Terms of reference for the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group

The formation of the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group is to provide an advisory role in the amendment of the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan to enhance sustainable groundwater management in the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area.

Background

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) was adopted on 26 November 2013. The adoption of the WAP was the result of over 10 years of work involving extensive community consultation and research.

Under section 54 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* a water allocation plan must be reviewed on a comprehensive basis at least once in every 10 years. The purpose is to:

- provide a review of the principles reflected in the plan
- provide a review of the success of the plan after taking into account the outcomes sought to be achieved by the water allocation plan
- provide an assessment of whether the water allocation plan remains appropriate or requires amendment
- assess or address any other matter prescribed by the regulations

From mid-2022 to December 2023 the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan was reviewed. The outcome from the review was communicated to the Deputy Premier and a public statement made in December 2023. The outcome is to substantially amend the plan focusing on the key areas of:

- New knowledge to improve the Plan.
- Revision of sustainable allocation.
- More environmental provisions.
- Water market.
- Reducing the complexity of the Plan.
- Aligning the Plan to legislation and policy change.

Recognising the significance of the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (LLC WAP), the Limestone Coast (LC) Landscape Board is continuing the Stakeholder Advisory Group (the Group) to advise them throughout the amendment process.

The Group will be the primary stakeholder representative group for the amendment process to revise the Lower Limestone Coast WAP. To ensure a diversity of interests and perspectives are heard in this process the Limestone Coast Landscape Board will also consult directly with some stakeholder groups and broadly with the community.

FINAL

Role of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (the Group)

The Group performs one of the advisory roles in the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan process and is not a decision-making group. The Group will provide to the Limestone Coast (LC) Landscape Board, to inform its decision making, balanced and researched advice on:

- Proposed revisions to the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan taking into account the outcomes being sought
- Water allocation and water resource management in the Lower Limestone Coast PWA, in seeking to balance economic, social and environmental needs.

Terms of Reference

The Group will:

- Make recommendations to the LC Landscape Board on amendments to the LLC WAP through evaluating proposals after taking into account the outcomes being sought.
- Receive recommendations from the LC Landscape Board in regards to proposed revisions to the LLC WAP after taking into account the outcomes being sought.
- Advise and assist in the development of communications materials (e.g. issues papers) to inform discussions, community consultations and reporting on issues, options and methods of ensuring sustainable groundwater use in the Lower Limestone Coast PWA and on issues associated with water allocation and water management planning.
- Make recommendations to the LC Landscape Board on a preferred approach of achieving sustainable groundwater use in the Lower Limestone Coast PWA.
- Promote community awareness, education and involvement in sustainable groundwater use, groundwater management and water allocation planning in the Lower Limestone Coast PWA.
- Communicate the needs and views of the community to the LC Landscape Board.
- Act as a reference contact for the LC Landscape Board on issues associated with sustainable groundwater use and management and water allocation planning in the Lower Limestone Coast PWA.
- Assist the LC Landscape Board in organising and coordinating studies/works associated with groundwater management and water allocation planning.

Operating Procedures

The LC Landscape Board shall provide the Group with adequate resources, including administrative support, to allow it to fulfil its responsibilities. The LC Landscape Board will Chair the Group.

The Group will aim for consensus in providing recommendations to the LC Landscape Board. In the instance where consensus cannot be reached, the differing views of the Group members will be put to the LC Landscape Board for their consideration.

Any materials prepared or developed for and by the Group will remain confidential between the Group and the LC Landscape Board.

Membership

The maximum number of members of the Group is 20. Group member appointments will be based on their skills, experience, abilities and/or knowledge in areas relevant to the LLC WAP.

Selection does not require formal qualifications. Members must have an ability to work within the terms of reference and put their own personal agendas at a distance.

Proxy positions are not available. In the event of a group member resigning their position the LC Landscape Board may seek to replace them with someone of similar skills and representation.

Terms of Membership

All members of the Group will be appointed for the duration of the amendment of the LLC WAP, and will remain appointed until within 3 months after the date of Ministerial approval.

The Group has ground rules and all representatives will be expected to commit to and abide by these for the duration of the amendment process.

Where a Group representative fails to abide by the terms of reference or the ground rules the LC Landscape Board Chair and General Manager have the authority to remove them from the Group.

Media

All direct media contact (interviews and actively seeking media coverage) is to be referred to the LC Landscape Board Media Liaison and carried out by a person authorised by the General Manager.

Media Contact

Andrea Bartetzko
Team Leader- Communications & Engagement
Email: lclandscapeboardengage@sa.gov.au
Phone: 08 8735 1204

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/lc

Meetings

The LC Landscape Board expects the Group will meet as needed in the Lower Limestone Coast, unless otherwise agreed. The emphasis of the initial meeting will be to inform members of their role and responsibilities and to set the internal ground rules for the Group.

Representatives are encouraged to attend in person but attendance online will be made available where in person attendance is not possible.

Special meetings may be required to more quickly progress the development of the project. Staff of the LC Landscape Board and/or specialist advisers may attend when appropriate, however Group meetings are not open to members of the public.

An agenda will be prepared and distributed to Group members by LC Landscape Board staff prior to the meeting. Brief, accurate minutes of meetings will be kept and provided to the LC Landscape Board and Group members.

A quorum will be determined by dividing the number of members by two, ignoring any fraction and adding one.

Executive support will be provided by the LC Landscape Board.

Reporting

The Group reports to the LC Landscape Board. Any member of the LC Landscape Board has the right to attend Group meetings. All Group actions will be reported to the LC Landscape Board.

FINAL

Privacy and Consent

Members of the Group will:

- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality in respect to Group discussions and of information made available to them.
- Material that is confidential in nature will be identified in the papers circulated to members.
- Members should be aware that all written material associated with the Group may be made available to the public.

By being a member of the Group you agree to the LC Landscape Board using your personal information to identify Group membership in information or communications relating to the LLC WAP amendment process.

FINAL