

Business Plan Achievement Report

1st Quarter 2020-2021

Western 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 **Liz McTaggart** (*Team Leader, Landscape Operations - Western District*) for projects in the District Councils of Ceduna, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Wudinna and far west coast areas on 08 8626 1108.



Government of South Australia
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board



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

- Continued working with landholders on fencing and revegetation projects in the Grassy Sheoak Woodland area.
- Attended the Elliston District Landcare /Ag Bureau group meeting.
- Mouse monitoring was conducted across central Eyre Peninsula. Only one field demonstrated mouse activity in July, with an active burrow and an average of 5.15% of chew cards consumed.



Photo 1: Active mouse burrow

Local government engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Flyer for upcoming Grazing Grasslands workshops to be held 30km south east of Elliston with Anne Brown and Millie Nichols from the Mid North Grazing Grasslands Group in October 2020.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Grazing Grasslands Media Release.
- Grazing Grasslands workshop scheduled for Wednesday the 28th October 2020.
- Outcomes from rotational grazing data analysis report Poldra area in partnership with Greening Australia.



Photo 2: Rotational grazing area near Poldia

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board presents

Grazing Grasslands Workshop

Hear from native grass experts about the benefits of grazing management

WHEN
Wednesday,
October 28
9.30am - 4pm

WHERE
To be held at a
property 30km from
Elliston
16291 Birdseye Hwy,
"Currale"

CONTACT
Landscape Officer
Libby Hunt
libby.hunt@sa.gov.au
0437 701 810

Topics include:
- native grass
identification
- feed quality of native
grasses
- summer v winter
grasses
- grazing management

This is a free event but bookings are essential
Book at: www.eplb-grazingworkshop.eventbrite.com.au

Photo 3: Promotion of Grazing Grasslands workshop to be held in October

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

- Meter reading for 2019-2020 year for licensed water users in the Musgrave Prescribed Wells Area was completed in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water Water Licencing Branch.

Local government engagement for this period

- Collaborated with the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding remediation ideas for the Whirlpool on Sceales Bay Road, and the Yanerbie Council Roadwork Groundwater Access Trench (GAT).
- Promoted the Water Sensitive Urban Design workshop for Local Government.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- [Media release](#) regarding the upgrade to the free water salinity testing service provided by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board to farmers in the Streaky Bay area. The upgraded testing device will enable more accurate information and a quicker turn-around time for test results.



Photo 4: Landscape officer conducting water salinity testing with new salinity meter

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.
- *Water Sensitive Urban Design Workshop* for Local Government to be held at Coffin Bay October 2020.

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

- **Boneseed**
 - Boneseed control implemented in Central Eyre Peninsula at 14 sites.
 - A boneseed plant was identified, mapped and destroyed near Port Kenny.
- **Aleppo Pine** seedling control implemented along Flinders Highway.
- **Buffel Grass** control implemented on Eyre and Flinders Highways and side roads.
- **African Boxthorn**
 - African Boxthorn control on implemented on Eyre and Flinders Highways.
 - African Boxthorn control implemented at priority sites in Central Eyre Peninsula.



