

# Business Plan Achievement Report

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021-2022**

1 October to 31 December 2021

## Eastern District



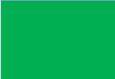


## About

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [Business Plan for 2021-22](#) sets out the programs, and component sub-programs or work activities for 2021-2022, which are funded and delivered by the Board to achieve the goals and vision of the [2021-2026 Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan](#).

This *Business Plan Achievement Report* provides an update on delivery of all our Board-funded programs in the Eastern District during the last quarter. It includes reporting on the following for each sub-program:

- Program highlights;
- Local government engagement;
- Communications and community engagement undertaken; and
- Upcoming priorities for the next quarter.

Each sub-program is assigned a status, based on its current progress.

	On track to deliver key programs.		On track to deliver most programs. May be some delays.		Unlikely to deliver some program elements
---	-----------------------------------	---	--	---	---

For projects in the City Council of Whyalla and District Councils of Kimba, Franklin Harbour and Cleve areas, further details of our work and programs can be found on the [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website](#) or by contacting **Tim Breuer** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Eastern District*) on 0488 000 481.

**Note:** For updates about delivery, in the Eastern District, of Regional Projects such as the [Regenerative Agriculture Project \(RAP\)](#) and the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) refer to the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region*.

## Contents

<b>Sustainable agriculture .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services.....	1
National Landcare Program Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project .....	1
<b>Pest plants and animals, and impact-causing native species .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Biodiversity .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Protecting and restoring coastal habitats .....	7
Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems.....	7
<b>Community .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2021-2022 Grassroots Grants.....	9
Other community work .....	10

# Sustainable agriculture

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils</i>	
<b>Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services</b> , including: Monitoring and managing land management compliance	
Providing support to build awareness of the importance of erosion protection and improvement of land management practices	
Delivering the <b>National Landcare Program (NLP) Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project</b>	

For updates on our [Regenerative Agriculture Project \(RAP\)](#) and Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services, please refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**.  
More information about our sustainable agriculture program, as well as useful information and resources for land managers can be found [here](#).

## Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services

### Program highlights this period

- A water test was requested and provided to a landholder with concerns on the content quality of a dam on their property.

## National Landcare Program Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project

The Australian Government, through the National Landcare Program, have funded the [Overcoming the Rising Degradation of Mallee Seeps on Eastern Eyre Peninsula](#) project. Land managers are increasingly identifying Mallee seeps as a growing land degradation issue on the EP. Mallee seeps severely change pH and the chemical composition of soil, forcing areas of paddocks out of production. This project aims to increase farmers' awareness about Mallee seeps, and build capacity to detect and manage Mallee seep formation in their paddocks before land degradation occurs. The project will connect landholders to relevant scientific data and identify known management options that are best suited for the EP. Local trials and demonstrations will determine suitable practical treatments that can be applied by land managers in line with best practice sustainable agriculture to reduce the effects of saline seeps on the EP.

### Program highlights this period

- Mallee seep sites are often found at the base of deep sandy rises and are driven by the formation of shallow perched water tables.
- Our two-year Mallee seeps project has seen different management methods trialled at five different sites near Kimba, Rudall and Lock.
- The main management strategies are to:
  - stop the flow of water into these areas, often with strategic lucerne establishment to intercept the excess water flows; and
  - establish living perennial soil cover on bare scalds, to help reduce evaporation (particularly over the summer months) and stop water wicking to the surface and leaving it's salt behind.
- Demonstration sites are showing a return to health of saline scalded soils once this is achieved. Soil testing in September at two sites showed an average 70% reduction in 0-10 cm depth soil salinity and

an average 40% reduction in 10-20 cm depth soil salinity after only one year since establishment. While these and other sites will continue to be measured, this trend brings hope that many of these scalded seep sites can be rehabilitated back to cropping.

- The project will continue in 2022 with results and resource to be released to help farmers across the region.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue to monitor demonstrations sites and analyse results.

## Pest plants and animals, and impact-causing native species

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Supporting landowners to control prioritised <b>pest plants and animals</b></i>	
Implementing regional pest management plans for priority pest plants and animals	
Supporting landowners with their pest control responsibilities, including weed identification, best practice control advice and property planning assistance	
Delivering targeted pest animal baiting programs and weed control campaigns, monitoring, permitting and compliance works	
<i>Collaborating to reduce threats from <b>impact-causing native species</b></i>	
Assisting landowners to connect with relevant authorities and providing information about impact-causing native species and control options	
Cataloguing current and emerging impact-causing native species, their impacts and extent	
Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species	

For updates about pest plant and animal, and impact-causing native species control activities implemented in the Eastern District as part of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**. Updates on development of our regional pest and impact-causing natives management plans can be found in the same report.

