

Business Plan Achievement Report

3rd Quarter 2021-2022

1 January to 31 March 2022

Southern District



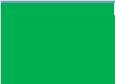


About

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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	

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

- Landscape staff supported the Eyre Peninsula Regenerative Agriculture Forum in Port Lincoln. The forum covered the latest projects focusing on soil carbon and cover crops including:
 - Amanda Schapel (SARDI) giving a general overview on soil function, health and biology; and
 - Mark Farrell (CSIRO) covering soil carbon forms, its inflow and losses, what it's made up of and the relationships with nitrogen.

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 Southern District as part of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**. Updates on development of our regional pest and impact-causing natives management plans can be found in the same report.

Program highlights this period

Pest plants

Training

- Three of our landscape officers have been completing their ChemCERT Accreditations, AHCCHM304 Transport and Store Chemicals and AHCCHM307 Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control Pest, Weeds and Diseases. These competencies qualify them to use Group I herbicides which are needed in our arsenal of methods to control pest plants.

Action Plans

- Action plans for the management of the following pest plants across the Southern District have been drafted: [Boneseed](#), [Bridal Veil](#), [Gorse](#), [Silverleaf Nightshade](#) and [White Weeping Broom](#). These are annual plans which define works to compete in the district which will contribute to the delivery of the Regional Pest Management Plans.

Fountain Grass

- [Fountain Grass](#) was surveyed and treated along the Lincoln Highway near Tumby Bay.

Silverleaf Nightshade

- [Silverleaf Nightshade](#) roadside infestations around Tumby Bay, in Port Lincoln and just north of Whites River, have been surveyed and treated. Follow-up phone calls have been made to all landholders who have/had known Silverleaf Nightshade infestations on their properties to discuss voluntary control compliance.



Photo 1: Silverleaf Nightshade

Wild Olive

- Extensive surveys of wild [Olive](#) were completed in the Koppio area. This data will be used to guide the development of our Southern District action plan for the control of Olive, which is currently being drafted.

White Weeping Broom

- A survey was conducted at Bergs Beach to determine the extent of the [White Weeping Broom](#) infestation there. Some of this is on private land and some on coastal crown land.
- Where the White Weeping Broom occurs on private property, it is the responsibility of the landholder to take all reasonable measures kill plants and prevent their spread, and initial compliance letters have been sent to two landholders requesting they control the plants on their property.
- Where the infestation is on crown land, supported by funding from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) we will be implementing control works during the 4th quarter 2021-2022.



