

Business Plan Achievement Report

1st Quarter 2022-2023

1 July to 30 September 2022

Western District



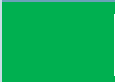


About

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [Business Plan for 2022-23](#) 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 Western District during the last quarter. It includes reporting on the following for each sub-program:

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

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

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

For projects in the District Councils of Ceduna, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Wudinna and Far West Coast areas, further details of our work and programs can be found on the [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website](#) or by contacting **Liz McTaggart** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Western District*) on 08 8626 1108.

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

Contents

Water	1
Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAA).....	1
Sustainable agriculture	1
Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services.....	2
Pest plants and animals, and impact-causing native species	3
Biodiversity	7
Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems.....	7
Community	9
2021-2022 Grassroots Grants.....	9
2022-2023 Grassroots Grants.....	9
Other Community work.....	10

Water

Focus areas and priority programs	Status
<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	

Managing Water Affecting Activities (WAA)

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

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

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](#).*



Photo 1: Crop inspection at Far West Sticky Beak Day



Photo 2: Inspecting farm machinery at Far West Sticky Beak Day

Delivering district level sustainable agriculture services

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Our staff attended the Far West and Charra/Goode Sticky Beak Days. This was possibly the best year we have ever seen in the Western District, and we noticed that more landholders in the Western District are branching out into canola, lentils and peas.
- Discussed options around cropping in areas of regrowth/native veg clearance options.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Landholders who have accepted offers from Federal Government for their Enhancing Remnant Vegetation projects will be starting work on their projects, and we will provide support as needed. Refer to the [Enhancing Remnant Vegetation \(ERV\) Pilot](#) section of this report for more information.

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 Western 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

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) - Annual Western District Action Plan

- Boneseed is a declared plant under the Landscape SA Act 2019. The plant has the ability to invade and displace native plant communities where it reduces native plant diversity and soil seedbank diversity. Boneseed can become the dominant plant in the middle storey of native plant communities, and can reduce native plant species richness by up to 25%. As part of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's management plan for this pest species, control works are ongoing, with the aim to destroy all Boneseed infestations on Eyre Peninsula. For more information about Boneseed refer to our [Factsheet](#) and [Pest Plant Management Plan](#).
- Spring is the best time for controlling Boneseed. At this time of year Boneseed has very distinctive bright yellow flowers, which, with its bright green leaves, make it highly visible, and easier to locate in native



Photo 3: Boneseed in native vegetation near Talia, Eyre Peninsula

vegetation easier than at other times of the year. We have therefore been concentrating on doing our annual Boneseed control works during this last quarter.

- Removal of Boneseed has been undertaken in three areas of the Elliston Council district for this season. Over the last 10 years Boneseed numbers in these three areas have reduced dramatically, due to yearly monitoring and control. Where thousands of plants and seedlings were originally found in these areas, this year less than one hundred seedlings and plants were found. Our aim is to reduce that to zero over the next few years.
- Boneseed has also been controlled near Calca Hall. This year, across 188 sites that were originally infested, only 22 seedlings were discovered of which 15 were in one area. Three other small infestation sites were also inspected in Far West EP

Gazania (*Gazania spp.*)

