

Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026



Quick stats

Population: Approximately 58,000

Major centres (population): Whyalla (21,700), Port Lincoln (16,000), Ceduna (2,300)

Traditional custodians: Barngarla, Nauo, Wirangu, Kokatha and Mirning nations

Total area: Approximately 80,000 square kilometres

Land area: Approximately 51,000 square kilometres

Local Governments: City Council of Whyalla, Port Lincoln City Council, District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, Tumby Bay District Council, District Council of Ceduna, District Council of Streaky Bay, District Council of Elliston, Wudinna District Council, District Council of Cleve, District Council of Kimba and District Council of Franklin Harbour.

Out of Council Area: Approximately 6,750 square kilometres (13% of land area)

Main land uses (% of land area): Cropping and grazing (80%), conservation (17%)

Main industries: Agriculture, manufacturing and mining, fishing and aquaculture, retail, health and community services and tourism.

Gross regional product 2013-14 (% state value): Grain \$366 million (24%), iron and steel \$132 million (46%), and aquaculture \$81 million (80%)

Annual rainfall: 250 – 560 mm

Highest elevation: Caralue Bluff at 486 metres above sea level

Coastline length: 3,271 kilometres (including 182 islands)



Acknowledgment of country

The Barngarla, Nauo, Wirangu, Kokatha and Mirning people are the traditional custodians of Eyre Peninsula. The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board acknowledges elders - past, present and future - and respects the relationship Aboriginal people have to country. The Board is committed to supporting traditional custodians, involvement of Aboriginal people and organisations in the management of the region's landscapes and in recognising Aboriginal culture and knowledge of natural resources in the landscape.

Foreword



On behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board), it is my pleasure to present our new Regional Landscape

Plan. This plan provides an enduring direction for the Eyre Peninsula, and I look forward to working with you to achieve it.

The Board built on the participatory approach used to develop the region's previous plan, which included extensive engagement with local communities, organisations and businesses about the places and issues of importance. This approach built our shared understanding, broadened our perspectives and allowed us to capture a fair representation of the region's interests and values.

For those of you who offered your thoughts, thank you for your time and consideration. It does not end there though - that was just the

start of a conversation we want to continue with you. Continuing this conversation will lead us to collectively putting words into actions. Landscape management is a shared responsibility and we all have a role to play.

In closing, I acknowledge the individuals, communities, organisations and businesses that continue to contribute to the Eyre Peninsula landscapes. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated, and I look forward to working with you to shape our future.

Mark's signature

Mark Whitfield

Presiding Member of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

Minister's endorsement



I, Honourable David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of Section 50 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*,

hereby approve the Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan for 2021-2026.

Minister's signature

Date:

David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water



Vision

The Eyre Peninsula landscape region takes in approximately 8 percent of South Australia, covering an area of 80,000 square kilometres. It extends from Whyalla in the east, along the Gawler Ranges in the north, to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain in the west. The region includes over 3,000 kilometres of coastline spanning from the upper Spencer Gulf to the Great Australian Bight, including 182 offshore islands.

Eyre Peninsula landscapes support biodiversity, community and business in a changing climate

Regional priorities



Water

Focus areas:

- Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas
- Managing water affecting activities



Sustainable Agriculture

Focus areas:

- Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils
- Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health



Pest Plants and Animals

Focus areas:

- Supporting landowners to control prioritised pest plants and animals
- Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species



Biodiversity

Focus areas:

- Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems



Community

Focus areas:

- Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management
- Effective decision-making and local government engagement

Adaptation or mitigation to future climate changes is the enduring context for all focus areas.

This is underpinned through our effective:

Leadership and governance

Planning and compliance

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

Partnerships and collaboration

Planning framework

5 years

1-3 years

1 year



Regional Landscape Plan

Sets the high-level vision, strategic priorities and focus areas for the region to achieve sustainable landscape management.

THIS DOCUMENT



Subregional Descriptions

Provides an understanding of the natural resources, systems and drivers across each of the region's five subregions (see *appendix A-E*).



Control Policies

Includes details of the Board's water affecting activities, land management and pest plant and animal policies and procedures.



Business Plan

Outlines the programs that the Board will invest in for the next 12 months, to achieve its strategic areas. Includes details of income and expenditure and landscape levy information.

Operational Delivery

Leadership and governance, regional or district work plans and project plans guide delivery throughout the region.
Effective community engagement, collaboration and partnerships.

Measuring our success

Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan, measures our success in delivering our Regional Landscape Plan.





