



22 January 2010

The General Manager

Northern & Yorke NRM Board

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CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

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Dear Lynne,

Re: Annual Review of the Northern & Yorke Business Plan

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 N&Y NRM Plan.

The Board is to be commended on its Draft Business Plan 2010-13. 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. In particular the information presented in each of the program areas is easily understood, the inclusion of the Action targets for 2010-11 is well summarised and it is very useful having a list of the key achievements over the past year. It may also have been worthwhile including a summary document with the key changes outlined and the rationale for those changes. It is, however, acknowledged that the Regional plan was only adopted in May 2009. However, such a document/fact sheet assists 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.

Also, 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 that will be reflected in changes over the next year. This demonstrates that the Board is responsive, that the Plan is community-driven and the aim is for continual improvement. 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.

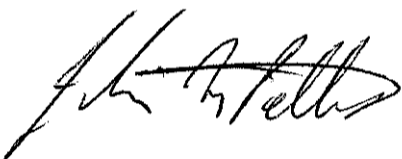
As acknowledged in the Draft Business Plan, successful partnerships are crucial in order to achieve secure future investment in the region's natural resources. Given that, it would be useful if the document outlined the Board's intended process for engaging partners, in particular what the criteria will be.

In order to obtain meaningful comment and the all-important 'buy-in' from the community, early involvement is crucial. Therefore it may be beneficial putting more effort into involving the community when the Board is reviewing its Business plan as opposed to only seeking community feedback on the 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.

Finally, Conservation SA appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Annual Review of the Northern & Yorke 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