PASTORAL BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Government of South Australia
Pastoral Board
Annual Report 2015-16

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL ........................................................................................................3
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES .....................................................................................................4
HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES ..................................................................5
    HISTORY ..........................................................................................................................5
    THE REGION ..................................................................................................................5
    PASTORAL DISTRICTS ......................................................................................................6
    SEASONAL CONDITIONS 2015-2016 ..............................................................................7
    RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARDS ...........7
    REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES ....................................................................7
    STRATEGIC PLANNING ...............................................................................................8
    OPEN FORUM WITH LESSEES .................................................................................8
    COMMUNICATIONS ........................................................................................................8
    MONITORING LAND CONDITION .............................................................................9
    LEASE INSPECTIONS ....................................................................................................10
    NOTICES TO DESTOCK OR TAKE OTHER ACTION .............................................10
    PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES – NEW GAZETTALS ......................................................10
    PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES CLOSURES ................................................................10
    MINING DEVELOPMENT .............................................................................................10
    LEASE TRANSACTIONS CONSIDERED ..................................................................11
    PASTORAL RENTS .......................................................................................................11
    DETERMINATION OF RENTS ....................................................................................11
    RENT RELIEF ...............................................................................................................11
    PASTORAL LAND APPEAL TRIBUNAL ......................................................................12
    ASSISTANCE TO LESSEES VIA ‘POOL OF PERSONS’ ............................................12

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE ........................................................................13

OBJECTS OF THE PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT 1989 ..............13
ROLE OF THE BOARD ....................................................................................................13
FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD ..........................................................................................13
MEMBERSHIP ................................................................................................................14
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL .......................................................................14
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS ................................................................................15

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ..................................................................15

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS ..........................................................15

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS .................................................................................16
FRAUD ..............................................................................................................................16
CONSULTANTS ..............................................................................................................16
OVERSEAS TRAVEL .........................................................................................................16
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER ............................................................................................16
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS ..................................16
WHISTLEBLLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993 ..........................................................17
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS ....................................................17
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT .......................................................................................17
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

6 October 2016

Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Act 2009 and section 18 (A) of the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (the Act), I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Pastoral Board for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Geoff Mills
Presiding Member
Pastoral Board of South Australia
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Board’s responsibilities and activities relate to two targets under the priority area of ‘Our Environment’ in South Australia’s Strategic Plan (SASP) 2011:

- Target 70: Sustainable land management: By 2020, achieve a 25% increase in the protection of agricultural cropping land from soil erosion and a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land (baseline: 2002-03 and 2005-06 respectively).

The Board contributes to this target through its lease inspection, assessment and land condition monitoring program. The lease assessment information collected by DEWNR on behalf of the Board is used to measure improvement in the condition of pastoral land. Based on relevant data collected during lease assessments and inspections conducted during the 2015/2016 financial year, 2% of pastoral properties showed an improvement in paddock condition since their last lease assessment or inspection visit. However the cumulative improvement for the period 2005/2006 – 2015/2016 is 23%. The target is to achieve a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land by 2020. This would equate to a net improvement in 56 of the State’s 217 pastoral properties. Previous annual reports stated 223 pastoral properties however compulsory acquisition and a merge of properties has reduced the total number of properties to 217. A graph of the progress to date is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage of pastoral properties that have recorded an improvement in the number of Priority paddocks since the 2005/2006 baseline

- Target 69: Lose no native species as a result of human impacts.

To facilitate this target the Board gives positive consideration to requests for changes of land use from pastoral purposes to conservation purposes.
Furthermore, the Government has seven strategic priority areas being:

- Creating a vibrant city
- Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods
- An affordable place to live
- Every chance for every child
- Grow advanced manufacturing
- Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all
- Premium food and wine from our clean environment

The Board’s responsibilities and activities contribute to the priority “Premium food and wine from a clean environment”. The Pastoral Board contributes to this priority through its lease assessment, inspection and land condition monitoring programs, to ensure that the rangelands are used and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

HISTORY
The Pastoral Board has been in operation in South Australia for 122 years. It is one of the oldest continually active statutory authorities in Australia.

The first Board, chaired by the Acting Surveyor-General William Strawbridge, was appointed in 1894 to help administer the Pastoral Act of 1893. The 1894 Board was given the power to determine lease areas, boundaries, rents and the duration of tenured occupancies.