Current state of the landscape

This table shows the present state, condition and trends of the region's natural resources, along with the data source.

The conditions of natural resources have been degraded as a consequence of development. Recent interventions have however been able to stabilise or reverse trends in condition. Ongoing efforts will be required to sustain these improvements in condition and trend, as well as resources that are not degraded.

There are three natural resources that are in poor condition with a declining trend. These include: groundwater in the Prescribed Wells Area; aquatic riparian ecosystems; and threatened native species and ecosystems.

There is a need to address these declining trends and poor conditions over the next five years. Reversing these trends is not simple and will require concerted and innovative efforts over the longer term.

Measuring success

Given the complexity of managing a changing landscape, developing a culture of evaluation and learning is important for improving and adapting how we manage landscapes. A monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan will be developed that provides a clear understanding about how progress and impact will be measured, and how learnings will be used to improve and adapt programs.

| Natural resources | State | Condition ¹ | Trend | Data source |
|---|---|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Groundwater - Prescribed Wells Areas | Dynamic groundwater levels and salinity that fluctuate with periods of low and high rainfall. | Poor | Declining ² | 2018-2019 Groundwater status reports by the DEW ³ . |
| Riparian aquatic ecosystems | Highly modified ecosystems with elevated levels of nutrients, salinity and turbidity. | Very poor to fair | Declining | 2015 Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Report – Eyre Peninsula NRM Regional Summary by the EPA SA ⁴ . |
| Soil cover - erosion risk | Soil cover improving due to improved farming practices of no till and stubble retention. | Good | Improving | Agricultural land – Days protected from soil erosion. SA trend and condition report card 2020 by the DEW. |
| Soil acidity | Soil acidification is remaining stable, with better land management practices and increased lime application mitigating effects of high fertiliser use and continuous cropping. | Fair | Stable | Agricultural land – Soil acidity. SA trend and condition report card 2020 by the DEW. |
| Native vegetation condition | Native vegetation has been degraded from past clearance and development, grazing and pests. | Fair ⁵ | Unknown ⁵ | Biodiversity Condition Monitoring program by the EP Landscape Board. |
| Threatened native species and ecological communities | Native species and ecological communities are impacted by fragmented habitat, pests, altered hydrology, inappropriate fire regimes, development and recreational impacts. | Poor | Declining | Biological Database of South Australia by the DEW; and the listed threatened species and ecological communities. |
| Coastal ecosystems – mangroves and saltmarsh | Mangroves and saltmarsh have been degraded by land clearance, coastal development, tidal and drainage barriers, water quality and recreational impacts. | Good ⁵ | Unknown ⁵ | Saltmarsh survey program by the DEW for the EP Landscape Board. |

¹ Condition ratings can be: excellent, very good, good, fair, poor, or very poor.

² The trend in groundwater condition is subject to climate influences.

³ DEW – Department for Environment and Water.

⁴ EPA SA – South Australian Environment Protection Authority.

⁵ The condition rating is based on expert opinion, and the trend in condition has not been determined. Monitoring programs have been established to collect data about these resources, and these data will be analysed to provide more certainty in future reporting.



Future drivers

The region will continue to be influenced by a range of drivers that originate at different spatial scales, many of which are increasingly interconnected through globalisation. The range of drivers along with their increasing interconnectedness mean much of the future is uncertain and there is a need to continually adapt to the emerging conditions.



Source - Guide to climate projections for risk assessment and planning in SA, Department for Environment and Water, November 2020.



Climate change projections for Eyre Peninsula

Temperature is projected to increase by between 1.4 and 2.3°C (intermediate emissions scenario) or 2.6 and 4.3°C (high emissions scenario) by 2090. Extreme temperatures are projected to increase at a similar rate to mean temperature, with a substantial increase in the temperature reached on hot days, the frequency of hot days, and the duration of warm spells.

Average annual rainfall is projected to decline at both intermediate (7.0 to 16.9%) and high (12.0 to 33.1%) emission scenario levels by 2090. Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence, although the magnitude of the increases cannot be confidently projected.

By 2090, sea level is projected to rise between 0.28 and 0.63m above the 1986-2005 levels for the intermediate emissions scenario; and between 0.39 to 0.83m for the high emissions scenario. Storm surges will increase the effects of these sea level rises. Sea surface temperature has been increasing in recent decades and is projected to increase between 1.7 and 3.4°C by 2090 under a high emissions scenario. Ocean acidity will continue to increase as carbon gas emissions are absorbed by the seas.



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2021 | FIS 96405

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