

Business Plan Achievement Report

4th Quarter 2020-2021

1 April to 30 June 2021

Regional Projects



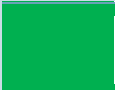


About

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's [Business Plan for 2020-21](#) 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 *Business Plan Achievement Report* provides an update on broader program management and planning across the Eyre Peninsula region in regards to our core programs; information about implementing the Water Allocation Plan, managing Water Affecting Activities and delivery of regional Federally-funded projects; and 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.
--	-----------------------------------	--	--	--	------------------------------------

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.

Contents

Sustainable agriculture	1
Delivering the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services.....	1
Delivering the region's Regenerative Agriculture Project.....	2
Delivering the Eastern Eyre Soil project.....	5
Water resources management	6
Implementation of the Water Allocation Plan (WAP).....	6
Groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) monitoring.....	7
Water Affecting Activities (WAA) processed and managed.....	7
Pest plant and animal control	9
Other stewardship	10
Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) Project.....	10
Delivering the RLP Fire Recovery Program	17
Delivering other regional scale landscape management activities	18
<i>Carbon + Biodiversity pilot</i>	19
<i>Eyes on Eyre</i>	20
<i>Nomination of 'Sheoak Woodlands over calcrete' to be listed under the EPBC Act</i>	20
Grassroots Grants program	21
Leadership and accountability	21
Development of the Landscape Plan, Business Plan and other supporting documents.....	22
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on Landscape Plan priorities and contractual obligations (including Biodiversity Monitoring Program).....	23
Referrals (including stormwater management).....	24
Support to EP Landscape Board and committees, budget, annual report and Board minutes	24

Sustainable agriculture

Sub-program	Status
Delivering the RLP Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services	
Delivering the RLP Regenerative Agriculture Project	
Delivering the Eastern Eyre Soil Project	

Delivering the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) 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 RALF services are contracted to Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP).

Program highlights this period

- The AIR EP team attended and participated in the Eyre Peninsula (EP) Landscape Board Staff forum, providing an update on The RALF and RAP programs and how we could collaborate.
- The RALF has been working to promote the EP Landscape Board Grassroots Grants 2021-2022 funding round to farmer and community groups, which opened during the quarter.
- The RALF has continued to provide support for the AIR EP Medium and Low Rainfall Research Development and Extension committee meetings.
- Working with landscape officers and the expert Dr Chris McDonough support has been provide for the EP Landscape Board Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project funded by the National Landcare Program. Filming has occurred to produce a short series of film clips on identification and management of Mallee seeps on the Eyre Peninsula. More information about this project can be found in the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Eastern District. 4th Quarter 2020-2021*.
- The RALF is participating in the *National Grower Group Collective: Building Australian Agricultural Extension Skill Program*, facilitated by Jeannette Long and Danielle England. This National Landcare Funded Program aims at building extension and facilitation skills of project officers, giving them access to specialists in the field while applying learnings to on-ground extension work. The RALF is already applying learnings in the planning of activities for farmers.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The RALF supported the AIR EP Sustainable Agriculture Officer at the Cleve Area School Crop Science Investigators field day, and gave a presentation to 60 year 6 and 7 students on acidic soils on the Eyre Peninsula and how to identify these.
- Participating in the Red Cross Drought Support Forum, the RALF has provided feedback to the Red Cross Drought Recovery Program on how it can best support communities impacted by slow-onset disasters such as drought.



Photo 1:

AIR EP Sustainable Agriculture Officer presenting to Cleve Area School students at the Crop Science Investigator field day on the prevalence of soil acidity on the Eyre Peninsula

- The RALF also promoted and supported the delivery of other events, including:
 - supporting the delivery of the Regenerative Ag Forum held on 8 June, with guest presenter Dr Christine Jones,
 - promoting and delivery support for the AIR EP Members' Days "Optimising post-emergent herbicides" held in Ungarra and Wudinna with a total of 77 attending, and
 - promoting the Regenerative Agriculture Program Farming Acid Soils Champions workshops.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Promotion and support of the Regenerative Agriculture Program small grants for mixed species and soil carbon.
- Assisting farmer groups/ag bureau groups with the coordination and organisation of their in-season crop walks.

Delivering the region's Regenerative Agriculture Project

The [Regenerative Agriculture Project \(RAP\)](#) on Eyre Peninsula is a five year (2018-2023) program funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. 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. The project supports farming systems groups and individual farmers to implement best practice management, through extension activities, pH mapping, pH testing, demonstration sites, forums and monitoring sites. Results are showcased to the broader farming community. The program engages farmers across the Eyre Peninsula through paddock based demonstrations to reduce sub-soil constraints, increase soil organic carbon, and increase soil cover using winter and summer mixed species, thereby reducing nutrient and organic carbon loss. 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

• Regenerative Agriculture Forum

A Regenerative Agriculture Forum was held at Cleve on 8 June 2021. The forum was well received with contributions from a number of the small grant holders about what they have done with the multi-species and soil carbon demonstrations. There were about 10 small grant holders present, and about 45 attendees all up.