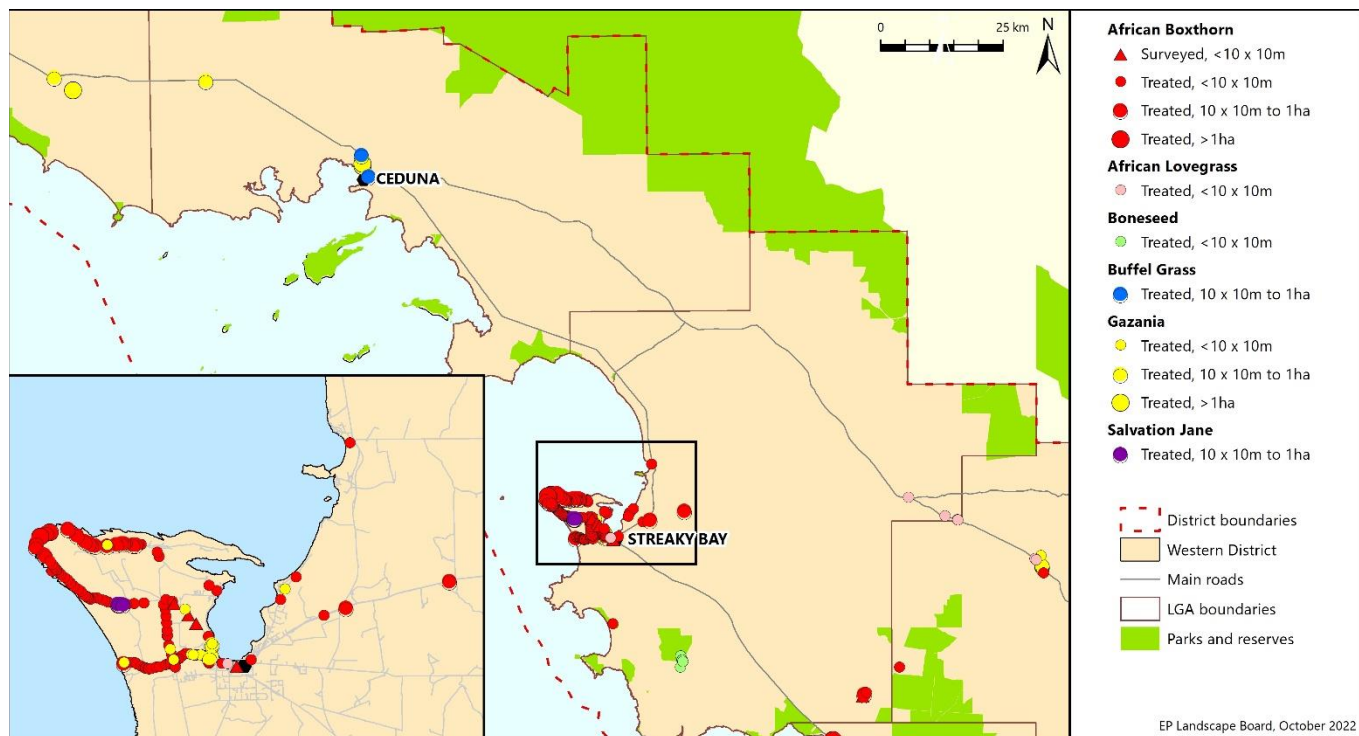
- We're currently working with [District Council of Streaky Bay](#) to target infestations of the weed [Gazania](#). Gazania is often mistaken for an ornamental plant because of its colourful flowers but it's actually destructive to our coastal dunes where it can form mat-like colonies that exclude all other plants, leading to a decline in biodiversity. Once established, it can be very hard to control. Gazania is a declared plant under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 so if you've got any on your land, control is imperative.

African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)

- As part of the STAR project, landscape officers have also engaged with the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding [African Boxthorn](#) control in buffer areas around the Blancheport Samphire area, and extensive control works have been undertaken there (Figure 1). The collaboration aims to raise community awareness regarding the impacts of the declared species if left uncontrolled, and to also work together on hot spot areas surrounding the samphire.
- African Boxthorn control work has also been undertaken around Elliston and Port Kenny (Figure 2).



Photo 4:
*Undertaking roadside manual
African Boxthorn control on
the Gibson Peninsula*



Pest animals

Foxes

- As detailed in the [Eyre Peninsula Fox Pest Management Plan](#), on the Eyre Peninsula we aim to reduce the overall economic, environmental and/or social impacts of Foxes through targeted management. In the Western District we have undertaken fumigation of Red Fox dens this quarter, as part of control efforts as outlined in our Western District Annual Action Plan. Carbon monoxide DEN-CO-FUME® cartridges are used for the fumigations.



Photo 5:
Fox den fumigation near Elliston

- This control work is undertaken in spring to coincide with the breeding season for Red Foxes, when they are actively using their dens. Fumigation of active dens is part of a coordinated approach to fox control on Western EP which includes baiting, trapping, and shooting.

Chadinga Deer Eradication Project

The Chadinga Deer Eradication Project aims to eradicate a feral deer satellite population from a 2,700 ha area in and around the Chadinga Conservation Park. The project commenced in late 2021 and will run through to 2023. The project is part of a multi-agency program with funding from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board through their SA Government Landscape Priority Fund project “[Stopping the Spread of Feral Deer](#)”, and from the EP Landscape Board, 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.

