Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Group
Minutes

Meeting No. 12, 25 February 2026, 10:45 – 4:00 pm

The Commodore, Mount Gambier

Objectives

- Revisit consumptive pools and classes of water access entitlement to consider a revised proposal.
- Start to consider farm forestry principles for a revised plan.
- Consider key resource condition indicators approaches for the confined aquifer.

Attendees:

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

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

Apologies – Simon Sherriff, Darren Shelden.

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

The following corrections to the Meeting 11 Minutes were requested:

- Simon Sheriff provided minor amendments to the minutes for the SA water presentation.

Minutes from Meeting 11 were confirmed as true and correct with the above amendments.

Moved by: Terry Buckley. Seconded by: Kerrie DeGaris. All were in favour.

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Consumptive pools and classes of water access entitlements

Liz Perkins presented on consumptive pools and classes of water access entitlement to consider a revised proposal because of feedback and new knowledge.

Discussion:

Consumptive pools:

- Where do 'holding water licences' sit in a revised Plan. Under the legislation there isn't a category or anything known as holding water licences – they are a water licence like other water licences and are assigned to a management area but have no wells listed on the licence so would still need to meet any conditions
- A key difference between a water licence and a forest water licence is that a forest water licence provides an allocation but not a water access entitlement. It is the water access entitlement that gives access to water within a consumptive pool.
- How will/would trade work between water licences and forest water licences. Would trade be allowed in both directions between water licences and forest water licences. Trade will still be possible as it is under the current Plan. The LC Landscape Board will likely seek some change to the water management regulations to make the trade mechanism clearer.
- Broadly speaking it has been assumed that where possible a forest water licence and water licence would be the same instruments. But the way the legislation is setup they are quite different instruments which raises equity issues. This is a concern. It is important that the Group is clear on the limitations and then through the process we do the best in our ability to ensure these two water licences are brought together, as best as possible.
- Will stock and domestic be part of the unconfined aquifer consumptive pool. Unlicenced use also don't have a water access entitlement and so don't gain access to water within a consumptive pool.
- There was some discussion around the implications for adaptive management, particularly for forest water licences. While there is no water access entitlement with a forest water licence there is still a mechanism to vary allocation. Adaptive management will be revisited at a future meeting.

Classes of water access entitlements:

- Discussion focused on protections current Plan provided and what should happen in the revised Plan. Consideration was given to a range of issues.
- There was discussion around the current definition of industrial and the actual uses that sit under this definition. It was discussed that the actual uses need to align to the definition and amendment provides an opportunity to clean up any issues.
- The total water use or allocation for industrial is a small percentage of the total pool and brings in large economic benefit.

Farm forestry

Liz Perkins presented on farm forestry to consider amendment to existing principles in a revised plan.

Discussion:

- We don't know exact methodology for the estimates of farm forestry in the current Plan so we can't replicate it but have developed to estimate the current farm forestry extent.
- No significant growth in farm forestry, could be a reduction in extent.

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- Discussion around how much change is needed of the principles or more a minor tweak.
- Discussion around whether farm forestry should be 10% of the area of certificate of title or maximum 20 hectare or should it be both and be capped at whatever is lesser.
- There was some discussion around biodiverse carbon plantings and that the definition of commercial forestry in the legislation includes the commercial exploitation of the carbon absorption capacity of the forest vegetation.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting date: Meeting 13 is planned for early April 2026. Date to be set shortly.

Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4:06 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 12 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.	Ongoing	
5.2	Organise for the Group to meet with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group.	Ongoing	Organise in 2026.
6.2	LC Landscape Board to added glossary of terms on project page.	Complete	Complete and now available on project page. Will update as process continues.
9.3	LC Landscape Board to consider implementing resource condition updates during the amendment process.	Ongoing	
11.1	Provide a link to Group members to the Goyder research project and a reminder to consider the guiding principles and objectives.	Complete	
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
3.2	Move forward with same management zones as current for now.	Complete
5.1	Revisit guiding principles for the Plan in Meeting 6.	Complete
2.2	Provide the Group terms of reference for Limestone Coast Water Steering Committee	Complete
2.1	Request from Group for extraction and allocation for each management area + holding licences info.	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
6.3	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. Document provided at Meeting 10.
9.1	LC Landscape Board staff to reword an equity principle and bring back the group.	Complete. Updated principles provided at Meeting 10. Document not discussed.
9.2	LC Landscape Board to consider a principle around economic use.	Complete. Updated principles provided at Meeting 10. Document not discussed.
9.4	LC Landscape Board to update the amendment process timeline.	Complete. Timeline prepared for meeting, time didn't allow. To be provided out of session.
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
10.1	Request for allocation and use data per management area.	Complete

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Action	LLC WAP Stakeholder Advisory Group Actions	Status
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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