

# Business Plan Achievement Report

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

1 October to 31 December 2021

## Southern 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 Southern 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
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For projects in the Port Lincoln City Council and District Councils of Tumby Bay and Lower Eyre Peninsula areas, further details of our work and programs can be found on the [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website](#) or by contacting **Ben Smith** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Southern District*) on 08 8688 3243.

**Note:** For updates about delivery, in the Southern 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*.

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# Water

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAAs)</i>	
<b>Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAAs)</b> , including providing support for WAA enquiries, processing WAA permit applications and ensuring compliance with WAA policies and permits	

## Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAA)

*Water Affecting Activities (WAA) are activities and works that can impact on the health and condition of water resources, water dependent ecosystems and other water users. Under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, an approved permit is required to undertake a Water Affecting Activity.*

*Information for those planning to undertake a Water Affecting Activity is available in the factsheet [Permits - Water Affecting Activities](#). Our Water Resources Assessment Officer and other staff are always available to advise and help with WAA enquires. They also administer and process WAA permit applications and ensure compliance with WAA policies and permits. For updates on WAA related work across the region please refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**.*

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- A site visit to private land at Big Swamp was undertaken after the landholder contacted us with concern for the condition of some Red Gums on his property. Nothing out of the ordinary could be identified as causing this die back.

# 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	

*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

- Monitoring of properties identified as having historical wind erosion issues has been ongoing. Good levels of ground cover have been observed, but this will need to be managed post-harvest to ensure erosion risk is minimised throughout summer.

# 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 Southern 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

- Landscape officers have continued to provide advice on best practice control techniques for various pest plant species that landholders have enquired about.
- Landscape officers have continued to assist landholders in identifying plant samples, these include native and non-native species.
- **Boneseed**
  - Roadside surveys and control of Boneseed was completed at 21 sites across southern Eyre Peninsula.
  - Site visits were undertaken on private property with known Boneseed infestations. Staff have been working with landholders to develop plans for voluntary compliance control at these sites.
  - Work has continued on the development of a Boneseed Local Action Plan for the Southern District.
- **Silverleaf Nightshade**
  - Roadside survey and control of Silverleaf Nightshade was completed at three sites. These sites will be revisited in January to confirm efficacy of control.
  - Eight landholders who have known have Silverleaf Nightshade infestations on their properties have been contacted regarding plans for voluntary compliance control. Staff will contact landholders in the third quarter to organise site visits to each property.
- **Bridal Veil**
  - A number of site visits were undertaken to private properties to investigate Bridal Veil infestations.



- Landholders with properties surrounding an infestation at Lake Hamilton were contacted to inform them of the outbreak and to request they keep an eye out for this weed. They have been asked to advise us know if they come across any on their properties.
- Work has continued on the development of a Bridal Veil Local Action Plan for the Southern District.

- **Fountain Grass**

- Staff have completed roadside control at all known Fountain Grass sites. Despite increased rainfall, germination has been low compared with previous years. This may be attributed to the use of pine oil as part of the treatment process.
- Landholders with known prior Fountain Grass outbreaks have been contacted to discuss control options.

- **Other species**

- Follow up surveys of basal barking work on the north shore of Port Lincoln were completed. **Rhamnus** and **Olives** are dead and the basal barking has worked well (Figure 1, inset 5). This work was funded by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT).
- **Dolichos Pea** and **Desert Ash** infestations on the Western Approach Road and Flinders Highway have been mapped and planning for control works are underway.
- We conducted a six-month control trial using the Di-Bak Injecta system across various woody weed species. We trialled the system on Olives, **Aleppo Pines, White Weeping Broom, Century Plant** and **Pepper Tree**. Across all species trialled a control success rate of 50% was achieved at the end of the six month trial period. The standout of the trial was Olives with 100% of the plants controlled successfully.