- Two landholders shared in depth their findings and thoughts about regenerative agriculture and they fielded questions from their presentations.
 - The AIR EP Sustainable Agriculture Officer gave a presentation on the small grants, including outlining the aim of the program, tips and tricks, and also some interesting results from a couple of selected demonstration sites.
 - Speaker Dr Christine Jones spoke about regenerative agriculture and David Davenport presented local findings on soil carbon and soil modifications.
 - Both speakers then engaged with a question and answer session which was very well received, and good feedback was collected.
- The report presenting results of soil testing conducted to gain further background information on dry saline land 'magnesia patches' was completed. The report was commissioned under the EP Landscape Board's Sustainable Agriculture Program in conjunction with the Murraylands and Riverlands Landscape Board to develop a project to address these 'magnesia patch' issues.



Photo 2: Dr Christine Jones presenting at the Regenerative Agriculture Forum at Cleve, June 2021

Photo 3: Emergence of winter multi-species pasture established in 2021



- Participated in the *National Grower Group Collective – Building Australian Agricultural Extension Skill Program*, facilitated by Jeanette Long and Danielle England (funded by National Landcare Program).

Mixed species crops and pastures for soil management program

- All monitoring reports were received from demonstration sites. Generally, there was some good data collected. Following recent rainfall, some of the new sites have germinated already.
- A case study on Damien Elson's mixed species demonstration has been produced and is ready for distribution.

Soil carbon demonstration sites

- While some of the soil carbon sites struggled in the dry conditions on eastern EP in 2020, some sites were still showing good results in the second year following the treatments.
- Some of the established sites in 2021 have already submitted early stage data.

Mallee seeps project

- An 'NDVI' (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) desktop analysis was conducted looking at Mallee seeps on a property in the Midgee area near Cowell, and results reported on. This area has generally low rainfall, with high variability in terms of timing, which impacts on the farming system. NDVI is used to measure plant cover and / or plant vigour and could be used to help identify seep areas. While the report showed limitations of a desktop-only methodology in this environment, a subsequent site visit identified an additional seep area, which will hopefully continue to be monitored into the future.

Restoring soil pH project

- The second part of the Farming Acid Soils Champions Workshop series took place at Cummins (current area) and Cleve/Eastern Eyre (emerging acid soils area) on 25 and 28 June 2021 respectively. These were presented and facilitated by Brett Masters from Rural Solutions and Josh Telfer from AIR EP. Both workshops had four participants each, and attendance was a mix of those who had attended the first part of the workshop series, and also new participants. The focus for this second part was more on mapping, economics, decision making tools, and pH stratification from no-till and where to next for management.



Photo 4: Farming Acid Soils Champions workshop at Cleve, June 2021

Communications and community engagement for this period

- The *Farmers Connect Newsletter, Edition 12* was compiled and distributed in May 2021.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The next round of applications for the multi-species grants and soil carbon/soil modification grants will open from 5 July 2021 to 24 August 2021.
- Supporting the small grant holders with their monitoring of newly established crops and pastures.

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

- **Monitoring the impact of summer cover crops on soil moisture**
Soil samples comparing soil moisture levels under existing summer covers were compared to adjacent areas under stubble. Taken at three periods commencing in late January through to germination in late June samples were collected from four sites.
- **Improving pasture growth to increase soil cover**
In this region low residual soil cover from volunteer pastures has been a major issue increasing erosion risk in subsequent crops. Grants and technical support have been provided to landholders to trial mixed species pasture systems (420 hectares).
- **Cover species on drift areas**
Cereal rye has been used by several landholders to maximise soil cover.
- **Ameliorating previously eroded areas**
Levelling, ripping and delving has been undertaken across 430 hectares.



Photo 5: Sandhill blowout on project participant's property



Photo 6: The same sandhill following remediation.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Individual site visits and technical advice were provided to participating landholders.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Ameliorating previously eroded areas
Germination counts will be taken to determine if post ripping treatment (rollers, etc.) or direction of seeding across rip lines has had any impact on plant numbers.
- Monitoring the impact of summer cover crops on soil moisture
Differences in soil moisture are currently being analysed. Samples from 3 of the 4 sites are also being sent for soil nitrogen to assess if summer covers had any impact on nitrogen levels.
- Extension
Most sites will be visited by grower groups in September/October to extend the results of the project.

Water resources management

Sub-program	Status
Implementation of the Water Allocation Plan (WAP)	
Groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) monitoring	
Water Affecting Activities (WAA) processed and managed	

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

- Water allocation implementation project team meeting number eleven was held.

Local government engagement for this period

- A presentation was delivered to the District Council of Elliston providing an overview of the Bramfield ground water lens status and trends.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Assistance was provided to District Council of Elliston with the drafting of water wise messaging for an article to be published in the local newsletter. The article included information on the current low ground water level status, and how to use water wisely.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue progress towards the delivery of Water Allocation Plan implementation project milestones.
- Annual water allocations to be announced.

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 Plan 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 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

- Staff have finalised a plan to improve and expand the monitoring program for Wetland sites. This monitoring will continue in 2021 and involve the use of a drone.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Finalise the monitoring for the GDE Wetland sites.

Water Affecting Activities (WAA) processed and managed

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](#) and the region's Water Resources Assessment Officer is always available to advise and help.

