

# Business Plan Achievement Report

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020-2021

## Regional Projects

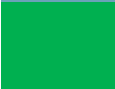


### Period 1 July – 30 September 2020

The first [Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Business Plan](#) for the period 2020/21 was approved by the incoming Board on 15 May 2020. The 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 **Susan Stovell** (*Manager, Planning and Engagement*) on 08 8688 3201.



Government of South Australia  
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board



## Sustainable agriculture

Milestones	Status
Delivering the RLP Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) services	
Delivering the RLP Regenerative Agriculture 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 annual report for the 2019-20 period was submitted in July 2020 and has since been approved by the Australian Government.
- The work plan for the 2020-21 period was developed, submitted and approved by the Australian Government.
- A review of the RALF delivery model was undertaken. This coincided with the merger of Lower Eyre Agricultural Development Association (LEADA) and Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation (EPARF) into the new Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP). As a result of the review it was decided to outsource the RALF role fully to AIR EP. This has led to a variation to the existing agreement with the Australian Government.
- AIR EP commenced delivery of the RALF role in July 2020 and have undertaken a recruitment process to secure a new RALF Officer. The position has now been filled, with Amy Wright commencing as the new RALF Officer on 7 September 2020.
- The RALF Officer has been busy for their initial few weeks, meeting key stakeholders, supporting farming groups with field days, and establishing an office etc. Upcoming reports will provide a snapshot of the activities undertaken for the period.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## 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

- The RAP quarterly report for the final period of 2019–20 was completed, submitted and approved by Australian Government.
- The RAP annual report for the 2019-20 period was completed and submitted on schedule. The program deliverables for the period were all achieved on schedule.
- During the first quarter of 2020-21, the program has been delivered within scope, and the first 2020-21 quarterly report has been submitted to the Australian Government.
- Mary Crawford, the EP Landscape Board's Regenerative Agriculture Project Officer, retired on 31 August 2020 after many years of service to the Board and the region's agriculture sector.
- With Mary's imminent retirement, the Board undertook an extensive review of its delivery model for the RAP and other Board sustainable agriculture initiatives. Following the review it was decided to outsource all of these works in future.
- An open tender process was undertaken to appoint a contractor to deliver the RAP. *Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula* (AIR EP) was selected as the preferred supplier. AIR EP have since been contracted and handover was completed in the first week of September 2020.
- To build internal capability within the Landscape Officer network, training in soil and landscape theory was provided. The training covered topics such as: role of soils; soil physical, chemical and biological characteristics; current research on Eyre Peninsula; and how to characterise soils. Seventeen staff from the three districts attended the training to gain an understanding of the soil-related landscape management issues in their region. Staff were also equipped with soil test kits to undertake field work.

- The [sustainable agriculture section](#) of the EP Landscape Board website was completely overhauled, with the aim of providing a one stop shop for information relating to sustainable agriculture in Eyre Peninsula.

### **Mixed species crops and pastures for soil management program**

- Under the RAP, the former NRM Board had already established nine mixed species demonstration sites throughout the region. The contracts for these demonstrations have now been novated to the Landscape Board.
- The first round of the *Mixed Species Crop and Pasture for Soil Management Demonstrations* was finalised in July, with three new demonstrations approved including:
  - Soil Improvement/Mixed Forage Species Project (Sims Farm Operations Association Inc.)
  - Cover Cropping and regenerative agriculture (Peter Colman)
  - Comparing changes to carbon quality and function in monoculture and mixed species planting under different management systems on sandy soils (Terry Young).
- This brings the total of *Mixed Species Demonstrations* within the region to 12. An overview of all demonstrations can be found on the EP Landscape Board website [here](#).
- Most demonstration sites have been established on schedule, with some now in the second year of monitoring and reporting. Where delays have been experienced due to seasonal conditions, variations have been required.

