DRAFT Minutes

Annual General Meeting of Southern Gulf NRM

Date: 11th November 2024
Time: 5:00pm
Venue: *Cloncurry Community Precinct, 37 Scarr St, Cloncurry*

Present:
Megan Munchenberg (Chairperson and Director), Jane McMillan (Director), Raymond Thieme (Director), Prof. Iain Gordon (Director), Gavin Scott (Director), Margot Richardson (Company Secretary), Prudence Wharton (General Manager), Maree Berlin (Financial Coordinator), Lyndy Skea (Senior NRM Project Officer, Environment), Nicole Sarmiento (Communications Officer), Dario Cubillo (GIS Officer), Gina and Scott Harrington (Brinard Station), Colin Burnett (Lara Downs Station), Ray Campbell (Cairo Station), Chris Fudali (Westpac), Anthony McMillan (Corella Park Station), Chris Howie (RMA Network), Mayor Greg Campbell (Cloncurry Shire Council), Claudia Isgro (Stanbroke), Jane Evans (DPI), Harriet Dunne (DPI), Luke Spreadborough (McKinlay Shire Council/Spoonbill Station, entered meeting at 5:26pm).

Apologies:
Roger Hill (Director), Gayle Batt, Anthony Batt, Charlie Hawkins, Keily Mine Management, Clothes Pegs Pastoral Co, Talawanta Cattle Co, Sarah Docherty (Director), MITEZ, HC Grazing, Thea Harrington, Dudley Harrington, Anita McNamara, Jane McNamara, Brendan McNamara, Abbotsford Pastoral Co, Kuhl Holdings, John Bellingham, Plainby Pastoral Co, Keyes Cattle Co, Ibis Styles Mount Isa, Sam Fryer (Director), Richmond Shire Council, K & E Harriman, Mark van Ryt, Abbotsford Pastoral Company, Brendan McNamara, Mount Isa City Council, McMillan Pastoral Company, Darcie-Lee Ashton (Cloncurry Shire Council), Gary Baker (Gulf Rivers Landcare Inc.), Mayor Janene Fegan (McKinlay Shire Council).

The meeting commenced at 5:11pm.

Item 1
Welcome by Chairperson
Meeting was opened by Chairperson Megan Munchenberg.

Item 2
Mayor Greg Campbell – Welcome and Speech
Thank you, and congratulations to Professor Gordon. Let's also give a round of applause to Megan for her leadership. Though Southern Gulf NRM has faced ups and downs, they were in great hands under her leadership. The work of Southern Gulf NRM is essential to our region.

Item 3
Welcome to Country – Margot Richardson
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging.

Item 4
Proxies

21 proxies held by Chairperson Megan Munchenberg:

1. Charlie Hawkins
2. Keily Mine Management
3. Talawanta Cattle Co
4. MITEZ
5. Clothes Pegs Pastoral Co
6. HC Grazing
7. Thea Harrington
8. Dudley Harrington
9. Kuhl Holdings
10. John Bellingham
11. Plainby Pastoral Co
12. Keyes Cattle Co Pty Ltd
13. Ibis Styles Mount Isa
14. Richmond Shire Council
15. K & E Harriman
16. Sam Fryer
17. Abbotsford Pastoral Company
18. Brendan McNamara
19. Jane McNamara
20. Mount Isa City Council
21. McMillan Pastoral Company

Item 5

Apologies

1. Roger Hill
2. Gayle Batt
3. Anthony Batt
4. Charlie Hawkins
5. Keily Mine Management
6. Clothes Pegs Pastoral Co
7. Talawanta Cattle Co
8. Sarah Docherty
9. MITEZ
10. Clothes Peg Pastoral Co
11. HC Grazing
12. Thea Harrington
13. Dudley Harrington
14. Anita McNamara
15. Jane McNamara
16. Brendan McNamara
17. Abbotsford Pastoral Co
18. Kuhl Holdings
19. John Bellingham
20. Plainby Pastoral Co
21. Keyes Cattle Co
22. Ibis Styles Mount Isa
23. Sam Fryer
24. Richmond Shire Council
25. K & E Harriman
26. Mark van Ryt
27. Abbotsford Pastoral Co
28. Brendan McNamara
29. Jane McNamara
30. Mount Isa City Council
31. McMillan Pastoral Co
32. Darcie-Lee Ashton (Cloncurry Shire Council)
33. Gary Baker (Gulf Rivers Landcare Inc.)
34. Scott Campbell (verbally announced in AGM)
35. Luke Spreadborough (verbally announced in AGM. Luke arrived at 5:26pm.)
36. Mayor Janene Fegan, McKinlay Shire Council

Item 6
Confirmation of Minutes from 2023 Annual General Meeting

Motion: To confirm the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.
Moved: Director Gordon **Seconded:** Director Scott **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Item 7
Retiring Chairperson's Annual Report
Serving as Chairperson at SGNRM for 15.5 years has been an incredible journey. The early years were a blur. I didn't understand what it meant to be a Director, the risks, and how much commitment was involved. Governance may seem tedious, but it's vital. It keeps us honest and provides a system that we can follow to remain transparent. While there was resistance to some of the changes we implemented, governance has ultimately guided us to make better decisions.