Photo 2: White Weeping Broom



Photo 3: Dolichos Pea on Flinders Highway

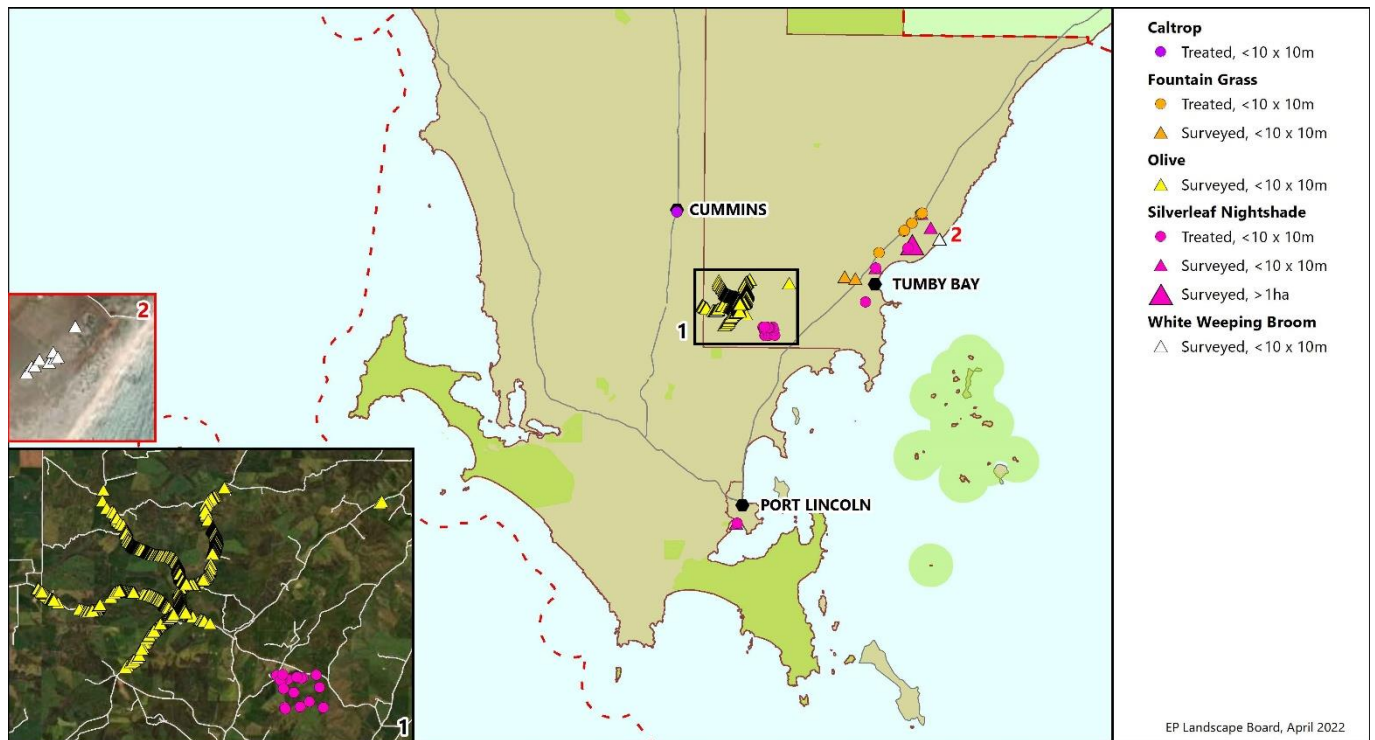


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 January to 31 March 2022

Note: Desert Ash and Dolichos Pea data are not shown as this is still being processed

Other species

- [Desert Ash](#) (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and [Dolichos Pea](#) (*Dipogon lignosus*), both declared in South Australia, were controlled at several spots along the highway between Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay.

Pest animals

Rabbits

- Landscape officers have continued to provide landholders with both Pindone and 1080 poison oat bait to assist with controlling a larger than average rabbit population, which seems to have emerged due to a cooler summer. Along with providing bait, officers always discuss best practice control methods with landholders with the aim of ensuring the best possible results are achieved from any control program.
- A group of twelve landholders in the Boston Bay area have been working collaboratively with landscape officers to deliver a coordinated landscape-scale Pindone rabbit baiting program.

Landscape officers attended an afternoon information session where the landholders learned about what was required to be involved in the program. Most people were first time baiters, so this was a great Q&A opportunity. Landholders opted to use Pindone treated carrot baits, and over 120 kg of carrot baits were ultimately used. Early signs indicate that the group have delivered a successful baiting program.

The group has expressed a keen interest in doing a RHDV1-K5 (Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus K5 strain) release in spring 2022 as a follow up to their baiting efforts.

- Southern and Eastern District staff joined forces at the Port Lincoln Depot for a large-scale rabbit bait production day, where 400 kg of 1080 poison oats was manufactured.

Foxes

- Fox bait distribution days were held over two weeks in Cummins, Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln. Over 5,000 baits were distributed to landholders.



Photo 4: Rabbit bait production day at Lincoln Depot with Southern and Eastern District staff



Photo 5: Landscape officers mixing the 1080 poison oats

- Landscape officers have continued to produce 1080 meat fox baits to provide to landholder free of charge to assist with reducing fox numbers. Over 10,000 fox baits have been produced this quarter to ensure adequate supply of baits are available for the upcoming lambing season.
- A number of fox baiting programs have been undertaken on private properties that are located adjacent to known Hooded Plover nesting territories, to reduce the risk of fox predation on Hooded Plover nests. For more information, see below in the section on the *Birdlife Australia's Federally-funded National Landcare Program (NLP) project Protect the Hooded Plover, on the southern Eyre Peninsula*.

Impact-causing native species

- Landscape officers have been collating historical data on impact-causing native species to assist with ongoing management of these species across lower EP.

Local government engagement for this period

- Landscape officers have been liaising with the City of Port Lincoln and District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula staff to provide advice on council-managed rabbit control programs.
- Landscape officers have been providing advice to District Council of Lower Eyre staff on weed control at a number of historically managed sites.

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.
- Various media was published about the fox bait distribution days, including [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts, a [media release](#), an article in [Stock Journal](#), and interview on 5cc radio and with EP Advocate).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Gorse control.
- Bridal Veil control.