- Deer monitoring using remote sensing cameras is ongoing, but there have been very few sightings on cameras since the aerial cull earlier in the year
- There have also been very few tracks spotted, and it is thought that with the favourable seasonal conditions and high levels of available grazing deer aren’t moving far.
- We strongly encourage anyone to report sightings of deer to any of our officers, and/or on [DeerScan](#). This is especially important if you seeing deer moving into areas where you don’t usually see them.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The EP Landscape Board collaborated with the District Council of Streaky Bay to raise awareness of Gazanias and their increased spread around the township and outlying areas due to their above average rainfall. This collaboration resulted in an education article in the local community publication, as well as a flyer that was mailed out to every rate payer.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Fox and wild dog bait production will be undertaken at the Gawler Ranges National Park facility. We are expecting to manufacture up to 20,000 fox baits and 6,000 wild dog baits

Biodiversity

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

For updates about delivery of our landscape-scale and region-wide biodiversity projects and programs, including activities in the Western 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;
- the Biodiversity Credit Exchange Program;
- Eyes on Eyre;
- the Biodiversity Monitoring Program;
- the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot;
- and others.

Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems

Program highlights this period

Biodiversity monitoring program

As part of our Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan, the Board established the Biodiversity Monitoring Program in 2015-2016. Under this program 300 sites across the region are being monitored on a ten year rotational basis, using the [Bushland Condition Monitoring methodology](#). The method enables us to get an understanding of what change is occurring in different vegetation types, and determining threats to habitats and native animals.

- Bushland Condition Monitoring (BCMs) has occurred at six sites across the western Eyre Peninsula. This long-term terrestrial biodiversity monitoring program is used to assess the condition of the region's different vegetation with each site monitored every 10 years. So far results from this year's monitoring show positive recruitment of native understorey species, native grassland regeneration and good structural diversity of ground cover including moss, lichen and microphytic crust due to good winter rainfall.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Completion of Bushland Condition Monitoring for 2022.
- We will be monitoring the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act listed temperate saltmarsh Bushland Condition Monitoring sites under the Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Project. This monitoring is being undertaken to assess the health, condition of the ecosystem along with any threats, and will be compared against monitoring conducted under the same program three years ago.



Photo 6:
Bushland Condition Monitoring
near Walkers Rock

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region is one of six pilot regions across Australia for the program which is part of the [Agriculture Stewardship Package](#) being delivered by the Australian Government. As part of this package, [this "C+B" pilot](#) has been established to develop arrangements and provide mechanisms to support and reward farmers for increasing biodiversity and storing carbon through undertaking revegetation. The Board has been assisting with delivery of this pilot and are now providing support to successful applicants who are commencing implementation of their C+B projects.

Program highlights this period

- Two of the successful applicants from the Western District, Eyre Peninsula have taken up offers from the Australian Government and have commenced implementing their C+B projects. Both of these applicants were supported by EP Landscape Board through the application process.
- Two landscape officers assisted with tubestock planting as part of Kelvin Scholz's C+B project near Wudinna. Over 5,000 tubestock were planted with the support of family, the Landscape Board, school students and Greening Australia.

Enhancing Remnant Vegetation (ERV) Pilot

This is the [second pilot](#) which is part of the [Agriculture Stewardship Package](#) being delivered by the Australian Government. 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. EP Landscape Board is supporting the delivery of this project. Following completion of the application stage, Board staff will be providing support to landholders for initial project delivery.

- Seventeen applicants from the Eyre Peninsula have been successful, and are commencing implementing their ERV projects. Most of these applicants were supported by EP Landscape Board through the application process.
- Landscape Officers have been working with applicants to finalise information required for their final contracts, providing weed control advice and revegetation advice to assist with project planning.

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 Western 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**.*

Landscape staff provide ongoing support for the delivery of Grassroots Grants projects. Some of the works completed on these projects during the last quarter are outlined below.

2021-2022 Grassroots Grants

One project funded through the Board's 2021-2022 Grassroots Grants program is still being completed in the Western District (Table 1).

