

Business Plan Achievement Report

3rd Quarter 2020-2021

1 January to 31 March 2021

Western 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 Western 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 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

- Landscape staff took advantage of a number of agricultural forums (see below) to promote various technologies which support strong sustainable landscape management.

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Landscape staff attended the Wudinna Livestock Expo (18 February 2021), where through a minute talk and hosting a joint table with Wild Dog coordinator Heather Miller (PIRSA) for the afternoon they promoted the following livestock related technologies:
 - [FeralScan pest management application](#)
Feral Scan is a community website that allows you to map sightings of pest animals such as deer and foxes, and record the problems they are causing in your local area. FeralScan can be downloaded as an app to a smart phone. Links to Feral scan can also be found on our website [here](#).
 - [Canid Pest Ejectors](#)
These are a stationery device that delivers liquid 1080 when a wild dog or fox bites or pulls on the bait head. They are considered safe for most non-target species because a certain pull force is required to activate them.
 - [RAPPA temporary electric fencing unit](#)
EP Landscape Board has a RAPPA unit which is available for free 6-week loan to landholders.
- At Harvest Report Meetings held by AIR EP and South Australia Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Minnipa Agricultural Centre at Warrambo (10 March) and Minnipa (12 March), a landscape officer gave a 10 minute presentation and distributed fliers promoting:
 - effective Buffel Grass identification and control,
 - the RAPPA temporary electric fencing unit (free 6 week loan),
 - FeralScan pest management application, and
 - EP Landscape Board services.
- Engaged with landholders at the South Australian No-Till Farmers Association (SANTFA) Field Day held at Minnipa (23 March) at Gareth Scholz's mixed species summer cover crop trial.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Supporting the delivery, alongside AIR EP of the Regenerative Agriculture Project (RAP) *Regenerative ag forum* (workshop and field day) scheduled for 8 June 2021, for farmers interested in improving their soil health, featuring Dr Christine Jones, an expert soil ecologist from Western Australia and a passionate spokesperson for restoring Australian soils.



Photo 1: Organisations had the opportunity to promote livestock related technology at the Livestock Tech Expo held at Wudinna. EP Landscape Board Wudinna office promoted the RAPP temporary fencing kit, FeralScan and Canid Pest Ejectors.



Photo 3: The importance of controlling Buffel Grass infestations effectively, the RAPP temporary fencing kit, FeralScan and mouse control information was promoted at the Warramboo and Minnipa Harvest Report Meetings through a 10 minute presentation.



Photo 2: Gareth Scholz is trialing multi-species cover crop over summer which includes sunflower (foreground). Soil samples will help show the changes in species within the soil microbiome over time (background).

Photo 4: Michael Nash and Greg Butler spoke about the positive changes to soil from ants and other biological activity under a multi-species summer cover crop at Gareth Scholz's Minnipa farm.

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

- Nothing to report.

Local government engagement for this period

- Assisted the District Council of Elliston regarding potential Elliston wetland project and Venus Bay discharge options. At Venus Bay a site has been proposed for short term treated effluent disposal (Photo 5), which will be used while long term water recycling options are put into place.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Nothing to report.

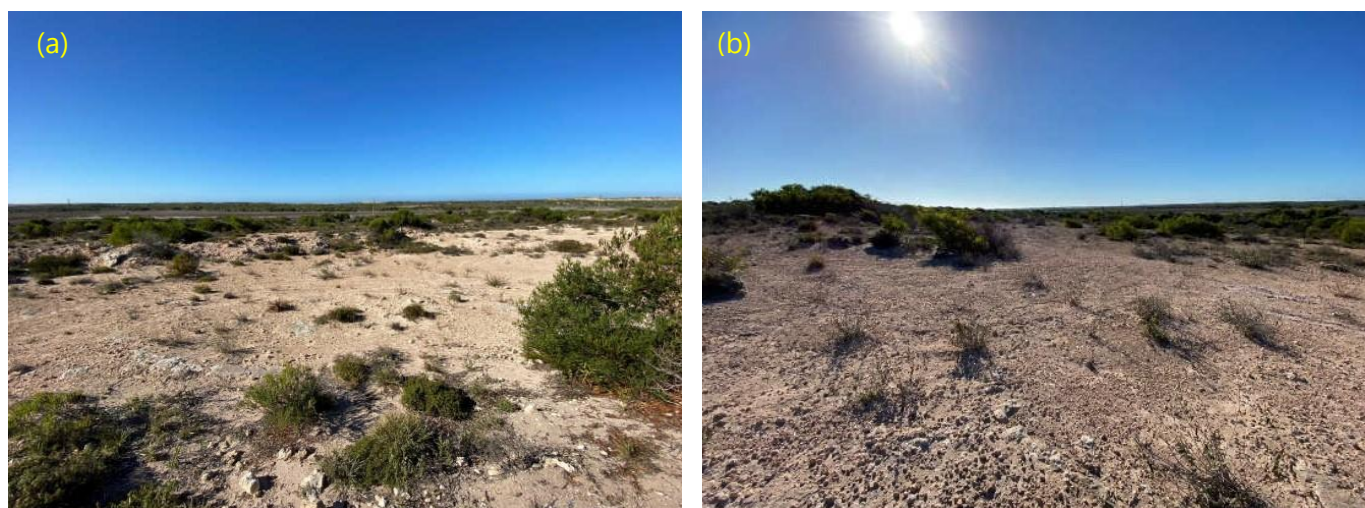


Photo 5: Proposed temporary discharge location on old quarry site (a) facing south, (b) facing east.

