



**Government of South Australia**  
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges  
Natural Resources Management Board

**South Para Natural Resources  
Management Committee**

Helen Rapp Bourne  
PO Box 217  
Cockatoo Valley SA 5251

8<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Honourable Jay Weatherill,

I write in response to the letter PREM14D03458 dated July 8<sup>th</sup>2014 regarding information about the decision to reform South Australian state government boards and committees. Since the receipt of this letter the committee hasn't met and is scheduled to meet on August 15<sup>th</sup>

The South Para Natural Resources Management Committee is comprised of a range of key strategic stakeholders and representatives including local private landowners, Landcare and Friends of Parks representatives, NRM managers and District Officers, 3 local government representative, SA Water, Forestry SA and DEWNR staff. It has existed in various forms for over 16 years and was recognised locally and nationally for its Landcare achievements.

The committee operates efficiently with minimal cost to government with only 3 committee members receiving sitting fees out of a total of 10 and some support from a DEWNR staff member to arrange meetings and keep minutes. Further to this, the committee members provide considerable community service outside of meeting hours, act as ambassadors for the NRM Board, are recognised and utilised by the community to raise issues and awareness and bring considerable local knowledge about the South Para.

The SPNRM Committee works closely with staff from DEWNR and other government agencies to deliver and co-ordinate activities on a landscape approach

- Transfer of information to and from the community, including land managers. This allows feedback from the community to assist with informing programs and initiatives.
- The committee effectively provides advice, setting local priorities and efficiently coordinates programs across land tenure, both public and private.
- The committee provides a forum for direct communication between government, land managers and community members to assist in identifying new issues, providing a conduit for sharing information and knowledge, and management options on environmental impact activities outside the scope of the committee
- The Committee meets monthly in a community venue at no cost.
- A three year membership term ensures a cohesive and unified committee group, which allows us to retain and apply considerable corporate knowledge to enable

sustained momentum of planning direction and program implementation. Due to the longevity of the committee the communication and relationships between agencies, local government and community groups have improved and synergies have developed improving outcomes and trust.

- Applies a long-term planning perspective ensuring that the NRM's strategic plan is translated into real, local and regional outcomes in a co-ordinated effort across land tenures.
- The committee outcomes are extensive through the delivery of successful projects. Our committee processes are seen to be a significant value-enhancement to the NRM's programs as it encourages strong community consultation, engagement and involvement in Landcare projects. See the attached Connections Map.
- In 2012-13 the committee oversaw the management of \$205,360 expenditure on projects in the South Para region. 28 individual private landholders and 4 community groups were supported with funded projects. In addition to the funded projects, threat abatement and restoration works were undertaken on public lands and roadsides in partnership with the three local governments and DEWNR.
- The committee promotes the "community at the centre" by getting direct input from local, public and private stakeholders thus saving time and money and achieving maximum on ground outcomes; a prime example of bottom up governance.
- Contributes to community engagement activities such as project tours, field days and community information workshops.

I believe that this provides a strong case for the continuation of this committee as an efficient way of doing things, history speaks for itself, this is an on ground committee that communicates from the ground up to the higher echelons and the community. On ground staff all meet together, this is a very unique way of ensuring communication with the community at the centre. I can see no other way that the government can increase the benefits other than removing the sitting fees.

The South Para Natural Resources Management Committee is not scheduled to meet until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August, there will be a follow up letter outlining any further comments.

Yours Sincerely,



Helen Rapp Bourne  
Chairperson  
On behalf of the South Para Natural Resources Management Committee

## Attachments

### 1. SPNPMC Connections Map



