

# Business Plan Achievement Report

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020-2021**

1 January to 31 March 2021

## Southern District






## 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 delivery of all our Board-funded programs in the Southern District during the last quarter. It includes reporting on the following for each sub-program:

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

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

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

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

## Contents

Sustainable agriculture .....	1
Water resources management .....	1
Pest plant and animal control .....	2
Other stewardship .....	5
Grassroots Grants program .....	7

## 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

- Landscape officers attended the AIR EP Medium Rainfall Research, Development and Extension Committee Meeting in Cummins in March. The Committee discussed key agricultural issues facing the medium rainfall areas of lower Eyre Peninsula, and prioritised upcoming activities for this year.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Working in conjunction with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, a workshop was held with landholders around the Kapinnie area to discuss a range of local issues, including approaches to pest plant and animal control.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- AIR EP Medium Rainfall Research, Development and Extension Committee Meeting in Cummins in June.

## 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.

Nothing to report.

# 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

- Landscape officers have been trialling a new tool in the fight against woody weeds. The BioHerbicides Di-Bak Injecta delivers capsules containing a chemical compound directly into the tree stem, and our initial trials have focused on **Aleppo Pines**, **White Weeping Broom**, **Opuntia** and **Olives**. We will be looking to expand this trial to other species in the coming months.
- Landscape officers have continued to provide advice regarding best practice control methods for pest plants to landholders. We have also continued to assist with identifying plants that have been brought in by landholders.
- Site visits were conducted to properties with known **Silverleaf Nightshade** infestations as part of annual compliance activity. Inspections are needed to ensure landholders are controlling this serious weed.
- All known roadside sites of **Silverleaf Nightshade** were surveyed (eight sites). Only two sites out of the eight had Silverleaf Nightshade. All plants were controlled. One site was revisited a month later to control new seedlings that had popped up.

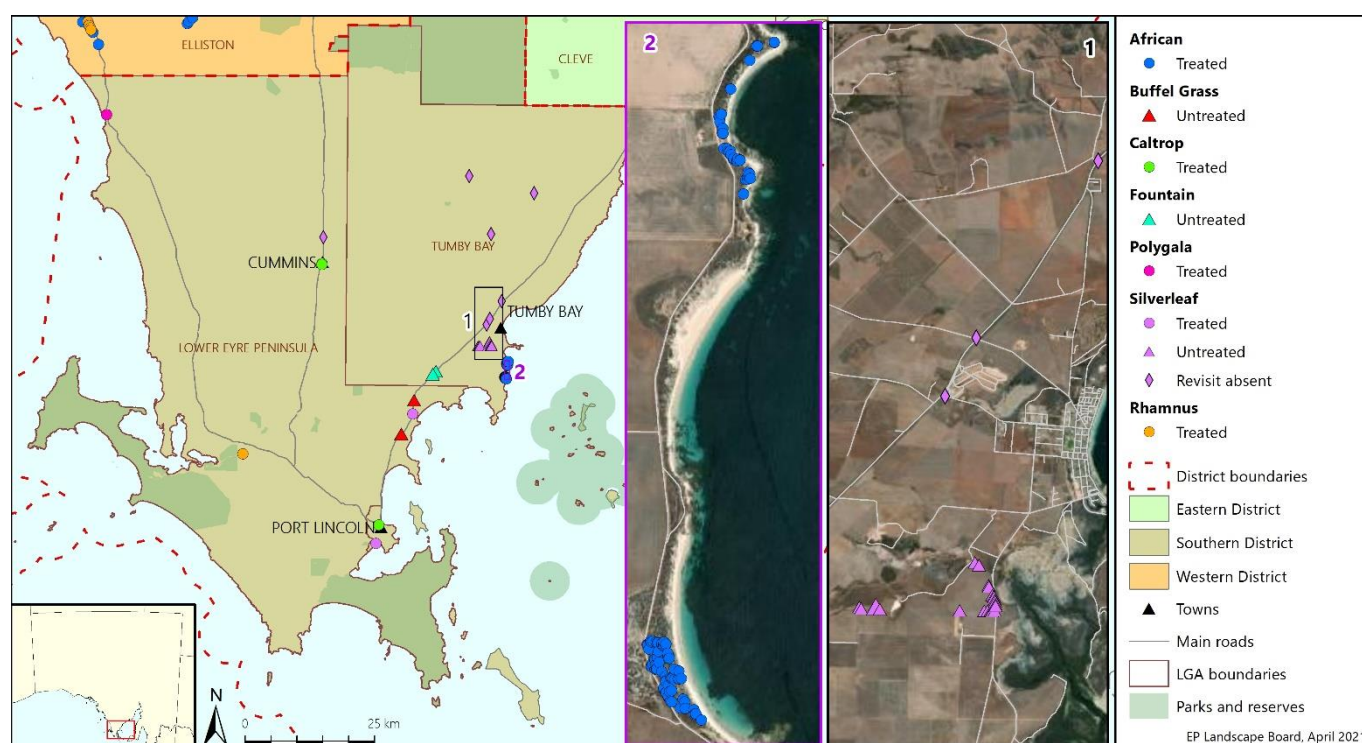


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021



- Planning for annual **Gorse** control has begun with the district Gorse Action Plan drafted and all landholders sent compliance letters detailing the need to control any plants on their land.
- **African Boxthorn** control was implemented around a Hooded Plover nesting territories and in saltmarsh sites at Cape Euler and Redcliffs south of Tumby Bay (STAR Project).