### **Soil carbon demonstration sites**

- Under the RAP, the former NRM Board had already established six soil carbon demonstration sites with a variety of farming groups throughout the region. The contracts for these demonstrations have now been novated to the Landscape Board.
- Details of the existing six demonstrations can be found on the EP Landscape Board website [here](#).
- Most soil carbon demonstration sites have been established on schedule, with some now in the second year of monitoring and reporting. Where delays have been experienced due to seasonal conditions, variations have been required.

### **Mallee seeps project**

- Opportunities to build awareness of mallee seeps are continuing to be shared with interested landholders and groups.

### **Restoring soil pH project**

- No activity for this period, as soil works are scheduled to commence next quarter.

### **Local government engagement for this period**

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- A media release was prepared to promote the decision to outsource the Board's sustainable agriculture program and this was released by Minister Littleproud on 29 September.
- The September 2020 edition of the [Farmers Connect](#) newsletter was distributed for the quarter.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The guidelines and application templates for the next rounds of Soil Carbon and Mixed Species demonstrations will be reviewed, with the next round opening in coming months.

## Water resources management

Milestones	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

- Implementation has continued through the period, with nothing significant to report.

## 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

- Water Allocation Implementation Team Meeting will be held on 1 October 2020.



## 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

- The 2019 GDE monitoring Report Cards for the five Red Gum sites were completed and made publically available on the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website. A social media story was also posted about this achievement.
- Staff have finalised a plan to improve and expand the monitoring program for Wetland sites. This monitoring will occur late in 2020 and involve the use of a drone.



Photo 1: Poldra Red Gum monitoring site



Photo 2: Sleaford Mere wetland monitoring site



Photo 3: Facebook post about Red Gum GDE monitoring results

## Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Owners of the land that the monitoring sites are on are advised of results.
- As mentioned above extra info has been placed on the website and a social media story published.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Undertake the 2020 Red Gum and Wetland GDE monitoring.
- Gather other 2020 GDE related data including water levels, rainfall and temperature.

## 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

- Eight WAA permit applications were received and four approved. These include permit approvals for vehicle crossings, new stock water dams, saline drainage to help manage waterlogging, and salinity issues.
- Two WAA inspections on completed works.
- One active compliance issues.
- Twenty-one water salinity/pH tests were completed at the Port Lincoln NREP office.
- Twenty-two WAA enquiries were received and responded to.

### *Cummins Wanilla Basin Drainage Management Plan*

- The Board staff assisted with the progression of this project. This included meeting and communications with the consultants to develop the Plan, assisting landowners to access the Plan and the online drainage survey.
- A staff WAA Transition Plan was developed and implemented for the transition of regional Authorised Officers to be trained to undertake assessments of Water Affecting Activity Permits and other water resources tasks.
- A new water salinity meter was provided to the Streaky Bay Landscape office and staff were trained in its use.





Photo 4: Site of a new heavy vehicle crossing through a degraded wetland and waterlogged area.



Photo 5: Site for proposed saline drainage construction which is hoped will reduce the die-off of native vegetation caused by salinity and waterlogging issues.

## Local government engagement for this period

### *District Council of Streaky Bay*

- Meeting and site visits were conducted with the District Council of Streaky Bay representatives to look at issues involving a Groundwater Access Trench (GAT) used for roadworks, and the protection of the Whirlpool Wetland from degradation caused by stormwater issues.

### *District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula*

- Meeting attended with District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula about the Coffin Bay Sailing Club carpark stormwater issue.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Twenty-one water salinity/pH tests completed for community members at the Port Lincoln NREP office.
- Twenty-two WAA enquiries received and responded to.
- A WAA information notice was placed in local newspapers and media.
- There was a media release about the new water salinity meter at Streaky Bay which can be used for testing water samples from the community.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- WAA permit application processing.
- WAA enquiries fielded and responses provided.
- WAA compliance cases investigated.
- Completion of WAA works inspections.
- Regional water testing undertaken and support provided.
- Work with local government on any WAA / field based water resources issues.
- Cummins Wanilla Basin Drainage Plan project.
- Implement Staff WAA Transitions Plan.