In the 1930s the sustainability of the current grazing practices began to be widely and openly questioned. Short-term tenures, poor stocking practices and a run of bad seasons had all contributed to the malaise that was giving rise to these questions. The Pastoral Act of 1936 introduced stocking controls on leases for the first time.

The Pastoral Board today and historically has been made up of appointees who are selected for having pastoral industry knowledge, extensive experience, State Government corporate knowledge and importantly good relationships with lessees and good communication skills. The Board is made up of experts in their field additionally informed by the Community. The Board’s practical understanding of the complexity of managing pastoral lands sustainably, the economic sustainability of lessees and its firm but fair approach to its regulatory role has gained the trust and respect of pastoral land managers.

Today the sustainable management of pastoral lands subject to grazing, and the monitoring of the condition of these lands, are pivotal components of the work of the Pastoral Board and its support staff.

THE REGION
The rangelands of South Australia lie beyond the agricultural districts and occupy approximately 741,000 sq. km. Rangelands encompass just over 80% of the State’s land area. Within this area the Pastoral Board is mandated to administer and monitor 322 pastoral leases that collectively occupy 410,000 sq. km. The balance of the rangelands is set aside as Aboriginal lands and parks and reserves.
The pastoral lands are divided into two zones by the 2,250 km Dog Fence. Cattle leases outside the fence collectively occupy 230,000 sq. km. while sheep leases inside the fence occupy 180,000 sq. km.

The individual leases that define the Pastoral Board’s area of responsibility range in size from 20 sq. km. to over 14,000 sq. km. These leases are operated as 222 stations, runs, or management units.

Sustainable pastoral land use relies heavily on the availability of water. Rainfall is low and unreliable over most of the region. Averages vary from 275 mm in parts of the Flinders Ranges and in the Musgrave Ranges against the Northern Territory border, to less than 150 mm in the vicinity of Lake Eyre. In all areas extreme summer conditions contribute to evaporation rates greater than rainfall. This is a major issue with surface storage of stock water throughout the region. Stock water distribution on most pastoral leases comes from dams, earth tanks, bores (some into the Great Artesian Basin) and troughs along pipelines.

The more northerly and westerly country receives most of its rainfall in the summer months from storms and occasional monsoonal rains from the north and northwest. It is only the southern rangelands fringing the agricultural areas that receive any significant precipitation from major southwest weather fronts.

The characteristic saltbush and bluebush shrublands on leases south of the Dog Fence are indicative of the region’s aridity. A diverse range of plants have adapted to these harsh conditions. Some are edible and provide a perennial fodder base for sheep.

The northern cattle country is more ephemeral in nature, responding to episodic rainfall events. Predominantly annual forage species respond quickly to rainfall events in the lighter sand dune and swale country whilst perennial and annual grasses of the stony tablelands require higher rainfall event to respond but generally persist longer in the landscape. Floodplains of the major rivers and creeks in the far north and north east portion of the cattle country also provide highly nutritious plant biomass for cattle.

**PASTORAL DISTRICTS**
There are seven pastoral districts in the rangelands:

- Marla-Oodnadatta
- Marree-Innaminka
- Kingoonya
- North Flinders
- Gawler Ranges
- North East
- Eastern Districts

These districts are based on the old Soil Conservation Board boundaries and are used by the assessment and inspection teams to group properties for the purposes of conducting the on ground evaluations and to help with assessments.
SEASONAL CONDITIONS 2015-2016
The 2015-16 financial year began with almost all pastoral areas in reasonable condition, with the exception of the Oodnadatta area and properties on the northern Birdsville Track where conditions were very dry.

Significant rainfall occurred in the southern pastoral districts during August and early November, ensuring ample paddock feed and good surface water supplies for sheep producers. Cattle producers in the northern pastoral areas, however, were experiencing very dry conditions, particularly in the far north east where conditions were reported to be the driest since the early 1990’s and stock numbers were being reduced significantly.

Summer thunderstorms during December 2015 and January 2016 provided good rainfall recordings in the northern cattle areas, with some properties recording falls of 150-180mm, providing relief for both stock water supplies and available stock feed.

All pastoral districts received significant rainfall during March and May 2016 and so by June surface water supplies and available stock feed were sufficient to last well into the summer of 2016, with the exception of the far north east where conditions generally appear only fair to average.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARDS
Most of the pastoral land in the State is within the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management (NRM) region. Relationships with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board were strengthened through joint meetings and partnership arrangements in policy, program and project development and delivery.

