

Business Plan Achievement Report

3rd Quarter 2021-2022

1 January to 31 March 2022

Whole of Region





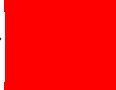
About

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [Business Plan for 2021-22](#) sets out the focus areas and priority programs 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* gives an update on broader program management and planning across the Eyre Peninsula region in regards to our core programs; as well as providing information about implementing the Water Allocation Plan, managing Water Affecting Activities and the delivery of our regional Federally-funded projects. It also includes updates on our planning processes and general business support functions. For each sub-program the report covers:

- 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 some program elements.
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Further details of each of these programs can be found on the [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website](#) or by contacting **Susan Stovell** (*Manager, Planning and Engagement*) on 08 8688 3201.

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Water

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas</i>	
Implementation of the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) , including mid-term (5 year) review	
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring	
<i>Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAAs)</i>	
Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAAs) , including providing support for WAA enquiries, processing WAA permit applications and ensuring compliance with WAA policies and permits	

Implementation of the Water Allocation Plan (WAP)

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Southern Basins and the Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas, Eyre Peninsula, was endorsed by the State Government on 28 June 2016. The WAP guides the management the extraction of groundwater from wells within two Prescribed Wells Areas (PWAs). The Southern Basins PWA is located between Coffin Bay and Port Lincoln on southern Eyre Peninsula, and the Musgrave PWA is located between Lock and Elliston on western Eyre Peninsula.

If you would like more information on the WAP, you can download a copy of the Water Allocation Plan for the Southern Basins and the Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas by clicking [here](#).

Program highlights this period

Mid-term evaluation of the WAP

- During the second quarter of 2021-22 the Board commenced a mid-term evaluation of the WAP. While not a legislated requirement, this mid-term evaluation process has been undertaken to enable the Board to check-in midway through the WAP's 10-year life to assess how effective the WAP implementation has been to date, whether all required monitoring is taking place, and whether the goals of the WAP are being achieved. This will allow the Board to determine whether there are amendments or improvements that need to be made to the WAP, either immediately, or at the time of the required ten-year comprehensive review.
- The mid-term evaluation commenced with an evaluation survey which was distributed to a range of stakeholders, including current water licensees, ground water users within the Prescribed Wells Areas, Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) and Local Government.
- During this quarter, feedback collected through the evaluation survey was collated and considered. Gaps in, and concerns about the implementation and efficacy of the WAP were identified from responses. To address identified gaps and concerns, a range of both short-term implementation improvements (to be completed by December 2022) and longer-term future considerations (to be addressed either during or prior to the 10-year review of the WAP in 2026) were identified.
- This information has been consolidated into an Evaluation Report, which the Board will consider at their May meeting.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- A summary of results from the WAP evaluation process will be published on the Boards website, following the Boards approval in May.
- Once the Evaluation Report has been endorsed by the Board, the WAP Implementation Plan will be amended to include identified implementation improvements and longer-term considerations.
- Water Allocation Plan Implementation meeting number 12 will be held during the next quarter.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring

One of the objectives of the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas (2016) is to minimise the impact of licenced taking of groundwater on ecosystems that depend on the prescribed groundwater resources. The WAP aims to maintain these ecosystems, collectively known as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs), at a low level of risk, and in the condition, and at the locations and extents they occurred at in 2016. Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has therefore developed a program to establish a baseline and monitor changes in flora condition, groundwater level and salinity, at a group of GDEs (Red Gums and wetlands) within the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas. More information about GDE monitoring, including report cards can be obtained [here](#).

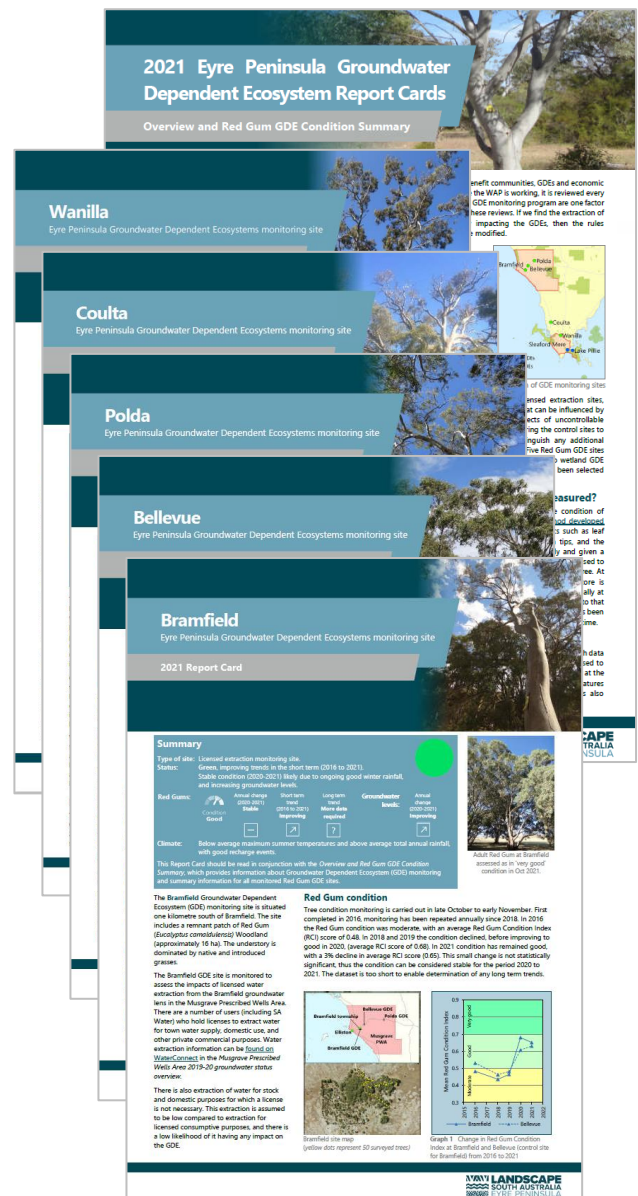
Program highlights this period

- The annual report cards summarising the findings of the monitoring completed during the spring of 2021 at five Red Gum GDE sites have been completed, and are available on our website [here](#).
- We have also commenced writing the annual report cards on the monitoring conducted at two wetland GDE sites during the spring of 2021. These report cards will be completed during the next quarter and made available to the community on our website.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Finish writing the 2021 annual report cards for the two wetland GDE sites.
- We will be initiating a study to confirm definitively whether the Vanilla and Coultas Red Gums are using local groundwater. This will be done by looking at stable chemical isotopes that occur in the local groundwater, and which are a "signature" for a groundwater source, and comparing these to the isotopes occurring in tree sap.

Photo 1:
2021 Red Gum GDE report cards
are now available on our website [here](#)



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.

Program highlights this period

- Across the region the following work related to Water Affecting Activities (WAA) has been undertaken by Board staff:
 - Four new WAA permit applications were received.
 - Assessment of four applications were completed and these were approved. These include dam construction, as well as saline drainage to help manage waterlogging and salinity issues.
 - Five inspections of WAA completed works were undertaken. One new dam was found to have an insufficient spillway. This deficiency has made it necessary for the dam to be manually drained of all water and the contractor has been instructed to return and fix the spillway to an acceptable standard.
 - One active compliance issue is being addressed.
 - Two water salinity/pH tests were completed for landholders from the Southern District.
 - Sixteen WAA enquiries were received and addressed.