## Pest plants and animals

Milestones	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:*

- Attendance at state-wide pest animal and plant network meetings and South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) meetings.*
- Relevant presentations to the Board by external organisations such as PIRSA.*
- Higher level progress towards pest management plans implementation and review.*
- Development of district actions plans.*
- Delivery of cross district control programs.*
- New incursions or potential threats to the region at a high level.*
- New trials or research.*

*Detailed reporting against the objectives of the pest management plans will also be provided annually in this section of the fourth quarter Business Plan Achievement Report.*

*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

- Eleven pest management plans have been reviewed by staff and are now ready to be progressed through the Board, PIRSA Biosecurity and other stakeholders for approval and comment.
- Drafts of the first three (Gorse, Red Fox and European Rabbit) have already been approved by the Board and are now with PIRSA Biosecurity for comment.
- Staff continue to undertake actions identified in the current twenty one pest management plans. Please refer to the relevant district report, for key progress and achievements.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Refer to relevant district report(s) for this detail.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Refer to relevant district report(s) for this detail.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Another three drafts pest management plans will be presented to the Board in October (African Lovegrass, African Boxthorn and Boneseed) and a further three draft plans will be presented to the Board in December.
- Consultation with PIRSA Biosecurity and other stakeholders will continue before these revised versions will be finalised.
- Continue to undertake actions as identified in the twenty one pest management plans.
- Attendance at the South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group Meeting.

## Other stewardship

Milestones	Status
Delivering the RLP Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Project (STAR)	
Delivering the RLP Fire Recovery Program	
Development and maintenance of engagement strategies and plans	

## Delivering the RLP Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Project (STAR)

*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

### Region

- The program has been delivered within scope, with the first quarterly report for 2020-21 submitted to the Australian Government.
- Support monitoring of priority STAR Hooded Plover nesting sites and implementation of appropriate interventions to improve nesting outcomes.

### Eastern District

- **Restoring hydrological flows to saltmarsh**
  - Site visits, planning, and quotes for culverts to be repaired and/or installed along a power line access track through Arno Bay saltmarsh have been undertaken. The culverts will restore tidal movement in the saltmarsh area in accordance with STAR project milestones.

- Communication with SA Power Networks has commenced regarding the Arno Bay culvert replacement on the power line access road.
- Installation works will be undertaken in October.
- **Pest plant control**
  - Approximately 1,000 Gazania plants were controlled at Port Gibbon beach in conjunction with the STAR project and hooded plover management plans.
  - Six African Boxthorn plants were controlled at Port Gibbon beach.
- **Hooded Plover monitoring**
  - Fortnightly monitoring of Hooded Plovers at the Redbanks site started in late July. A single bird has been spotted at this site but no pair or breeding attempt observed.



Photo 6: Powerline access track restricting tidal movement in Arno bay salt marsh



Photo 7: Port Gibbon beach Hooded Plover breeding site gazania before control



Photo 8: Hooded Plover foraging the shoreline at Redbanks breeding site. (Photo by trained Hooded Plover observer).





Photo 9: Volunteer bird counters at the Whyalla Salt pans for the National Shorebird Winter Count



Photo 10: Rare sighting of a Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, spotted on the winter shorebird count at the Whyalla Salt pans with Banded Stilts in the foreground  
Photo: Larry Gruitt (Whyalla)

### • Shorebird survey

- Coordinated the Birdlife National Shorebird Winter Count at the Whyalla salt pans involving district Landscape officers and seven local volunteer bird counters who recorded a rare sighting of a migratory Common Redshank.

### Western District

- 'Threatened Shorebird' educational signage has been installed at two locations in the Western District as a threat abatement activity to raise the awareness of beach users on sharing the beach with beach nesting birds. The signs have been having a positive impact as per the image captured on remote camera (Photo 11).
- Targeted feral predator control was undertaken in Venus Bay Conservation Park (CP) over 14 nights in August. This was undertaken as an intervention or threat abatement activity for the Hooded Plovers currently nesting on Entrance Beach.
- Remote camera monitoring continues to occur within the Venus Bay CP to assist with feral predator control and record threatened species activity



Photo 11: Remote camera captures beach visitor pointing out information on Threatened Shorebird signage.



