

# Business Plan Achievement Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020-2021

1 October to 31 December 2020

## Western 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 Western District, and during the last quarter, of all Board-funded programs, including 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 all milestones.		On track to deliver most milestones. May be some delays.		Unlikely to meet milestones.
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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: 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 this period

- A *Grazing Grasslands Workshop* was held in October 2020 east of Elliston. Headlined by native grass experts Millie Nicholls and Anne Brown from the Mid North Grasslands Working Group, participants undertook a paddock walk learning basic plant ID techniques, created a plant herbarium, discussed rotational grazing techniques and increased their understanding of the benefits of grazing management and how it can improve their farming business and farming ecosystem.

## Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- [Media release](#) Grazing Grasslands Workshop.
- Social media post summarising the outcomes from the Grazing Grasslands Workshop.
- Promotion of Landscape Mixed Species and Soil Carbon Grants.
- Continued promotion of the Temporary Fencing Kit at Sticky Beak days and through email and phone.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Nothing to report.



Photo 1: Participants sampling grasses at the Grazing Grasslands Workshop, October 2020



Photo 2: Herbarium of native grasses and exotic species at the Grazing Grasslands Workshop, October, Elliston

## 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 Western 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 highlights this period

- **Water Affecting Activities Staff training**

All Western District authorised landscape officers received training to undertake assessments of Water Affecting Activity Permit applications and other water resources tasks.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Discussion were held with the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding a wetland proposal for a housing estate.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Expressions of interest will be sought from councils in the Western and Eastern Districts for a Water Sensitive Urban Design workshop to be held.

## 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 Western 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

- **Gazania** control was completed along Flinders Highway between Elliston and Port Kenny.

- **African Lovegrass, Buffel Grass and Innocent Weed** control was done along Eyre Highway between Penong and Koongawa.
- **African Boxthorn**
  - African Boxthorn control was implemented along Birdseye Highway between Elliston and Lock.
  - Follow up control was completed at Mount Wudinna Recreation Reserve, where 34 additional plants were controlled.
- **Boneseed**
  - Boneseed control was completed at Calca and Calpatanna Waterhole Conservation Park.
  - The annual survey of the western extent of Boneseed on Eyre Peninsula was undertaken. Only six very small Boneseed plants were found and removed during the survey. This shows the efficacy of continued Boneseed control work in this area.



*Buffel Grass plants near Koongawa*  
 Photo 3: November 2020 prior to treatment      Photo 4: January 2021 after treatment

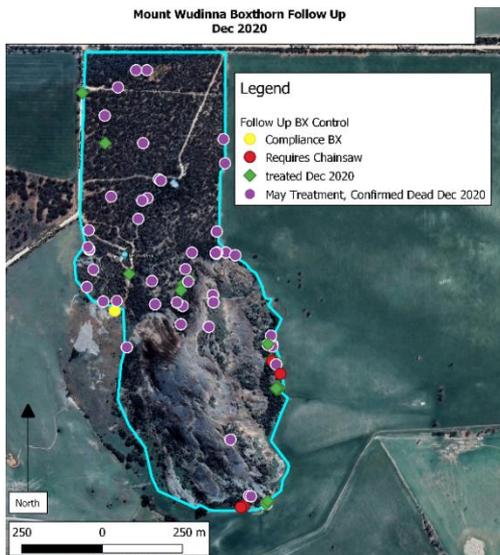


Photo 5: December follow up control of African Boxthorn at Mount Wudinna Recreation Reserve identified majority of previously treated plants (purple) dead and additional plants discovered (green) were subsequently controlled



Photo 6: Checking effectiveness of previous control work (done between October 2019 and May 2020) during follow up control at Mount Wudinna Recreation Reserve (December 2020)



Photo 7: Landscape officer undertaking annual survey and control of Boneseed for the western extent of Boneseed in Eyre Peninsula

