

Business Plan Achievement Report

4th Quarter 2021-2022

1 April to 30 June 2022

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
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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 **Barb Murphy** (*Acting Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Eastern District*) on 0427 188 546.

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*.

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Sustainable agriculture

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils</i>	
Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services , 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 National Landcare Program (NLP) Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project	

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

- Cleve landscape officers conducted water quality testing of water samples for local farmers. Samples, which are generally taken from farm dams or bores, are tested for salinity and pH. The results help farmers identify constraints for livestock production with respect to suitability of water sources for stock watering. The results, and some limited interpretations of results, are provided to landholders to assist them with on-farm decision making. These services are provided free to the community and landholders.
- Cleve landscape officers, in liaison with the Severe Weather Recovery Leader, facilitated the loaning of electric fencing units to local farmers who had suffered damages from flooding earlier in the year, to help them protect fragile ecosystems.
- Cleve landscape officers assisted Department of Primary Industry and Region SA (PIRSA) staff with plant emergence counts and bulk density measurements for a farm scale soil amelioration demonstration. This was a great capacity building opportunity for our landscape officers, who were building their soils knowledge, while assisting one of the Eyre Peninsula's most experienced soils experts. Any opportunity to work cross agency is welcomed and assists in building networks and good working relationships.



Photo 1:
Landscape officer with PIRSA Soil and Land Management Consultant taking a soil bulk density measurement at a soil amelioration demonstration site

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Free salinity and pH testing of water samples is available to landholders at our Cleve office. This service was promoted on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). More information about salinity and pH testing, and water quality guidelines for different uses is available [here](#).

National Landcare Program Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project

The Australian Government, through the National Landcare Program (NLP), have funded the [Overcoming the Rising Degradation of Mallee Seeps on Eastern Eyre Peninsula](#) project which is now drawing to a close. 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. The aims of this two-year project were 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 has connected landholders to relevant scientific data and identify known management options that are best suited for the EP. Local trials and demonstrations have been undertaken, and are ongoing, to 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

- A *Managing Mallee Seeps* 'Turning Mallee Seeps Around' workshop was held for landholders at Rudall Sporting Complex. The hands-on workshop with consultant Dr Chris McDonough, from Insight Extensions Agriculture, was attended by nine Landholders, all of whom have Mallee seep affected land. The workshop covered identifying Mallee seeps, best practices for managing Mallee seeps and returning affected land back to profitable production, as well as providing advice on managing threatened areas after the big wet. The practical component included a site visit to an untreated Mallee seep and demonstration on how to assess and monitor a seep, as well as a second site visit to see a seep in recovery after treatment.
- Four videos have been developed to assist landholders with decision making and remediation of Mallee seeps. These are:
 - [Video 1. Creek-line salinity identification and management](#)
 - [Video 2. Fixing a Mallee seep with Lucerne and Puccinellia](#)
 - [Video 3. Bringing a large recent bare scald back to life](#)
 - [Video 4. Fixing a developing seep before it becomes a scald](#)



Photo 2: Mallee Seeps Workshop - Dr. Chris McDonough demonstrating how to set-up a Mallee seep monitoring site on a property near Rudall

The videos are available on our website [here](#), and have also been included within *Mallee Sustainable Farming's* [Mallee Seeps Decision Tree](#) tool which is an interactive on-line guide to all aspects of Mallee seeps management.



Photo 3:

One of the four videos developed to assist landholders with decision making and remediation of Mallee seeps demonstrates how to fix a Mallee seep with lucerne and Puccinellia

Photo 4:

Eyre Peninsula videos have been included in the Mallee Sustainable Farming online interactive [Mallee Seeps Decision Tree](#)

Mallee Seeps Decision Tree

Do you have a Mallee Seep?

Mallee Seeps should not be confused with other forms of saline land degradation that have very different causes and will require different management strategies. These include:



Mallee Seep

A Mallee Seep is defined as an area affected by a localised perched water table (sitting above tight clay layers) that bring water and salt to the surface, leading to land degradation.



Click to choose



Regional Groundwater Salinity

Regional Groundwater Salinity involves areas of shallow saline regional water systems (within 5-10m of the surface) in the Upper South East of SA and on River Murray tributary lines that cause saline degradation in surface layers.