Photo 12: Threatened Shorebird signage



- Felixer Grooming Traps continue to be deployed within the Park. An additional six Felixers have been temporarily introduced to the Park. All Felixers have been positioned according to feral predator sightings and hot spots identified using remote cameras.
- Fortnightly monitoring of Hooded Plover breeding territories has begun, with two active nests sighted in the western region.
- Installation of signage highlighting new fencing works on a private property to protect coastal saltmarsh area.

### Southern District

- Saltmarsh profile surveys completed on eastern and southern EP, including at a private property south of Tumby Bay.
- Completion of stage two of the Second Creek weed control at Tumby Bay, with 25 hectares of African Boxthorn and *Acacia cyclops* controlled.



Photo 13: STAR signage for fencing protection works

## Local government engagement for this period

### Eastern District

- Discussions regarding installation of the culverts in Arno Bay with Cleve Council works manager.

### Western District

- Collaboration with the District Council of Streaky Bay to implement the 'Threatened Shorebird' signage and provide a consistent message to compliment Council's newly installed 'dog on lead' signage.
- Landscape Officers in the Western District joined forces with staff from the District Council of Streaky Bay to remove seven truckloads of debris and weeds from the Blanchepoort saltmarsh site near Streaky Bay. Further remediation activities are planned for this site.



Photo 14: Landscape Officers working with DC of Streaky bay staff to remove debris and weeds at Blanchepoort saltmarsh site

## Communications and community engagement for this period

### Region

- Hooded Plover Territory Monitoring [media release](#) to announce the start of the breeding season.
- ABC Radio coverage and [media release](#) about saltmarsh profile surveys and saltmarsh sediment core sampling establishment to identify possible carbon sequestration opportunities (Blue Carbon) in our saltmarshes.
- Nine social media posts (Facebook and/or Twitter) including:
  - Tweet to raise awareness of the collaboration between the District Council of Streaky Bay and EP Landscape Board staff undertaking remediation activities at the Blanchepoint saltmarsh site.
  - Message about Plover appreciation day and shorebird winter count at Whyalla Saltpans.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

### Region

- Fortnightly breeding monitoring continues across the region.
- Coordination and implementation of National Hooded Plover Biennial Count Surveys in November, COVID restrictions permitting.
- Obtaining comment from BirdLife Hooded Plover experts on the *Overarching Hooded Plover breeding site management plan* for the region, and sixteen site specific *Hooded Plover breeding site management plans*.

### Eastern District

- Finish weed control at Port Gibbon beach
- Implement 20 ha of African Boxthorn control at Arno Bay.
- Progressing culvert installation plans and engaging a contractor to complete works for hydrological flow restoration at Arno Bay.

## 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 first quarterly report for 2020-21 submitted to the Australian Government.
- Erosion control and access management works were completed in late June along fire breaks that were put in as part of the bushfire incident management.





Photo 15: Excavator undertaking erosion control works



Photo 16: Landholder with threatened plant  
(Yellow Swainson Pea,  
*Swainsona pyrophila*)

- 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. This is even more pertinent with a lack of rainfall across both fire grounds, causing seedlings and regrowth to struggle to cope with being covered by drift sand and cut by sand in high velocity wind events.
- Staff have been assisting landholders to obtain funds from the Department for Environment and Water to replace heritage agreement fencing burnt in the fires.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### 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.

## Development and maintenance of engagement strategies, plans and tools

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has developed a number of engagement strategies and plans which support the [Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2017-2027](#). These include the Overarching Communications Policy and Plan; and the following engagement strategies:

- Local Government Engagement Strategy
- [Aboriginal Engagement Strategy](#) and an internal Aboriginal Implementation plan
- Education Engagement Strategy
- [Citizen Science Engagement Strategy](#)

Activities undertaken in line with these strategies are reported under the Local government engagement for this period, and Communications and community engagement for this period sections in the regional and district quarterly reports.

