

# Minutes



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## Arborist Reference Group for Vegetation Management near Powerlines

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## Meeting Details

Organiser	Alex Lewis
Date	13 September 2018
Time	10.00-11.30am
Location	City of Charles Sturt, Beverley Centre, 66 East Avenue, Beverley

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## Attendance

Attendees	Kelvin Trimper, SA Tree Advisory Board (Chair) Henry Haavisto, Arborist Association of Australia Chris Taras, City of Charles Sturt Luke Hounslow, Active Tree Services Peter Watton, Trees for Life Ben Freeman, Freshford Nurseries Kim Syrus, HMA Kev Connell, Manager Vegetation Marlene Weise, community representative Alex Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement Lead
Apologies	Doug Schmidt, General Manager Network Management Glenn Williams, Treenet Andrew Carrick, Botanic Gardens of SA
Confirmation of Previous minutes	Noted – meeting 4 June 2018
Business arising from previous minutes	Refer to agenda items

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### 1. Welcome

Apologies were noted.

### 2. Business arising from last meeting

Refer to agenda items.

### 3. Regulatory Reset Proposal 2020-25

Jess Vonhethoff provided an update on progress on the 2020-25 Draft Plan which is out for consultation, with submissions due on 19/9/18.

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The Customer Consultative Panel (CCP) has a focus on the three points outlined by Rob Stobbe in the foreword:

- Keeping a lid on prices
- Maintaining reliability and supply
- Transitioning to the network of the future

The CCP will be putting in a detailed submission on the Draft Plan.

In terms of vegetation management:

- OPEX workshop showed working with Councils and other stakeholders to deliver efficient and effective outcomes
- 14% (\$213m) Opex budget for 2020-25
- SAPN benchmark well
- ARG support for approach outlined in plan

**Action:**

ARG to draft a letter in support of our approach for vegetation management in 2020-25.

#### **4. Presentation on growth forecasts**

KC provided an overview on the growth forecasts being undertaken for vegetation to improve forward planning.

#### **5. Protocol review 2018**

The protocol is being reviewed in 2018. A track change version of the revised document was emailed for review. AL outlined the key changes proposed.

The revised protocol will be sent to all councils for feedback via a LGA Circular and will be presented to the LGA Board for endorsement in early 2019.

**Action:**

ARG feedback on protocol to be forwarded to AL by 5/10/18.

#### **6. Powerline friendly list of species**

The draft species list was sent to all workshop attendees for review and feedback. The revised booklet and list, developed in accordance with our corporate style guide and following stakeholder feedback, was presented at the meeting.

Nursery industry feedback on the list in terms of availability and suitability is crucial. Nurseries often require a 2-year lead in time, as well as assurance Councils will plant.

The species list is a good step forward and should be reviewed in 3 years. From a SAPN perspective its goal is to encourage trees suitable for planting under powerlines.

Roll-out of the strategy with Councils needs further consideration but as a minimum SAPN need to liaise with Councils (LGA Circular and letter to CEO's post November elections) and work with HMA and other bodies to promote.



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**Action:**

ARG feedback to be forwarded to AL by 5/10/18.

AL to liaise with nursery industry to seek feedback on list.

## 7. Update on strategic initiatives

### 7.1 Regulatory amendments

The current Regulations expire on 1.9.2021 and SA Power Networks is looking at a number of amendments. Twenty-four submissions were received on the discussion paper and proposed amendments – 19 Council, 4 Government agencies and 1 community group.

Stakeholder workshops will be held in October 2018 as follows.

WORKSHOP	DATE	VENUE
<b>Metropolitan</b>	Thursday 11 October 2018 10.00-1.00pm	Webb Room Glenunga Hub
<b>Burra - Mid North/ Central</b>	Wednesday 17 October 2018 10.00-1.00pm	Regional Council of Goyder Council Chambers Burra
<b>Whyalla - North</b>	Thursday 18 October 2018 10.00-1.00pm	Whyalla City Council Chambers Whyalla
<b>Eyre Peninsula</b>	Friday 19 October 10.00-1.00pm	Wudinna Telecentre Wudinna
<b>South East</b>	Tuesday 23 October 2018 10.00-1.00pm	John Shaw Nielsen Gallery Penola
<b>Riverland</b>	Thursday 25 October 2018 10.00-1.00pm	Council Committee Room Renmark Paringa Council

Briefings on the proposed amendments have been offered with key Ministers – Mark Parnell, Hon. Susan Close and Hon. van Holst Pellekaan.

### 7.2 Visual amenity assessment

The first site has been cut to amenity pruning on Main Rd, Blackwood in discussions with ATS and Council staff. Whilst there was general agreement that the tree looked better from a visual perspective, further analysis on tree health, compliance and cost needs to be assessed.

There is an opportunity to communicate the assessment proactively and highlight the partnering with Councils to assess different pruning.

The next proposed site is a row of Ash trees on Woodside Rd, Lobethal. The trial should undertake cutting when the trees are dormant and in-leaf (Winter and late Spring).

### 7.3 Sapling trial

SA Power Networks in partnership with the Adelaide Hills Council has undertaken a trial in the Gumeracha area to remove saplings in 69 spans on both public roadsides and on public/ private land. Feedback from Council and landowners has been very positive.



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#### 7.4 Visibility tool

A proof of concept has been developed but further development is on hold as part of the Customer Portal/ website phase 2.

#### 7.5 Training program for contractors

In 2018, contractor training will focus on hazard tree and sapling identification and native vegetation. The training module is currently in draft and feedback is being sought from key stakeholders.

#### 8. Other business

9. **Next meeting:** Monday 17 December 2018, 10.30am-1.30pm - Meeting followed by lunch  
Damien on Fisher, Living Choice  
123 Fisher St, Fullarton

#### Agenda items:

- Reset Proposal – Draft Plan
- Protocol review
- Powerline friendly list of species
- Regulatory amendments