Photo 1: *Rhamnus and olives treated by basal barking using DIT funds on the north shore of Port Lincoln*



Photo 2: *Olives treated by basal barking using DIT funds on the north shore of Port Lincoln*

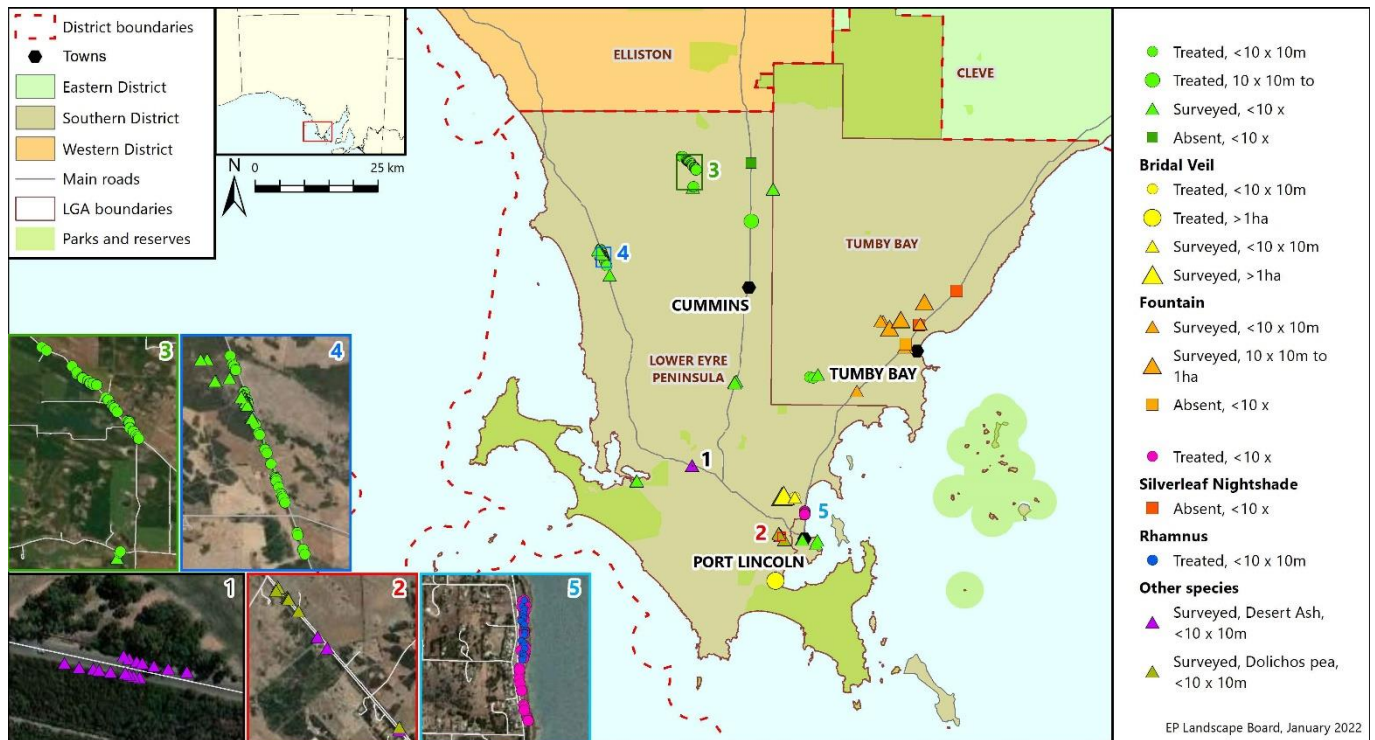


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 October to 31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Pest animals

### • Rabbits and foxes

- We have received reports of **foxes** and **rabbits** along the Parnkalla Trail and of rabbits in a private property on Gawler Terrace in Port Lincoln. Pindone carrots were therefore manufactured for rabbit baiting and some landholders have commenced baiting.
- Our landscape officers have been assisting landholders to plan and implement strategic **rabbit** control programs over the summer months. An increase in landholders in the peri-urban setting implementing baiting programs has been observed in recent months. This could be directly attributed to the increase in education about control options available, which the Board has been driving for the last few years.

### • Training

- Eyre Peninsula landscape officers assisted in delivering the 2021 *State Vertebrate Pest Course* hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) in Adelaide. The course brought staff from PIRSA, other Landscape Boards across SA, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and agencies together to share their experiences and knowledge. We detailed Eyre Peninsula's approach to fox bait distribution and the 2019 release of the rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (K5 strain) (RHDV1-K5) for rabbit control on the Eyre Peninsula. Our landscape officers also assisted with training and assessing attendees to obtain their level 2 accreditation for the use of 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison.

<sup>1</sup> Note: "Absent" indicates sites where infestations have previously occurred and were controlled. Sites are revisited to check efficacy of control and recorded as "absent" where pest plant have not recurred. This indicates success of our control programs.