Program highlights this period

- Across the region the following work related to Water Affecting Activities (WAA) has been undertaken by Board staff:
 - Nine WAA permit applications were received and eight approved. These include permit approvals for vehicle crossings, dam construction, and saline drainage to help manage waterlogging and salinity issues.
 - Four inspections of WAA completed works were undertaken.
 - Two active compliance issues are being addressed.
 - 211 water salinity/pH tests were completed for landholders.
 - 23 WAA enquiries were received and addressed.
- Cummins Wanilla Basin Drainage Management Plan
Continued to work with a consultant on delivering educational material.

- **Cummins Wanilla Basin Drainage Project Grants**

The Board is administering \$250,000 in funding from the South Australian Government’s Regional Growth Fund, which is available through a grants program for landholders to complete work that upgrades and maintains existing drainage infrastructure in the Cummins Wanilla Basin. Two projects were completed this quarter.

- Regional Authorised Officers are now undertaking assessments of WAA Permits, WAA compliance, site visits and other water resources tasks, with the support of the Water Resources Assessment Officer based in our Port Lincoln office.
- Construction of the ElectraNet Transmission line from Whyalla to Port Lincoln has commenced. Further WAA permits for the construction works have been processed and the Water Resources Assessment Officer has been collaborating with the principle contractor with regard to WAA for the project.

Local government engagement for this period

- District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula: Collaboration on issues involving a rural living housing development and flooding on Richardson Road in Boston.
- District Council of Elliston: Meeting and assistance with stormwater upgrade involving re-development of a wetland and transfer of excess stormwater to a wetland outside of town.

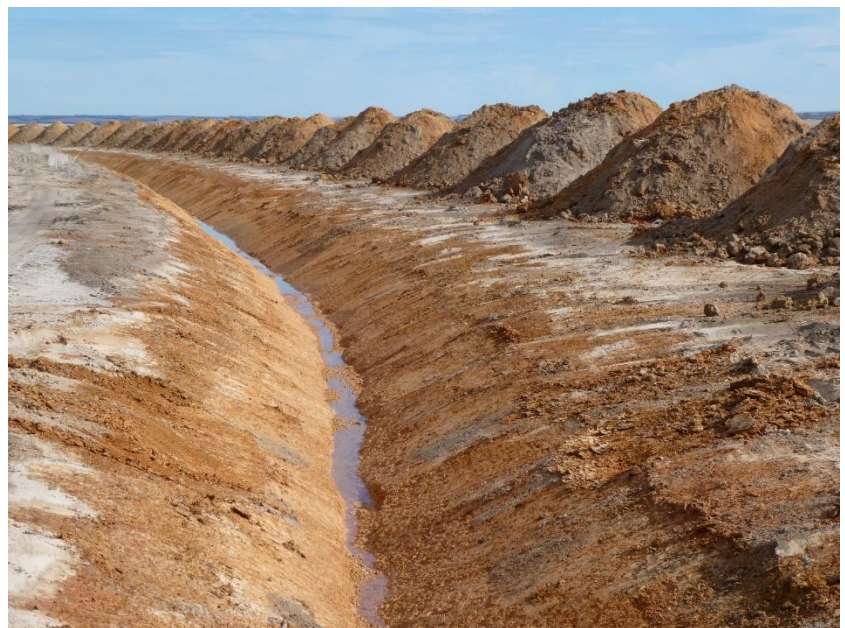


Photo 7: Photo of a completed salinity drain taken during a completion of works site visit

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Port Lincoln Primary School: Two workshops were presented for the year 7 science program, on the topic of Eyre Peninsula Water Supply. A demonstration testing farm water samples for salinity to see if it is safe for sheep to drink was also given.

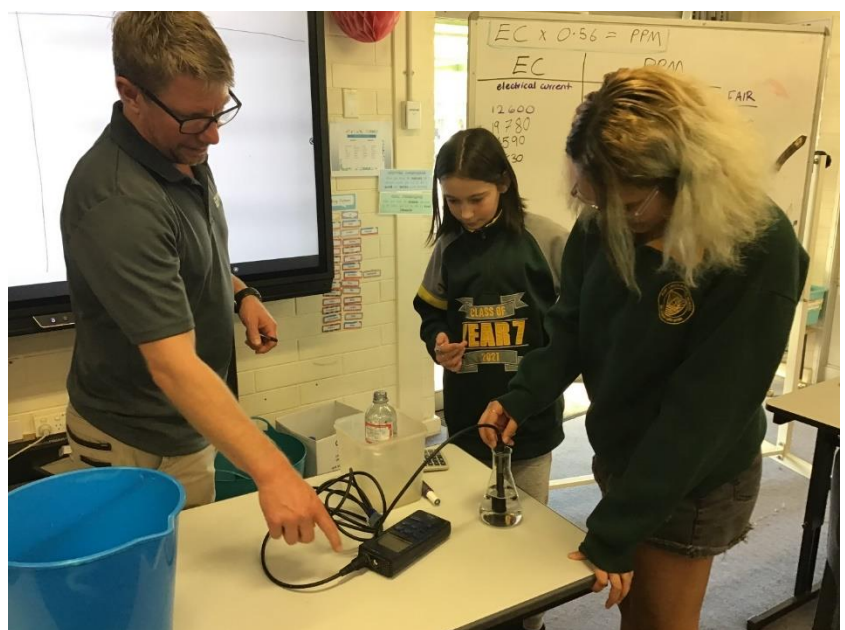


Photo 8: Port Lincoln Primary School science workshop on water. Testing a farm water sample to see if it is safe for sheep to drink.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- WAA permit application processing.
- WAA compliance cases investigated.
- Completion of WAA works inspections.
- Regional water testing undertaken and support provided.
- WAA enquiries fielded and responses provided.
- Work with local government on any WAA / field based water resource issue.
- Cummins Wanilla Basin Drainage Project Grants: Round 3 grants.

