

Business Plan Achievement Report

1st Quarter 2020-2021

Eastern District




Period 1 July – 30 September 2020

The first [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Business Plan](#) for the period 2020/21 was approved by the incoming Board on 15 May 2020. This Plan is an addendum to the existing [Business Plan for 2019-22](#), which sets out the programs funded by the Board to contribute to the delivery of the targets of the Regional Landscape Plan.

This *Business Plan Achievement Report* provides a quarterly update on the delivery of each program funded by the Board, including:

- Program highlights this period
- Local government engagement for this period
- Communications and community engagement for this period
- Upcoming priorities for the next period

Each milestone is assigned a status, based on its current progress.

	On track to deliver all milestones.		On track to deliver most milestones. May be some delays.		Unlikely to meet milestones.
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Further details of each of these programs can be found on the [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website](#) or by contacting **Tim Breuer** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Eastern District*) for projects in the City Council of Whyalla and District Councils of Kimba, Franklin Harbour and Cleve areas on 0488 000 481.

Note: For updates about delivery in the Eastern 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*.



Government of South Australia
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board



Sustainable agriculture

Milestones	Status
District level sustainable agriculture activities	
Delivering the NLP Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project	

Note: For updates about activities implemented as part of the Regenerative Agriculture Project (RAP) and the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services, please refer to the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects*.

District level sustainable agriculture activities

Program highlights this period

- Work was done on a perennial pasture project application and this was submitted to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA). The application was successful.
- There was a high demand for the loan of the Board's mobile electric fencing units. All systems were on farms by mid-September.
- Helped install electric fencing to facilitate managing erosion issues on a problematic compliance property.
- Follow up on non-compliance at a property where there has been a complaint of soil erosion drift into a neighbour's paddock.
- Landscape officers attended the Roberts Verran Ag Bureau Sticky Beak Day.

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Emails were circulated to the community about:
 - Smart farms small grants new round open.
 - Financial assistance available for park boundary fencing.
 - Heritage agreements.
- Social media article on the healthy population of the nationally vulnerable *Olearia pannosa* ssp. *pannosa* (Silver Daisy-bush) reported by a local landholder on a hill near Cleve.



Photo 1: Mikaela Irwin and Landscape officer at the Silver Daisy-bush site near Cleve

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Continue to monitor properties at risk of erosion.
- Provide access to temporary electric fencing.
- Support the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) perennial pasture project.

Delivering the NLP Smart Farm Mallee Seeps Project

The Australian Government, through the National Landcare Program, have funded the 'Overcoming the Rising Degradation of Mallee Seeps on Eastern Eyre Peninsula' project. Land managers are increasingly identifying Mallee seeps as a growing land degradation issue on the EP. Mallee seeps severely change pH and the chemical composition of soil, forcing areas of paddocks out of production. This project aims to increase farmers' awareness about Mallee seeps, and build capacity to detect and manage Mallee seep formation in their paddocks before land degradation occurs. The project will connect landholders to relevant scientific data and identify known management options that are best suited for the EP. Local trials and demonstrations will determine suitable practical treatments that can be applied by land managers in line with best practice sustainable agriculture to reduce the effects of saline seeps on the EP.

Program highlights this period

- Contractor Dr Chris McDonough undertook his first site visits for the project. Scientific equipment was set up at the five trial sites. A few local farmers and an agronomist joined in to learn more about Mallee seep remediation. The new Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF), Amy Wright, from Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP) assisted.

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Contact with Ag Bureau representatives who distributed an information email about the Mallee seep project to farmers. Some of the Ag Bureaus also spoke about the project at their crop walk days.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Eyre Peninsula Mallee seep field day and publicity.
- Media release and website content.
- Engage a videographer.



Photo 2: Set up of scientific equipment at the Lock Mallee seep trial site: Josh, Lefty, Chris McDonough, RALF (Amy Wright), and Landscape officer

Water resources management

Milestones	Status
District level rivers and creek restoration activities, water quality testing etc.	

Note: For updates about water resources management activities implemented 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*.

Program highlights this period

- Discussions were held with landholders regarding issues with the Driver River and associated drainage infrastructure. A salt affected property located next to the drainage channel was visited. Some landholders are requesting access to the funds in the Driver River account for revegetation on saline soils. The issue is complex, thus to facilitate management and decision making around it, it is planned to employ a hydrologist to assess the area again when they are next on the Eyre Peninsula assessing the Wanilla catchment.

Local government engagement for this period

- The Broadbent Terrace and Newton Street Stormwater Drainage Plans were reviewed for the Whyalla Council. A site visit was conducted and advice was given in relation to impact on coastal saltmarsh.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Water Affecting Activities Staff training:* Landscape officers (Authorised Officers) will be trained to undertake assessments of Water Affecting Activity Permits and other water resources tasks.