## Local government engagement for this period

- Landscape officers liaised with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula (DCLEP) about control of **Bridal Veil** sites on Council property. Council staff confirmed one site has been sprayed. They are awaiting direction from Crown Lands about who is responsible for control at another site.
- Landscape officers met with Port Lincoln City Council (PLCC) to plan a rabbit pindone baiting strategy for January 2022. The baiting program will concentrate its efforts in two key areas where an increase in rabbit numbers has been noted over the last six to twelve months. These areas include Puckridge Park on the northern side of town and a section of the Parnkalla walking trail in the Kirton Point area.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Factsheets about [Aleppo Pine](#), [Fountain Grass](#), [Boneseed](#) and [Silverleaf Nightshade](#) have been updated and are available on our [website](#).
- Meeting with Port Lincoln City Council to discuss rabbit and fox control in town
- We promoted the work our Southern District landscape officers have been doing on Boneseed control ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter, Twitter](#)).

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Site visits for inspection of Silverleaf Nightshade control on private properties will be undertaken.
- Working in conjunction with PIRSA, a workshop will be held for landholders to discuss best practice control methods for Fountain Grass.
- Our annual 1080 fox bait distribution program will be rolled out.

### ← Tweet

We've been looking out for Boneseed on lower EP & working with landholders with it. These photos show how tall one plant has grown & a close-up of Boneseed flowers & seed. Each petal turns into a seed that will drop for birds to spread. Control options ➡

[bit.ly/3q22Yry](https://bit.ly/3q22Yry)



Photo 3:  
Tweet about our work on  
Boneseed control

# 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	
Birdlife Australia's Federally-funded National Landcare Program (NLP) project <i>Protect the Hooded Plover</i> , on the southern Eyre Peninsula	
<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 Southern 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

- **Tumby Bay saltmarshes**
  - The latest round of Sediment Elevation Table (SET) monitoring was completed in the saltmarshes at Tumby Bay. This is a process whereby a portable mechanical levelling device is used to measure relative sediment elevation changes. We have been doing this to determine the potential rate of accumulation of sediment in these saltmarshes. Sediments in saltmarshes are rich in carbon and act as a carbon sink, thus, by understanding how much sediment accumulates, we can get an understanding of how much "blue carbon" can be stored in the saltmarsh.
  - Tumby Bay District Council has commenced causeway work that will increase the connection between the saltmarsh and the ocean, thus improving natural flow and tidal movement into this saltmarsh area. This should result in improved saltmarsh health.
  - The improved tidal connectivity could also potentially increase the amount of blue carbon that is stored in the saltmarsh. Further SET monitoring will be conducted at regular intervals once the causeway work has been completed to evaluate this.

### Local government engagement for this period

- We liaised with the DCLEP regarding a response from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board about a wood removal trial which they are implementing along the Oyster Walk in Coffin Bay. A response was prepared and forwarded to the Council.



Photo 4:  
Work Experience student Keira  
Berryman learns about marine  
debris management monitoring on  
Eyre Peninsula



### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Work Experience student Keira Berryman worked with one of landscape officers on a variety of coastal projects, including fox control, bird monitoring and marine debris. Keira is interested in implementing a marine debris survey program with her school in the future (Cleve Area School), adopting the [Tangaroa Blue](#) methodology.

### ***Birdlife Australia's Federally-funded National Landcare Program (NLP) project Protect the Hooded Plover, on the southern Eyre Peninsula***

*In addition to the Hooded Plover monitoring and conservation work we do under our STAR project, the Board is also contracted by BirdLife Australia to deliver Hooded Plover monitoring and conservation work under their federal-funded NLP [Protect the Hooded Plover](#) project. Under this project staff and volunteers monitor an additional eight priority Hooded Plover nesting sites, plan and implement intervention actions at these sites when needed to protect nesting birds and chicks, and help coordinate and deliver the National Hooded Plover Biennial Count for southern Eyre Peninsula.*

### Program highlights this period

- Monitoring of eight priority Hooded Plover nesting sites by landscape staff and trained BirdLife volunteers has been ongoing.
- Volunteers and landscape officers celebrated the fledging of three chicks from the same clutch at Redcliffs Beach south of Tumby Bay. Hooded Plovers usually have clutches of three eggs, but for three chicks to hatch and survive is uncommon. This is the first trio recorded to survive from the same clutch since the 2015/2016 breeding season on Eyre Peninsula.