### Program highlights this period

- With the formation of the new EP Landscape Board a range of activities have taken place to update all of the Boards existing communication tools. This work has included the development of branding guidelines, development of logos, transferring over and updating of the website, the establishment of a new EP Landscape Board twitter account, new board emails accounts etc.
- A media and communication policy for the Board was developed in consultation with the Ministers office, and following the Board approval the policy has been implemented.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- An overview of all media and communications is included in the Board agenda for each period, and individual community events, supported by the communications team are included in the district reports.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- With the development of a new Landscape plan, work will commence on a consultation strategy and engagement statement in coming months.
- The Boards existing communications and engagement strategies will all required updating in coming months to align them to the new landscape reform agenda, whilst ensuring Australian Government requirements are met.



# Grassroots Grants program

Milestones	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

- The Board's open call for applications for the Grassroots grants program closed on 24 August 2020, with 33 applications received, valued at \$219,792 (GST exclusive).
- These applications were assessed against defined criteria. The final pool of recommended grants includes 20 applications valued at \$110,130 (GST exclusive), with a further \$104,532 third party contribution.
- Ten of the successful applications were from the community sector, seven were from the agriculture sector and three were from local government.
- Table 1 on the following page gives a summary of the successful applications.

## Local government engagement for this period

- Grassroots grants have been awarded to three local government projects, including the District Councils of Elliston and Streaky Bay, as well as the City of Whyalla.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- The launch of the Grassroots grants program commenced on 15 July 2020, with additional promotion occurring through to the closing date on 24 August 2020. This included media releases, interviews, social media tweets and targeted emails to key stakeholders.
- An announcement of the successful applications has just been initiated.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Grant agreements will be prepared for all 20 successful applicants, with work expected to commence on projects by end October 2020.

Table 1: EP Landscape Board Grassroots Grants - 2020-21 successful applicants

	Project Title	Organisation	Amount Funded
1	Virtual Bus Tour: Showcasing the opportunities of precision agriculture across the EP	SPAA Society of Precision Agriculture Australia Inc.	\$6,600
2	Iconic Birds & Wildlife Information Sign at Lipson Cove White-bellied Sea Eagle / Little Penguin / Bottlenose Dolphin	Keira Berryman sponsored by Lower Eyre Coastcare Association	\$1,500
3	Restoring riparian plant communities along the Tod River	Navigator College	\$2,582
4	Drainage Work	Yeelanna to Kapinnie Railway Line Landowners	\$3,000
5	Regenerative Agriculture Field Tour	Women in Agriculture and Business (WAB) - Charlton Branch	\$2,940
6	Better Cropping Decisions	WoTL Ltd	\$3,025
7	From Little Things Big Things Grow	St Joseph's School Port Lincoln	\$1,846
8	Brinkworth Reserve Remnant Vegetation – Managing the Threats	National Trust South Australia Friends of Brinkworth Reserve	\$6,300
9	Coastal works at Port Neill	Port Neill Progress Association Inc.	\$6,200
10	Enhancing the coastal environment for greater environmental outcomes	Point Boston Community Corporation	\$7,195
11	Coastal Management at Moonlight Bay	Eastern Lower Eyre Peninsula Landcare Management Committee	\$7,500
12	Protecting Red Gums and Woodlands	Coulta Community Water Scheme	\$6,300
13	Big Swamp Wetland ( Phase 1 ) : Wetland Assessment Project	Big Swamp Community Centre Incorporated; for the Big Swamp Conservation Group	\$6,300
14	Northern Coastline track closure project	The Corporation of the City of Whyalla	\$10,000
15	Restoring Eyre Peninsula (E.P) Blue Gum Woodlands and managing saline soil.	MR & AC Hannemann	\$9,995
16	RAPPA Portable Electric Fencing for Sustainable Grazing & Land Management	Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group sponsored by Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP)	\$4,860
17	Hillsea Station Contributing to the Restoration of Coastal Woodlands on Lower Western Eyre Peninsula	Hillsea Station Trust t/as Hillsea Station	\$4,000
18	Connections with local beaches and Wirangu culture in Streaky Bay	Streaky Bay Children's Centre	\$4,968
19	Whirlpool Wetland Recovery and Visitor Management Project	District Council of Streaky Bay	\$5,960
20	Feral Pigeon Control Program	District Council of Elliston	\$9,060
			<b>\$110,131</b>