### Program highlights this period

#### Pest plants

##### • Compliance Activities

Follow-up inspections were carried out at Holcim Quarry, Whyalla. Findings and further actions are as follows:

- Fountain Grass control work is tracking well, and the minimal regrowth will be treated this summer.
- Opuntia, African Boxthorn, and Carrion Flower were also detected during the site visit.
- Holcim are to carry out in-house control works on African Boxthorn and Carrion Flower.
- A biocontrol for *Opuntia ficus indica* was introduced to the site by landscape officers to assist Holcim's voluntary compliance declared weeds control program.



- **Opuntia**

- A biocontrol field nursery site for *Cylindropuntia imbricata* (Devil's Rope) was established at Kielpa Silos.
- Biocontrols for *Opuntia ficus-indica* (Indian fig) were released at a number of sites including Holcim Quarry, intersection of Misery Corner and Carpa Road, on the pipeline track near Poodra Creek, and on a Glare Road agricultural property.
- The establishment of a biocontrol field nursery site for *Opuntia monacanta* (Drooping Tree Pear) on the Port Gibbon Road is pending, as we await supply of the biocontrol *Dactylopius ceylonicus* (a species of cochineal beetle) from New South Wales.
- An extensive Opuntia cactus infestation was detected on a Cowell Hills property. We are awaiting confirmation of the species by the State Herbarium before introducing a biocontrol.
- Follow-up visits to field nursery sites established during the first quarter of 2021-22 are planned for the New Year.

- **Gazania**

- Extensive survey of Gazania between Cleve and Lock and between Cleve and Kimba was completed. Control of Gazania on roadsides will commence next quarter with the aim being to tackle manageable areas initially, followed by developing weed fronts around the townships with the intention to prevent further spread. Other focus areas for control include between Cleve and Arno Bay, Kielpa and the Cleve to Kimba highway.



Photo 1: Two biocontrols, a cochineal beetle and cactus moth, have been introduced by landscape officers to Indian Fig cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) at the Holcim Quarry in Whyalla to assist with their voluntary compliance control program for declared weeds



Photo 2: Devil's rope (*Cylindropuntia imbricate*) cactus pads carrying a cochineal beetle (*Dactylopius tomentosus*) biocontrol are introduced to a cactus infestation at the Kielpa Silos. The site will be revisited in a few months to see if the biocontrol has successfully colonised and is controlling the cactus.