Intervention / management actions implemented at the beach are likely to have contributed to this success. One novel management implemented was a trial where dog leads have been left at beach access points for dog walkers to borrow when taking their dogs onto the beach. This trial seemed to be supported by the community. Volunteers and staff have also spoken to campers in the area, advising them how they could help minimise their impact on the nesting pair and keeping them up to date with the chicks' progress.

Photo 5:  
Three Hooded Plover  
fledglings from one  
clutch (Woohoo!) at  
Redcliffs Beach



- A fox baiting program commenced south of Port Lincoln on private property to help manage fox numbers and reduce the threat level adjacent to a Hooded Plover territory where three sequential nests have been lost this season.
- Work on the draft Hooded Plover Response Plan for the Tumby Bay Council area has been ongoing, and the plan is now almost complete

### Local government engagement for this period

- Works approvals forms were submitted to the District Council of Tumby Bay to enable temporary nest site management at high threat nesting territories.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Reporting was submitted via the BirdLife Hub to communicate achievements and progress on this project in the Eyre Peninsula region.
- Landscape officers continue to coordinate volunteers involved in monitoring and intervention work at priority Hooded Plover nesting territories.
- A training workshop for remote sensing camera data analysis and photograph coding was delivered by BirdLife to five BirdLife volunteers and three Landscape Board staff.
- The fledging of three chicks from one clutch was shared and celebrated on [Facebook](#).

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The fox control program being implemented south of Port Lincoln will be completed.
- The District Council of Tumby Bay Hooded Plover Response Plan will be finalised.
- Staff will continue to coordinate monitoring and priority intervention work at Hooded Plover nesting sites for the remainder of the nesting season.



Photo 6: Chick feeding zone signage installed at access points to Redcliffs Beach. Dog leads were left on location for community members to borrow.





Photo 7: BirdLife volunteer Kym Montoya installs temporary nest site management at Fishery Bay



Photo 8: "Chicks on Beach" banner installed on the walkway to Fishery Bay



Photo 9: Work experience student, Keira Berryman, from Cleve Area School, assisted a landscape officer at one of the Enhancing Remnant Vegetation field assessments

## Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems

### Program highlights this period

#### Hooded Plovers at Fishery Bay

- Reports of a Hooded Plover nest at Fishery Bay were received from the public. Hooded Plovers have never been recorded as successfully nesting at this location while monitoring has occurred on Eyre Peninsula (at least 10 years). To provide some protection for the nesting pair and chick, following discussion with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula and Crown Lands, a decision was made to install some temporary nest site management measures (signage and enclosure) following BirdLife guidelines.
- Volunteers, with the support of landscape officers, have continued to monitor the progress of this nesting pair and the response of the public. Two of the three eggs successfully hatched in mid-December.

#### 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.
- Landscape staff assisted with the promotion of the Pilot to landholders through radio interviews, media articles, emails and phone calls. Working within a short time frame, over 23 landholders were engaged, with ten applications submitted in southern Eyre in October.

- During December staff then undertook on-site assessments of proposed projects short-listed (seven in southern Eyre) by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). Assessment of 42 management units within the seven projects were completed, collecting key information on vegetation types and indicators of biodiversity condition for each management area.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- The nesting Hooded Plovers at Fishery Bay have provided a unique opportunity to share the journey of this threatened species with a broad audience. A number of discussions have been had with the public out on the beach and this event has also provided an opportunity to [Communicate the presence of the nest at Fishery Bay](#) and the [successful hatching of chicks](#) online.
- The ERV program was promoted through local [media](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## 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 Southern 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

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

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

	Project Title	Organisation
1	Growing for coastal ecosystem restoration	Lower Eyre Coastcare Association
2	Microplastics training for national data collection	Sleaford Progress Association
3	Caring for Your Soil	WoTL Ltd
4	Cultural Education Environmental Centre (CEEC)	Yangi Pty Ltd
5	Big Swamp monitoring and management	Big Swamp Community Centre Incorporated for the Bigswamp Conservation Group
6	Site care at RDASA Inc. - Port Lincoln Centre	Riding for the Disabled Association SA Inc - Port Lincoln Centre