The Pastoral Board and SA Arid Lands NRM Board aim to have at least one joint meeting per year to discuss common issues, align policies and actions, share project information and build closer working relationships. The Pastoral Board met with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board in Port Augusta on 28th April 2016.

Pastoral Board support staff from the Pastoral Program, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), collaborated with staff from the SA Arid Lands NRM region on a range of issues, including wild dog management, Water Allocation Plans, compliance frameworks to establish minimum standards for participation in district NRM programs, control of large feral herbivores and the requirement of improved boundary fencing policies as a result of the introduction of alternate sheep breeds.

The Pastoral Board is collaborating with the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board on the development and alignment of relevant policies that relate to the management of pastoral leasehold land.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES
In addition to its involvement with statutory groups, the Board is also represented on the State Kangaroo Management Reference Group. Through its membership the Board also has a close relationship with Livestock SA, Outback Bushfire Management Committee and the Conservation Council of SA.
STRATEGIC PLANNING
For 2015-16 the Board has been focussing and continues to focus on nine strategic priorities, as detailed below.

1. The Board provided advice to DEWNR on progress against SASP Target 70 - By 2020 achieve a 25% improvement in the condition of pastoral land (baseline: 2005-06, commencement 2nd round lease assessment process). Current data matching up to June 2016 indicates a cumulative total improvement of 22% has been achieved since 2005.

2. The Board recognises that various issues have arisen since the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (the Act) was enacted and the Board needs to ensure it continues to meet its responsibilities within the objects of the Act.

3. Total Grazing Pressure – domestic stock, pest animals and overabundant native animals.

4. Science, Research and Innovation, focussing on land condition assessment by remote sensing, particularly in the cattle country, the implications of increased mining and gas exploration in the Great Artesian Basin and financial drivers impacting on property management.

5. Climate Change


7. Aboriginal Engagement.


9. In May 2016 the Pastoral Board undertook a review of its operations and community perceptions of its roles and activities. An independent market research company was contracted to collect and manage the data with another consultant due to be engaged to analyse and provide suggested directions for the Board.

This strategic work is in addition to the Pastoral Board’s operational requirements under the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (the Act).

OPEN FORUM WITH LESSEES
On Tuesday 28 April 2016 the Pastoral Board held an open forum with pastoralists at the Port Augusta Golf Club. Attending the forum were lessees and managers from many pastoral properties in South Australia, including from the Kingoonya, Gawler Ranges, North East, Flinders Ranges, Marla and Marree districts.

The lessees discussed with the Pastoral Board the DEWNR Kangaroo Management Program, proposed changes to the Board’s boundary fencing policy, the DEWNR Wild Dog Management Program, and the second round Lease Assessment process and how it will differ from the first round in the northern cattle country.

COMMUNICATIONS
The Pastoral Board contributes articles to the “Across the Outback”, the newsletter that is produced by the SA Arid Lands NRM Board.
In 2015-16 the Pastoral Board published articles on;
- The independent review conducted on stakeholder understanding of the Board’s performance and functions.
- Changes to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*, allowing renewable energy development to occur on pastoral leases.

**MONITORING LAND CONDITION**
The Pastoral Board, under section 25 of the Act, is required to assess the condition of the land comprised in each pastoral lease at intervals of not more than 14 years and given a satisfactory assessment, restore the lease to a 42 year term with variations to the lease conditions as appropriate. The first round of lease assessments commenced in 1990.

The second round of lease assessments commenced in 2005 and the aim has been to complete all 217 pastoral properties by June 2019. Currently, 158 properties have been assessed as part of the second round of assessments. A rate of 20 properties per year is required to complete the second round of assessments by June 2019. Recent annual reports have identified resourcing as an issue inhibiting the likelihood of meeting the June 2019 target. Under current resourcing levels, 20 properties per year is not achievable with progress forecast to be approximately 15 properties per year. Based on a rate of 15 properties per year (see Figure 2 below), it is estimated that 203 properties will be assessed by the calendar year ending June 2019 (14 less than the required total of 217 pastoral properties). The second round of assessments commenced in 2005 and it is estimated that all 217 pastoral properties will be assessed by June 2021.