- **Best Practice Operating Procedures (BPOP)**

Where an entity or person does work that includes many similar low risk WAAs, the Regional Landscape Plan allows for an entity or person to develop a BPOP. The BPOP outlines an approach to undertake the WAAs, and negates the requirement for individual WAA Permits.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) have had their proposed *Best Practice Operating Procedure* (BPOP) for road maintenance activities approved by the Board for a period of three years.

- **Regional Water Quality Testing Service**

Water quality (salinity and pH) testing services are available to landholders free of charge at our offices across the region (for more information see [here](#)). New signage for the service has been developed and will be erected at all participating offices next quarter. Our new staff in the Cleve office have now been trained to conduct water quality testing, and the service is again available at our Cleve office.



Photo 2: Completion of works inspection and survey on new dam with an insufficient spillway capacity



Photo 3:
Site visit with Downer to
look at progress of access
tracks and creek crossings
for ElectraNet High Voltage
Transmission Line
construction

- **ElectraNet High Voltage Transmission Line from Whyalla to Port Lincoln, contractor Downer**
Works on this project are well underway and we continue to monitor all construction related Water Affecting Activities. A site visit was conducted with Downer and landowners in February to inspect works.
- **Water Affecting Activity Control Policy**
With Carbon Farming through native vegetation plantings becoming more widespread, we have been assessing what the requirements are for Carbon Farming with respect to WAA permitting. We expect the [WAA Control Policy](#) will be updated next quarter to clarify WAA Permit requirements for Commercial Forestry and Carbon Farming.
- **Southern Launch – Whalers Way Rocket Launch Development**
Issues have been raised by local residents about the potential impacts of Southern Launch’s Whalers Way Rocket launch Development on the local ‘Sleaford Lens’ groundwater resource. This issue has been addressed and closed out for now with the assistance from the Department for Environment and Water’s (DEW) Water Licensing group and Southern Launch. Although are planning to investigate the use of groundwater in the area, they are not currently doing so and are therefore not impacting the Sleaford Lens.
- **DEW Water Management System (WMS)**
Development of the DEW Water Management System is ongoing. This system is being developed as a central tool for processing all water licensing and permitting across the state, and it is intended that all Landscape Boards also utilise it for WAA permits. Issues raised by Water Resources Officers from all Landscape Boards were raised and discussed at the last Landscapes SA General Managers’ Meeting and DEW provided input to questions raised. The go-live date is predicted to be in September 2022. It is anticipated that there will be a significant effort required by Landscape Boards across the state to adopt the WMS permit system for their Water Affecting Activity Permits in order to match or improve on current permit and application system.

Local government engagement for this period

- The District Councils of Lower Eyre Peninsula, Cowell, Kimba and Cleve have all been engaged about work on flood impacted crossings following the flood damage after the heavy rains in late January 2022.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Water testing shopfront signage has been developed for all offices that provide the water testing service.
- Following the storms and flooding in January, we published social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) and updated our website: to provide Water Affecting Activity permit advice, particularly in relation to exemption for emergency repair of crossings, dams and drains. A [media release](#) about storm recovery with a focus on Water Affecting Activities was published and also promoted on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- We will continue to provide support related to Water Affecting Activities, including:
 - assisting with WAA enquiries received, undertaking site visits where required and providing responses,
 - processing WAA permit applications,
 - investigating and addressing WAA compliance cases,
 - inspecting WAA works,
 - providing water testing (pH and salinity) at our regional offices for landholders, and
 - working with local government on any WAA / field based water resource issues.

Sustainable agriculture

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health and vitality</i>	
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services	
Regenerative Agriculture Program (RAP)	
Delivering the Eastern Eyre Soil Project	
Severe weather response – Significant rain events January 2022	

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator services

The Australian Government, through the National Landcare Program, have funded the [Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator \(RALF\)](#) with core funding for five years to June 2023. The delivery of the RALF services is contracted to Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP).

Program highlights this period

- The RALF has been providing support to South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) with the annual harvest report farmers meetings. Eight meetings were held across upper Eyre Peninsula engaging over 100 farmers. Topics covered included dryland legume pasture systems, mixed pasture species, barley grass control, the [Resilient EP](#) project, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) soil erosion project, the Eastern EP Soil Management project,

Mallee Seeps and the Soil Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) calcareous soils project (project 4.2.003 [here](#)).

- The Ralf is providing support for and participating in the [Building Drought Resilience in Agriculture-Dependent Communities Through Mapping Young Farmer Information and Support Networks](#) Project, funded by the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund through Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). The project is being delivered through a partnership between Southern Cross University and AIR EP, and is using new ‘network mapping’ tool to provide a detailed understanding of the Eyre Peninsula young landholders knowledge network. The project will support the agricultural dependent community of the Eyre Peninsula to build drought resilience by identifying and implementing context-specific strategies through workshops and mapping. During this last quarter the RALF supported a series of three young farmer workshops to map out how they are accessing information, their knowledge sharing processes and how they would like to be engaged with AIR EP in the future.

- The RALF has provided continued support for the *Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Mallee Seeps* project (see our *Business Plan Achievement Report, Eastern District*) by assisting Chris McDonough with filming at the trial sites and with ongoing monitoring of the four sites. This filming will go towards producing an interactive decision tree to help landholders identify and manage Mallee seep sites.



Photo 4: Chris McDonough presenting at the SARDI harvest report meeting in Kimba

- Following the flooding in January, the GRDC funded a series of “Cropping after the storm” workshops, which were held in Kimba, Ungarra and Cowell. The RALF provided support for these. The Kimba and Cowell workshops were well attended, and helped farmers understand the difficulties they may face coming into the new season. Topics covered included understanding soil constraints, nitrogen mineralization, and budgeting. Information about the available recovery support being provided by agencies was also presented.



Photo 5: Young Farmers Network mapping workshop meeting held in Cummins on 25 March. Sessions were facilitated by Amanda Scott and Robyn Keast from Southern Cross University.

- The RALF completed the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's *Future Drought Resilience Leaders Program* funded by the Future Drought Fund. This course has strengthened the RALF's leadership skills, and improved their ability to support others in leadership roles. These skills will be invaluable as the RALF provides support in the Agricultural Sector across the region.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Promotion of the federal grant opportunities including the Future Drought Fund, SA Drought Hub.
- Promotion of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Grassroots Grants opportunities.
- Promotion of the SARDI harvest report meetings and engaging the farmer leaders in each of the districts where the meetings were held and the surrounding districts.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Promoting the Regenerative Agriculture Program Small Grants opportunities for 'Demonstrating the use of mixed species to increase soil health', supporting the Sustainable Agriculture Officer with promotion and coordination of upcoming events for 2022.
- Attendance at the National Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Conference in Canberra in May.
- Completing and submitting the Annual RALF reporting.