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

### **Growing for coastal ecosystem restoration**

*Lower Eyre Coastcare Association and Lake Wangary School have been working for over a decade undertaking revegetation work around the coastline of Lower Eyre Peninsula, including at sites like Greenly Beach during the annual Greenly Day event. Students grow all the local native plants in a nursery at the school, but in recent years have lost plants and had problems with slow growth due to the decreasing quality and quantity of groundwater available for use at their nursery. The aim of this project, delivered by Lower Eyre Coastcare, is therefore to improve the water supply system for their native plant nursery, through the installation of a rainwater harvesting system, including a tank, pump and new irrigation system. This should allow the school to grow more plants, thereby increasing the extent of revegetation work they can support annually.*



### Program highlights this period

- Nursery redevelopments commenced at the Lake Wangary School just in time for the propagation of seedlings for the Greenly Beach project. In addition to installation of the new rainwater connection and irrigation system (Grassroots Grant funded), other works (funded by others) included renovating and extending the nursery. This shows how through partnerships, Grassroots Grant funding can be used to support initiatives funded by others or supported through in-kind contributions.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- We shared the Lower Eyre Coastcare Association's post about the project on [Facebook](#).

### Microplastics training for national data collection

*This project, delivered by the Sleaford Progress Association, has provided [AUSMAP](#) training for community members to conduct microplastic surveys on local beaches. These surveys are undertaken to determine the extent of microplastics in our environment and also characterise the plastics occurring, identifying the possible sources of the pollution. These surveys provide baseline data about microplastics, contributing to the national database on microplastic pollution. The findings can be used to scientifically underpin local actions undertaken to reduce microplastics in our environment.*

### Program highlights this period

- The delivery of this project was completed during this quarter. On 9 October 2021, a microplastics survey training workshop was delivered in Port Lincoln by AUSMAP, with the support of a landscape officer. The sixteen attendees included representatives from community organisations, teachers, industry and interested individuals. The training included learning how to sort the microplastics and record findings. These skills can now be taken back into the community, schools and industry and it is hoped this will help community members coordinate localised coastal surveys and monitoring of the impact of plastics on our coastal environment.
- If anyone would like to get involved in any future microplastics survey, please contact us at [EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au](mailto:EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au).

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- The AUSMAP training session was promoted on social media both before and after completion of the event ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).



Photo 10: Community members attending the training event sift sand sampled from a quadrat to extract the microplastics from the sand sample



Photo 11: Microplastic collected from a sampling quadrat during the training session



Photo 12: Women attending the WoTL "Caring for your soil" crop walk in the Cummins area

### **Caring for your soil**

*This project, delivered by WoTL (Women Together Learning) Ltd, aimed to connect women in agriculture, whilst building their capacity and understanding of regional cropping issues. The specific issue this project addressed is the need to reduce the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils, particularly under extremely dry conditions which are occurring with greater frequency and magnitude as a result of climate change. This project provided an opportunity for women in both the Cummins and Cleve areas, whose businesses are being negatively impacted by seasonal variability, to develop their understanding of farm management practices for protecting their soils and improving agronomic outcomes.*

### **Program highlights this period**

- Two crop walks were delivered for women in the Cummins and Cleve districts. These events, supported individually by the Cummins and Cleve WoTL ambassadors, allowed 33 women gain an increased understanding of farm management and agronomic practices for protecting their agricultural soils from land degradation.

### **Communications and community engagement for this period**

- Acknowledging the *International Day of Rural Women*, 15 October 2021, the crop walk events and rural women from the Eyre Peninsula were celebrated on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **Cultural Education Environmental Centre (CEEC)**

*This project aimed to remove large infestations of invasive declared weeds, Aleppo Pines, from an area which includes the last remaining high quality vegetation community of Allocasuarina verticillata (Drooping She-oak) Grassy Low Woodland in South Australia and on Eyre Peninsula. Removing the pest pines will allow native vegetation to thrive again. The project was funded by our Grassroots Grants Program as a key step in rehabilitating the native vegetation where it is planned that educational programs, informative walking trails and workshops will be established in the future under the auspices of a planned Cultural Education, Environmental Centre (CEEC).*



### Program highlights this period

- A significant population of mature Aleppo Pines were removed from Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodlands near Coffin Bay. After completion of the work the project coordinator was thrilled to be able to look through the native vegetation without seeing any pines standing.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- The removal of the Aleppo Pines funded by the Grassroots Grant was promoted on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Board staff will continue to work with the 2021-2022 grant recipients on the delivery of their projects.



Photo 13: Aleppo Pine infestation before control



Photo 14: Aleppo Pines being removed at a Coffin Bay property

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