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

- Control of **Innocent Weed**, **African Lovegrass**, **Silverleaf Nightshade** and **Buffel Grass** points between Poochera and Koongawa.
- Control of **Innocent Weed**, **African Lovegrass** and **Buffel Grass** points between Poochera and Nundroo.
- Control of **Buffel Grass** and **Eragrostis trichophora** on Flinders highway and other local roads
- Control of **African Boxthorn** has been extended from Mount Wudinna to other local reserves (Little Wudinna and Polda Rocks).
- **Buffel Grass** monitoring at priority sites at Lock, none found so far this year.
- African Boxthorn, **Aleppo Pine** and **Rhamnus** control in the Elliston district as part of ongoing weed control programs.
- Provided plant and weed identification services to landholders in the Elliston district.



Photo 6: Treated Innocent Weed plant in an ongoing infestation at Kyancutta.



Photo 7:
Cut and swabbed African Boxthorn at Little Wudinna Rock. Control of African Boxthorn has been extended to this site from Polda Rock.



Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021, far west of Western District.

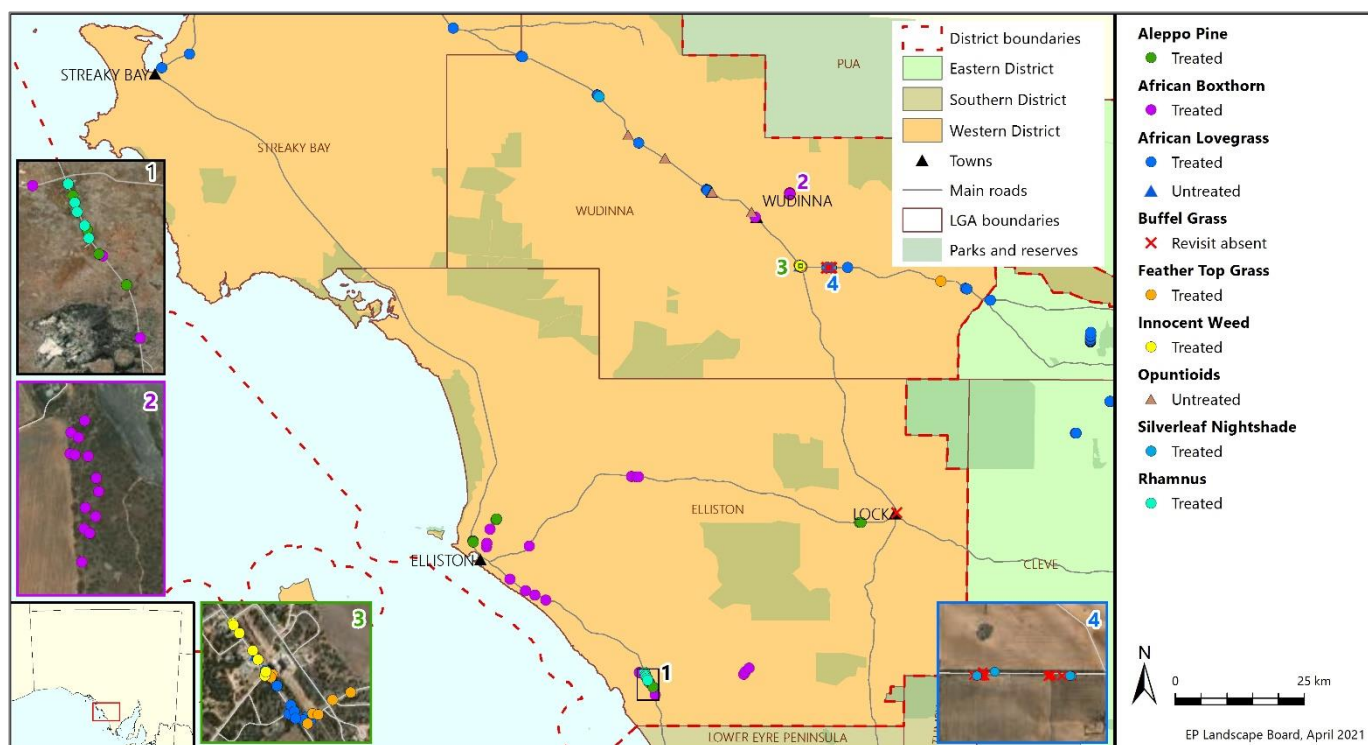


Figure 2: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021, south east of Western District

Pest animals

• Foxes

- Distribution of 1,480 fox baits to farmers across the upper central Eyre Peninsula area.
- Distribution of 6,340 fox baits to 15 baiting groups / 80 landholders across the western Eyre Peninsula.
- Distribution of 4,000 fox baits to landholders in Elliston district.