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	
Birdlife Australia's Federally-funded National Landcare Program (NLP) project <i>Protect the Hooded Plover</i> , on the southern Eyre Peninsula	
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 Southern District, refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Whole of Region**. This report includes information on:

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

Protecting and restoring coastal habitats

Program highlights this period

- **Tumby Bay saltmarshes**
 - The latest round of Sediment Elevation Table (SET) monitoring was completed in the saltmarshes at Tumby Bay (March 2022, Photo 6). This is a process whereby a portable mechanical levelling device is used to measure relative sediment elevation changes. We have been doing this to determine the potential rate of accumulation of sediment in these saltmarshes. Sediments in saltmarshes are rich in carbon and act as a carbon sink, thus, by understanding how much sediment accumulates, we can get an understanding of how much "blue carbon" can be stored in the saltmarsh.
 - Tumby Bay District Council has commenced causeway work that will increase the connection between the saltmarsh and the ocean, thus improving natural flow and tidal movement into this saltmarsh area. This should result in improved saltmarsh health.

Photo 6:
Tweet about Sediment Elevation
Table (SET) monitoring underway
in Tumby Bay



Photo 7:
Revegetation area at
Moonlight Bay that will be
maintained by volunteers



- The improved tidal connectivity could also potentially increase the amount of blue carbon that is stored in the saltmarsh. Further SET monitoring will be conducted at regular intervals once the causeway work has been completed to evaluate this.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- There is an historic revegetation site at Moonlight Bay, where volunteers will be assisting with ongoing maintenance. Volunteer inductions have therefore been completed to enable the volunteers to do necessary maintenance work at the site. Activities will include tree guard maintenance, weeding, watering and fencing repairs as required (Photo 7).

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- We have been working with Tumby Bay Landcare to discuss possible maintenance work at Moonlight Bay sand dunes, on the site of a previous erosion control project.

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

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

Program highlights this period

- Fortnightly monitoring of the eight priority Hooded Plover nesting territories continued. On Hooded Plover nesting territories in the Southern District, ten chicks successfully fledged during January to March. This was a phenomenal achievement considering how busy the beaches were over summer. Three of these fledglings were from two sites monitored under this project.

On-site intervention actions to improve nesting success were undertaken at the Redcliffs nesting territory. The interventions, comprising territory flanking and access point signage, likely contributed



Photo 8:
Fox bait station located
at Cape Hardy

towards the Hooded Plover pair at Redcliffs successfully hatching their two egg nest. The two chicks were also recorded to successfully fledge. A total of five chicks have fledged this season from the Redcliffs nesting territory alone.

- A fox baiting program was completed south of Port Lincoln, on private property adjacent to a Hooded Plover territory. The aim was to help manage fox numbers and reduce the threat level from lands adjacent to this nesting territory, where three sequential nests have been lost this season. Adjacent landholders are keen to help improve management of the area, including installing permanent signage at access to the beach.
- A six-week fox baiting program commenced as an intervention action with the aim of improving breeding outcomes at three priority nesting territories located at Black Rocks, Cape Hardy and Bolingbroke South.

Local government engagement for this period

- Landscape officers worked with District Council of Tumby Bay for approvals to enable fox baiting to be undertaken on their land under Council care and control at Cape Hardy.
- A *Draft Hooded Plover Response Plan* for the Tumby Bay Council area has been completed, and forwarded to the District Council of Tumby Bay for feedback.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Reporting was submitted via the BirdLife Hub to communicate achievements and progress on this project in the Eyre Peninsula region.
- Our landscape officer continues to coordinate volunteers involved in monitoring and intervention work at priority Hooded Plover nesting territories across the Southern District.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The fox control program being implemented adjacent to nesting territories at Black Rocks, Cape Hardy and Bolingbroke South will be completed.
- Fox den mapping and destruction adjacent to priority Hooded Plover nesting territories will be undertaken.

Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems

Program highlights this period

Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) Pilot

- Landscape staff provided support to landholders in southern Eyre, who had received phone calls and emails from the Commonwealth Government about their submitted management plans.
- Announcements on successful projects will be revealed soon.

Hooded Plovers at Fishery Bay

- Intervention actions implemented at Fishery Bay to help manage the Hooded Plover nesting territory there has helped the two chicks on that beach to successfully fledge. The EP Landscape Board received numerous positive reports from the community on the protective measures put in place at the beach, and we were excited to share these observations. Unfortunately we also received reports from the community of cases where the protection area was accessed inappropriately, and some signage was stolen during the period the intervention was in place. On the whole though, the community were in favour of the Landscape Board's on ground efforts to protect this threatened species, showing the positive impact of education and communication on community perceptions and resultant good conservation outcomes.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The nesting Hooded Plovers at Fishery Bay have provided a unique opportunity to share the journey of this threatened species with a broad audience. A number of discussions have been had with the public out on the beach and this event has also provided an opportunity to communicate the [successful fledging of chicks](#) online.