Click to choose



Regional Creek-line Salinity

Regional Creek-line Salinity are areas of saline land within or adjacent to existing creek-lines whose water is often highly saline and emanating from higher catchment areas.



Click to choose



Dry Saline Land

Dry Saline Land (magnesia land) are saline patches that are not formed due perched or regional water tables, but rather salt rising to the surface from subsoil clays, becoming worse after log dry periods.



Click to choose

- With the two-year NLP-funded project drawing to a close, the EP Landscape Board has committed to fund the project for a further 12 months through their Severe Weather Recovery Fund. The project will now run to 30 June 2023, and Dr Chris McDonough, the key agronomist consultant for the project, has been engaged for the additional period. Further work will include continued monitoring and on-ground works at the six existing trial sites; delivery of a Mallee seeps workshop for training industry personnel; two further Mallee seeps videos will be produced; the Mallee Seeps Decision Tree will be updated with the additional videos; and a final report will be delivered.
- In addition, the project extension will upskill and equip landscape officers so that, after completion of the project, they can provide ongoing support for landholders with existing and emerging Mallee seep issues. Equipment for soil testing kits for the officers to use for conducting field assessments of Mallee seeps has also been purchased.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nine landholders attended the Mallee seeps workshop at Rudall (see details above).

- To make the results and learnings from this project available to the broader community, we share information about the project through a range of media. During this reporting period this:
 - a [media release](#) about the project, which resulted in an article in the Eyre Peninsula Advocate "[Managing Mallee seeps part of trial](#)", as well as stories with ABC Eyre Peninsula radio and Spencer Gulf Nightly news ([6:40 min. mark](#));
 - all the Mallee seeps videos were made available on our YouTube channel and were promoted through a number of social media posts (e.g. [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)); and
 - the Mallee seeps workshop was promoted on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Monitoring of existing trial sites with Dr Chris McDonough is planned for trial site visits during spring. Monitoring of progress and additional on ground works can be implemented at this time.
- Planning for an industry workshop will commence during the first quarter of 2022-2023.

Pest plants and animals, and impact-causing native species

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Supporting landowners to control prioritised pest plants and animals</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 impact-causing native species</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

Training

- Our Cleve landscape officers completed their Authorised Officer (AO) training. They are now State Government officials under the [Landscape South Australia Act 2019](#), and are able to carry out compliance work on behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.
- Whyalla and Cleve landscape officers attended a two-day Conflict Avoidance Training course in Adelaide. The module is part of a Certificate IV in Government Investigations and will assist landscape officers to safely undertake Compliance activities.

Summer Grasses ([Buffel Grass](#), [Fountain Grass](#), [African Lovegrass](#))

- Summer grasses survey and control work was carried out by a contractor on both sides of the Lincoln Highway from Whyalla to Wharminda Boundary Road, 15 km to the south west of Arno Bay. This covered 328 km of roadside, and 1,693 plants (mostly Buffel Grass) were treated. A further 80 plants were surveyed and will be treated at a later date as rain prevented immediate treatment. [Feathertop Rhodes grass](#) (*Chloris virgate*) was also detected and treated during this control work.
- Landscape officers controlled Fountain Grass infestations at the Wharminda War Memorial Hall and on surrounding roadsides. The Hall site was identified as the source of the weed in the area, with plants spreading from the Hall site along each of the nearby roadsides. All road verges and adjacent areas where further infestations were possible were surveyed for any outlying infestations. Follow-up surveys of these areas will be conducted annually going forward.

Silverleaf Nightshade

- A local Arno Bay contractor was engaged to survey and control [Silverleaf Nightshade](#) on Department of Infrastructure and Transport roadsides within the Eastern District. Approximately 14,000 m² of Silverleaf Nightshade was spot sprayed. This work was predominantly carried out along the Birdseye Highway, but survey work extended to the Arno Bay Road, Cleve Road, and Lincoln Highway, where minor infestations were also treated.