Regenerative Agriculture Program

The [Regenerative Agriculture Program \(RAP\)](#) on Eyre Peninsula, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, is a five-year (2018-2023) program that is now in its fourth year of delivery. The project aims to increase awareness, knowledge and the adoption of land management practices to restore soil pH levels, increase soil organic carbon levels and reduce the risk of nutrient loss from wind and water erosion by increasing soil cover. Through engaging farming systems groups and individual farmers to develop paddock based demonstration sites, it supports them to implement best practice management and practice change; and showcase the results to the broader farming community. There are currently eighteen demonstration sites established across the Eyre Peninsula.

Mallee seeps are an increasing issue in eastern Eyre Peninsula. This project also aims to increase the understanding of the extent and impact of these seeps in the environment. Farmers and farming communities are supported through web-based mapping programs, forums, workshops and one-on-one support.

Project delivery is contracted to Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP), Rural Solutions SA, and other service providers as required.

Program highlights this period

• **The Multi Species Pasture and Cover Crop workshop**

The Multi Species Pasture and Cover Crop workshop held Streaky Bay on 18 March 2022 was a great success. We delivered this workshop following requests to hold a workshop event around Western EP, and knowing a few farmers have been starting to experiment with the use of summer and winter cover crops and pastures. It was hard to gauge the level of interest we would get, as it is an area where we haven't had a lot of engagement previously either with our forums or multi-species small grant program, so were thrilled with the excellent attendance. While we had minimal registrations prior to the event, we ended up filling the room with 10 farmers, as well as having three others asking for and attending via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

We had a mix of farmers presenting via Zoom, as well as an experienced eastern EP farmer presenting in person. A format with a combination of formal presentations mixed with farmers sharing their own



Photo 6:
Panel Session at the Regenerative Agriculture Forum in Port Lincoln on 31 March 2022. Panel members from left to right: Mark Farrell, Amanda Schapel, Greg Williams, David Foster

experiences of different species combinations, establishment practices and seeding rates worked well. We received good positive feedback (a formal evaluation was conducted) and were heartened by the atmosphere of farmer to farmer sharing that was exhibited at the workshop.

- The AIR EP Lower EP Ag Expo was held on 8 March at Ungarra with 50 people attending. The Expo mainly covered aspects of managing input costs and other agronomic issues. There were, however, also some good presentations by Sam Trengove about variable rate phosphorous, which had good messaging about the use of pH mapping as well as acidity, and which complemented the messages of the RAP acidity program.
- Stemming from the flood and water damage caused by the intense rainfall across eastern EP in January 2022, there has been a lot of demand for the RAP "One on One" property visits. Brett Masters (SARDI) has therefore undertaken 10 visits for this period alone, during which he has been advising on erosion mitigation activities and related issues like Mallee seeps.
- The Regenerative Agriculture Forum was held on 31 March 2022 in Port Lincoln, with 26 people attending, plus speakers and organisers. Keynote presenters were Drs Amanda Schapel (SARDI) and Mark Farrell (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)) presenting material based on their current work in soil biology, soil modification and cover crops. Two EP growers and agronomists shared some local success stories with an extensive panel session.

Mixed species crops and pastures for soil management program

- There has been continued promotion of the opportunities for engaging with the mixed species demonstration site program, with two new sites being approved.
- Monitoring reports for most of the sites were due at the end of March, with one site undertaking their final monitoring.
- There has been continued interest in multi-species pasture and cover crops from farmers, but sometimes a reluctance to apply for grants.

Soil carbon demonstration sites

- Due to issues relating to the Kimba floods, grant funding that was allocated to a proposed soil carbon sites was withdrawn, but has since been re-allocated to another landholder.



Photo 7:
Brett Masters from PIRSA, Richard Norris from Nutrien Ag Solutions and Eyre Peninsula farmer Alex Piip at Alex's farm where one of the grant demonstrations will take place at Butler, near Port Neill.

- Five new soil carbon grants were awarded in February. The five new grants will see demonstrations set up on five farms with support from Tumby Bay based agronomist with Nutrien Ag Solutions, Richard Norris. The demonstrations will be based at properties near Louth Bay, Port Neill, Miltalie and Koppio.
- Monitoring reports are due on 1 April 2022.

Mallee seeps project

- Ongoing monitoring of sites of interest is being conducted with AIR EP staff, the RALF and Dr Chris McDonough, specialist agronomist.
- It is expected that unprecedented rainfall across eastern EP in January will cause continued development of seep areas for the next one to two years, and highlighting the continued relevance of this project.

Restoring soil pH project

- There was an acidity workshop planned in Kimba in February, but due to the flood and related impact, this had to be postponed. It is hoped this can be run in June-July 2022.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- There was promotion of various events, such as the Streaky Bay multi-species cover crop workshop ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)), and the award of the new soil carbon grants ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), [Port Lincoln Times](#)).
- The [Farmers Connect issue number 15](#) published and distributed to over 550 recipients in February 2022, as well as promoted on social media.
- Case study completed and distributed (Schaefer) February 2022.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Establishment of the four soil carbon and four multi-species demonstration sites.
- Allocation of the final six multi-species grants.
- Developing areas for soil acidity workshops at Kimba in June/July 2022.
- Helping the new grant holders with their early monitoring requirements.
- Develop multi-species and soil acidity case studies.

Delivering the Eastern Eyre Soil project

Funded by the EP Landscape Board, the short term, opportunistic project aims to increase soil cover of bare soils of Eastern EP over the 2020/21 summer, either by providing support to sow cover, undertake soil amelioration activities, or monitor existing cover crops to determine suitable species and understand the impact on the following winter crop.

Program highlights this period

The project has been completed and the final report submitted to EP Landscape Board.

This project has supported landholders to undertake a range of activities that have directly addressed eroded areas in these districts. Results of monitoring have provided increased confidence in the benefit of these techniques and reduced concerns of risk including:

- **Soil amelioration**

- Where ripping was undertaken without additional levelling operations there was very limited wind erosion or drift observed. Crop biomass and yield have been improved with other research suggesting that benefits will last 4+ years.
- Landholders considered that ripping at a slight angle to the seeding line appeared to improve management of sowing depth and subsequent establishment of crops.
- Delving in appropriate soil types addresses issues in the long term and is cost effective.

Outcome - *Following this work, one of the landholders involved has purchased new equipment to undertake soil amelioration; three others are currently involved in a joint purchase of equipment, and another is considering options. All involved in soil amelioration work are or will be undertaking further soil amelioration.*

- **Summer covers**

- A reduction in soil water following summer covers may not have a negative impact on a subsequent winter crop. However, this is only a small study conducted in one season and further research is required.

Outcome – *Summer covers will continue to be an opportunistic option in this region, however, the landholders involved consider that this study has provided some data that improves the potential for adoption.*

- **Mixed species pastures**

- Mixed species pastures appear to be an option to replace volunteer pasture phases in low rainfall environments. They appear to provide greater biomass, improved soil cover and grazing.
- Anecdotal reports suggest they also may support increased soil biological function and improve soil structure. Further research needs to be undertaken on the best mixes for different soils and climates and the most cost-effective pasture systems.