*Photo 9:
Fledglings with an
adult bird successfully
fledged at Fishery Bay*

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

2021-2022 Grassroots Grants

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

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

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

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

Growing for coastal ecosystem restoration

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

Program highlights this period

- Lower Eyre Coastcare members have worked to re-seed, prick out and transplant native seedlings ready for planting at coastal projects including at *Greenly Day* in June. *Greenly Day* is a community revegetation event held to celebrate World Environment Day. A total of 3,000 native coastal seedlings have been propagated in preparation for the event.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions within schools have not allowed students from Wangary School to work with Lower Eyre Coastcare members in the nursery.



Photo 10:
Growing for Coastal Ecosystem Restoration,
seedlings grown by Lower Eyre Coastcare and
Wangary Area School in nursery facility

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The Lower Eyre Coastcare Association will continue to work with the Wangary School to navigate approval processes to enable the installation of the water tank to service the nursery.
- Planning for the *Greenly Day* community planting event to be held in June will be undertaken

Big Swamp monitoring and management

This project, delivered by the Big Swamp Conservation Group, aims to expand community knowledge and understanding of Big Swamp as a dynamic ecosystem, to assess the condition of the swamp and to identify issues that may be affecting the health of this important wetland. It involves education, monitoring of water quality, investigating methods for controlling Couch grass, pest plant control, revegetation and monitoring of waterbirds and other research.

Program highlights this period

- During the 3rd quarter the Big Swamp Conservation Group have continued with the monitoring they have initiated at the site, including water quality monitoring and bird surveys.
- Water quality samples are being taken at monthly at different locations across the Big Swamp site, and are being tested for salinity, the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, and also for dissolved oxygen. This is providing valuable information on seasonal changes in water quality in the swamp, and will help inform the development of a management plan for Big Swamp.



Photo 11:
Bill Martin taking water samples at Big
Swamp for water quality testing

- Bird surveys are also being conducted monthly, providing information on transient bird populations visiting the swamp.
- Weed control work has commenced in the south-west corner of the northern basin. An area has been fenced off, and sheep and goats have been introduced to graze on the invasive couch grass and other abundant weedy species. This treatment was shown to be effective in similar work implemented at the site under the 2020-2021 Grassroots Grant round.
- A plant nursery has also been established and seed from local wetland species are being collected and cultivated. The main species are River Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Paperbarks (*Melaleuca* spp.) at present.



Photo 12: Fencing installed to create an enclosure where stock grazing is being used as a method of pest plant control

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Water quality and bird monitoring will be ongoing, and results will be presented in the final report for this project.
- Plantings of native plants will be undertaken and trial plantings of *Gahnia filum* using root cuttings are planned.



Photo 13: Sheep introduced to the enclosure to graze on the invasive couch grass and other abundant weedy species

Site care at RDASA Inc. - Port Lincoln Centre

This project aims to improve the paddock areas of the Riding for the Disable Association (RDA) SA Centre, Port Lincoln, through pest plant control, revegetating areas with native plants that will control erosion while providing space to control and care for animals, debris removal and access management with fencing. This will improve this area which provides much needed amenity for people with disabilities, specifically for horse riding and related activities such as sport, active recreation and basic therapy.

Program highlights this period

- RDA Port Lincoln aims to look after the land at their Port Lincoln facility in a way that sustains the horses but also maintains the delicate balance of natural landscape and vegetation. This grant has been a catalyst for their 50-plus volunteers to come up with a clear long-term strategy for the site and for the development of plans for the landscape work that needs to be developed.
- To date, under this grant the volunteers have removed noxious plants and trees from the site; and collected and purchased native grasses to be sown as pasture for horses.



Photo 14: One of the paddocks that will be seeded with native grasses during the 4th quarter

- Seeds collected from native vegetation on site have been propagated, and they now have a few hundred seedlings for future planting. The seedlings will be transplanted into areas where noxious plants and trees have been removed, as well as areas prone to erosion, and will provide shelter.
- It was also planned to remove hundreds of tyres from the site under this grant, but RDA Port Lincoln have been unable to secure the services needed for this.



Photo 15: Native seedlings propagated from seeds harvested on site. A few hundred seedlings will be planted during the 4th quarter.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- This grant was featured in a [media release](#) advertising opening of the 2022-2023 Grassroots Grants round.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The group is now waiting for some decent autumn rain to enable them to start planting on the site, which will be priority during the fourth quarter.

Upcoming priorities for the next period – Grassroots Grants Program

- Our staff will be focussing on assisting the local community with developing proposals for the 2022-2023 Grassroots Grant round.

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