Pest plant and animal control

Sub-program	Status
Pest management plans	

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 no limited to:

- *Higher level progress towards pest management plans implementation and review.*
- *Development of district actions plans.*
- *Delivery of cross district control programs. .*

*Implementation of actions identified in the current twenty one pest management plans is ongoing. Please refer to the **Pest plants and animals sections** in the district [Business Plan Achievement Reports](#) for key progress, operational activities and achievements.*

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

- There has been continued progress on updating all twenty-one pest management plans. This has included updating information as a result of updating the risk assessment matrix and acquiring comment from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Biosecurity. The risk assessment is conducted to determine the risk different pests pose in the Eyre Peninsula Landscape.
- The writing of annual district action plans has also started. These are being written to assist operational staff undertake different priority control activities for different pests in each district.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue to progress updating pest management plans.
- Continue to progress writing annual action plans.

Other stewardship

Sub-program	Status
Delivering the RLP Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Project (STAR)	
Delivering the RLP Fire Recovery Program	
Other regional scale landscape management activities (coastal management, restoration, conservation, threatened species and ecological communities, blue carbon, citizen science etc.)	

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

Eastern District

Saltmarshes

- Support was provided to the Crown Lands Office to develop signs about responsible off-road vehicle use which are to be installed at the edge of the Mullaquana residential area.
- Seven hundred and forty hectares (740 ha) of good condition saltmarsh on Crown land south of the Cowleds Landing shacks has been fenced and signs installed to protect it from off-road four-wheel drive and motorbike damage that is spreading along the coastline from Whyalla to Cowleds Landing.
- The development of the Arno Bay culvert at Cowleys Road has been completed. The culvert has been installed to improve hydrological flows and tidal connection to stranded coastal saltmarsh. It is expected the will result in improvement in the saltmarsh vegetation condition.
- Photopoint monitoring sites have been established at the Eight-Mile Creek Beach track-closure site and Arno Bay Cowleys Road culvert site. Photopoint monitoring will be conducted at these points at fixed intervals to monitor the change in vegetation arising from the on-ground works which have been implemented at these sites to protect the saltmarshes and / or improve the environmental conditions at the sites.



Photo 9: New signs for newly fenced revegetation area South of Cowleds Landing

- Sediment Elevation Table (SET) monitoring was carried out by landscape officers at Cowleds Landing (Eight-Mile Creek) as part of the blue carbon sediment coring and carbon accumulation monitoring project led by University of Adelaide researchers. Refer to the Blue Carbon section later in this report for further information.
- Site visits, scoping of works, and initiating of approvals for 2021-22 projects has been undertaken, including proposed works for Murripi Beach and Eight-Mile Creek Beach areas.



*Photo 10:
New culvert installed to restore tidal flows to supratidal samphire on the north side and supratidal and intertidal saltmarsh on the south side of Cowleys Road, Amo Bay*



*Photo 11:
Photo point established to monitor revegetation after track closures and ripping work completed at Eight-Mile Creek Beach*



*Photo 12:
Sediment Elevation Table monitoring being carried out by Landscape Officer at Cowleds Landing (Eight-Mile Creek). Data collected will contribute to a report by Adelaide University on blue carbon stocks, comparing this site to other sites in our region and other regions of South Australia*



Photo 13: Doug Fotheringham and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) Rangers identifying *Tecticornia flabelliformis*, a sapphire species listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*, Acraman Creek Conservation Park.

Western District

Saltmarshes

- Saltmarsh profile surveys were completed at Acraman Creek Conservation Park. The saltmarsh profile surveys were repeat surveys of historical saltmarsh profile transects. These surveys, which are conducted at 10 to 15 year intervals, will provide insight into saltmarsh migration over this extended time period. The intervals between surveys are this long as saltmarsh is slow growing, resulting in slow rates of change and movement, even with sometimes rapidly changing environmental conditions.
- Sediment core soil sampling to assess sediment carbon stocks was also completed at Acraman Creek Conservation Park. This sampling complements the sampling completed on Eastern Eyre Peninsula and will help make it possible to draw comparisons between carbon stocks in the two areas. Carbon stocks were sampled in supratidal sapphire, intertidal sapphire and mangrove vegetation.

Beach nesting birds

- Cat trapping and remote camera monitoring undertaken at the Point Brown Hooded Plover nesting territory was completed in May 2021. One cat was trapped and euthanized during the trapping. Remote cameras will remain on-site to detect and capture evidence of feral predators in the breeding site area.