African Boxthorn

- [African Boxthorn](#) control was carried out by a contractor team along the Lincoln Highway. Works commenced from the northern most point of distribution near the Iron Duke turn off. Work was carried out on both sides of the road verge working in a southerly direction towards Cowell. A total 260 African Boxthorns were treated in dense native bushland. Chainsaws were used to cut plants, followed by swab application of Vigilant gel herbicide (4.47 g/L aminopyralid, 44.7 g/L picloram). This treatment method was used to avoid off-target poisoning of native vegetation.

This work will be ongoing with the aim of limiting the northerly spread of African Boxthorn, and pushing the weed front back as far as practical towards the Boxthorn epicentre around Arno Bay.

- African Boxthorn control work was also carried out by a landscape officer on both sides of Mullaquana Road (Whyalla). Nine plants were treated with tebuthiuron granular herbicide which is activated in the root zone by rainfall.



Photo 5: Landscape officer spot spraying Fountain grass near Wharminda War Memorial Hall

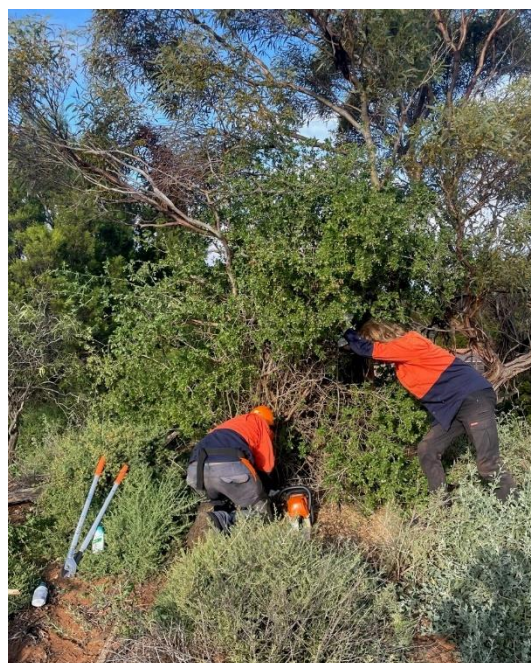


Photo 6: Contractors (Edscape) carrying out control work on African Boxthorns on the Lincoln Highway between Iron Duke and Cowell. Large Boxthorns growing in native vegetation were treated by cut and swab application of gel herbicide to avoid off-target poisoning of native vegetation.

Other Weeds

- Landscape officers controlled [Castor Oil Plant](#) (*Ricinus communis*) along the Yeldulknie Weir Trail near Cleve. This weed has significantly increased its distribution along water courses after the January rain. Observations of the weed's rapid establishment in roadside gullies around Horrocks Pass in the Southern Flinders Ranges has promoted landscape officers to act.
- Landscape officers carried out follow-up control work on [Pepper Tree](#) (*Schinus areira*) and Aloe regrowth along the coast of Fitzgerald Bay, and also controlled Castor oil plants here.
- Samples and photographs of three unknown weeds, one grass and two herbs, were collected from a Kelly property for herbarium identification.



Photo 7: Landscape officer controlling Castor Oil Plant along Yeldulknie Weir Trail

Compliance

- [Khaki Weed](#) - Landscape officers have been working with owners and employees of a Kimba Roadhouse on a voluntary compliance plan to control a Khaki weed infestation in front of the roadhouse and in the caravan park area. Some of the weeds were scraped up into piles and bagged up for disposal. The affected areas were then mulched to help inhibit regrowth. Ongoing control and monitoring will need to occur over the next two to three years to get this infestation under control. A Khaki weed alert was posted on social media.



Photo 8: Landscape officer carrying out follow-up control work on Pepper Tree regrowth on the Shingle Ridges at Fitzgerald on Whyalla's Northern Coastline

Eastern District Annual Action Plans

- District level pest action plans have been drafted for the following pest plants; African Boxthorn, Silverleaf Nightshade, Boneseed, Buffel Grass, and African Lovegrass. These annual action plans are designed to assist landscape officers prioritise and manage pest control work at a district level, while also ensuring the delivery of our regional [Eyre Peninsula Management Plans for priority weeds](#).



