

Business Plan Achievement Report

2nd Quarter 2020-2021

1 October to 31 December 2020

Southern District






About

These *Business Plan Achievement Reports* provide a quarterly update on the delivery of our programs, as detailed in the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [Business Plan for 2020-21](#). The *Business Plan* sets out the programs, and component sub-programs or work activities, which are funded and delivered by the Board to achieve the goals and vision of the [Regional Landscape Plan](#).

This *Achievement Report* provides updates on delivery in the Southern District, and during the last quarter, of all Board-funded programs, including reporting 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 all milestones.		On track to deliver most milestones. May be some delays.		Unlikely to meet milestones.
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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: Regional Projects*.

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Sustainable agriculture

Sub-program	Status
District level sustainable agriculture activities	

For updates on our [Regenerative Agriculture Project \(RAP\)](#) and Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services, please refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects**. More information about our sustainable agriculture program, as well as useful information and resources for land managers can be found [here](#).

Program highlights

- Landscape staff continue to provide support to land managers around sustainable agriculture issues across lower Eyre Peninsula

Local government engagement

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement

- Nothing to report.

Water resources management

Sub-program	Status
District level rivers and creek restoration activities, water quality testing etc.	

For updates about water resources management activities implemented in the Southern District as part of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) and the [Regenerative Agriculture Project \(RAP\)](#) refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects**. Updates on work related to Water Affecting Activities and the Water Allocation Plan can be found in the same report.

Program highlight and local government engagement

- A successful workshop on Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) was held at Coffin Bay for councils from the Southern District. The workshop, coordinated by the Board, focussed on WSUD stormwater management, the implementation of new WSUD initiatives, and maintaining existing WSUD infrastructure. Representatives from the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, District Council of Tumby Bay and the Port Lincoln City Council attended.



Photo 1: Council staff learning about maintenance requirements of an existing rain garden at Coffin Bay, while attending the Board-funded WSUD workshop

Communications and community engagement

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Expressions of interest will be sought from councils in the Western and Eastern Districts for an additional WSUD workshop.

Pest plant and animal control

Sub-program	Status
Monitor and facilitate management of priority pest plants and animals	

For updates about pest plant and animal 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: Regional Projects**. Updates on development of our regional pest management plans can be found in the same report.

Program highlights this period

Pest plants

- **Bridal Veil**
 - Landscape officers conducted a Bridal Veil compliance survey and provided advice to the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council (PLACC) for the Bridal Veil control works they were implementing.
 - Bridal Veil control compliance was addressed with a number of landholders across Lower EP.
- **Fountain Grass** control was undertaken around Lipson and Ungarra.
- Monitoring and control of **Caltrop** was implemented around Cummins and Tumby Bay.
- **Olive** surveys were undertaken along roadsides.
- **Dolichos Pea** (*Dipogon lignosus*) control was undertaken north of Tulka through a post prescribed-burn project.
- A **Spiny Rush** (*Juncus acutus*) control trial was completed at a priority saltmarsh site, Second Creek, at Tumby Bay (Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) Project).
- **African Boxthorn** control was completed around a priority saltmarsh site, Second Creek, Tumby Bay (STAR Project).



Photo 2: Surveying Fountain Grass on the Lipson-Ungarra Road



Photo 3: Small Caltrop plants found at Cummins alongside Viteria Grain and the Rail Yard

- **Cotton Bush** surveys were completed for CSIRO Health and Biosecurity at two sites on Flinders Highway.

Pest animals

• Foxes

- Board staff produced over 900 fox baits during the latest fox bait preparation day. Assistance was also provided to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) in producing 1,000+ baits for their fox control program within Lincoln and Coffin Bay National Parks.
- The Board continues to provide landholders with 1080 meat baits free of charge.



Photo 4: Spraying Spiny Rush along McCullum's Road, Tumby Bay

• Rabbits

Board staff met with a member of the Point Boston Community Corporation Inc., providing advice on a coordinated approach to rabbit control in the Point Boston area. This meeting follows the Corporation securing Grassroots Grant funding for a rabbit-proof enclosure to protect a section of native vegetation along the Point Boston coastline.

• Training

Board staff assisted in delivering the recent **Vertebrate Pest Course** hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and held in the Adelaide Hills. Staff from multiple agencies including Landscape SA, PIRSA and DEW attended the course. EP Landscape Board staff played a key role in delivering the training, which provided attendees with an opportunity to upskill, increasing their knowledge on vertebrate pests.