## Pest animals

### • Rabbits

Landscape Officers have continued to assist landholders with rabbit baiting programs. Due to the lack of rain and resulting dry conditions, the appropriate window for rabbit baiting has extended beyond the usual timeframes. Over 400 kg of 1080 oats have been manufactured to assist with these baiting programs and several landholders have been utilising the Board's free bait hire loan program.

### • Goats

A report was made to a landscape officer about two goats that were untagged and roaming on the outskirts of Port Lincoln. The landholder was advised of their responsibilities for keeping goats (a declared species) under the Landscapes Act.

### • Deer

Landscape Officers have continued to progress with priority compliance regarding deer, including deer fence inspections at farms across lower Eyre Peninsula. A number of feral deer sightings have also been received.

### • Foxes

- Fox bait distribution days have been held at a number of sites across lower Eyre Peninsula. Dozens of landholders have collected thousands of 1080 baits that will assist with fox control across lower Eyre Peninsula.
- Landscape Officers have continued to support DEW by assisting with their fox bait production. Landscape Officers injected around 4,000 baits that will be distributed through Lincoln and Coffin Bay National Parks in conjunction with their aerial baiting program.



*Photo 1: Landscape officers have been trialling the BioHerbicides Di-Bak Injecta as a new tool in the fight against woody weeds.*



*Photo 2: 1080 oat baiting has been popular with landholders looking to reduce rabbit numbers.*



Photo 3: Fox bait distribution days have been held across the lower Eyre Peninsula.



Photo 4: Fox bait production days have been held to keep up with demand for free 1080 meat baits.

- Landscape officers worked with coastal landholders to undertake a co-ordinated targeted baiting program that ran for four weeks adjacent to Hooded Plover nesting territories in lower eastern EP at Golf Club Beach, Cape Euler and Bolingbroke north. Our program was also enhanced by six adjoining landholders who undertook their own fox baiting program or trapping at the same time (STAR Project).
- Surveying of fox dens in the coastal reserve has also commenced, with plans to close fox dens before the next Hooded Plover nesting season (STAR Project).

### Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Fox bait distribution days (Facebook post and media release).
- Di-Bak Injecta trials (Facebook post)

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Follow up with Gorse compliance, roadside surveys of Gorse and possible control.



## 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

#### ***Acacia whibleyana***

- Establishment of cutting propagation protocol of Whibley Wattle  
This project was initiated by the University of Adelaide in response to priority needs for *Acacia whibleyana* conservation identified through existing partnerships with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board. Landscape staff have assisted with the collection of propagation material that was sent to Adelaide to create a clonal research sub-population at the University of Adelaide's Waite Arboretum for conservation trials. Any additional clones will be used to establish clonal insurance populations at alternative locations to existing stands or transplanted into local stands. A total 1,250 Whibley Wattle cuttings were propagated from three sub-populations.

#### **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.*

- Fortnightly monitoring of the eight Hooded Plover nesting territories continued. A four-week fox baiting program was implemented as an intervention action with the aim of improving breeding outcomes at three nesting territories, Black Rocks, Cape Hardy and Bolingbroke South. A total of 17 baits were taken.



Photo 5: Whibley Wattle cuttings being propagated at the University of Adelaide's Waite Arboretum for conservation trials





*Photo 6:  
A fox bait station were the fox left a  
present behind when taking the bait.*

- Landscape officers assisted Lower Eyre Coastcare repair damage that occurred over the Christmas/New Year holiday period to coastal sites around Greenly and Coles Point.
- Maintenance of fences designed to assist in the protection of sand dunes from erosion was completed at Moonlight Bay.



*Photo 7: Fence repairs at Coles Point*



*Photo 8: Repairs to sand dune fencing at Moonlight Bay*





## Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Landscape officers worked with three adjoining coastal landholders to implement the fox baiting program successfully.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Fox den mapping and destruction works.

# 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 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

- Landscape officers have continued to work with successful grant recipients on the delivery of the 2020/21 Grassroots Grants program.

## Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- A meeting was held with members of the Big Swamp Community Centre to establish ongoing liaison and exchange of information between the group and the Board.
- Site visits were undertaken with Port Neill Progress Association and the Eastern Lower Eyre Peninsula Landcare Management Committee to discuss implementation of on-project works in sensitive coastal environments.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Completion of 2020-21 Grassroots Grants program including site visits and assessments.
- Promote and provide assistance for Local Government, community groups etc. looking to apply for the new round of Grassroots Grants in 2021-22.

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