the Group that the LC Landscape Boards options in relation to the deemed rate for the revised Plan.
- It was raised that there is the additional matter of groundwater levels have dropped in some areas below the 6 m direct extraction cut off and a need to address this in the revised Plan. It was discussed that this does need to be addressed but it doesn't require an unpacking of the deemed rate to do so.
- There was support that some targeted consultation was needed with forest industry representatives to ensure the current situation around the science for the deemed rate is well understood before confirming a position.

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Adaptive management

Liz Perkins facilitated a discussion with the Group on adaptive management opportunities and challenges.

Discussion:

- The Group discussed different ideas to inform approaching adaptive management, particularly noting the differences between extraction from bores versus direct extraction and recharge interception by plantation forestry.
- There was discussion around how irrigation can adapt if necessary, but it is harder for forestry to do so.
- Data that could help stakeholders have confidence in adaptive management arrangements was also discussed.
- Discussion with inform further development of adaptive management by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board.

Acceptable impact check in

Deferred to next meeting.

Any other Business

Nil.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: Meeting 14 is planned for end of May/early June.

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 3.45 pm
The Chair thanked the stakeholders and staff for attending.

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LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMESTONE COAST

Lower Limestone Coast WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group
Action Table

Action	LLC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status	Meeting 13 Update
1.1	LC Landscape Board to provide the Group updates on outcomes from the Limestone Coast Water Steering Committee.	Ongoing	
3.1	LC Landscape Board to analyse potential amalgamations and provide back to the Group.	Ongoing	Intend to come back to this in 2026-27.
3.3	Revisit management zones as adaptive management and sustainable allocation are considered.	Ongoing	Intend to come back to this in 2026-27.
3.4	Understand the impact of SPR and DS if class 3 and 4 were merged to look at moving forward with 3 classes as a starting point.	Complete	Class for DS proposed while SPR is amalgamated into general water security. Discussed at meeting 12.
5.2	Organise for the Group to meet with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group.	Ongoing	Organise in 2026.
9.3	LC Landscape Board to consider implementing resource condition updates during the amendment process.	Ongoing	Management area summary discussed in meeting 13.
11.1	Provide a link to Group members to the Goyder research project and a reminder to consider the guiding principles and objectives.	Complete	Requested links also be provided on project page.
11.2	Create a “one-pager” on the wetland methodology.	Ongoing	

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Action Table – Closed Items

Action	LLC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
1.2	LC Landscape Board staff to take the option of proxies in the terms of reference to the LC Landscape Board Governing Body.	Complete
1.3	LC Landscape Board staff to provide an overview of the monitoring network at Meeting 2.	Complete
2.1	Request from Group for extraction and allocation for each management area + holding licences info.	Complete
2.2	Provide the Group terms of reference for Limestone Coast Water Steering Committee	Complete
3.2	Move forward with same management zones as current for now.	Complete
3.5	Allocation and use data to be presented spatially in addition to the table.	Complete
4.1	Run two scenarios: full allocation extracted with RCP4.5 climate change scenario and current average extraction with RCP4.5 climate change scenario.	Superseded
5.1	Revisit guiding principles for the Plan in Meeting 6.	Complete
5.3	Have a session on the drains to provide members more information.	Complete
6.0	Pull out key concepts slide and provide on members project page.	Complete
6.1	LC Landscape Board to send out dates for meetings for the first 6 months of 2025.	Complete
6.2	LC Landscape Board to added glossary of terms on project page.	Complete
6.3	LC Landscape Board to query DEW about providing IMAT table to the Group.	Complete
8.1	LC Landscape Board staff to provide some examples of reductions vs restrictions using same example – do a one pager example.	Complete.
9.1	LC Landscape Board staff to reword an equity principle and bring back the group.	Complete
9.2	LC Landscape Board to consider a principle around economic use.	Complete.
9.4	LC Landscape Board to update the amendment process timeline.	Complete.
10.1	Request for allocation and use data per management area.	Complete
10.2	LC Landscape Board to review stock and domestic document and consider update to clarify impact to and impact from stock and domestic use.	Complete
10.3	LC Landscape Board to provide a practical example for a management area to better understand how the resource condition limits will work.	Complete

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