Photo 9:
A large Khaki weed infestation at Kimba. The weeds were scraped up with a tractor and then mulched to inhibit regrowth. Follow up treatment in spring will be required.

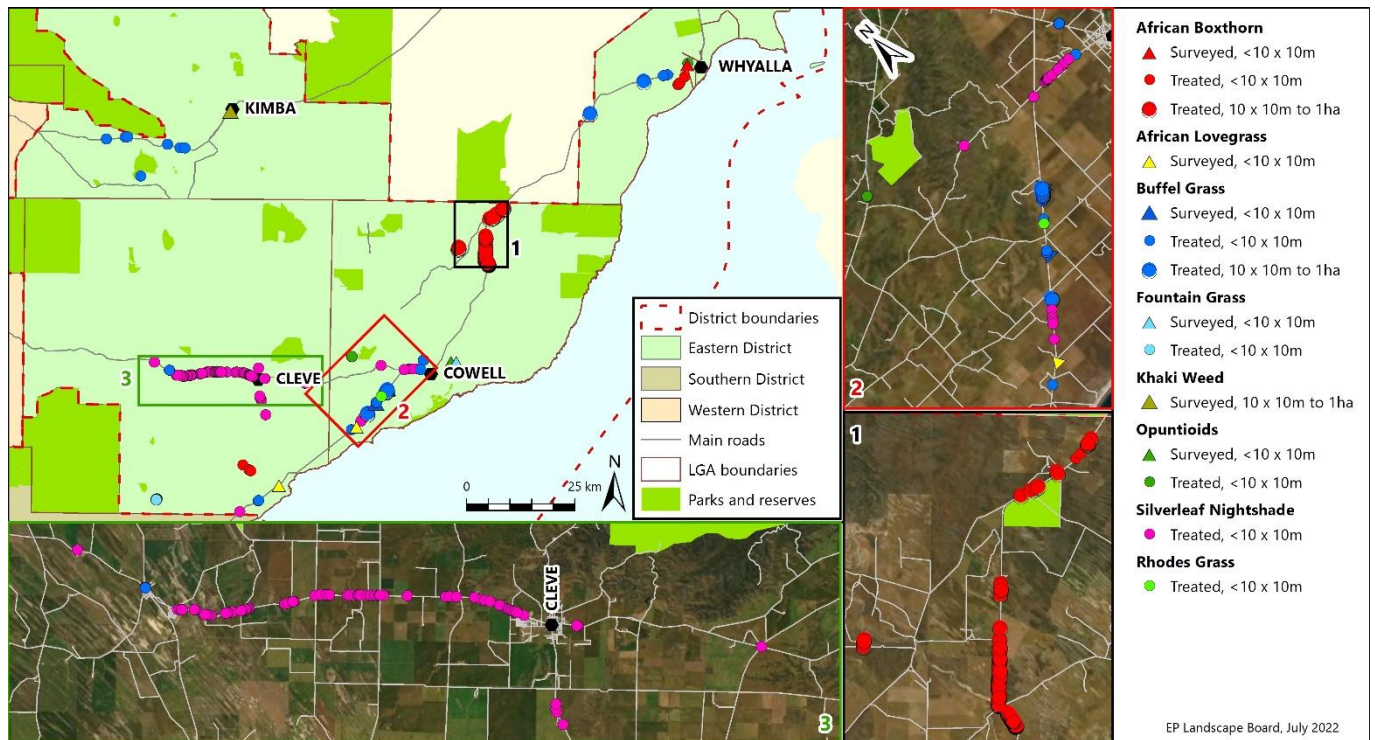


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 April to 30 December 2022

Pest animals

Rabbits

- Rabbit baiting programs were implemented across several properties in the Arno Bay area before the rains started to set in for winter. Good results were achieved across the properties with landholders reporting seeing a steady decline of rabbit numbers and better crop emergence as direct result.
- Two bait layers are on loan to landholders in the Kelly and Mangalo areas, and 200kg of 1080 poison oats were sold to landholders during the quarter.