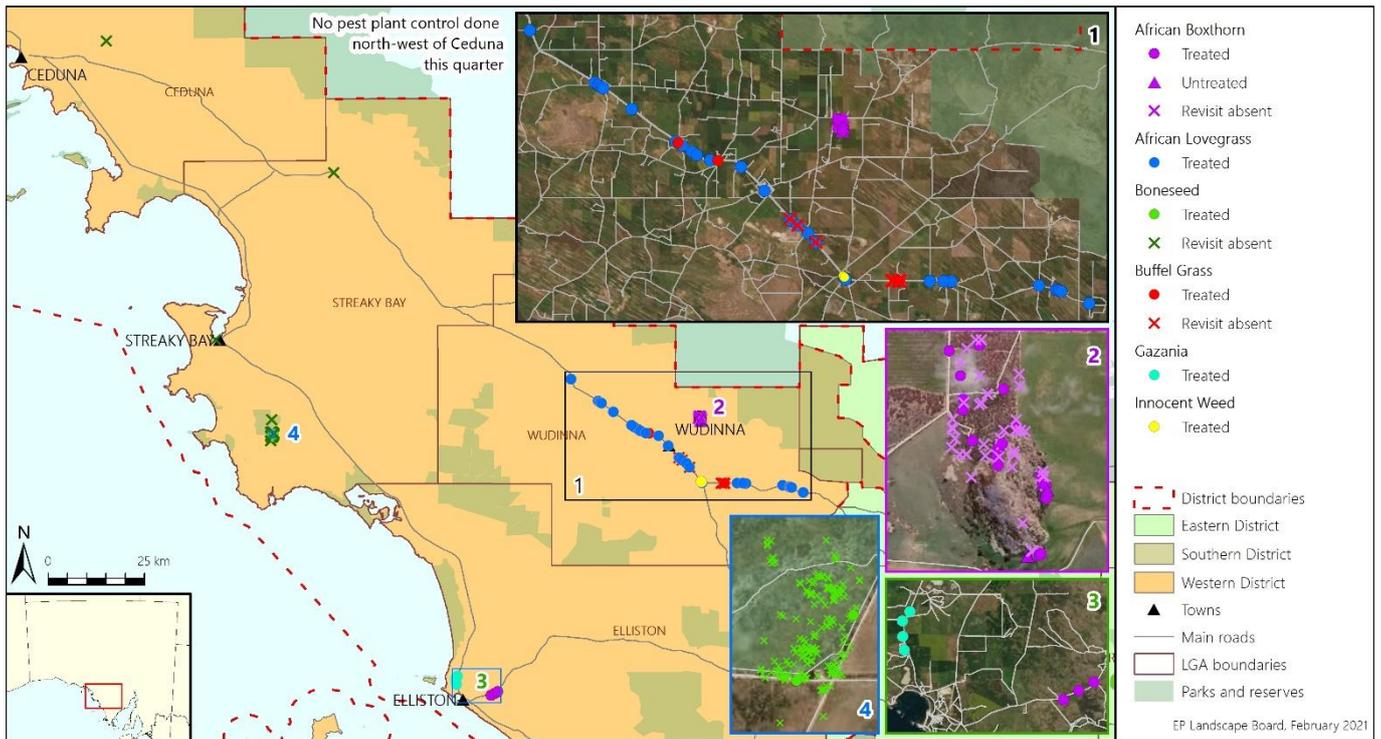


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 October to 31 December 2020

## Pest animals

### • Foxes

- The Board continues to supply fox baits to landholders in the Western District and field control enquiries.
- Staff contributed to the production of 1080 fox baits at Paney, for landholder distribution across Western Eyre Peninsula in 2020-21.

### • Rabbits

- Four samples from dead rabbits were submitted for RHDV rabbit calcivirus virus testing. Two samples were confirmed positive for RHDV2 strain.

### • Feral cats

- Felixer Grooming Trap trials at Venus Bay Conservation Park were ongoing. The Felixers are devices which are specifically engineered to target feral cats' grooming behaviour by squirting a measured dose of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) onto them as they pass in front of the devices. This toxin is then ingested when the cats groom themselves.



