

Business Plan Achievement Report

1st Quarter 2020-2021

Southern District



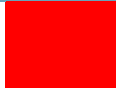
Period 1 July – 30 September 2020

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 **Ben Smith** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations – Southern District*) for projects in the Port Lincoln City Council and District Councils of Tumby Bay and Lower Eyre Peninsula areas on 08 8688 3243.



Sustainable agriculture

Milestones	Status
District level sustainable agriculture activities	

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*.

Program highlights this period

- Eyre Peninsula (EP) Landscape Board staff continue to provide support to landholders in the Southern District around a range of Sustainable Agriculture activities, including pest plant and animal control and soil management.

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

- No priority works planned, although staff will continue to provide support to landholders.

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

- Nothing 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 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

- **Bridal Veil:** All priority Bridal Veil (*Asparagus declinatus*) sites have been surveyed and controlled. Landholders have also been contacted regarding the control of Bridal Veil on private property.
- **Boneseed:** All priority Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) sites have been surveyed and controlled.
- **Opuntia:** All priority *Opuntia* spp. sites have been surveyed and controlled.
- **Olive:** Landscape staff have continued to inspect olive (*Olea europaea*) orchards. Staff are assisting with management strategies for landholders who have are having issues controlling feral olives.
- **Survey:** Landscape staff have completed their annual survey of the Mt Hope prescribed burn area, with early indications showing the burn has contributed to a significant reduction in declared weed species across the site, including Boneseed, Aleppo Pine and *Rhamnus* sp. (Italian Buckthorn).



Photo 1: Emerging Boneseed and Bridal Creeper



Photo 2: Emerging Aleppo Pine

Pest animals

- **Rabbits**

Landscape staff collected several rabbit samples during September. These are being tested for Calicivirus. It is suspected that the V2 Calicivirus has spread through the region again, however there is also a chance that the samples will test positive for K5 Calicivirus. If the samples test positive for K5 Calicivirus, this will provide an important insight into the ability of this strain of the virus to remain dormant and re-emerge.

- **Foxes**
 - Landscape staff have continued to provide fox baits to the community.
 - Landscape staff assisted the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) by injecting fox baits to be used in their fox baiting program.
- **Deer**
 - Landscape staff continued to work with deer farms to ensure the risk of escapees is minimised.
- Landscape staff assisted the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) in investigating the escape of a declared animal and provided advice on enclosure improvements to prevent a repeat of the incident.

Local government engagement for this period

- A meeting was held with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula (DCLEP) to discuss responsibilities with respect to the control of Bridal Veil creeper, and implementing control of Bridal Veil at Tulka and Coffin Bay.
- Several phone conversations and two meetings were held with the City of Port Lincoln staff to discuss Bridal Veil in the Port Lincoln township and the Council's responsibilities to control it.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- [Media release](#) about Olive inspections and landholders' responsibilities for controlling olives on their properties.
- Landscape Officers met with staff from Navigator College to discuss the school's plan and responsibilities for Bridal Veil control.
- Landscape staff are in the final stages of developing a short film to promote rabbit awareness and encourage control.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Release the short film to promote rabbit awareness.
- Complete olive orchard inspections.
- Continue landholder engagement regarding Bridal Veil control.
- Deer fence inspections
- For rabbit control, coordinate local K5 Calicivirus release with landholders and with release of the virus in late spring.



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

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

- Completion of surveys of thirteen Bushland Condition Monitoring (BCM) sites across southern Eyre.
- Implementation of BirdLife Australia’s National Landcare Program project, *Protect the Hooded Plover*:
 - Participated in the Hooded Plover national coordinators meeting and Biennial Count planning meetings.
 - Provided ongoing support for monitoring of priority Hooded Plover nesting sites and implementing appropriate interventions to reduce disturbance at nesting sites with the aim of improving breeding success.
 - The Hooded Plover breeding season started, with a Zoom meeting held with EP staff and volunteers who will be monitoring Hooded Plover breeding sites.

- Completion of tube stock planting of Whibley Wattle, and EP Blue Gums, as well as planting at Moonlight Bay. Eight hundred seedlings propagated by the Tumby Bay Area School have been planted with support from EP Landscape Officers.



Photo 3: *Acacia whibleyana* project work

- The first Whibley Wattle seedlings have germinated at the Salt Lake site. This is part of a soil disturbance trial being undertaken in collaboration with Adelaide University. The trial is investigating the best approach to increase germination and recruitment of this threatened species.
- Coastal fencing maintenance and foredune rehabilitation was done at Moonlight Bay.
- A marine debris survey was completed at Bolingbroke, and a microplastics survey has been commenced on the Port Lincoln foreshore.

Local government engagement for this period

- A report was prepared for the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula (DCLEP) following a site visit to discuss the Coffin Bay foreshore wood removal proposal.
- Liaised with DCLEP regarding approvals to undertake follow up weed control within a controlled burn area south of Tulka.
- Liaised with Port Lincoln City Council regarding establishing a microplastics survey site on the Port Lincoln foreshore.
- Liaised with the DCLEP regarding the Farm Beach coastal access management project.
- Liaised with the Tumby Bay District Council regarding implementing emergency interventions at Hooded Plover nesting territories and development of a response framework around Hooded Plover breeding activities.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- A threatened species and marine debris focused talk was presented at Navigator College (Year 1 classes).
- Supported BirdLife volunteers monitoring priority Hooded Plover nesting sites and implementing emergency interventions to protect the nesting sites.
- Conducted native seed propagation with the Lower Eyre Coastcare Group and Lake Wangary School's year 5, 6 and 7 students.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Coordination of National Hooded Plover Biennial Count for the Eyre Peninsula Eastern and Southern Districts in November.
- Propagation of native seeds with Tumby Bay Area School and Lake Wangary School.

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 Southern District, and support provided by Board staff to grant applicants.

Program highlights this period

- Assessment of Grassroots Grants applications completed and grants awarded.

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Undertaking site visits and assisting landholders and community groups with Grassroots Grants applications.

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.