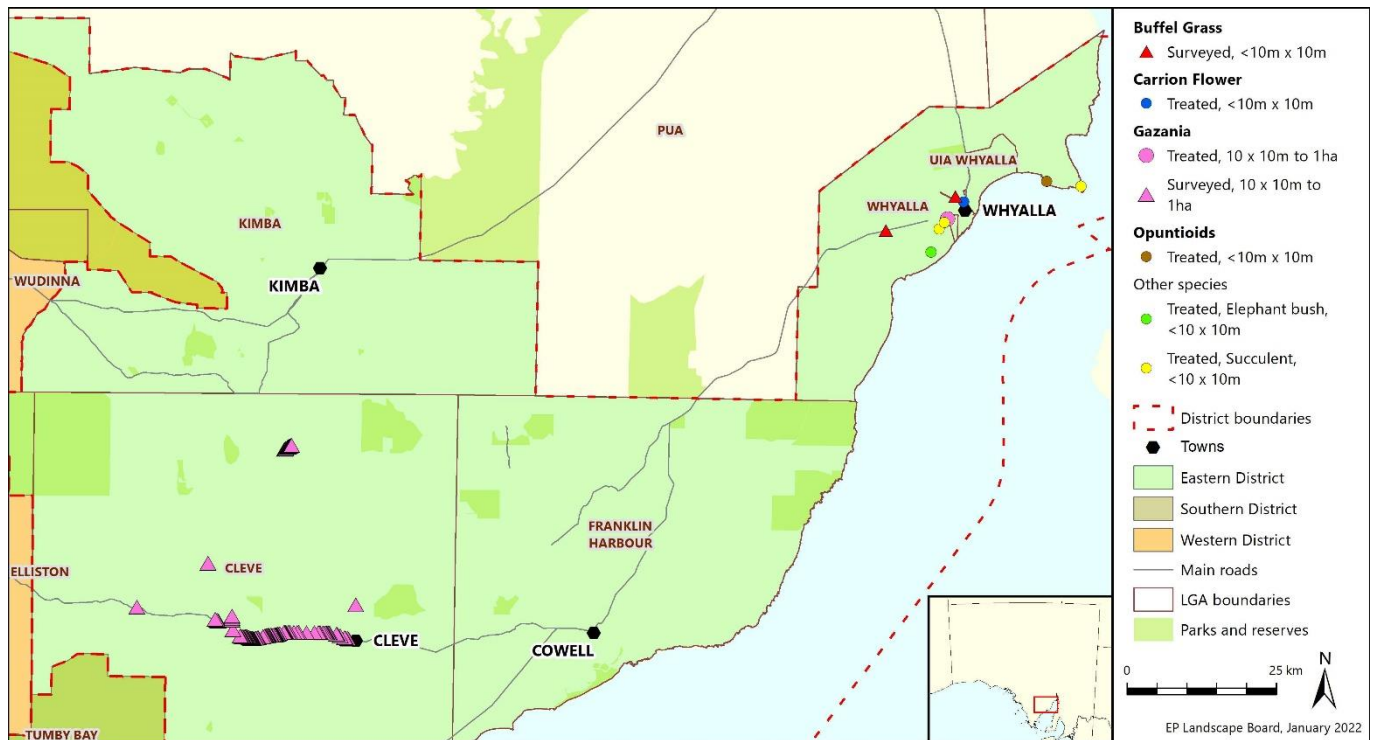


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 October to 31 December 2021

## Pest animals

### • Feral deer

- Feral deer are an agricultural, environmental and social pest. They compete heavily with livestock and native wildlife for resources, contributing to soil degradation and erosion. They also damage property, fences and contribute to traffic accidents. For more information refer to our [Deer Management Plan](#).



Photo 3:  
 Jane McKenzie from PIRSA demonstrates the use of a deer aggregator and lures such as lucerne and water to attract deer for monitoring or shooting purposes at a Feral Deer Masterclass attended by landscape officers in Adelaide

- Monitoring of feral deer has been a priority over this period, with remote sensing cameras being used as part of the monitoring program.
- Landscape officers attended a deer masterclass training day hosted by PIRSA in Adelaide. Presentations covered: Feral deer species in Australia, feral deer impacts, aerial control, ground control and thermal tools, traps, fences and plant protection, and working with communities.



Photo 4:  
 Feral deer caught on remote sensing camera trap



- The course also included demonstrations, case studies, and scenario sessions on deer control program planning. This training will inform the basis of a deer control program planned for the Buckleboo area.
- We strongly encourage anyone to report sightings of deer to any of our offices, and/or on [DeerScan](#). This is especially important if you are seeing deer moving into areas where you don't usually see them.

## • Foxes

- Landscape officers contributed to two coordinated fox bait manufacturing days, and one bait bagging day at Paney Station in the Gawler Ranges. Nearly thirty thousand horse meat fox baits were manufactured for distribution at up-coming landholder fox bait distribution days in Eastern and Western Eyre Peninsula. Of these 8,000 baits are designated for distribution to landholders in the Eastern District.
- Landscape officers attended the PIRSA fox bounty collection held at Cummins in October, where they provided free 1080 fox baits for landholders, and also provided advice on integrated fox control strategies.

## • Rabbits

- A biocontrol release (oats treated with K5 strain of calicivirus) was conducted on a property near Arno Bay with large rabbit populations. Each feed of oats including the treated batch, was readily consumed overnight due to the lack of alternative feed within the area at the time. Lack of herbaceous feed on the ground layer is key to ensuring a good uptake of bait. Post release observations included large swarms of flies near the entrances to the active warrens indicating the release had



*Photo 5: Fox bait manufacturing facility at Paney Station in the Gawler Ranges where Landscape Officers manufactured 8,000 (1080 poison) baits for distribution at up-coming Eastern Eyre Peninsula fox bait distribution days*



*Photo 6: Crop damage caused by rabbits in a wheat paddock near Arno Bay. Rabbit numbers are on the rise on Eastern Eyre Peninsula and landholders are urged to contact their local landscape officer for advice and support in establishing a control program for their property. Ten rabbits eat as much feed as one dry sheep, impacting cropping returns and land condition.*



*Photo 7: Landscape officer pours oats infected with the K5 rabbit virus into a bait laying trailer in preparation for laying a bait line at the edge of a crop paddock near Arno Bay. Dye is used to discourage birds from taking the oats. Bait laying trailers are available for loan by landholders from the Cleve Landscape Office*

some effect, particularly on older rabbits. A follow up baiting will occur using 1080 oats targeting left over populations.