- Board staff have continued to progress key compliance cases.

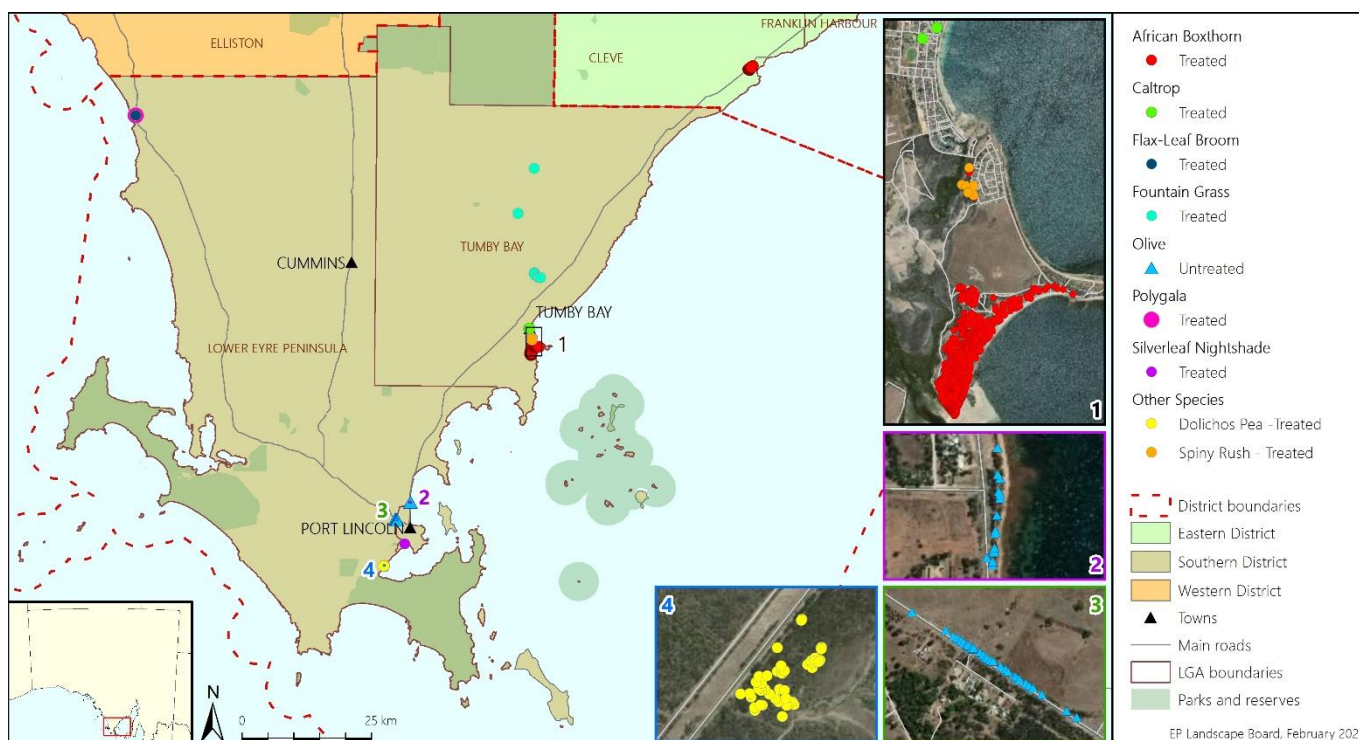


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 October to 31 December 2020

Local government engagement

- Meetings were held with local councils about their responsibilities with respect to Bridal Veil control.
- Discussions were held with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula regarding the Dolichos Pea control project at Tulka. A works approval was submitted and approved.

Communications and community engagement

- The Board released a [short film](#) about feral rabbit control, with the aim of generating awareness about the issue and encouraging individuals to implement some form of control. A [media release](#) was also developed and distributed at the same time as the film release, encouraging landholders to contact landscape officers to discuss coordinated rabbit control. The article was shown in the *Stock Journal* and Board staff were interviewed by ABC radio.