Photo 14: Cat caught in cage trap at Point Brown

- Remote camera monitoring and the use of Felixers for feral predator monitoring and control is ongoing at Venus Bay Conservation Park. This is being implemented to contribute to the protection of threatened species in the park, including beach nesting birds. Cat trapping occurred over a two week period within the park during May 2021.
- Targeted feral cat and fox trapping was undertaken at Seagull Lake in the buffer areas of known Hooded Plover breeding sites.
- Two shorebird workshops were held with Miltaburra Area School students and teachers during May 2021. The workshops introduced participants to the four resident shorebirds found on local beaches of the Eyre Peninsula, their adaptations, habitat, nesting and breeding characteristics. Threats to breeding habitat and migratory shorebirds were also discussed. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a role play activity to demonstrate threats to shorebirds, create dough models of a Hooded Plover and create a Hooded Plover Habitat using natural materials.



Photo 15: Miltaburra Area School 3-4 class acting out a role play demonstrating threats to the Hooded Plover



Photo 16: Remote camera monitoring with volunteer assistance at Venus Bay Conservation Park

Southern District

Beach nesting birds

- **Fox baiting – Tumby Bay**
Landscape officers worked with seven landholders to implement a coordinated fox baiting program on private properties adjacent to more than 15 km of coastline south of Tumby Bay. Baits were laid at 18 locations, and were taken from eight of these, some more than once. Repeated take of bait from a given location is an indication of high fox numbers in the area. The coordinated fox baiting program was implemented to benefit six known Hooded Plover nesting territories in this area, including two priority nesting territories which are monitored for the STAR project.



Photo 17: Fox captured by remote sensing camera as it approaches a mounded bait station at Second Creek



Photo 18: Landscape officer erecting large box bait warning signs adjacent to baiting area (Tumby Bay)



Photo 19: A fox trap with the Hooded Plover nesting territory in background, with prints heading over the dune (Bolingbroke)



Photo 20: Eyre Peninsula Landscape Officer ready to fumigate fox den entrance hole

- Fox trapping - Bolingbroke**
 During the Tumby Bay targeted fox baiting program one area, Bolingbroke, was identified where there was a lack of uptake of baits. Hooded Plover nesting territory monitoring was however still capturing fox presence on the beach and dunes in this area, so a cage trapping program was implemented as an alternative form of fox control. Working with the adjoining sharefarmer, two cage traps were set for a three week period. A fox was caught but escaped four times. The sharefarmer is keen to try again to catch the fox once seeding is completed.
- Fox baiting and trapping – Port Neill**
 At a priority Hooded Plover nesting territory at Port Neill, a decision was made to encourage local landholders to implement fox control to manage the threat of fox predation, and give this pair’s chick, from their fourth nesting attempt, every chance in reaching the fledging stage. A combination of fox baiting and trapping was planned and delivered with two landholders over a 20 week period. Sixty fox baits were used.

 This intervention had a successful outcome. The Hooded Plover chick survived to 35 days of age, when it was reported to have successfully fledged. Chicks are particularly vulnerable to fox predation during their first 35 days as they are unable to fly and escape from predators.
- Fox den destruction**
 In June, landscape officers completed fox den destruction from Cape Euler to Redcliffs, south of Tumby Bay. Along the coastal reserve, adjacent Hooded Plover priority breeding territories, 10 fox dens were located and fumigated. The impact of this intervention will be monitored during the next breeding season.

 Hooded Plover nesting territory monitoring will commence again for the 2021-2022 breeding season in late July/August. As part of this monitoring presence/absence of foxes on the beach will be recorded. Fox dens that were mapped and treated will also be checked at this time to ensure they have not been re-opened.
- Hooded Plover volunteer training workshop**
 A four hour training workshop with volunteers that have expressed an interest in being trained in monitoring for BirdLife’s Hooded Plover territory monitoring program was held at the Redcliffs Camp south of Tumby Bay. The training workshop was attended by 16 volunteers and delivered by a trained Eyre Peninsula Landscape officer.
- Hooded Plover school workshop**
 The local landscape officer ran a workshop with 20 junior primary students from Tumby Bay Area School to teach them about the

plight of the Hooded Plover. The workshop involved role-play that highlighted the challenges of a Hoodie's nesting season. Each student had previously made a mask depicting one of the "characters" in the Hooded Plover story. Wearing these they acted out their roles as the landscape officer narrated the stories, with different scenarios and threats.

A sunny autumn afternoon made it possible for the role-play to be acted out on the local beach, which reinforced how difficult it is for Hooded Plovers to successfully breed and that Hoodies are always on the 'look-out' for threats. The importance of camouflage for the survival of both the eggs and chicks was emphasised throughout the role-play, but it was also explained it is sometimes just not enough to protect the eggs and chicks.

Saltmarshes

- **Revegetation and remediation of saltmarsh**
Eleven hectares of revegetation has been completed at LeBrun's property, south Tumby Bay. The revegetation will provide a buffer to, and enhance the stranded coastal saltmarsh. Works included 16 kms of direct seeding and planting of 100 tubestock.
- **Saltmarsh access control**
Installation of 1.3 kms of stock-proof fencing has been completed to prevent stock and vehicles from accessing 72 ha of coastal saltmarsh at McCallum's property, north of Tumby Bay.
- **Rabbit baiting**
To reduce grazing and disturbance pressure caused by rabbits on the native vegetation buffering and supporting the coastal saltmarsh ecosystem at two localities, 264 ha was controlled for rabbits through baiting with poisoned oats.