Outcome - *The two landholders with mixed species pastures intend to maintain and extend the use of mixed species pastures in the 2022 season. Several others are planning to trial some on their own properties this year.*

Although there were issues with project timing, this project has assisted landholders to implement and monitor techniques to improve soil cover and reduce soil erosion in these districts. Also, these techniques reduce risk to adverse seasons and in areas that appear to be of highest risk to climate change are practices that can increase farm resilience.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- A summary of the project outcomes was presented at the Cowell and Kimba SARDI harvest report farmer meetings in March 2022.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The final report will be included in the noting section of the Boards meeting in May 2022.

Severe weather response – Significant rain events January 2022

In the aftermath of the significant rain events in late January 2022, which caused severe damage across north eastern Eyre Peninsula, the EP Landscape Board recognised the need to provide dedicated resources to support landholders with their flood recovery efforts. Tim Breuer was appointed Severe Weather Recovery Coordinator, and has since been directing efforts to provide support to landholders impacted by the floods.

Program highlights this period

- Site visits to approximately 20 properties have taken place to work with farmers on prioritising of erosion remediation works, and identifying remediation options and appropriate machinery to be used. General discussions have also been had around soil characterisation and how flood damage could affect soil fertility and stability. Most farmers have prioritised remediation works around paddock access and trafficability for farm machinery across paddocks, with major repairs being delayed to post-seeding, when it will be possible for them to take more time to plan and carry out works.

Damage caused by the January 2022 floods



Photo 8: Exposed sheet limestone and gully erosion



Photo 9: Extreme erosion gully on the northern side of Carippee Hill



Photo 10: Extreme erosion of sand dune

- An extra \$50,000 has been allocated by EP Landscape Board as part of their 2022-2023 Grassroots Grants round for flood recovery work. The monies are targeted at farmers and communities which have been affected by the severe weather event in January, for the delivery of projects with landscape outcomes. For example, eligible projects could include pest plant and animal control, revegetation and stabilisation of creek-lines and waterways, or potentially works to provide protection against further erosion.
- Since the January rains, increased soil moisture and warm conditions have seen an increase in the growth of declared and agricultural weeds in most districts. Increases in the prevalence of summer grasses such as African Lovegrass and Buffel Grass, as well as other declared pest plants such as Silverleaf Nightshade, Caltrop and Khaki Weed, have been seen on roadsides and in paddocks. The EP Landscape Board has been able to provide weed identification services and provide best practice weed control advice to farmers, as well as increasing roadside survey and control of these weeds.
- EP Landscape Board has been able to provide temporary electric fencing units to farmers who have required them to help manage stock, protect areas at risk of further erosion, and to set up temporary feedlots.

Local government engagement for this period

- The EP Landscape Board Water Resources Officer has visited the District Councils of Cleve, Kimba and of Franklin Harbour to provide assistance and advice to council staff regarding any emergency repairs to road infrastructure, such as creek crossings and culverts, needed after the January severe weather event. All emergency repair works fall under the provisions in the [Water Affecting Activity Control Policy](#) for emergency repairs to be carried out without the need for WAA permits to be obtained.

Damage caused by the January 2022 floods



Photo 11: Pooled water in paddock



Photo 12: Silt deposited in paddock



Photo 13: Extreme gully erosion

- EP Landscape Board staff have been part of a working group, formed after the January event, to coordinate and target support to the various members of the community affected by the flooding. This group is being chaired by District Council of Kimba Mayor Dean Johnson and also includes representatives from District Council of Franklin Harbour and District Council of Cleve, as well as other key stakeholders involved in the recovery efforts.
- An EP Landscape Board staff members has been working in Kimba for two days a week, based at the Council depot, and has been able to provide support to many members of the community in the Kimba, Cowell and Cleve districts. A big thank you to Kimba Council for making this space available and for the cooperation provided to the EP Landscape Board.

Communications and community engagement for this period

We have published numerous media and social media items to inform the community about the assistance and support being offered by the EP Landscape Board following the January floods. Coverage has included newspaper and radio coverage. Some of this included:

- Social media: how we are helping with severe weather recovery on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- [Media release](#): storm recovery with a focus on Water Affecting Activities.
- Social media: our storm recovery leader will now be in Kimba two days a week, promoted on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
- Website and social media: statewide news story on invasive species control after natural disasters, published on our [news page](#) & promoted on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- We will assist councils and the community to get [BlazeAid](#) to the Eyre Peninsula to assist farmers with clean- up and repairs to fencing on properties affected by severe weather. Many farmers have suffered significant damage and loss of fences during the severe weather event and will require much effort to restore fences back to the required levels.
- Assist farmers, post seeding, to further plan, prioritise and provide technical advice around remediation of erosion which has occurred on their properties. In some cases expert advice may need to be brought in to assist with this process.
- Continue to monitor pest plant and animal prevalence across the district and implement control measures where required.

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>	
Development and review of regional pest management plans for priority pest plants and animals	Green
Delivering high-level, regional and state-wide pest management activities and programs	Green
<i>Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species</i>	
Cataloguing current and emerging impact-causing native species, their impacts and extent in the region	Green
Collaborating with other regions and agencies to develop policy frameworks, strategies or programs, with the aim of reducing threats from impact-causing native species	Green

Pest plants and animals

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board works closely with land managers to find ways of reducing the number of pests, help restore native biodiversity and reduce losses in the agricultural industry. As part of the pest management program, the Board has developed twenty-one pest management plans for the management of priority pest plants and animals across the region. Here we report on region-wide and high level activities contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the pest management plans including, but not limited to:

- Higher level progress towards pest management plan implementation and review.
- Delivery of regional and state-wide control programs.
- New incursions or potential threats to the region at a high level.
- New trials or research, and information from external organisations such as PIRSA.
- Attendance at state-wide pest animal and plant network meetings, as well as South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) meetings.

Implementation of actions identified in the current twenty one pest management plans is ongoing. Please refer to the **Pest plants and animals sections, and impact-causing natives** in the three **district Business Plan Achievement Reports** for key progress, operational activities and achievements in each district.

More information about pest plants and animals on the Eyre Peninsula, and links to the EP landscape board pest management plans can be found [here](#).

Program highlights this period

- All our regional pest management plans which outline how we control priority pest plant and animal species are now updated and are available on our website.
- The region's satellite deer eradication project has commenced. The project, which aims to eradicate feral deer satellite populations, 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.

We are implementing projects in the Eastern District around Buckleboo, and another in the Western District around Chadinga Conservation Park. Refer to the District Business Plan Achievement Reports for more information about these projects.

- We are working to improve the methods we use to collect pest plant data, and will be moving to the use of online apps for data collection. With improved data collection we should be able to better evaluate our pest plant management program, assessing impacts of our work. This can then inform development of annual district action plans.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The [Pest Plant page](#) on our website has been updated to reflect the declared weeds we focus on and what our priorities are. Our Management Plans for the control of priority pest plants on the Eyre Peninsula can be found on this page, together with fact sheets about priority species. These factsheets have also all been updated and where previously not available, new factsheets have been created for each priority pest plant.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- We will continue to progress writing annual action plans tailored for each district.
- Control operations for the region’s satellite deer eradication project.