Foxes

- In response to the start of lambing, landholders have been working on controlling foxes. Approximately one hundred 1080 meat fox-baits were collected from the Cleve Office, and 160 baits were collected by pastoral property owners from the Whyalla Office.
- Landholders are also encouraged to bait again in spring for best practice fox control.
- 1080 fox baits are available from the Cleve office by appointment year-round and from the Whyalla Office by arrangement.



Photo 10: Feral deer impacts – evidence of red deer grazing and dung observed in a wheat crop in the Buckleboo area in June before the culling operation. Grazing of one red deer stag equates to that of 43 rabbits or about 3.6 45 kg marino sheep.



Photo 11: Deer monitoring - Red deer stag caught on motion sensing camera while visiting a farm dam during daylight hours in April. Deer behaviour can be erratic during the April mating season.



Photo 12: Deer Workshop – Ecologist Peri Stenhouse presents the deer monitoring data from her final report to landholders involved in the monitoring program. Landholders were also briefed on the aerial culling operation.

Feral Deer (Buckleboo Deer Eradication Project)

The Buckleboo Deer Eradication Project aims to eradicate a feral deer satellite population from 8,500 ha around mixed farming properties at Buckleboo. The project commenced in late 2021 and will run through to 2023. The project is part of a multi-agency program with funding from the EP Landscape Board, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board through their SA Government Landscape Priority Fund project "[Stopping the Spread of Feral Deer](#)", the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) Deer Control National Program fund, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), and in-kind contributions from National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

- Fourteen Landholders participated in a feral deer monitoring program that resulted in a satellite population of six feral red deer, the legacy of an historic deer farm, being located and removed from the Buckleboo area. The deer were removed in an aerial shooting operation that employed the use of thermal binoculars to thoroughly search approximately 12,000 hectares of scrub. Three does, two bucks, and one spiker (young buck) were removed, these deer could be matched to the motion sensing camera monitoring photographs taken over the monitoring period and all individuals appear to be accounted for.
- Monitoring of dams by landscape officers using eDNA and motion cameras will continue for up to 12 months to confirm proof of freedom from feral red deer in the area.
- The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board would like to thank the landholders involved in the monitoring and control program for their ongoing support and assistance, and the Buckleboo Sporting Club Community for allowing us to use their club rooms as a base of operations for the aerial shooting operation.

- Ecologist Peri Stenhouse (Contractor) submitted her '*Buckleboo Red Deer Monitoring - Final Report*' concluding her contract with the Board. PIRSA, the Board and Eastern District staff would like to thank Peri for her diligent monitoring and excellent data management work which contributed to the success of the aerial cull.
- A meat sample was collected from a red deer buck for DNA testing. This sample, and the eDNA water samples collected from dams in the Buckleboo area, will be analysed by Canberra University. Data and results of the deer DNA work will contribute to a paper by PIRSA and Canberra University, which is planned for publication at a later stage.
- A workshop for landholders involved with the Buckleboo Deer monitoring program was co-hosted by PIRSA and the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board at Karinya Ag. The workshop topics covered agricultural and economic impacts of deer; use of the [DeerScan](#) app to report deer sightings; monitoring and controlling deer; and support available from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board with respect to deer control. Monitoring data for the period 15 March to 11 June was presented by Ecologist Peri Stenhouse (Contractor). Tim Breuer, the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Eastern District, gave landholders a brief on the Buckleboo aerial cull operation.

The Landscape Board would like to thank Tristan and Graeme Baldock for supporting the workshop held in the Karinya Ag workshop.

- We strongly encourage anyone to report sightings of deer to any of our officers, and/or on [DeerScan](#). This is especially important if you see deer moving into areas where you don't usually see them.

Impact-causing native species

- National Parks and Wildlife Services SA representative Michael Freak presented at the Arno Bay Pest Workshop on impact-causing native species control, permits and options for landholders. More information about this can be found on the Department for Environment and Water website [here](#). The workshop was hosted by PIRSA with support from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Following the identification of Khaki weed at Kimba, a Khaki Weed alert for the Kimba was posted on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). This has proven to be an effective means of communicating about weeds, with the post receiving nearly 10,000 views on Facebook.