Table 1: EP Landscape Board Grassroots Grants - 2021-22 projects still being completed in the Western District

	Project Title	Organisation	Status
1	Re-invigorating the Minnipa Women's Pioneer Park with waterwise native plants	Minnipa Progress Association	Ongoing

Re-invigorating the Minnipa Women's Pioneer Park with waterwise native plants

Minnipa Progress Association

This grant will be used to renew the garden area of the Minnipa Women's Pioneer Park. The garden will be replanted with sustainable waterwise native plants with lower water requirements, lower maintenance and a watering system, rather than the current flowering plants. Native plants will provide ecosystem support for native fauna and insects. Renewing this garden area will also increase the visual appeal of the town for locals and tourists.

Program highlights this period

- Irrigation has been laid and vegetation planted completing the Minnipa Progress Association's Grassroots project 'Re-invigorating the Minnipa Women's Pioneer Park with waterwise native plants'. The native plants will provide ecosystems support for native fauna and insects and increase the visual appeal of the town for locals and tourists.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Engaging with Smoky Bay Progress Association.

2022-2023 Grassroots Grants

Two projects in the Western District are being funded through the 2022-2023 Grassroots Grants (Table 2).

Table 2: EP Landscape Board Grassroots Grants - 2022-23 successful applicants in the Western District

	Project Title	Organisation	Status
1	Pildappa Rock Recreation Reserve Revegetation Project	Wudinna District Council	Commencing
2	Protecting Our Soils Through Improved Grazing Management – Part 2	WoTL (Women Together Learning)Ltd	Commencing

Pildappa Rock Recreation Reserve Revegetation Project

Wudinna District Council

This \$15,000 grant will fund the implementation of one of the projects identified in the Wudinna District Council's Pildappa Rock Recreation Reserve Revegetation Plan, which was in turn developed as part of the implementation of the Pildappa Rock Recreation Reserve Masterplan. Revegetation and irrigation works will be undertaken in an area of the Pildappa Rock Recreation Reserve which has been significantly impacted by camping activity. Camping activity is now being phased out, which will support the rehabilitation of the impacted area.

Protecting Our Soils Through Improved Grazing Management – Part 2

Women Together Learning (WoTL)

This project will build on the 2021-22 project Protecting our Soils through Improved Grazing Management, and will deliver two workshops (at Cummins and Minnipa) on sheep management and feeding systems that will aim to build capacity and improve understanding of regional livestock issues, particularly lamb finishing systems, feeding options, management of native pastures and the importance of landscape management, especially soils, in grazing systems. The workshops will cover grazing and livestock management tools for supporting the maintenance of soil cover and reduction in erosion risk, especially during times of extremely dry seasonal conditions.

Other Community work

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Three landscape officers and a volunteer from Streaky Bay assisted the District Council of Elliston with revegetation work being undertaken in the town centre as part of the wetland development project. The project aims to manage storm water and runoff within the township through creating a permanent wetland system.



Photo 7:

Landscape officer and volunteer assisting with revegetating the wetlands site in the Elliston Township



Photo 8: Plant Your Heart Out Day at Mt Wudinna

- Our Wudinna landscape officer assisted the Wudinna District Council in a 'Plant Your Heart Out Day' as part of the Wudinna Winter Rainbow Escape that ran through the July school holidays. The week long program was managed by local Council with the aim of providing activities for children and parents to participate in during the colder months of winter.

Our landscape officer advised Council and assisted with a community revegetation day at Mount Wudinna. With the weather on our side and a great turnout of community families, plus the assistance of three National Parks and Wildlife Services SA (NPWSSA) rangers from the Gawler Rangers who donated their time and tubestock of a number of local species, this made for a great day of education and hands on fun for the community to enjoy and remember for many years to come.



Photo 9: Walk to the top of Mt Wudinna at the community revegetation day

Published by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.
16 November 2022

T: Port Lincoln 08 8688 3200

T: Streaky Bay 08 8626 1108
*Acting Landscape **Operations** Manager: Liz McTaggart*
Acting Team Leader Landscape Operations - Western: Libby Hunt

T: Elliston 08 8687 9330
Landscape Officer: Ian Quinn

T: Wudinna 08 8680 2653
Landscape Officer: Sam Morley

T: Ceduna 0428 252 442 or 0409 849 820
Landscape Officer: Andrew Sleep
Landscape Officer: Alex Fraser

E: EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au

Report prepared by:
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/home



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