Impact-causing native species

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, regional landscape boards have a role in helping to manage native species that are causing adverse impacts on the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries, with boards’ main role to be promoting collaborative management and providing information. The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is therefore working in collaboration with other regions and agencies to develop policy frameworks, strategies or programs, with the aim of reducing threats from impact-causing native species.

Program highlights this period

- Development of a statewide Impact Causing Native Species Protocol has progressed. Once signed off the protocol will define both the Landscape Boards’ and the Department for Environment and Water’s roles regarding the management of impact causing native species.
- Heat maps of impact causing native species on the Eyre Peninsula have been updated.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Progress the development and endorsement of the statewide Impact Causing Native Species Protocol with a view to statewide endorsement.
- Heat maps of impact causing native species on the Eyre Peninsula will also be finalised.

Biodiversity

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats</i>	
Delivering the National Landcare Program’s Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) Project	On Track
Supporting partners to progress Eyes on Eyre activities, protecting priority coastal habitats and encouraging sustainable use	On Track
Partnering with other agencies to advance blue carbon initiatives particularly focused on temperate saltmarsh restoration	On Track
<i>Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems</i>	
Support the implementation of the Cummins Vanilla Streamcare Group Drainage Management Plan and associated PIRSA Regional Growth Fund infrastructure upgrade project	On Track
Continued implementation, review and improvement of the biodiversity monitoring program	On Track
Collaboration with partners to source funding for landscape-scale projects in priority ecosystems. Specific projects underway include:	On Track
The RLP Fire Recovery Program	On Track
Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot	On Track
Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) Pilot	On Track
Nomination of ‘Sheoak Woodlands over calcrete’ to be listed under the EPBC Act	On Track

Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) Project

The [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) is being delivered thanks to funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP). The project focuses on temperate saltmarshes, part of a nationally Threatened Ecological Community, and the Hooded Plover, one of Australia's top 20 threatened fauna species. The project will be delivered until 2023. Priority works include access management, threat abatement, revegetation, weed management, improving hydrological flows, and removing marine debris. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Program highlights this period

Region

National Shorebird Surveys

- As part of BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program, annual summer shorebird counts were conducted across the region. This national effort to count shorebirds across 520 Shorebird Areas Australia-wide contributes to Australia's long-term database, allowing BirdLife Australia to undertake rigorous scientific research to aid shorebird conservation and management, and track long and short-term population trends.

- **Western District**

Shorebird surveys were conducted over eight shorebird areas, including 20 count sites spanning from Lake MacDonnell in the far west to Waterloo Bay in the south. Five landscape officers, two NWPSSA and four volunteers undertook the surveys, which involved day trips to St. Peter's Island near Ceduna and Eyre Island near Smoky Bay. Key species sightings included Eastern Curlews, Hooded Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones on St Peter's Island, Osprey and Fairy Terns at The Spit near Streaky Bay and Osprey in Venus Bay, Bairds Bay and Eyre Island. For the second year in a row pelicans were nesting on the Bob Bay Island shorebird transect.

- **Southern District**

Landscape officers, together with Landscape Board volunteers and NPWS staff completed National Shorebird surveys across ten priority shorebird count areas in the southern district.



Photo 14: Shorebird Count St Peter's Island



Photo 15: Ruddy Turnstones, St Peter's Island

Photo 19:
National Shorebird survey
underway at Point Longnose,
Coffin Bay National Park



- **Eastern District**

Summer shorebird counts were completed by volunteers at Whyalla Saltpans, Franklin Harbour, and Lucky Bay. Some highlights from the Franklin Harbour survey were spotting a Great Knot, and Rock Parrot. Small numbers of knots, sharp-tailed sandpipers and greenshanks were recorded but large flocks of stints. A big thank you to long time volunteers Jim and Lorraine Walford for conducting these counts for us at short notice.

Eastern District

Saltmarshes

- Ongoing Sediment Elevation Table (SET) monitoring was conducted at Eight-Mile Creek for a blue carbon project.

Western District

Beach nesting birds

- Fortnightly monitoring of six Hooded Plover Breeding Territories in the Western District has continued over the busy summer season. With high visitation rates at a number of sites including overnight stays, educational signage was installed at a number of sites to minimise disturbance.

Saltmarshes

- Planning is underway to trial revegetation of degraded samphire areas using samphire tubestock at several sites on the Western District. Remediation of samphire areas has previously occurred via ripping of tracks, however this will be the first time the use of tubestock from a South Australian supplier will be trialled in this region.

Southern District

Beach nesting birds

- There has been ongoing fortnightly monitoring by landscape officers and volunteers at seven Hooded Plover nesting territories in the southern district.

- Hooded Plover nesting territories in the southern district resulted in the successful fledging of ten chicks during the January to March period. This was a phenomenal achievement considering how busy the beaches were over summer. We also have had the last Hooded Plover nest reported for the breeding season. This nest hatched three chicks in mid-March.
- We commenced a coordinated fox baiting program on private properties adjacent to more than 15 kms of coastline south of Tumbby Bay. This program will benefit six known Hooded Plover nesting territories in this area, including two priority nesting territories which are monitored for the STAR project.

Saltmarshes

- Removal of old car bodies and parts from Second Creek saltmarsh area was completed by a contractor. In addition, landscape officers completed a clean-up of smaller debris items along the eastern side of the coastal saltmarsh, helping to improve the quality and protection of 40 hectares of threatened saltmarsh.



Photo 16: Old car body in Second Creek Saltmarsh area



Photo 17: Car bodies loaded up and ready for removal from Second Creek Saltmarsh area

Local government engagement for this period

Southern District

- Access management signage for Farm Beach was confirmed and approved by the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula council. Signage will be installed by council staff. Changes to how the Little Douglas peninsula is accessed via Farm Beach will help to:
 - *Reduce safety concerns* (particularly for tourists) - sand in this area can get quite soft causing an increase in the incidents of vehicles getting stuck. This in turn causes a number of safety concerns for the individuals involved.
 - *Reduce threats to coastal saltmarsh area* – there is an area of coastal saltmarsh that is being damaged as a result of unrestricted vehicle access. This temperate saltmarsh vegetation community is threatened at the national level. Coastal saltmarsh systems are prolific fish nursery areas, essential sediment filters and store large amounts of carbon.
 - *Reduce threats to shorebirds* - there are a number of resident and migratory shorebirds (including threatened species) that use this stretch of coastline for breeding and feeding purposes. The survival of these birds is threatened by predation and interruptions to feeding by dogs as well as

the impacts of vehicles. The following threatened shorebirds are known to use this area for breeding and/or feeding; Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Fairy Tern, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and the Sanderling.