- Shortly after the Arno Bay release, a second site near Kimba was selected for biocontrol release but unfortunately had to be delayed due to unexpected rainfall causing alternative feed cover to remain. The release will now take place early 2022.

### Local government engagement for this period

- A toolbox meeting was held with Whyalla City Council's spray crew to highlight declared weeds. A declared weeds mapping day is planned for next quarter.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Information about rabbit control work around Arno Bay was shared on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Farmers were also encouraged to talk to their local landscape officers about establishing a rabbit control program immediately after harvest. This is an ideal time for rabbit baiting as there is little vegetation available for rabbits as other food. To assist with rabbit control programs, bait laying trailers are available for hire from our Cleve office ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Mapping of declared weeds will be undertaken with the Whyalla City Council spray crew.
- A media release about Opuntia control is planned.
- Survey and control of summer grasses (Buffel Grass, Fountain Grass, African Lovegrass) will be ongoing. This will include providing ongoing support for the Whyalla City Council with their voluntary compliance control of Buffel Grass and Fountain Grass on Hummock Hill.
- Development of our Eastern District Annual Action Plans for the management of priority pest animals and plants will be ongoing.
- Monitoring of feral deer satellite populations will continue.

## Biodiversity

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<b>Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats</b>	
Supporting community to undertake coastal management works in line with the Coastal Action Plan	
<b>Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems</b>	
Supporting community and landholders to improve the health and condition of threatened ecological communities, native vegetation and threatened species	
Implementation of the <b>biodiversity monitoring program</b>	
<b>Collaboration</b> with partners to source funding <b>for landscape-scale projects</b> in priority ecosystems. Specific projects underway include:	
<b>Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) Pilot</b>	



For updates about delivery of our landscape-scale and region-wide biodiversity projects and programs, including activities in the Eastern District, refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**. This report includes information on:

- the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#);
  - Blue Carbon
  - the Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) pilot;
  - Eyes on Eyre;
  - the Biodiversity Monitoring Program;
- and others.

## Protecting and restoring coastal habitats

### Program highlights this period

- Eyre Peninsula landscape officers met with SA Arid Lands counterparts to provide them with information on coastal saltmarsh ecology and showcase saltmarsh on-ground works in the Eastern Eyre Peninsula District. The SA Arid Lands region encompasses an area of coastal saltmarsh on the other side of the gulf.

### Local government engagement for this period

- EP Landscape Board staff met with the Whyalla City Council Director of Infrastructure, and Tourisms Assets Coordinator about proposed way-finding and beach access projects for Eight-Mile Creek and Murripi Beach. Council are going to arrange for the up-grade of the Eight-Mile Creek Beach access road and for tourism attraction and tourist intersection direction signs.
- We have also been working with National Park and Wildlife Services SA (NPWSSA) on Marine Park natural resource attraction and compliance signs for Eight-Mile Creek, Murripi Beach, and Cowleds Landing.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Eight-Mile Creek and Murripi Beach way-finding signage, beach access, and saltmarsh vegetation protection and interpretive signs projects.

## Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems

### Program highlights this period

#### Malleefowl monitoring

- Each year we monitor known Malleefowl sites across the Eyre Peninsula to aid the [National Malleefowl Recovery Team](#). This year's monitoring of 150 known Malleefowl mounds at Munyeroo and Cowell was completed by landscape officers, NPWSSA staff and volunteers from the community. We thank our wonderful volunteers. This year we had some new volunteers join us which was very useful for covering the large areas we look at.



Photo 8: Although no active Malleefowl mounds were found in our grids this year volunteers enjoyed the birdlife and reptiles encountered on the surveys including this Nobbi Dragon (*Amphibolurus nobbi coggeri*) spotted at Munyeroo Conservation Park



Photo 9: Malleefowl mounds were monitored at Munyeroo and Cowell by landscape officers, NPWSSA staff and volunteers from the Whyalla and Cowell community



Photo 10: Cowell Area School Year 11 work experience student Lilliana Crettenden records Malleefowl data on Cybertracker for instantaneous upload to the national database



Photo 11: Landscape officer is pictured carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the vegetation on a property in the Cowell Hills for a landholder who applied to participate in the Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) pilot program

- Unfortunately no active mounds were recorded in our monitoring grids but reports of active mounds at Secret Rocks and around Cowell indicate that Malleefowl are still breeding in the area this year.

### Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) Pilot

- This is the [second pilot](#) which is part of the [Agriculture Stewardship Package](#) being delivered by the Australian Government Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE). It aims to improve existing native vegetation on farms and is trialling mechanisms to pay participating farmers to manage and enhance significant remnant native vegetation on-farm, through activities such as installing fencing to exclude grazing, carrying out weeding, pest control and replanting.
- During October landholders submitted applications to be a part of this pilot. In late December 2021 landscape officers then carried out on-ground vegetation assessments of proposed projects. These assessments included ground-truthing vegetation associations, establishing an understanding of the vegetation's current condition. Data was collected using similar methods to those used for annual Bushland Condition Monitoring.
- For more information about this project refer to our *Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region*.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Malleefowl monitoring with our volunteers at Munyeroo and Cowell was highlighted on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Bushland Condition Monitoring data processing and compiling reports for landholders will be ongoing.



# Community

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management</i>	
Supporting Aboriginal and community groups, Local Government, farming groups and schools to progress natural resource activities through the provision of the <b>Grassroots Grants program</b>	

*This section provides information about the delivery and acquittal of Grassroots Grants in the Eastern District, and support provided by Board staff to grant applicants. For updates about the [Grassroots Grants](#) application process, successful applicants the award of Grants, and overall management of the Grassroots Grants program, refer to the **Grassroots Grants program** section in the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**.*

## 2021-2022 Grassroots Grants

Three projects funded through the Board's 2021-2022 Grassroots Grants program are being delivered in the Western District (Table 1).

*Table 1: EP Landscape Board Grassroots Grants - 2021-22 successful applicants in the Western District*

	Project Title	Organisation
1	Protecting our soils through improved grazing management	WoTL Ltd
2	Point Lowly and Santos Escape Road - Irrigation and vegetation protection projects	Whyalla City Council
3	Restoring Eyre Peninsula (EP) Blue Gum woodlands and managing saline soils.	MR & AC Hannemann

Landscape staff provide ongoing support for the delivery of these projects. Some of the work completed on these projects during the last quarter include:

### **Point Lowly and Santos Escape Road – Irrigation and vegetation protection projects**

*The aim of this Whyalla City Council project is to improve the amenity and native vegetation at Point Lowly Campground, through provision of drip irrigation to tree plantings, installation of fencing to protect native vegetation, signage and ripping of informal tracks.*

### **Program highlights this period**

- Meetings and site visits were held with the project manager to finalise work plans. A standard for vegetation barriers, in line with NPWSSA infrastructure, was agreed on. Materials specifications and quotes were provided to Council. Ongoing liaison, support and advice provided.

### **Local government engagement for this period**

- Board staff attended the monthly Northern Coastline Working Group meetings chaired by Whyalla City Council.

### **Restoring Eyre Peninsula (EP) Blue Gum woodlands and managing saline soil**

*This project aims to aid recovery of 300 EP Blue Gums planted as part of ongoing works to re-establish EP Blue Gum woodlands. Under this project a variety of EP Blue Gum community natives, including salt tolerant species will be planted to enhance biodiversity and combat salinity in the woodland.*

### **Program highlights this period**

- A site visit was carried out to inspect EP Blue Gums planted in 2019 as part of previous revegetation works. The inspection was undertaken to check condition and success of previous plantings as well as



begin preparation and planning for the next phase of the project which is being undertaken under the 2021-222 round of Grassroots Grants.

#### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Supporting the delivery of Grassroots Grants will be ongoing.

### Other community work

#### Communications and community engagement for this period

- **Environmental Consultation Group** – Board staff attended the 11<sup>th</sup> August meeting chaired by GFG Alliance at the Whyalla City Council chambers. The agenda included an update on the community improvement project at Jessop White Park for which the final stage of upgrade has been approved by Council.

Published by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.  
02 February 2022

**T: Port Lincoln** 08 8688 3200

**T: Whyalla** 0427 188 546 or 0488 000 481  
*Team Leader Landscape Operations - Eastern: Tim Breuer*  
*Landscape Officer: Barbara Murphy*

**T: Cleve** 0428 282 077  
*Landscape Officer: Liam Anderson*

E: [EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au](mailto:EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au)

Report prepared by:  
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

[www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/home](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/home)



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.