

PPSA NRM Committee – Terms of Reference

PPSA NRM Committee

The PPSA NRM Committee was established in 2013 as a cross-commodity committee of PPSA.

Role

The role of the PPSA NRM Committee is to:

- Create a forum for the PPSA commodity associations to discuss priority NRM issues and identify issues on which common policy recommendations may be developed;
- Share relevant NRM information (particularly regarding NRM policy development) amongst PPSA members;
- Develop cross-commodity policy recommendations for endorsement by the PPSA Council; and
- Establish a point of contact between PPSA and SA Government agencies and statutory bodies involved in NRM.

Some of the key activities for the PPSA NRM Committee to date have been:

- Providing direction to the PPSA NRM Liaison Officer and input on the Ag & NRM Action Plan, SA NRM Investment Strategy, National Landcare Program (Phase 2) and NRM Reform;
- Surveys and discussions on water planning and management policy and NRM levies (including meetings with the Department and Minister);
- A workshop with primary producers who are NRM board members;
- Input on native vegetation offset policy; and
- Developing a Statement of Principles on Mining and Gas for PPSA and a stronger understanding of the regulatory system for mining and gas activities in SA, to support representation of primary producers by the commodity associations on these matters.

Membership

The NRM Committee will consist of:

- a PPSA representative as Chair
- the Executive Chairperson of PPSA
- a representative from each of the commodity associations:
 - Grain Producers SA
 - Livestock SA
 - SA Dairyfarmers Association
 - Wine Grape Council of SA
 - Horticulture Coalition of SA

There will be a standing invitation to the PPSA representative/s on the Native Vegetation Council to attend NRM Committee meetings as necessary, with the aim of attendance a minimum of once per year. It is anticipated that the NRM Committee will provide a conduit from the Native Vegetation Council to the PPSA Council, and vice versa.

Other PPSA Councillors, members, PPSA or commodity association staff or other representatives may be invited to meetings, as appropriate.

Role of the Chair

- Chair PPSA NRM Committee meetings
- Attend NRM Partners meetings and other meetings on NRM matters as required
- The Chair will nominate a proxy (either another Committee member or the NRM Liaison Officer) in the event of being unable to attend a meeting at which attendance is required
- Checking and providing final NRM Committee approval of submissions and other communications

Media Policy

The Chair of PPSA or the Chair of the NRM Committee may speak to the media on behalf of PPSA on NRM matters. The Chair of PPSA must notify the Chair of the NRM Committee if there are any matters on which they can not speak.

It is expected that any statements by the Chair/s will be consistent with any PPSA and NRM Committee policy.

Appointment of the Chair

Ideally, the NRM Chair will be appointed by consensus amongst the NRM Committee members and endorsed by the PPSA Council. If the NRM Committee's recommendation for Chair is rejected by the PPSA Council, then a new recommendation will be made to the PPSA Council by the NRM Committee.

If there is more than one nomination from NRM Committee members, then a vote may be taken in order to recommend a new Chair for endorsement by the PPSA Council.

On an annual basis (preferably coinciding with the Committee's regular review and evaluation), the Chair will be asked to confirm that they are willing to continue and NRM Committee members will have the opportunity to nominate a new Chair (and force a vote) if they wish.

Reimbursement Policy

If funding is available, the Chair will be reimbursed at a rate of \$400 + GST per meeting – up to a cap of \$3,200 + GST – plus travel (based on mileage for road travel in own vehicle or reimbursement of costs for other travel, such as air travel).

The Native Vegetation Council representative/s can also be reimbursed for one meeting each year at a rate of \$400 + GST for the meeting plus travel. With prior approval (subject to budgetary constraints), travel costs may possibly be reimbursed for additional meetings.

It is expected that the participation of other representatives (including the Chair of PPSA) will be supported by their respective organisations.

Meetings

Meetings will be held as required. It is anticipated that there will be at least 3-4 meetings per year.

Meetings are often held at the Livestock SA/SADA office at Unit 5, 780 South Road, Glandore or the Grain Producers SA office at 180 Flinders Street, Adelaide. However meetings may be held at other locations if and when appropriate.

Interaction with the PPSA Council

An NRM Committee update is to be provided to the PPSA Council at each meeting. The NRM Committee can refer issues to the PPSA Council and vice versa.

Cross-membership between the PPSA Council and the NRM Committee and common support staff will also enhance the interaction and communication.

Review and evaluation

It is intended that there will be a review and evaluation of the Committee's activities and effectiveness and these terms of reference on approximately a yearly basis. This will be done in an appropriate manner. For example, a relatively informal discussion may be deemed to be adequate.

PPSA NRM Liaison Project

In 2013, a declaration and action plan for 2013-2014 (*"Agriculture and NRM: Working Together"*) was developed by PPSA, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), the NRM Council, NRM boards, and Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA).

DEWNR, followed by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), has subsequently provided funding to PPSA to employ a part-time NRM liaison officer to work with PPSA, its commodity groups and the NRM sector since 2013 to facilitate engagement, information flow and relationship improvements between the agriculture and NRM sectors.

In 2014 a new action plan (also titled *"Agriculture and NRM: Working Together"*) was developed for 2014-2017. In 2016, PPSA, in partnership with DEW, the eight NRM Boards, Conservation Council SA, Landcare Association SA, Aboriginal leaders and local and state government (e.g. PIRSA), developed a new South Australian NRM Investment Strategy 2016¹ to guide future co-investment in managing our natural resources.

The PPSA NRM project commenced in 2013 and is currently funded until June 2019.

¹ <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics>

Primary Producers SA

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) is the peak organisation representing primary producers in South Australia, encompassing agriculture, horticulture and viticulture. PPSA has a vision for a strong, viable primary production sector in South Australia, which is valued by government and the community. The purpose of PPSA is:

- To vigorously represent the interests and concerns of primary producers to government and the community;
- To present one voice to government and the wider community on cross-commodity issues affecting primary producers in South Australia;
- To promote the importance of primary production in South Australia and ensure that the contributions and achievements of primary producers are acknowledged and appreciated; and
- To work with and assist stakeholders and suppliers to primary production where such assistance will ultimately benefit primary producers.

The foundation member groups of PPSA (with voting rights) were the following commodity associations:

- Grain Producers SA
- Livestock SA
- Horticulture Coalition of SA
- Wine Grape Council of SA
- Pork SA
- SA Dairyfarmers Association

PPSA supports these associations but does not interfere in their operations or decision-making on issues unique to their industry.

The PPSA Council generally meets quarterly and at other times as issues arise.

Priority actions for 2016/17 include:
Encourage participation of producers in NRM Boards, Groups and Committees, further develop recommendations about potential improvements and seek implementation of improvements
Participate in Better Water Planning and Management initiatives, leading economic analysis of water policy in SA
Identify opportunities for simpler regulation and administration to deliver NRM and productivity outcomes
Collation and development of NRM policy for endorsement for the PPSA Council prior to the state election
Seek to ensure appropriate funding models for appropriate levels of NRM expenditure, including through further development and implementation of an SA NRM Investment Strategy
Continue the engagement of a PPSA NRM Liaison Officer to facilitate engagement and communication between NRM and primary producers - including to recognise the contributions of primary producers and enhance the capacity of government staff to understand, communicate and effectively engage with the agriculture/horticulture/viticulture sectors, incorporating local knowledge into NRM policy
Other ongoing issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • native vegetation policies; • climate change and carbon accounting as it relates to primary production; • interaction with mining and gas activities (and the regulation of those activities); • animal and plant control; and • interaction with other initiatives (such as the New Horizons initiative and the GRDC NRM project).