Communications and community engagement for this period

Eastern District

- A new 'Natural Resources Attraction' sign (large at 2,700 x 1,200 mm) has been developed in partnership with NPWSSA Marine Parks for the turn off to Eight-Mile Creek Beach. The placement of the sign at the turn off is intended to provide early advice to vehicle drivers that they are entering a protected area of environmental significance. The sign will be installed next quarter.



Photo 18: New Natural Resource Attraction sign for the turn off to Eight-Mile Creek Beach near Whyalla. The aerial drone image captured by Mark Thomas (Missing Link Media) features the sanctuary zone intertidal mangrove-saltmarsh and tidal creek system with Mount Young in the background.

Western District

- Forty-five students from Karcultaby Area School participated in two shorebird workshops coordinated by our staff. Participants were engaged in an interactive presentation learning about local beach nesting birds, including the threatened Hooded Plover species, their habitat, breeding sites, and what actions beach users can take to increase their chances of survival. The students were also involved in hands-on activities including bird watching and identification with binoculars and bird scopes, collage making with natural materials, creating a figurine of a hooded plover using modelling dough and a role play activity.



Photo 19: Role play activity with Karcultaby Area School Students

Southern District

- We continue to increase community awareness about beach nesting birds by talking to beach users we meet while undertaking Hooded Plover nesting territory monitoring.
- Volunteers involved in national shorebird surveys are now registered as EP Landscape Board volunteers.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

Eastern District

- Arno Bay service track culvert upgrade due for completion by end of April.
- Beach-Nesting Birds School Holiday Workshops will be held at Whyalla Library
- Eight-Mile Creek and Murripi Beach way-finding signage, beach access, and saltmarsh vegetation protection and interpretive signs projects will be carried over to 2022-23 financial year to allow more time to deliver on ground works.

Western District

- Saltmarsh revegetation and remediation project.
- Pest plant and animal control in temperate saltmarsh areas.
- Installation of shorebird and saltmarsh signage at Lake Newland Conservation Park and Fowlers Bay Conservation Park.

Southern District

- Hooded Plover over-wintering surveys are planned for late May/June at inland lakes and will be undertaken with volunteers.
- Fox den mapping and destruction works will be undertaken at sites adjacent to priority Hooded Plover nesting territories.
- Pest plant and rabbit control works are planned for areas adjacent to coastal saltmarsh areas.
- We will assist Lower Eyre Coastcare with delivery of the Beach Nesting Birds focussed SALT events which are due to be held in April on the Port Lincoln foreshore.
- We will be preparing for and presenting at the [National Beach Nesting Birds](#) 2022 conference, which will be held on the Yorke Peninsula this year, and runs from 13th to 15th May.

Eyes on Eyre (EonE)

The 'Eyes on Eyre' concept was formulated in 2016 with a collective involving three organisations: the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board and Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP), coming together to form a working group to face the challenge of improving outcomes for the environment and visitors. The Department for Environment and Water have joined this collective as well. The aim of Eyes on Eyre is to enable more people to enjoy and appreciate the spectacular coastline and avoid impacts on the natural environment. This is being done by implementing a cohesive, region wide strategy for the sustainable management of visitor access. Eyes on Eyre will be delivered in a staged approach on an ongoing basis to see incremental positive change over time.

Program highlights this period

- Board and RDAEP staff continue to support the District Council of Elliston with an online booking system that is based on the Parks SA system which uses BookEasy. The trial was evaluated in late January and the District Council of Elliston are happy with how the online booking system is working.

- Board staff submitted a more detailed second stage application to the Landscapes SA *Landscape Priorities Fund* for funding to support work on EonE in late December 2021. The application was titled “*Eyes on Eyre – restoring the health of Eyre Peninsula’s coastal environment*” and requested \$710,000 over three years. This application has been successful and staff are now finalising signing of the grant agreement, and have started planning for implementation of project activities.

Local government engagement for this period

- There is ongoing engagement with all local councils on Eyre Peninsula about this project.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- A number of social media posts were developed to remind people visiting our coastal areas to look after the areas, and respect our environment when camping (e.g. [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).
- A [media release](#) and radio interview were done in late March, announcing our success in securing additional funding for EonE. .

Upcoming priorities for the next period

Staff will continue to work with the Eyes on Eyre Working Group and coastal councils to help them deliver camping node infrastructure upgrades and the online booking system using the \$500,000 acquired from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) “Parks 2025” initiative, the \$710,000 acquired from the Landscape Priorities Fund and \$130,000 of Board Levy funding committed as part of the Landscape Priorities Fund application.



Photo 20: Landscape officer and Annabelle Hender (RDAEP) from the Eyes on Eyre team looking at works undertaken at Sheringa Beach campground by the District Council of Elliston

Blue Carbon

The EP Landscape Board is working to support the implementation of the [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia \(2020-25\)](#), partnering with other agencies to advance blue carbon initiatives, particularly focusing on temperate saltmarsh restoration.

Program highlights this period

- We continue to attend the cross-agency Blue Carbon Coordination Group. This Group includes representatives from the Department for Environment and Water and, all Landscape Boards and SARDI. It is a valuable forum where we share information about the latest work being done in the state in this area, and resources and tools to support work in the blue carbon projects sphere.
- We are collaborating with the District Council of Franklin Harbour, DEW and the Coastal Protection Board on a potential blue carbon project at Franklin Harbour. The EP Landscape Board have committed funding to commission a feasibility study for the project and are awaiting the outcome of consideration of the proposal by the Coastal Protection Board, who have been requested for co-contribution to the feasibility study costs.

The project would entail the upgrade of the culvert passing under Lincoln Highway at Franklin Harbour to improve tidal connection to the wetlands located landward of the highway. This would result in improvement in condition of the wetland and also increase in the extent of mangroves, with the resultant increase in the amount of blue carbon captured in the mangroves and wetland. The feasibility study will entail hydraulic detailed survey and hydraulic modelling of the area to get a better understanding of the extent to which the mangroves and wetland would increase with improved hydraulic connectivity to the ocean.

Local government engagement for this period

- Franklin Harbour District Council have been engaged about the culvert upgrade project proposal and blue carbon project.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- We will continue to attend the cross-agency Blue Carbon Coordination Group.
- The outcome of the proposal to the Coastal Protection Board for co-contribution for Franklin Harbour blue carbon culvert upgrade feasibility study will be announced.

Cummins Wanilla Streamcare Group infrastructure upgrade project

The Cummins Wanilla Basin contains a vast network of surface water and groundwater drainage channel systems that have been developed over many decades to support agricultural production and address issues such as dryland salinity, waterlogging, erosion and sedimentation. Up to 85,000 hectares of Eyre Peninsula farming land in the basin is increasingly being affected by poor drainage. To address these and other issues in the catchment, the Cummins Wanilla Basin Streamcare Group commissioned the development of a [basin management plan](#). They have also secured \$250,000 in funding from the State Government's [Regional Growth Fund](#) to support the implementation of the plan, through the maintenance and development of priority drainage infrastructure required to maintain the function of the catchment, improve hydrology for the purpose of supporting agricultural production and address issues such as dryland salinity, waterlogging, erosion and sedimentation.