Pest plants and animals

Milestones	Status
Monitor and facilitate management of priority pest plants and animals	

Note: For updates about pest plant and animal management activities implemented as part of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) refer to the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects*.

Program highlights this period

Pest plants

- Gazania control**
 - Approximately 200 plants were controlled in road-edge populations.
 - Gazania control was started on Mullaquana Road, Whyalla.

- **Surveys**

- Gazania and African Boxthorn populations were assessed along the Lincoln Highway between Cowell and Whyalla.
- Monitoring of cochineal insect populations at seven Opuntia sites continued.

- **Plans**

- Strategic three years plans for have been developed for Boxthorn and Gazania control in the Eastern District. The Plans focus on containing spread, reducing range, protecting assets, and education about these pest plants.
- Investigations into the possible use of an 'herbicide injector' have been started. The 'herbicide injector' can be used to inject herbicide capsules into trunks, treating woody weeds with no off-target influence.

- **Training**

- Three Landscape officers obtained training in chainsaw use and maintenance through Port Augusta's Access Training Centre (ATC). These skills will be used for cut-and-swab control of African Boxthorn in native vegetation.

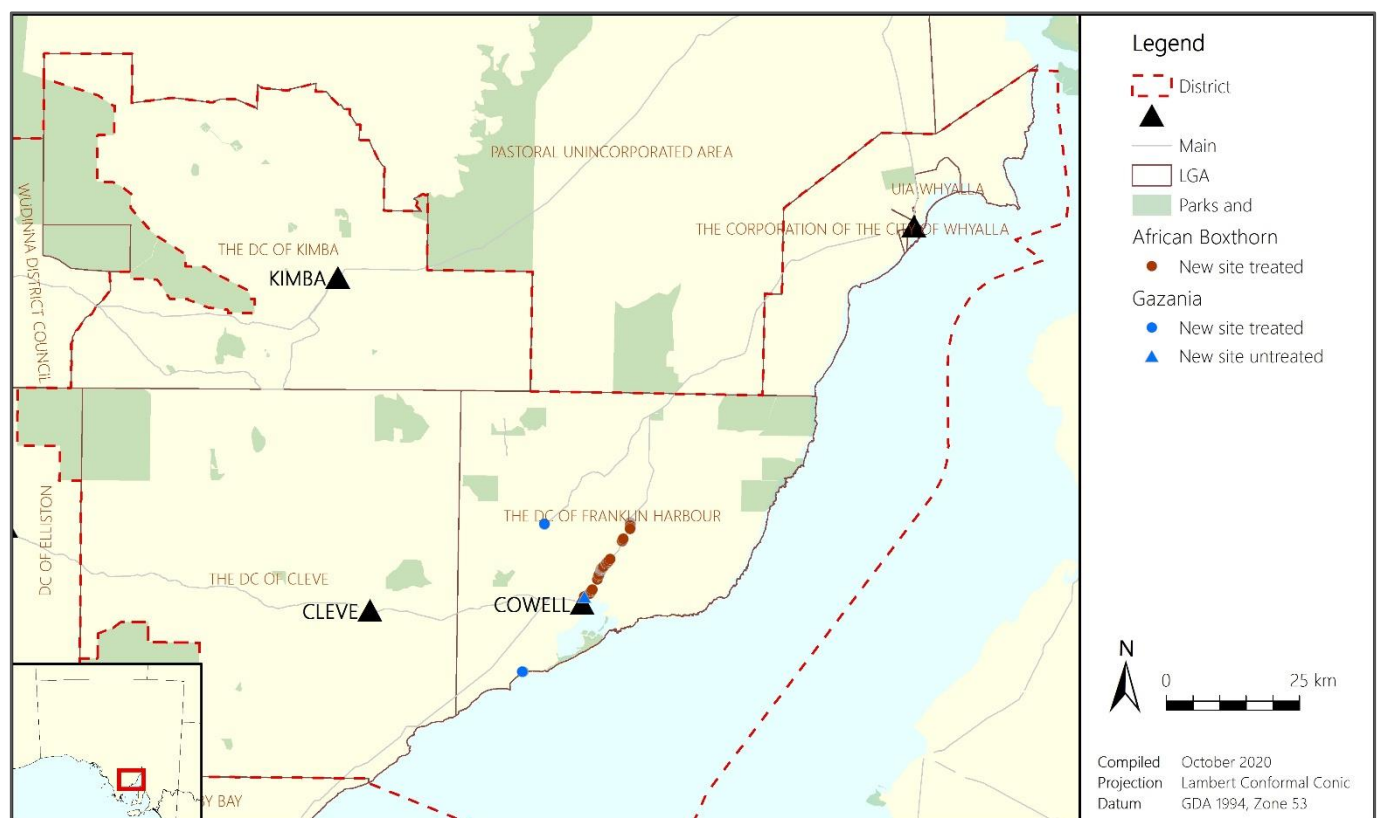


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020

Pest animals

- **Rabbits**

- Participants have been organised for a second release of the K5 virus for rabbit control.