Photo 21: Hooded Plover volunteer training workshop participants viewing beach nesting birds from a distance



Photo 22: "Hooded Plovers" (students) creating scrapes during a role-play with Tumby Bay Area School



Photo 23: Landscape officer laying poison oats for rabbit control at the Second Creek saltmarsh area

Local government engagement for this period

Eastern District

- Ongoing liaison with District Council of Cleve regarding installation of the new culvert on Cowleys Road in Arno Bay.

Western District

- Engagement with the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding future weed control works around local temperate saltmarsh areas.

Southern District

- The Tumby Bay District Council were contacted and informed about the integrated fox and rabbit control work both at Port Neill and south of Tumby Bay.



Photo 24: Kids had fun playing games and being creative while learning all about beach-nesting birds from a local landscape officer at our Whyalla Library school holiday sessions

Communications and community engagement for this period

Eastern District

- As part of the Whyalla Library school holiday sessions, two Beach Nesting Birds learning sessions were held, together with a mini display (20 April).
- We completed the making of a [short film](#), *Keeping to the Tracks*, about the responsible use of vehicles, 4WD and off-road motorbikes in and around saltmarshes. The film is published on YouTube, and publicised through a [media release](#). The making of the film was a collaborative engagement with Whyalla Motor Cycle Club and Whyalla and Districts 4WD Club.
- ABC Radio Eyre Peninsula interviewed a Whyalla-based landscape officer about the upcoming Saltmarsh Discovery Tours for Cuttlefest and Northern Eyre Peninsula Park of the Month in July.

Western District

- The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) was engaged to assist in the completion of saltmarsh profile surveys in April 2021. FWCAC Rangers assisted Coastal Protection Board staff with conducting



Photo 25: [Keeping to the Tracks](#), a new YouTube video released urging off-road enthusiasts, 4WDs and motorbikes to respect coastal saltmarshes

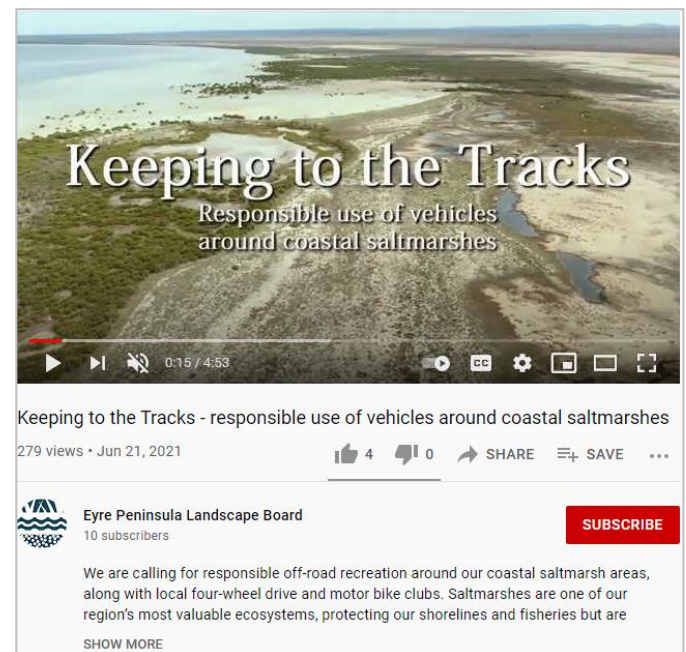


Photo 26: Social media post promoting the release of [Keeping to the Tracks](#)

30 m x 30 m quadrat surveys in saltmarsh vegetation and improved skills in saltmarsh species identification. They also assisted University of Adelaide staff with carbon sediment sampling.

- Engagement with local area schools to coordinate shorebird workshops and extension activities, including a field trip to a local beach and a school assembly performance.

Southern District

- An article was written for BirdLife Australia's [Word about the Hood, Edition 25](#), promoting the STAR Hooded Plover monitoring and intervention work being done on Eyre Peninsula.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

Region

- Hooded Plover nesting territory monitoring for the 2021-2022 breeding season will recommence at 15 sites across the region.

Eastern District

- Site visits, scoping and initiating approvals for 2021-22 projects including proposed works for Murripi Beach and Eight-Mile Creek Beach areas.

Western District

- Feral Cat control in Venus Bay Conservation Park.
- Pest Plant control around the Baird Bay samphire site.

Delivering the 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

- The program has been delivered within scope, with the fourth quarterly report for 2020-21 submitted to the Australian Government. An extension to the project for the 2021-22 financial year has also been approved to assist achieve on ground actions in the most appropriate manner.
- Overabundant herbivore (kangaroo), rabbit, fox and cat control is being undertaken on a monthly basis by a qualified contractor. 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

- Continue overabundant herbivore (kangaroo), rabbit, fox and cat control.
- Continue to support landholders to replace heritage agreement fencing burnt in the fires.