Photo 5: Video on Feral Rabbit control released in November 2020
(click image to follow link)

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Pest grass monitoring and control following any summer rainfall events. This will include monitoring for species such as Buffel Grass, Fountain Grass and African Lovegrass.
- Fox baiting and cat control programs will be undertaken at priority Hooded Plover nesting territories (STAR Project).

Other stewardship

Sub-program	Status
District level landscape management activities (coastal management, restoration, conservation, threatened species and ecological communities, citizen science etc.)	

For updates about delivery of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) across the region, including the Southern District, refer to the **Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects**.

Program highlights this period

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.

- Board staff coordinated more than 30 BirdLife Australia volunteers in the completion of the *National Hooded Plover Biennial Count* for southern Eyre Peninsula. Staff also assisted volunteers with data entry for the Biennial Count.
- On-going support was provided to volunteers and staff monitoring eight priority Hooded Plover nesting sites.
- With the aim of improving breeding success, appropriate interventions were implemented at a number of the priority Hooded Plover nesting sites to reduce disturbance. Planning and delivery of the intervention works was done working with local government, BirdLife Australia volunteers and private landholders. Works included fox control, temporary nest site management and remote sensing camera work.

Fire management

- Board staff assisted the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) with fire management by attending prescribed burns, attending wild fires in the region, and filling the Fire Duty Officer role. The collaboration between DEW and the EP Landscape Board has seen successful outcomes across all these areas of involvement.

Malleefowl monitoring

- Malleefowl monitoring was completed in Hicks Reserve near Tooligie. Thirty-four nest sites were monitored for activity, with data submitted to National Mallee Fowl Co-ordinator, for inclusion in National Mallee Fowl project. One active mound was found.

Acacia whibleyana

- Staff continue to monitor and water threatened *Acacia whibleyana* seedlings, which have germinated at a soil disturbance trial site. The soil disturbance trial project is being delivered in collaboration with University of Adelaide.

Marine debris survey

- A marine debris survey was completed at Bolingbroke, with data submitted to Tangaroa Blue for the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDII). This site, which has been surveyed quarterly by Board staff, is a control site for a long-term AMDI project surveying marine debris around Australia.



Photo 6: Remote sensing camera footage - fox approaching Hood Plover nest



Photo 7: Active Malleefowl mound found at Hincks Reserve

Local government engagement

- Discussions were held with Tumby Bay District Council (TBDC) and works approvals completed for priority intervention work at BirdLife Hooded Plover monitoring sites. Discussions with TBDC have been ongoing as Board staff work to obtain preapproval for any emergency intervention work that may be needed at Hooded Plover nesting sites to protect nests and possibly chicks.
- A presentation was given to the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula (DCLEP) staff and elected members at a Board meeting, and also at a DCLEP Council Meeting. The presentation highlighted the work the Board have undertaken recently in the DCLEP area.
- A presentation was also given to the Port Lincoln City Council (PLCC) staff and elected members at a Board meeting, highlighting the work the Board have undertaken recently in the PLCC area.

Communications and community engagement

- Communications with District Council of Tumby Bay, Tumby Bay Area School, Lipson Progress Association and Port Neill Progress Association on propagation of native seedlings in the school's nursery for community projects in the district.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Coordination of Hooded Plover territory monitoring across priority BirdLife Australia nesting territories will continue.

Grassroots Grants program

Photo 8:

Sub-program	Status
Support to grant applicants, monitoring of grants awarded and acquitted	

*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: Regional Projects**.*

Program highlights this period

From Little Things Big Things Grow

- The St Joseph's School Grassroots Grant project has commenced, with propagation of local native species by the middle school students (year 7 – 9, 150 students). Species being propagated include Sheoak, Eyre Peninsula Bluegum and Sugar Gum.

Iconic Birds & Wildlife Information Sign at Lipson Cove

- Keira Berryman, the successful applicant who was sponsored by the Lower Eyre Coastcare Association, has continued to impress Board staff as she commenced implementation of her project. Keira presented on her project and the biodiversity of Lipson Cove at the Youth Environment Council in Adelaide. Keira has also delivered education sessions to class groups at Ungarra Primary School and Cleve Area School.



Photo 9: Keira Berryman's display for the Youth Environment Council in Adelaide showcasing biodiversity of Lipson Cove

Local government engagement

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement

- Board staff have liaised with community groups regarding commencement of funded projects.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Staff will continue to work with successful grant recipients on the delivery of their projects.

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