Photo 13:

A Khaki weed social media post was issued alerting the public of the Khaki weed infestation at Kimba



Photo 14: Pest masterclass for landholders held at Arno Bay. PIRSA staff and landscape officers demonstrate how to bait for rabbits with pindone poison carrots (left) and 1080 poison oats using a bait layer (right).

- Landscape officers provided support for a PIRSA Pest Plant and Animal Control Masterclass, held for landholders and community members in Arno Bay in June ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)). The masterclass was attended by landholders from across the district, high school students from Cleve Area School, as well as landscape officers.

Attendees were upskilled on control methods for rabbit, deer, fox and wild dog control, as well as on the identification and control of unpalatable grasses. 1080 fox and rabbit baits were made available to landholders at the workshop, distributed by 1080 Authorised landscape officers.

- A workshop for landholders involved with the Buckleboo Deer monitoring program was co-hosted by PIRSA and the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board at Karinya Ag (see above for more details).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Mapping of declared weeds with the Whyalla City Council has been delayed to next quarter, but will be ongoing.
- Work on Eastern District Pest Action Plans will be ongoing.
- Follow-up Boneseed control will begin in areas of known infestations including Rudall, Arno Bay, Cleve hills and Yabmana.
- Bridal Creeper control will commence in September using the rust fungus biocontrol. Assessment of the best approach to controlling this weed is currently underway.
- New detections of summer grasses (now inactive) will be treated with pre-emergent flupropanate granular herbicide.
- African Boxthorn control work will be undertaken using granular herbicide as per Local action plan.
- Rodent Blaster training and induction will be held for landscape officers. Once accredited, staff will be able to utilise two warren imploding units purchased by the Board to assist landholders with rabbit control programs across the region.

Biodiversity

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

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

- Follow-up inspection and weed control work was undertaken on Whyalla's Northern Coastline for a completed '[Grow Me Instead](#)' project. Minimal follow-up weed control work was required. It was also good to see shack owners have taken good care of the native seedlings that were distributed as part of the project, as all plantings appear to be established and growing well.

Local government engagement for this period

- Through the [Eyes on Eyre Project](#), funding has been approved for a three year period to help councils progress work on priority coastal campgrounds at Fitzgerald Bay, Port Gibbon and Redbanks.

While Whyalla City Council were developing their application for this funding, landscape officers provided support to Council, meeting with them and conducting site visits to Fitzgerald Bay with Council staff, to discuss proposed on-ground works and their funding application.

The Eyes on Eyre Project is funded through the [Landscape Priorities Fund](#). (For more information about the latest work on the Eyes on Eyre project refer to the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region* for the 4th quarter, 2021-2022).

- Board staff attended the monthly Northern Coastline Working Group meetings chaired by Whyalla City Council. This helps our staff keep abreast of planned and ongoing works on the northern coastline.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Landscape officers met with Lucky Bay Shack Owners to discuss a possible grassroots grant project for establishing and revegetating an artificial dune to protect shack frontages.
- Native vegetation discussions were held with a pastoral property landowner and the [Native Vegetation of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia](#) book sold.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Completion of Bushland Condition Monitoring data entry and landholder reports was delayed and will be completed in the next quarter.

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 Grassroots Grants program	

*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 Eastern District (Table 1).

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

	Project Title	Organisation	Completed
1	Protecting our soils through improved grazing management (Eastern and Western Districts)	WoTL Ltd	4 th Quarter
2	Point Lowly and Santos Escape Road - Irrigation and vegetation protection projects	Whyalla City Council	Not complete
3	Restoring Eyre Peninsula (EP) Blue Gum woodlands and managing saline soils.	MR & AC Hannemann	Not complete

Landscape staff provide ongoing support for the delivery of these projects. Some of the work completed on these projects during the last quarter is discussed below.

Protecting our soils through improved grazing management

This project delivered two workshops to increase women's understanding of the nutritional requirements of ewes throughout the production year and how to best meet these needs whilst protecting fragile soils using strategies like confinement feeding. The project also provided an opportunity for women to connect, whilst building their capacity and understanding of regional livestock management issues. The project was delivered by WoTL (Women Learning Together).