**Figure 2: Second round pastoral lease assessment progress 2005 –2019.**

Assessment field work for 10 Flinders District properties was completed in the 2015-16 financial year. A further 12 properties require assessment to complete the Flinders District before assessments progress into the northern Marla Oodnadatta and Marree Innamincka
LEASE INSPECTIONS
Pastoral leases are inspected for compliance with lease conditions and to effectively monitor and address any land management issues on individual leases. The inspection process involves land condition monitoring in conjunction with assessing impacts of the current grazing practices. Where grazing pressure is assessed to be excessive, inspectors develop strategies with the lessee to address the problem.

During 2015–16 17 pastoral inspections (encompassing 20 individual pastoral leases) were conducted, in all districts of the pastoral zone. To ensure every property is inspected at least once every 7 years, 31 properties per annum are required to be the subject of an inspection. Of the 17 inspections, two leases were visited three times which required additional resources and reduces the overall number of properties completed.

NOTICES TO DE STOCK OR TAKE OTHER ACTION
Three section 43 notices are in place on two properties. One for installing many water points in close proximity to each other which increases the potential for serious land degradation issues, one for high stock numbers that has resulted in degradation issues and one notice is in place as a consequence of failure to keep boundary fences in a stock proof condition with subsequent impacts to neighbouring properties management and profitability.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES – NEW GAZETTALS
Section 45 of the Act provides for the establishment of Public Access Routes across lands held under pastoral lease. Public Access Routes provide public access over pastoral lease land to specific places of interest without the need to obtain the permission of the lessee. These routes link with the public road system in the pastoral areas.

No additional Public Access Routes were gazetted during 2015-16.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES CLOSURES
Four Public Access Routes were closed during the summer which is in line with the annual closures of Witjira National Park and Simpson Desert Regional Reserve. Pedirka, Halligan Bay, Walkers Crossing and Warburton K1 PARs were all closed between December 15 2015 and March 15 2016, due to the extreme temperatures in these areas over the summer period. PARs throughout the Flinders Ranges and Gawler Ranges have all remained open generally throughout the year. Significant rainfall in January through to June 2016 has resulted in the outback PARs all being closed for long periods due to wet road conditions.

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES MAINTENANCE
Routine maintenance was carried out on several PARs during the year. An ongoing maintenance partnership has been developed in conjunction with Outback Desert Parks to ensure local contractors are used where possible. Significant heavy rainfall in the Oodnadatta region resulted in the Pedirka PAR suffering significant damage, which has now been rehabilitated. Halligan Bay and Level Post Bay PARs have both been patrol graded to ensure safe travel for the public accessing Lake Eyre.

MINING DEVELOPMENT
The Board has continued to be consulted on the expansion of mining, both exploration and development of actual mine sites, in its statutory role of managing pastoral leases. The Board’s interest in this activity extends into change of land use applications, commenting on specific proposals and ensuring proposed developments do not impair the ability of lessees to conduct their pastoral enterprises. Issues of particular interest to the Board are the impact of
developments on local water resources, installation of haul roads and other infrastructure, and working with the Department for State Development to ensure that mining companies are acting responsibly in their interactions with pastoral lessees and their managers.

LEASE TRANSACTIONS CONSIDERED
Section 10 and 18 of the Act allow the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) and the Pastoral Board respectively to delegate a number of their powers under that Act. The power to approve transfers and sub-leases of pastoral leases provided they are being transferred and sub-leased for pastoral or associated purposes has been delegated to Senior Staff of DEWNR.

During 2015-2016, Ministerial consent for the following transfers was granted:

Internal Restructure- Pine Creek, Pt Pine Creek, Moolawatna, Woolatachi, Lockes Claypan, Wompinie, Bundera, Mitchidy Moola, Watna Shed and Hornes Lookout.

Open Market: Mt Eba, Clifton Hills, Mt Lyndhurst, Mulka, Lake Hope, Oulnina Park, Umberatana and Yudnapinna.

During 2015-16, the following sub-leases were approved by the Minister: Coondambo, Gidgealpa, Mitchidy Moola, Watna Shed, Umberatana, Yalymbo and Lake Blyth.

During 2015-2016, Ministerial consent was not granted for the following

Open Market: Erudina, Billeroo West

PASTORAL RENTS
Under section 23 of the Act the Board is responsible for issuing annual rent accounts to lessees.

Pastoral lease rentals are payable annually in arrears. Total amount of rents invoiced representing (1 Nov 2014 – 31 Oct 2015) rental period was $1,435,685. The total amount of rent funds received in 2015-16 totalled $1,439,344. Outstanding rents at 30 June 2016 totalled $70,071 and debt recovery processes have been instigated.

