

22 January 2010

General Manager

Eyre Peninsula Board NRM Board

PO Box 2916

PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

Dear Kate,

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Re: Annual Review of the Business Plan for the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board 2010/11-2012/13

As a Peak Body under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, Conservation Council SA (Conservation SA) is pleased to make comment on these proposed amendments to the Business Plan of the EP NRM Board.

The Board is to be commended on its Draft Business Plan 2010/11-2012/13. A key challenge for NRM Boards is communicating to the community what the Board's statutory obligations are, what they have been achieving and what they intend to achieve over the next year. The Board has clearly articulated this throughout this draft document. It may also have been worthwhile including a summary document with the key changes outlined and the rationale for those changes. Although, it is acknowledged that the Regional Plan was only adopted in May 2009. However, such a summary sheet would assist in demonstrating to the community that the Business Plan also serves as an adaptive management tool as well as an engagement tool and is a demonstration of the Board's learning and of the continuous improvement sought.

An executive summary of the Business Plan could summarise what has been achieved in the region, what the Board has learnt over the past year and how this will be reflected in changes in the Plan. This demonstrates that the Board is responsive, that the Plan is community-driven and the aim is for things to continually improve. It would also bring warmth and heart to the document and hence to the regional plan. The inclusion of short case studies demonstrating partnerships in action from the previous year may also be worth considering.

As acknowledged in the Draft Business Plan, 'effective partnerships based on collaborative decision making, and shared program development is recognised as fundamental for the implementation of this Plan'. Given this, it would be useful if the document outlined the Board's intended process for engaging partners, in particular what the criteria will be.

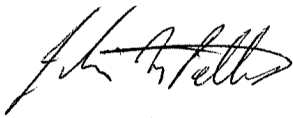
In order to obtain meaningful comment and the all-important 'buy-in' from the community, early involvement is crucial. Conservation SA is supportive of the early involvement of the community when the Board is reviewing its Business Plan as well as seeking community feedback on proposed amendments. However, it is acknowledged that there is an on-going challenge to make such engagement opportunities as meaningful as possible.

In the future, it may be worth holding an Adelaide-based meeting for a range of stakeholders and potential investors, which may result in greater input and added value to the Draft plan.

If future funding sources are uncertain, it is useful to demonstrate how resources will be prioritised. Such a list of criteria demonstrates to the community how priorities are determined. Also, if the board has deliberate funding strategies for different streams it would be useful to articulate its rationale.

Finally, Conservation SA appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Annual Review of the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board Business Plan and trusts these comments will be duly considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Pettett', written in a cursive style.

Julie Pettett

CEO