# Leadership and accountability

Milestones	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

- A briefing was submitted to the EP Landscape Board at meeting 4, which outlined the approach to be taken to develop a new Regional landscape plan for Eyre Peninsula.
- A project team has been established to progress the drafting of the plan and other supporting documents. As work progresses over coming month's regular progress updates will be provided to the Board, and when necessary briefings will be prepared outlining key matters for Board decision or direction.
- The draft Plan documents will be provided for Board approval in February, and once approved community consultation will be undertaken.
- The Board decided to continue with the existing Landscape levy calculation system, which is based on beneficiary/user pays approach and has been well accepted to date.

### Local government engagement for this period

- The development of the new Landscape plan was raised at the June EPLGA meeting in Wudinna, and council advised that they would prefer that the Board build on the work undertaken to date to develop the former regional NRM Plan and that only a minimal consultation approach is required. This feedback was subsequently followed up in a letter from the EPLGA to the Board.

### Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report. Community consultation on the draft regional Landscape Plan is expected to commence in February 2021.

### Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The Board will be preparing a 'Regional Engagement Statement' and a Consultation and Engagement Plan for the development of the new Landscape plan in October 2020.

## 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

- Bushland Condition Monitoring has been undertaken at forty sites across Eyre Peninsula by staff as part of the Biodiversity Monitoring Program. This included monitoring twenty five sites where on ground actions were carried out ten years ago. Once this data has been entered into the state-wide database in 2021 it would be interesting to analyse the change in condition over the last ten years at these sites.
- The Citizen Scientist network continue to undertake bird surveys and enter data into the EP Birds portal. Data collected up until May 2020 has now been verified by a professional ornithologist and is available publically via the Biological Database of SA as well as the Atlas of Living Australia.

### Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.



## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Staff have discussed Bushland Condition Monitoring with the land managers that own the sites where the monitoring has occurred.
- 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 finalise the data collected at the Bushland Condition Monitoring ready for it to be entered into the state-wide database.
- Staff will continue to support the Citizen Scientist network and get the information they collect publically available on the Biological Database of SA.

## 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 in this period, which included:
  - Port Spencer development
  - Coffin Bay Residential Expansion Discussion Paper
  - The Animal Welfare Act,
  - A proposed residential development near Port Lincoln
  - Coffin Bay Yacht club car park development
  - Southern Launch's Whalers Way site Biodiversity Strategy, and
  - The proposed EPBC listing of the Eastern Mallee Bird Community.

## Local government engagement for this period

- As part of these processes engagement occurred with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula in relation to the Coffin Bay Yacht club car park development.

## Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

## Upcoming priorities for the next period

- 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**

- New TM1 Planning & Analytics software implemented and updated for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board 2020-21 approved Budget.
- Cash-flow for Project Management commenced, although there were some delays in loading the cash-flows due to TM1 production implementation issues.
- Board Meetings were conducted on 28th July 2020 in Whyalla and 25th August 2020 in Cummins.
- Finance and Governance training was conducted for Board Members, jointly with the South Australian Arid Lands region on 29th July 2020 in Port Augusta.
- Financial Delegations for 2020-21 reviewed and approved by the Board.
- Policy and Procedure review has commenced.
- An internal Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Work Health & Safety Committee was established, and has conducted two meetings.
- Recruitment for an Independent Member of the Risk, Audit & Finance Committee was undertaken, and the Terms of Reference approved.
- Assistance with data capture of Corporate Services functions and tasks, for Department for Environment and Water Corporate Services Review.

### **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**

- Board Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.
- Development of internal control and audit functions.