DETERMINATION OF RENTS
Under section 23 of the Act, the Valuer-General determines pastoral rents as a percentage of the unimproved value of the land – the percentage to represent an appropriate rate of return relative to the purpose for which the land is used.

Section 23(4) obliges the Valuer-General to determine rents at least every five (5) years and in 2011-12 the Valuer-General provided the Pastoral Board with its determinations for each pastoral lease.

The Valuer-General had determined that the annual rate of return on pastoral leases would remain unchanged for the 2014 (1 Nov 2014 – 31 Oct 2015) rental period. The rates of return are:

Pastoral Board Annual Report 2015-16
Page 11
2.7% (two point seven percent) for leases used for **pastoral purposes**
2.0% (two percent) for leases used for **conservation purposes**
0.0% (zero percent) for leases subject to a **Heritage Agreement**
5.0% (five percent) for leases used for **tourism purposes**
2.7% (two point seven percent) for **mining purposes**

The Pastoral Board issued the rent accounts as per section 23 of the Act.

Under section 56 of the Act, lessees dissatisfied with their rent determination can write to the Valuer-General for an informal resolution or, alternatively, can apply to the Valuer-General for a review of the determination by a listed independent valuer. A final right of appeal from both processes lies with the Land and Valuation Court and the Act allows a lessee to appeal directly to the Land and Valuation Court from the outset if he or she wishes.

In 2015-16 there were nil lodged objections by lessees with the Valuer-General.

**RENT RELIEF**
The Board can consider applications for rent relief on a case-by-case basis. As a matter of general policy the Board recognises the joint Federal / State Drought Assistance process and Farm Help as the most appropriate mechanism for Government assistance to pastoralists in hardship due to prolonged drought. The Board will consider applications for rent deferral where Federal and State support is not available due to non-viability of the lessee.

No applications for rent relief were received in 2015-16.

**PASTORAL LAND APPEAL TRIBUNAL**
The Tribunal is appointed pursuant to section 50 of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act* 1989. It consists of a District Court Judge and two experts chosen by the Judge from a panel appointed by the Governor.

It considers appeals from lessees relating to variances of conditions of a pastoral lease; decisions not to extend a pastoral lease; decisions to cancel a lease or fine a lessee for breaches of lease conditions; property planning decisions; public access route establishments and refusals to consent to transfers, mortgages, assignments, subleases and other dealings with a lease.

During the year under review, there was one matter filed to the District Court for the Pastoral Land Appeal Tribunal. This related to Erudina / Billeroo West pastoral leases.

**ASSISTANCE TO LESSEES VIA ‘POOL OF PERSONS’**
Section 25(A) of the Act provides for the establishment of a ‘pool of persons’ available to assist lessees with their dealings with the Board in relation to their lease assessments.

There were no matters referred to the “Pool of Persons” in the 2015/16 year.
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Pastoral Board of South Australia is established under section 12 of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*.

The Pastoral Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own.

OBJECTS OF THE *PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT 1989*

The Pastoral Board’s overriding goals and objectives are set out in section 4 of the Act. The Board may develop its own strategic planning goals and operational policies, within the framework of resource sustainability outlined in the Act.

The Objects of the Act (section 4) are:

(a) to ensure that all pastoral land in the State is well managed and utilised prudently so that its renewable resources are maintained and its yield sustained; and

(b) to provide for –

(i) the effective monitoring of the condition of pastoral land; and

(ii) the prevention of degradation of the land and its indigenous plant and animal life; and

(iii) the rehabilitation of the land in cases of damage; and

(c) to provide a form of tenure of Crown land for pastoral purposes that is conducive to the economic viability of the pastoral industry; and

(d) to recognise the right of Aboriginal persons to follow traditional pursuits on pastoral land; and

(e) to provide the community with a system of access to and through pastoral land that finds a proper balance between the interests of the pastoral industry and the interests of the community in enjoying the unique environment of the land.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board is primarily to ensure that all pastoral land in the State is well managed and utilised prudently so that its renewable resources are maintained and its yield sustained.

To focus the Board on the coordination of its activities with other statutory groups operating in the pastoral lands, section 5 of the Act requires the Minister and the Board to act consistently with, and have regard to, plans and guidelines established by government agencies, resource conservation authorities and planning authorities. The Board must also have regard to the terms of any relevant Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA).

FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

Section 17(1) of the Act states that the Board is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act, and in discharging that responsibility is subject to the control and direction of the Minister. Subsection (2) describes the other functions of the Board as:
(a) to advise the Minister on policies that should govern the administration of pastoral land;
(b) to advise the Minister on other matters referred to the Board by the Minister; and
(c) to perform any other function assigned to the Board by or under this Act by the Minister.

MEMBERSHIP
The membership of the ninth Pastoral Board appointed for a three-year period expiring on 28 August 2016, pursuant to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act*, 1989 is:

*Presiding Member*
Geoff Mills
A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister, wide experience in administration of pastoral leases, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

*Members*
Vicki Linton
A person who has, in the opinion of the Minister for Environment and Heritage, a wide knowledge of ecology, and experience in the management, of the pastoral land of this State, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

Julie-Ann Mould
A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce sheep on pastoral land inside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.

Douglas Lillicrapp
A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons who produce beef cattle on pastoral land outside the dog fence, submitted by the South Australian Farmers Federation.

Kathryn Bellette
A person selected by the Minister from a list of 3 persons submitted by the Conservation Council of South Australia Inc.

Andrew Johnson
A person who, in the opinion of the Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development, has had wide experience in the field of land and soil conservation of pastoral land, appointed on the nomination of the Minister.

*Deputy Members*
Brenda Anderson
Deputy to Mills

Stephane Williams
Deputy to Linton

Greg Cock
Deputy to Johnson

Ann Oldfield
Deputy to Lillicrapp

Fraser Vickery
Deputy to Bellette, resigned January 2015.

Keith Slade
Deputy to Mould

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL
A total of six general Board meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

One special out of session Board meeting was held in March 2016.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Number of meetings attended</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geoff Mills</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Linton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Meeting attendance</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie-Ann Mould</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Apology at August, October and December 2015 and February, March, April and June 2016 meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Lillecrapp</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Apology at April 2016 meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Bellette</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Apology at March 2016 meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Johnson</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Apology at August 2015 and March, April 2016 meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Member</td>
<td>Meeting attendance</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Anderson</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Williams</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Cock</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Attended for Andrew Johnson at August 2015 and March 2016 meeting and in his own right as elected deputy at December 2015 and February 2016 meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Oldfield</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>Resigned January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Vickery</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Slade</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Attended for Julie-Ann Mould at August, October and December 2015 meetings and March, April and June 2016 meetings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
The Conservation and Land Management Group, DEWNR provides support to the Pastoral Board by provision of the services of an Executive Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
The Pastoral Board members (other than those that are also government employees) may receive $206 per 4 hour session and $51.50 per hour for out of session work, as determined by his Excellency the Governor in Executive Council.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS
The Pastoral Board employs no staff and utilises the services of DEWNR through the Pastoral Unit. Reporting on this information is included within the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Pastoral Board from existing DEWNR resources.

Section 12(3) of the Act requires that at least one Member of the Board must be a woman and one a man. The gender balance of the Pastoral Board is three male and three female Board Members and three male and three female Deputy Members.
The following matters are reported on in the DEWNR annual report 2015-2016:

- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Public Complaints
- Asbestos Management Reporting in Government Buildings
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work, Health, Safety and Injury Management
- Account Payment Performance
- Reporting against the Carers Recognition Act 1993
- Disability Action and Inclusion Plans
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS
The Pastoral Board contracted McGregor Tan Research in January 2016 to conduct a survey seeking stakeholder opinion on the Board and its future roles and operations.

FRAUD
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

CONSULTANTS
In January 2016 the Pastoral Board contracted an independent market research company to undertake a review of the Boards operations and community perceptions of its roles and activities.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
No members of the Board travelled overseas for Pastoral Board purposes in the reporting period.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER
No events occurred in 2015-16 that required the Pastoral Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS
As a DEWNR administered entity, the Pastoral Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. The Freedom of Information statement is published on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website accessible via the following address www.environment.sa.gov.au
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993
Reporting requirements against the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993 require the Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during 2015-2016.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS
The Board did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2015-16.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT
In carrying out its functions, the Pastoral Board is fully aware of the cultural and natural heritage connections of the many traditional owners of the extensive pastoral lands in which it operates. As a matter of strategic policy the Board strives to achieve positive outcomes whenever addressing issues concerning the aspirations of the traditional owners.

The Board continues to strongly support and participate in processes that lead to the development of Indigenous Land Use Agreements over lands held under pastoral lease, recognising the advantages to all parties of an agreed outcome over protracted and expensive litigation where land is subject to native title claim.