- **Wild dogs**

- Collaboration with and training of landholders on using the FeralScan app to monitor and record wild dog activity. Two [WildDogScan](#) user groups of landholders have been set up at Koonibba and Penong /Coorabie. Using the App will enable landholders in these groups to develop local area maps of wild dog activity to guide control efforts, work together to undertake coordinated control, and notify the group about wild dog activity.
- Landscape officers injected 2,500 wild dog baits at Nundroo for the Far West Dog Fence Board.
- There is ongoing motion sensor camera monitoring of wild dog activity on the Iluka grid.

- **Rabbits**

- Rabbit samples were collected from landholders in the Elliston district to test for the presence and effectiveness of rabbit Calicivirus diseases.
- Advice was given to landholders about rabbit control, and a rabbit bait layer was loaned to farmers and landholders in the Streaky district area.
- Rabbit monitoring and control has occurred at temperate saltmarsh areas including Seagull Lake, Blanchepoint and The Spit covering a combined area of over 250 hectares (STAR Project).

- **Feral deer and goats**

- Feral deer and goat monitoring was undertaken as part of priority pest animal monitoring/control in the Elliston district.
- The fence at the feral goat feedlot in the Elliston district was inspected to ensure compliance with permit conditions related to relocating and holding feral goats.
- Support was provided for the state-wide aerial shooting goat control program.

- **Feral cats**

- Felixer Grooming Trap trials at that have been conducted in the Venus Bay Conservation Park from July 2020 to March 2021 were concluded. 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. Very low feral cat numbers recorded.



Photo 8 (a) Felixer set up on Blacks Heads, and (b) Felixer set up on the track towards the tombolo, Felixer trial now concluded.

Local government engagement for this period

- Work with the District Council of Wudinna works crew, a site survey of the remaining African Boxthorn populations at Mount Wudinna was conducted, and surveys of nearby reserves were also undertaken for extension of treatment of African Boxthorn to these reserves.
- Advice was given to Elliston Council on feral pigeon control.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- At the Harvest Report Meetings for Warramboo and Minnipa, promotion of:
 - effective mouse control information (Steve Henry's CSIRO webinar recording and advice) and mouse population reporting through FeralScan, and
 - effective identification and treatment of Buffel Grass infestations.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue treatment of African Boxthorn populations at Little Wudinna Rock and Polda Rock reserves.
- Treat remaining larger African Boxthorn trees at Mount Wudinna, working with the local council.

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

- There has been ongoing monitoring of Greater Bilbies (*Macrotis lagotis*) in Venus Bay Conservation park following the translocation of Bilbies to the park in October 2020. Monitoring is done using a remote camera network and Felixers (see Pest animals section – Feral cats). Bilbies continue to be captured on cameras across the enclosure area.

Photo 9:
Bilby captured by remote
sensing camera at Venus
Bay Conservation Park.



Photo 10:
Sheoak Grassy Woodland over
calcrete. Western Eyre Peninsula



- Landscape officers provided input into an Aquaculture proposal for Streaky Bay.
- The Western district staff provided support for the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) visit to the Eyre Peninsula which was conducted as part of their assessment for Sheoak Grassy Woodland over calcrete vegetation community to be listed as a threatened ecological community under the Environmental Biodiversity and Protection Act 1999. DAWE were particularly looking at the condition of and associated biodiversity / presence of other plant species in Sheoak Grassy Woodlands over calcrete in the Streaky district area.

Local Government engagement for this period

- Input was given into the directional signage project coordinated by the District Council of Streaky Bay, which aims to update and replace existing signage and to enhance the visitation experience.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Ten-year bird monitoring will be undertaken in April for the sustainable Sheoak Project.
- Sediment core sampling for blue carbon baseline modelling will be undertaken with the University of Adelaide and Department for Environment and Water Coast Protection Board.

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

Connections with local beaches and Wirangu culture in Streaky Bay

- Streaky Bay Children's Centre completed an excursion to Back Beach, near Streaky Bay as part of their Grassroots Grant project. The Children's Centre engaged Susie Betts, a local Wirangu elder to share stories, language and traditional knowledge of the coastline. The children were also able to observe beach-nesting and migratory shorebirds at the beach through a spotting scope.

Hillsea Station contributing to the restoration of coastal woodlands on lower western Eyre Peninsula

- Preliminary fencing works have begun on the Hillsea Station project which involves the landholder working in partnership with Greening Australia to restore critical habitat on land previously cleared, and also on habitat containing remnant Mallee woodland damaged by fires and stock grazing.

Whirlpool Wetland recovery and visitor management project

- Preliminary grader works have commenced on the Whirlpool project being delivered by the District Council of Streaky Bay. The project will create a designated visitation area and address stormwater control issues at the Whirlpool marine spring site, located south of Streaky Bay.

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

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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