Unlike other NRM groups with statutory funding, SGNRM had none, which meant we needed to build strong relationships with the government to secure procurement funding. Looking back, it often felt like survival was our main goal, yet through hard work and persistence, we managed to keep our doors open. Our board and staff have gone above and beyond, creating partnerships and collaborating with stakeholders that led to results beyond our expectations.

The commitment of our people and members keeps our region focused on the future. We've faced floods, droughts, and leadership challenges—but we've adapted. Looking ahead, we know our region faces varied seasons, weed issues, and land management challenges. Yet, these challenges bring immense opportunities. The food production in this area is also enduring, and our team is continuously growing and excelling.

Thank you to the board and to Margot for the unwavering support.

Item 8
Introduce New Chairperson – Professor Iain Gordon
Thank you, Megan, and welcome everyone. I'm originally from Scotland but have lived in Australia since 2003. I've been part of the Southern Gulf NRM board since late 2022, but I have worked in NRM my whole career. I've worked across different countries and on various projects with CSIRO. I'm fortunate to have been part of the board for the past 2 years. The work Southern Gulf NRM does is second to none. Thanks to the dedicated staff and the strong relationships with those doing hands-on work. I hope to earn your support as the next Chairperson. Thank you.

Item 9a – Adoption of 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Any questions from anyone regarding the 2023-2024 Financial Statements – Nil questions.

Motion: That the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and reports of the company tabled at the meeting be adopted.
Moved: Director Gordon **Seconded:** Director Thieme **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Item 9b – Appointment of Auditor 2024-2027

Motion: That Jessups be retained as our auditors for 2024-2027.
Moved: Director Scott **Seconded:** Director Gordon **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Item 9c – Ratification of Chairperson

Motion: That Iain Gordon be ratified as the new Chairperson from this AGM to November 2027.
Moved: Megan Munchenberg **Seconded:** Director Thieme **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Item 9d – Ratification of new Directors

Motion: That the members ratify the appointments of the following Directors: Sarah Docherty, Jane McMillan, and Roger Hill as recommended by the Selection Panel, and appointed to the Board of Southern Gulf NRM in January 2024.
Moved: Chairperson Iain Gordon **Seconded:** Director Scott **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Item 9e – Ratification of Directors Remuneration

Motion: That the Directors Remuneration as per the proposed paper be adopted.
Moved: Ray Campbell **Seconded:** Megan Munchenberg **All in Favour – Motion Passed**

Open the floor, opportunity for members to ask questions: Nil Questions

Close of Meeting: 5:37pm

Item 10
New Chairperson – Professor Iain Gordon
Today is Megan's last board meeting with Southern Gulf NRM. Since I joined, she's been a huge support and a steady guide. Megan's spent 6 years as a Director and 9.5 as Chair—it can't have been that hard though, because she sure doesn't look any older for it! Taking over from her is a bit daunting because she's been such a strong voice in the NRM space.

Megan has done a fantastic job leading this organisation through thick and thin. Her commitment to SGNRM has always been clear, and her passion has helped steer us forward. You'll still be around, but I hope you enjoy some extra freedom now. Thank you for everything you've done for NRM.

Megan shared this thought in closing: 'NRM exists because of the demand from the landscape and the people in it. That need will always be there, and that's what makes NRM groups so important. Thank you very much for the amazing gifts and memories. I've learned so much.'

Item 11
Guest Speaker – Chris Howie (RMA Network)

Note: attendance by Gordon Batt

Chris, the CEO of Rural Marketing Agents, brings decades of experience, including 31 years with Elders and various other roles that have taken him to many places.

He highlighted the importance of Southern Gulf NRM from an outsider's perspective, emphasising its role in:

- Feral animal control
- Native species protection
- Biosecurity measures
- Improved livestock performance
- Supporting beneficial vegetation
- Managing invasive plants and animals

Beyond these tangible impacts, Southern Gulf NRM fosters:

- Community connections
- Engagement and networking
- Social wellbeing, mateship, and relationships
- Positive outcomes that prove the industry truly cares

Chris stressed that success in managing the environment and natural resources means having the land work with you, not against you.

And while we can't control the seasons, we can manage for them—staying ahead rather than falling 12 months behind.