This funding is being made available to landholders in the affected area through a grants program administered by the EP Landscape Board on behalf of the volunteer Streamcare Group. Landholders, land managers and councils within the basin are eligible to apply for grants of between \$2,000 and \$30,000 to complete work that upgrades and

maintains existing drainage infrastructure. Grant recipients need to commit at least a 50% matching contribution which can include in-kind contribution through their labour and use of machinery costs.

Program highlights this period

- No projects have been completed during this quarter.
- Round 3 was opened late last year and there have been 4 projects approved. The four projects involve cleaning out existing drainage, repairs to crossing points and extending drainage into areas of salinity impacted land.
- The uptake of the grants has not been good and further advertising is being prepared to try and improve uptake. A significant effort has been made to engage with landowners to get involved, however it is not known why there has been a minimal amount of interest.

Local government engagement for this period

- The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula were engaged during the preparation of their proposed works plan/budget and have indicated that a couple of funding applications are likely to be submitted for corresponding works.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- We will continue to work with the Cummins Wanilla Streamcare Group to deliver this project.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Increase uptake of the funding program by the community.
- Respond to enquiries about the project.
- Assist with funding project planning with the community.
- Assess applications.
- Monitor and work proactively with approved projects.

Biodiversity Monitoring Program

As part of our Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan, the Board established the Biodiversity Monitoring Program, in 2015-2016. This Biodiversity Monitoring Program will result in 355 sites across the region being monitored (using the Bushland Condition Monitoring methodology) on a ten year rotational basis. To supplement this important monitoring a Citizen Scientist network has been established to undertake annual bird surveys at some of these sites.

Program highlights this period

- Staff have finalised the data collected through Bushland Condition Monitoring in 2021 and forwarded it to the Nature Conservation Society of SA to be entered into the state-wide database.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Staff have supported members of the Citizen Scientist network to undertake bird surveys and enter data into the various portals (including the Iconic Bird sighting portal).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Staff will continue to support the Citizen Scientist network and get the information they collect publically available on the Biological Database of SA (BDBSA).

Collaboration on landscape-scale projects

The EP Landscape Board collaborates with multiple organisations, from federal through to local level, to source funding to deliver landscape scale projects which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of prioritised ecosystems

RLP Fire Recovery Program

Funded under the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, fire recovery works are being undertaken in the Middleback and Secret Rocks fire grounds which were impacted by the 2019 bushfires. Works include priority pest plant, pest animal, and overabundant native herbivore control, as well as controlling access and undertaking erosion management. The fire recovery program will assist the recovery of threatened species including Malleefowl, Sandhill Dunnarts, Chalky Wattle and Yellow Swainson Pea.

Program highlights this period

- Overabundant herbivore (kangaroo), rabbit, fox and cat control is being undertaken on a monthly basis by two qualified contractors across the fire ground. This is difficult to implement across a fire ground, but is essential to allow vegetation to recover post fire, particularly for more palatable species. Monthly control will continue until May 2022.
- Staff have been assisting landholders to obtain funds from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to replace heritage agreement fencing burnt in the fires.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Ongoing communication is occurring with four land managers affected by the fires.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Overabundant herbivore (kangaroo), rabbit, fox and cat control will be ongoing.
- We will continue to support landholders to replace heritage agreement fencing burnt in the fires.

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region has been chosen as one of six pilot regions across Australia for the program which is part of the [Agriculture Stewardship Package](#) being delivered by the Australian Government Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE). [This pilot](#) will develop arrangements to reward farmers for increasing biodiversity and storing carbon by undertaking revegetation. The Board will assist the Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment with pilot design and promote the opportunity to farmers on Eyre Peninsula.

Program highlights this period

- In June 2021, Board staff assisted ten farmers to submit applications to the Australian Government for the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot. Nine of these farmers made it through to the second stage of the pilot and received offers to undertake their proposed works. After considering the offers only three farmers are taking up their offers. Board staff are still assisting the three farmers through the process including registration with the Emissions Reduction Fund. On the 8/3/2022 one farmer completed his site registration with the Emissions Reduction Fund.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Staff have been assisting farmers in relation to this project.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The three farmers will continue to be supported through the pilot process.

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.

Program highlights this period

- In December staff undertook on-site assessments of proposed projects short-listed by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Assessments included verification of the vegetation type and assessment of vegetation condition. Information collected was forwarded to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. In February and March staff assisted some farmers answer clarification questions from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Staff have been assisting farmers in relation to this project.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Staff will assist any farmers who are made offers from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- Please just add all photos at the end of each section with a caption. Don't worry about formatting and placement.

Nomination of 'Sheoak Woodlands over calcrete' to be listed under the EPBC Act

Sheoak Woodlands over calcrete are an ecosystem that has degraded significantly since European settlement. After many years of conservation works by farmers and the gathering of data by WildEyre enough evidence was available for a threatened ecological community nomination to be submitted (by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board) to the Australian Government in January 2018. The Australian Government started the assessment of this nomination in 2020.

Program highlights this period

- Staff were informed in February that the application was successful, so the Australian Government has approved the listing of the vegetation community 'Drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion' as critically endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Communications and community engagement for this period

- A media release, television interview and radio interview were done in late March.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- This task is now completed.

Community

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<i>Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management</i>	
Review and improvement of the citizen science program ; providing meaningful opportunities for volunteers and groups to get involved and value the natural environment	
Supporting Aboriginal and community groups, Local Government, farming groups and schools to progress natural resource activities through the provision of the Grassroots Grants program	
<i>Effective decision-making and Local Government engagement</i>	
Effective leadership and governance of the Board and its business, to meet legislative requirements, including:	
Board meeting highlights	
Referrals (including Stormwater management) received and responded to	

Partnering for the community

Program highlights this period

EP Landscape Board staff have continued to support the DEW fire program, at both prescribed burns and with wild fire response. Most recently, several of our staff assisted with the prescribed burn in mid-March at McLaren Point South, Lincoln National Park.

Citizen science program

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board supports [citizen science](#) as an innovative and exciting way of engaging the community, while increasing our knowledge of Eyre Peninsula's natural environments. We support a number of projects that community members can get involved in.

Program highlights this period

- We have initiated a project to have all our Citizen Science projects registered in the [Biological Database of South Australia \(BDBSA\)](#). This is the central repository for biodiversity information and data in South Australia, and the data is freely accessible to the public through [NatureMaps](#). All data acquired through our citizen science projects since 2015 will be entered into the database as part of this project.
- We continue to field enquiries from other agencies about our methods and the data we have collected through our citizen science projects. Most recently we have had enquiries about how we have set up our koala monitoring project, as our project is considered an excellent example of citizen science at work.
- We have received 39 sightings reported through our citizen science program this quarter., including two sightings of Australian Bustards, one Malleefowl, and two juvenile Osprey. We are receiving increasing number of sightings of koalas reported in and north of Port Lincoln town, including reports of koalas trying to enter people's homes.