Delivering other regional scale landscape management activities

Program highlights this period

Blue Carbon

- An across-agency Blue Carbon Group held its inaugural meeting. The group has representatives from DEW, Landscapes SA, PIRSA-SARDI (South Australian Research and Development Institute), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SA and SA Water, and has been formed to provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia](#) (2020-25).
- A team of EP Landscape Board officers, University of Adelaide scientists, staff from the Department for Environment and Water's Coast and Marine Branch, National Parks and Wildlife Services SA (NPWSSA) rangers from the Far West Coast, FWCAC rangers, and local surveyors, undertook saltmarsh profiling and sediment core sampling in the saltmarshes and mangroves in Acraman Creek Conservation Park.

The sediment core sampling was done so that carbon stocks stored in the saltmarsh and mangrove sediments, often referred to as blue carbon, can be estimated. Sediment core samples were taken in supratidal samphire, intertidal samphire and mangrove vegetation. Using this sampling in conjunction with the saltmarsh profile surveys, it will be possible to estimate blue carbon stocks associated with specific vegetation types.

This sampling complements the sampling completed on Eastern Eyre Peninsula and will make it possible to draw comparisons between carbon stocks in the two areas, and in other saltmarsh areas in SA. This data will provide information on the potential for these ecosystems at different localities to store (sequester) additional carbon if actively managed for that purpose.

- Sediment Elevation Table (SET) monitoring was carried out by landscape officers at Cowleds Landing (Eight-Mile Creek) and Tumby Bay as part of the blue carbon sediment coring and carbon accumulation monitoring project led by University of Adelaide researchers.

Latest saltmarsh profiled in region

THE profiling of saltmarsh communities across Eyre Peninsula is providing scientists with a better understanding of species within the saltmarsh and changes to sites over time.

Saltmarsh profiling is taking place at 11 sites, with the latest survey completed at Acraman Creek - near Smoky Bay - as part of a baseline data comparison of the condition of sites.

The profiling is nearing the halfway mark with Acraman Creek the fifth survey to be completed as part of the Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Project, supported by Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (EPLB) through the federal government's National Landcare Program.

EPLB staff were joined in the field by Adelaide University scientists, local surveyors, Far West Coast rangers and staff from the Department for Environment and Water's Coast and Marine branch.

They worked together to collect information, including vegetation type, vegetation height and density, land height, evidence of animal presence and any signs of disturbance.

EPLB landscape officer Alex Fraser said saltmarshes were a critically important vegetation community.

"Many are supporting early stages of marine species

and provide important feeding areas for many shorebirds.

"These surveys are really important to help us to manage the more than 3000 kilometres of saltmarsh coastline across the Eyre Peninsula."

Results are being analysed with indications revealing some sites have changed lit-

tle in 25 years since they were previously surveyed, while others are showing more significant changes.

The study of the saltmarsh sites was shedding new light on the influence of vegetation types and saltmarsh on carbon stock in South Australia.

The results from the western Eyre Peninsula sites will add to the results from 181 sediment core samples taken at Mount Young, Franklin Harbour and Tumby Bay sites last year. A final report for all sediment sample sites will be undertaken once the western Eyre Peninsula sediment analysis is complete.



SURVEY: A saltmarsh community at Acraman Creek, near Smoky Bay. Photo: Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

Photo 27: Port Lincoln Times article about the saltmarsh profiling and blue carbon sampling completed at Acraman Creek

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

- Ongoing discussions have been had with representatives of the Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) and advice has been provided around pilot delivery.
- Staff had discussions with twenty four different farmers about the pilot and undertook site visits to sixteen of these properties to provide more in-depth technical advice. As a result at least ten applications were made to the Australian Government which is double the minimum we were aiming for.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Communication activities were extensive for this pilot to try and get farmers aware of the opportunity. Two [media releases](#) were prepared, one radio interview undertaken and six social media stories posted.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- If some applicants are successful (we should find out in July) we will continue to support them through the pilot process.



Photo 28: Brian Foster looking at his possible revegetation site



Photo 29: Bill Nosworthy looking at his possible revegetation site

Eyes on Eyre

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 staff submitted an expression of interest and then a subsequent application to the Landscapes SA Landscape Priorities Fund. The application was titled "Eyes on Eyre – protecting Eyre Peninsula's coastal environment" and requested \$1.5 million over two years. The application was unfortunately unsuccessful.

Local government engagement for this period

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

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue to liaise with coastal councils to assist them deliver camping node infrastructure upgrades.
- Continue to liaise with DEW about another possible funding opportunity for Eyes on Eyre.

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 have continued to respond to further information requests from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment concerning the listing.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Respond to any further queries from Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment staff concerning the application.

Grassroots Grants program

Sub-program	Status
Grassroots Grants program established, evaluated and awarded	

*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 reports.*

Program highlights this period

- Round 1 grassroots grants projects for the 2020-21 all concluded on 30 June 2021. Some of the highlights from these projects are included in the district reports.
- Round 2 of the Grassroots grants program for 2021-22 opened for applications this quarter. The Board received a range of enquiries, with 19 applications received by the 23 June closing date. The grant program was promoted extensively through targeted e-newsletters, media releases and social media messaging, some showcasing project works from round 1.

Local government engagement for this period

- Local government were advised of the grant program being open along with other stakeholders.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The applications will all be assessed against a range of criteria to determine which ones are successful. Once these are approved applicants will be notified and a media release issued.