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

- Boneseed control.
- Roadside Gazania control
- Fox bait making at Paney Station.
- Landscape officers will attend vertebrate pest training in Adelaide.

Other stewardship

Milestones	Status
District level landscape management activities (coastal management, restoration, conservation, threatened species and ecological communities, citizen science etc.)	

Note: For updates about delivery of the [Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) Project](#) refer to the *Business Plan Achievement Report: Regional Projects*.

Program highlights this period

Coastal Management / Citizen Science

Whyalla Cuttlefest June-August

- Supported Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries (EMS) and Marine Parks in delivering the *Community Guided Snorkelling* program.
- A Saltmarsh and “Whyalla’s Marine Icons” window display was set up in the Old Civic Library.
- Citizen Science and School activities were promoted on the EP Landscape Board website.
- There was a news story and a Landscape officer interview on Spencer Gulf 7 Nightly News about Citizen Science and School activities, including the EP Pix Stix project.

Coastal Management

Marine Parks

- Supported NPWSSA Rangers with marine compliance activities at the Cuttlefish Coast and Cowleds Landing Sanctuary Zones.

Restoration

- Eyre Peninsula Blue Gum plantings were completed under the Protect and Regenerate Endemic Vegetation (PREV) were extended.



Photo 3: Cuttlefest EMS Community Guided Snorkeling Program at Stony Point provides a safe, supervised snorkeling with the giant cuttlefish experience for locals and visitors to Whyalla

- Planted Eyre Peninsula Blue Gums at the Hannemann's property and additional trees on Paul Harris's property.



Photo 4: Volunteers, landowners and staff tree planting at the Hannemann's property



Photo 5: Matt Hannemann assisting with tree planting

Ecological communities

Bushland Condition Monitoring (BCM)

- Two Eyre Mallee BCM sites were surveyed in the eastern district.
- Eastern district landscape officers assisted with monitoring at four BCM sites in the western district.
- Preliminary observations of the performance sites (sites where on-ground works have been implemented to improve Bushland condition) seem to indicate an increase in species diversity and vegetation cover as compared to the last time the sites were monitored.



Photo 6: Bushland condition monitoring in regenerating Mallee scrub on a farming property near Arno Bay



Photo 7: Spider orchid found at BCM site near Lock

Heritage grants

- Property visits and advisement meetings were held with two landholders.
- Advice was given to a property owner about Vegetation Heritage Agreements and the sale of property for conservation.

Local government engagement for this period

- Whyalla Northern Coastline Working Group Meetings with council and stakeholders.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Attended *GFG Alliance* Environment Consultative Group Meetings.

Media releases and interviews

- [New signs protecting Whyalla's dolphins](#)

14 July 2020

New informative dolphin signs have now been installed at Whyalla's marina and foreshore along with a suite of new educational signs on sharing the foreshore and the importance of the local environment.

Spencer Gulf News television and ABC Radio interviews.

- [Shackies revegetate Whyalla's northern coastline](#)

14 July 2020

The Cultana Jenkins Shackowners Association have delivered a coastal 'Grow Me Instead' project that removed invasive cacti and succulents and replaced them with native seedlings along the Fitzgerald Bay and Point Lowly coastline.

- [More trees to boost EP Blue Gum communities](#)

13 July 2020

Land managers, school students, volunteers, and Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff have come together to plant 800 new Eyre Peninsula Blue Gum seedling in the Cleve district to aid the struggling and endemic EP Blue Gum communities to recover

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Malleefowl monitoring.

Grassroots Grants program

Milestones	Status
Support to grant applicants, monitoring of grants awarded and acquitted	

Note: For updates about the Grassroots Grant 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*. This section provides information about the delivery and acquittal of Grassroots Grants in the Eastern District, and support provided by Board staff to grant applicants.

Program highlights this period

- Assisted with the project application for the Hannemann's creek restoration project.

Local government engagement for this period

- Liaison with and support given for two grant submissions from the Whyalla City Council.
- Promoted Grassroots Grant funding at the Whyalla Northern Coastline Working Group meetings.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Promotion of program throughout district with eligible groups
- Email, phone and in person contact with people interested to know more about the Grassroots Grants.
- Support provided to grant applicants with application process.
- Presentation to the Cultana Jenkins Shackowners on the 'Grow Me Instead' Project from last funding round.
- Attended Point Lowly Ratepayers AGM to promote Grassroots Grant funding opportunities and scope potential coastal projects with shackowners.
- Two media releases on completed projects from last funding round.
- Grassroots funding promoted on 7 Nightly News, Spencer Gulf, with 'new dolphins signs' story.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Assisting successful landholders and community groups with grant agreements and project commencement.
- Commence support of the successful grassroots grants recipients.