Photo 8: Felixer Grooming Trap set up at Blacks Head, Venus Bay

- **Training**

- Board staff represented the EP Landscape Board at the recent Vertebrate Pest Course hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and held in the Adelaide Hills.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Discussions were held with the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding undertaking a joint Gazania control trial around Gazania hot spots within the township of Streaky Bay, including in the Blancheport temperate saltmarsh area.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- **Gazania control:** There will be some focus on Gazania control, with the following works to be undertaken:
  - An educational article regarding Gazania control and planting of substitute species will be developed and published.
  - Gazania control trial sites will be established in the Streaky Bay area.
  - A Gazania control proposal will be developed and the District Council of Wudinna engaged with the view to undertaking cooperative control in this area.
- Fox Baiting Group days will be held across Western Eyre Peninsula.
- Discussions will be held with District Council of Wudinna regarding the potential to work on African Boxthorn control at Polda Rock, and some remaining trees at Mount Wudinna Recreation Reserve which will require chainsaw work to remove them.

## 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 Western District, 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

#### Sandhill Dunnarts

- In an excellent opportunity to collaborate with the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board, the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Far West Languages Centre staff and Dr John Read (University of Adelaide), EP Landscape Board staff provided cross-regional support for Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) trapping at Immarna (AW Landscape Board region).

## Malleefowl

- Malleefowl mound surveys were completed at Pinkawillinie Conservation Park and Lock. Of the 77 mounds surveyed, none were found to be active this year.
- Following a recent prescribed burn in the Kulliparu Conservation Park, remote sensing cameras have been set up at a number of Malleefowl mounds within both burnt and unburnt areas. Malleefowl activity is being monitored via remote sensing camera at these mounds, with the aim of improving our understanding of fire impacts on this vulnerable species, with the long-term view to informing fire management decisions. Analysis of the first round of data from this monitoring was completed this quarter.



Photo 9: Landscape officer releasing a Thistle Island Bilby at Venus Bay Conservation Park, delivering on the Venus Bay Greater Bilby Supplementation Project



Photo 10: Interaction recorded on remote sensing camera network between Venus Bay Bilby and Thistle Island Bilby within the first four days of supplementation release. The Thistle Island Bilby has a transmitter on its tail. Subsequent interactions at another two sites have been recorded over the last three months since the release

## Bilbies

- The Venus Bay Greater Bilby Supplementation Project (EP Landscape Board and Department for Environment and Water co-funded project) was successfully completed. Twenty three Greater Bilbies (*Macrotis lagotis*) were translocated from Thistle Island to Venus Bay Conservation Park to supplement the Venus Bay population. Ongoing monitoring assessing post-release survival is currently underway.

## Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Regular updates and Microsoft Teams meetings have been held with the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation for planning potential joint projects for 2021.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Nothing to report.

# Grassroots Grants program

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 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: Regional Projects**.*

## Program highlights this period

### Hillsea Station contributing to the restoration of coastal woodlands on Lower Western Eyre Peninsula project

- This project, being implemented by a landholder in the [WildEyre Region](#), is now underway. The aim of the project is to establish biodiverse Sheoak woodland revegetation over 10 hectares, and will contribute to the connectivity of a larger restoration program designed to buffer and protect the temperate coastal saltmarsh community at Lake Hamilton.

## Local government engagement for this period

### Whirlpool Wetland recovery and visitor management project

- A meeting was held with the District Council of Streaky Bay, EP landscape officer, and the EP Landscape Board’s water resources assessment officer to assist with planning on-ground works for the ‘Whirlpool Project’ south of Streaky Bay.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Social media post about the Whirlpool Project.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Staff will provide ongoing support for the Grassroots Grants Program, working with successful grant recipients on the delivery of their projects.



Photo 11: Social media post, Whirlpool Project

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