Leadership and accountability

Sub-program	Status
Development of the Landscape Plan, Business Plan and other supporting documents	
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on Landscape Plan priorities and contractual obligations (including Biodiversity Monitoring Program)	
Referrals (including Stormwater management) received and responded to	
EP Landscape Board and Committees supported, budget approved, annual report prepared and Board minutes available to public	

Development of the Landscape Plan, Business Plan and other supporting documents

The EP Landscape Board formally adopted the existing Regional NRM Plan, as the interim Landscape Plan, until the new Landscape Plan is developed for the region in May 2021. This plan, [The Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2017-2027](#), including components such as the regional descriptions and policy framework and is available for download on the EP Landscape Board [website](#) in separate components.

The strategic component of the Plan includes three goals, which are underpinned by six strategic priorities and provides a regional snapshot. The region has been divided into five sub-regional planning areas, and sub-regional descriptions have been developed as separate components to describe the landscapes, as well as the lifestyles and livelihood that influence how the landscape is managed in each of the areas. There is also a policy document that provides the policy framework for how land, pest plant and animals and water affecting activities are to be managed in the region.

The final component of the regional Landscape Plan is the Business Plan. The first Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Business Plan was approved by the incoming Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board on 15 May 2020, and needs to read as an addendum the existing Business Plan for 2019-22, the latest version of which was approved on 27 March 2019 and is available on the [website](#).

Program highlights this period

- The Landscape Plan was finalised and is currently sitting with the Minister awaiting his formal approval.
- The remainder of the planning documents were all approved by the Board and are now available on our website:
 - [Business Plan for 2021-2022](#)
 - [Spencer Subregional Description](#)
 - [Central Eyre Subregional Description](#)
 - [Southern Subregional Description](#)
 - [Musgrave Subregional Description](#)
 - [Far West Subregional Description](#)
 - [Water Affecting Activity Control Policy](#)
 - [Land Management Control Policy](#)
 - [Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy.](#)



Photo 30: EP Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026 and supporting documents

Local government engagement for this period

- Local government were engaged in the development of the Landscape Plan and they have also been contacted in regard to landscape levy rates and collection fees for the 2021-22 period.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Following community engagement in the previous quarter, feedback from the community about the Landscape Plan and other planning documents was reviewed and this led to improvements to the planning documents listed above.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Once the Minister formally approves the Landscape Plan, this will be loaded on the website and a media release will be issued.
- Letters of appreciation and feedback will be sent to anyone who submitted formal feedback.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on Landscape Plan priorities and contractual obligations (including Biodiversity Monitoring Program)

A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan was approved on 17 April 2019 to enable the board to measure how effective it has been in achieving the goals in the strategic plan. In adopting the existing Regional NRM Plan as the interim Landscape Plan, the Board also adopted this existing MERI Plan as the interim MERI Plan. The MERI Plan guides monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities for the Board and the regional community.

As part of the 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

- The 2020 Bushland Condition Monitoring site data has been entered into the state-wide database by the Nature Conservation Society of SA (NCSSA).
- Work has continued on an internal review of the Biodiversity Monitoring Program to see if efforts can be scaled back without negatively impacting the integrity of the program.
- The Citizen Scientist network continues to undertake bird surveys and enter data into the EP Birds portal.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Staff have supported members of the Citizen Scientist network to undertake bird surveys etc. and enter data into the various portals (including the new 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.

-
- Complete the internal review of the Biodiversity Monitoring Program.
 - Once the Landscape Plan has been approved by the Minister work will commence to revise the MERI Plan to align with the new Landscape Plan.

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 seven referrals commented on (including no comment) in this period, which included:
 - two native vegetation clearance applications on lower EP;
 - a mining proposal for a kaolin and halloysite mine just southwest of Poochera;
 - proposed new mussel leases and licences in Louth Bay;
 - proposed new algae leases and licences in Boston Bay;
 - a proposed Malleefowl management area EPBC offset for the new EP Transmission Line; and
 - the Water Security Statement for South Australia.

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.

Support to EP Landscape Board and committees, budget, annual report and Board minutes

Program highlights this period

- As part of the Corporate Reform from the EP Natural Resources Management Board to the EP Landscape Board, the last of the Board staff transitioned from DEW on 12th April 2021.
- *Risk, Audit & Finance Committee* meeting held 13th April 2021.
- *Board Meetings*: 3 May 2021 in Kimba and 22 June 2021 in Tumby Bay.
- Interim Audit underway during June, 2021.
- The newly formed Landscapes SA Business Managers Network held their first meeting 18 May 2021, and second meeting on 16 June 2021. Meetings will be held monthly, and provides a forum for Business managers to share experience, learnings and information.
- Financial Management Compliance Program checklists were completed at end of June 2021.
- Training on the new DEW Procurement Framework, which all Landscape Boards utilise, commenced.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Preparation of Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2021.
- Loading of Budgets for 2021-22.
- Continued policy and procedure review. All DEW policies and procedures that have been adopted by the Board are systematically being reviewed to tailor them to EP Landscape Board's specific needs.
- *Risk, Audit & Finance Committee* meeting 5 August 2021.
- *Board Meeting* 24 August 2021 in Wudinna.

Published by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.
17 August 2021

T: +61 (8) 8688 3200
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.