Program highlights this period

- Two '[Managing Your Ewes Nutrition](#)' workshops, about minimizing soil erosion risk through better livestock management, were held, at Minnipa (4 April) and Cummins (5 April). The workshops focused on understanding ewes' nutritional requirements throughout the year, monitoring ewe body condition, monitoring soil cover and pasture availability, supplementary feeding strategies to fill a feed gap and confinement feeding.

- Colin Trengrove presented both workshops and was highly regarded by both groups. All participants said they would recommend the workshop to others and rated Colin highly as a presenter.
- Ten women attended the Cummins workshop, and twelve the Minnipa event, all coming away with increased knowledge and confidence to participate in decision making and discussions about ewe management, soil cover and grazing strategies within their farming businesses. The hands-on aspect of the workshop increased women's confidence to condition score and monitor ewes' body condition over the autumn feed gap. The project has also made the participants consider how they best raise lambs for meat production while reducing soil impacts. A participant quoted, "The Ewe Nutrition Workshop was extremely informative and has given me confidence to ask more questions to be able to understand much more about sheep nutrition and related topics".

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The workshops were promoted through Facebook and on the WoTL website.
- Event photos and sponsor acknowledgement were published in the WoTL June newsletter.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- This project is now complete



Photo 15: Colin Trengrove demonstrating pasture assessment techniques at the Minnipa "Managing Your Ewes Nutrition" Workshop

Photo 16: Attendees at the Cummins "Managing Your Ewes Nutrition" Workshop conducting ewe condition assessments

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

- Due to unsuitable seasonal conditions, it was not possible to complete the planned tree planting and direct seeding this quarter, as the area to be planted has been too boggy. Tube stock is on hand and everything is in place to complete the direct seeding once conditions allow for the planting to occur.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Community volunteers will have an opportunity to assist with planting the tube stock and will have an opportunity to see other areas which have been revegetated on the Hahnemann's property

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- An extension has been granted for the completion of this project until the end of November.

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

- Installation of drip irrigation system to tree plantings has been completed. Council have adjusted irrigation rates through this newly installed system to prevent overwatering of plants in revegetation areas over the winter months.
- Landscape officers inspected revegetation sites and new irrigation system, removing tree guards from established plants and hand grubbing weeds growing around new drippers.
- Work on installing cypress post and chain vegetation barriers to formalise campsites and parking areas, and to protect vegetation is in progress.
- A number of informal campsites and vehicle tracks in sensitive areas have been closed and ripped, and revegetation signs installed. This work is still in progress.

Local government engagement for this period

- Liaison with Council staff is ongoing, with landscape officers providing support to Council as needed.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- All on-ground works will be completed, and the final completion and evaluation report prepared.



Photo 17:

A newly designated camping site at Fitzgerald Bay south is already in use and these campers are happy



Photo 18: Landscape officer assessing the health of revegetation area at Point Lowly



Photo 19: A rehabilitated vehicle track that has been ripped and revegetated at a bush camping site north of Fitzgerald Bay



Photo 20: Landscape officer removing tree guards from established plants at Fitzgerald Bay North



Photo 21: Earth moving equipment being used to close a vehicle track to prevent people from camping on the State Heritage listed 'Shingle Ridges', which have important cultural significance to the Barngarla People.



Photo 22: An informal camping site on a fragile shingle ridge at Fitzgerald Bay south has been closed and revegetation signs installed



Photo 23: Post and chain vegetation barriers installed to delineate camping areas and protect vegetation from vehicle damage.

2022-2023 Grassroots Grants and Storm Recovery Grants

- The Board's open call for applications for the 2022-2023 Grassroots Grants Program closed on 22 April 2022. While 13 Grassroots Grant applications were received, none of these were from the Eastern District.
- During the 2022-2023 Grassroots Grants application round, applications could also be made for [Storm Recovery Grants](#). These grants, of up to \$5,000, were available landholders or farming groups impacted by the severe weather events of January 2022. A single application for these grants was received, with the application coming from the Eastern District.

The grant application was successful, and a grant has been awarded to Karinya Ag to assist with a program to control weeds across the farming business which have seen increased weed emergence and spread since the January extreme rainfall event. The grant will be used to purchase extra spot spraying equipment which will supplement existing weed control activities.

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