Photo 21:
Heath goanna found killed on
Donnington Road in Lincoln National
park. Photo submitted by Tanya
Shephard through our [EPGoannas](#) citizen
science portal



Communications and community engagement for this period

- Through the school holiday periods we have continued to promote all our citizen science projects on social media.
- We shared ABC Eyre Peninsula's story about heath goanna (*Varanus rosenbergii*) deaths on roads, coming out of NPWS ranger concerns about the number of goannas found dead on roads in our EP Parks. With this share we also promoted our citizen science program for reporting goanna sightings on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We have since received 26 reports of goanna sightings, four of which were dead (roadkill). A continued reminder to promote care for our wildlife when driving on EP roads.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Complete entering all our citizen science data into BDBSA.

Grassroots Grants program

*The Grassroots Grants program supports individuals, volunteers, community groups and other organisations working on a not-for-profit basis, with local landscape management projects. Grants are awarded annually. Reporting on support provided by Board staff to grant applicants, as well as monitoring of grants awarded and acquitted is included in the **Grassroots Grants program** sections in the district [Quarterly Business Plan Achievement Reports](#).*

Program highlights this period

- The Grassroots Grants for the 2021-2022 period have all been awarded to community and are at various stages of delivery. For progress on the project being delivered at a regional level see below. For progress on all other individual projects refer to our 2021-2022 Third Quarter [Business Plan Achievement Reports](#) for the Eastern, Southern and Western districts.
- Applications for the Grassroots Grants for the 2022-2023 close at 5.00pm on 22 April 2022. This year the grants are available across three funding streams:
 - Small Community Grants for up to \$5,000 (GST exclusive);
 - Large Community Grants for up to \$15,000 (GST exclusive); and
 - Farm Recovery Grants for up to \$5,000 (GST exclusive). This year the funding has been increased to \$103,000 (GST exclusive) for Community Grants, with a further \$50,000 available for landholders or farming groups that have been impacted by recent storm events.

- Funding will be awarded to projects on a competitive basis, with the EP Landscape Board expecting to fund a range of projects across the region that address its priority areas. Projects are to be fully acquitted by 15 June 2023. However, if a project is likely to benefit from an additional six months delivery period, for example where seasonally dependent works such as tree planting will be undertaken or for school based projects, applicants may apply for up to 18 months to complete the project.
- The [Guidelines](#) and [Application form](#) are available on the Board’s website.

Local government engagement for this period

- Councils within Eyre Peninsula are eligible to apply for Grassroots Grant funding.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Promotions of the Grassroots Grants commenced on 21 March 2022, and this will continue until application close on 22 April 2022, to encourage uptake.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Once the applications for next year are assessed, the successful grant recipients will be announced publicly. This is expected to occur in June 2022.

2021-2022 Grassroots Grants

One project funded through the Board’s 2021-2022 Grassroots Grants program is being delivered as a regional project (Table 1).

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

	Project Title	Organisation
1	Entering the significant environmental benefit offsets market - A case study	Nature Foundation

Entering the significant environmental benefit offsets market - A case study

There are numerous unrealised opportunities for Eyre Peninsula land managers to enter the Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) Offset market and gain improved natural resource management outcomes and diversified income streams. Through this project, the Nature Foundation will develop and publicise a case study explaining the practical details of establishing a SEB offset site including financial implications which have, to date, proven to be a significant barrier to entry into this market. This information will provide impetus for Eyre Peninsula land managers to investigate these opportunities on their land.

Program highlights this period

- Board staff have been working with the Nature Foundation and a landholder and as a result an application has been submitted to the Native Vegetation Council to register a site as a SEB Offset site.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- One social media article was written by Nature Foundation staff.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Hopefully approval will be obtained from the Native Vegetation Council for registration of the site.
- A case study will also be written as part of the project.

Leadership and governance

Board meeting highlights

Program highlights this period

- The Board held one Board meeting during this quarter, which was conducted online via MS Teams, on 22 February 2022. Highlights from the meeting included:
 - A presentation on the *Optimising Kangaroo Management in SA* project, which has just commenced at a state level and is looking to bring together an array of stakeholders to look at how over abundant native species such as kangaroos need to be managed in the future.
 - PIRSA provided a presentation in regard to recent emergency flood recovery and the Board was also provided with a briefing in regard to the Board's efforts to support farmers and farming groups across the impacted areas.
 - The Board formally agreed to sign the Deed of Accession, for the [SA Drought Hub](#) Collaboration Agreement, which is a state-wide initiative that the Board has been involved in for the past year.
 - The Board approved the signing of *Best Practice Operating Procedure*, for the Department for Infrastructure & Transport, which will enable them to undertake specific water affecting activities within the region in accordance with methods outlined in the procedure, without the need for a Water Affecting Activity Permit. Any new works not covered under the procedure, or infrastructure construction, including the replacement of road culverts in watercourses or lakes, will still require an approved Water Affecting Activity Permit.
 - A briefing paper regarding the final Work Health and Safety Report, draft Critical WHS Risk Register and the WHS Review Action Plan was provided to the Board. The Board actively discussed the importance of the register with questions raised around the residual risk ratings which will be taken in to consideration in future updates.

Local government engagement for this period

- As the February meeting was held online, there was limited capacity for Local Government engagement.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The Board agenda papers include an overview of all communications and engagement activities for the full quarter.
- Minutes for previous meetings are available on our website [here](#). Minutes for the latest Board meeting will be made available once they are endorsed at the May meeting.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for 3 May 2022, in Elliston.

Referrals (including stormwater management)

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has formal referral responsibilities (such as commenting on development applications or stormwater management plans) and informal responsibilities (such as providing feedback on associated legislative changes, significant discussion papers or plans). These matters need to be responded to in a timely manner and often require the consolidation of feedback from across the organisation.

Program highlights this period

There were a total of three referrals commented on in this period, which included:

- The Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline System and Beverley Lateral Pipeline Environmental Impact Report;
- implementation of [Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030](#); and
- the draft EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) listing assessments for five woodland birds

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Board staff will continue to provide feedback in a timely manner relating to the Board's formal and informal referral responsibilities.

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T: Port Lincoln 08 8688 3200

Landscape staff based in Port Lincoln providing support for our operations across the Eyre Peninsula

General Manager Eyre Peninsula: Jonathan Clark

Manager Business Support: Diana Mislov

Finance Officer: Lynn Smith

Administration and Finance Officer: Phil Rawling

Governance and Administration Officer: Jasmin White

Acting Landscape Operations Manager: Liz McTaggart (Streaky Bay Office)

Senior Water Resources Assessment Officer: Dave Cunningham

Manager Planning and Engagement: Susan Stovell

Planning and Assessment Officer: Andrew Freeman

Communication and Engagement Officer: Katrina Phelps

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer: Michelle Clanahan

For details of our **Operations Staff** in our Port Lincoln and other offices, please refer to our [Business Plan Achievement Reports](#) for the Southern, Eastern and Western Districts.

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T: Whyalla 0427 188 546 or 0488 000 481

T: Cleve 0428 282 077

T: Streaky Bay 08 8626 1108

T: Elliston 08 8687 9330

T: Wudinna 08 8680 2653

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Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

with input from **Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP)** who deliver the Regenerative Agriculture Program and Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator services on behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.

AIR EP

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