Photo 5: Boneseed and Bridal Creeper

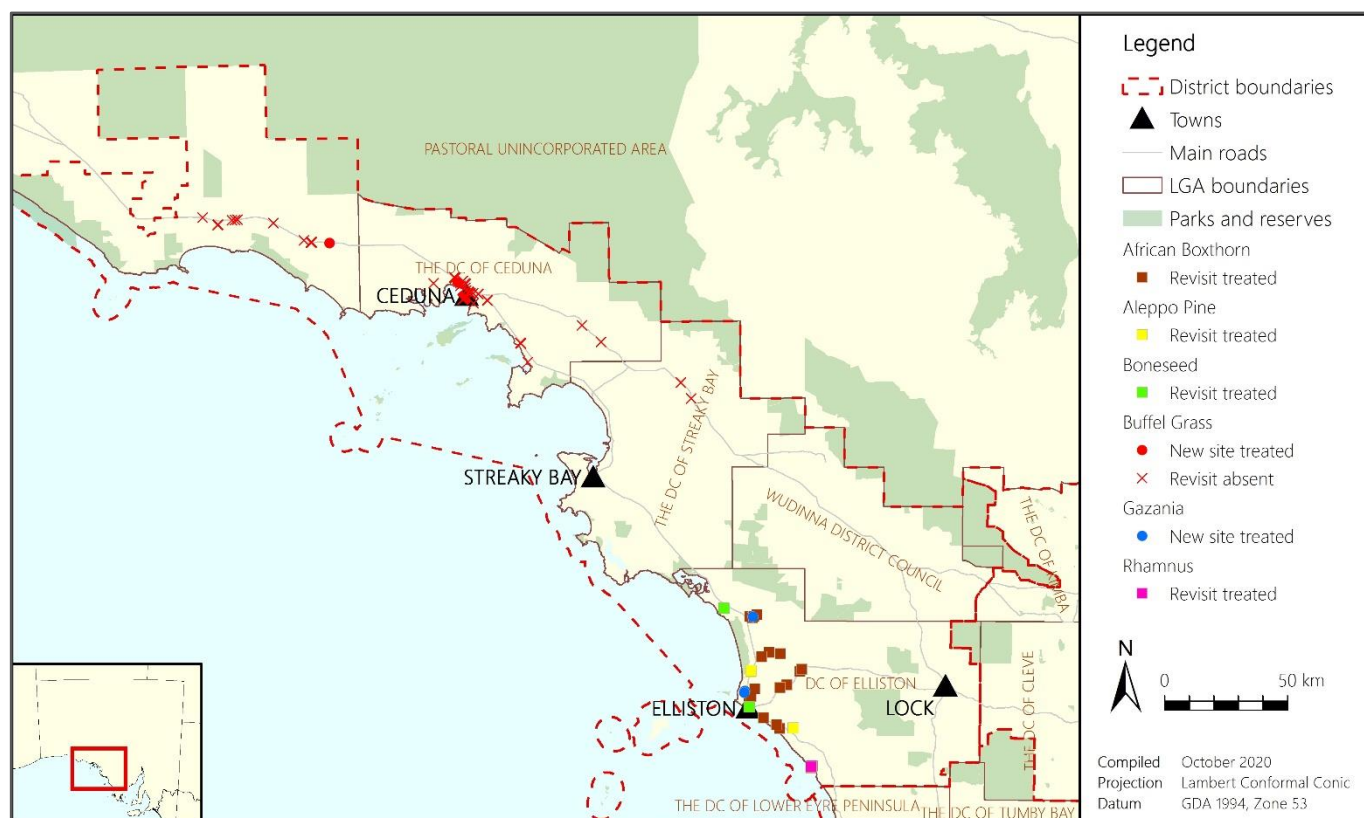


Figure 1: Priority pest plant control for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020

Pest animals

• Feral cats

- Feral predator monitoring within Venus Bay Conservation Park has been temporarily increased with the addition of 11 Felixer Grooming Traps. This brings the total number of Felixers in the park to 14.
- Data collected from the Felixers is combined with data from ongoing remote camera monitoring to enable targeted feral predator control.
- In August 2020, cage trapping of feral cats within the Park occurred over 14 nights in predator 'hotspot' locations.
- Dr John Read and Thylation, the developers of the Felixer grooming traps, submitted an application to the Australian Government's *Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions* grants for funding to further develop the Felixer. EP Landscape Board provided a letter of support for this application, with in-kind support through supporting field trials and data and image sharing.

• Foxes

- The Board continues to provide landholders with fox baits as required.

• Rabbits

- Staff responded to rabbit control enquiries.
- RHDV rabbit calicivirus reports were monitored.
- Rabbit carcasses for were collected from across the Western District for RHDV rabbit calicivirus testing (in Adelaide).



Photo 6: Targeted feral cat trapping around known Hooded Plover breeding site, Entrance Beach



Photo 7: New Felixer Grooming traps loaded up ready for set up in the field

- **Wild dogs and feral deer**

- Ongoing wild dog and deer monitoring across far west and central Eyre Peninsula, including remote sensing cameras along dog fence.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- **Fox baits:** planned production of 30,000 baits in October.
- **Training:** New staff will attend a Pest Plant and Vertebrate course.
- **Rabbits:** RHDV K5 releases are planned in four priority rabbit control locations over the next 3 months.

Local government engagement for this period

- Eyre Peninsula Landscape staff collaborated with the District Council of Streaky Bay to undertake weed control and debris removal at the Blancheport temperate saltmarsh site adjacent to the Streaky Bay walking trail and Foreshore Caravan Park. Control of African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and Marguerite Daisy (*Argyranthemum frutescens*) occurred over 9.5 hectares, along with removal of large waste items including engines, tanks and batteries. Follow up control will occur over the next two years.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Tweet on the saltmarsh remediation work at the Blancheport Saltmarsh site.



Photo 8: Working with District Council of Streaky Bay on weed control and debris removal at Blancheport Saltmarsh site.

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

- Implementation of the STAR project is ongoing, including monitoring of priority STAR Project Hooded Plover nesting sites and implementation of appropriate interventions at Hooded Plover breeding sites, including installing community awareness signage.



Photo 9: Remote camera captures beach visitor reading community awareness signage



Photo 10: Hooded Plover viewed through scope

- Support for volunteers undertaking marine debris collection on priority beaches is ongoing.
- There has been ongoing engagement with landholders undertaking saltmarsh protection and remediation projects on their properties.

- Support was provided to landholders across the Western District to apply for Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement grants.
- Bushland Condition Monitoring has occurred across the western Eyre Peninsula at 25 individual sites. Whilst the monitoring is just coming to a close and the results are yet to be compiled, there is dramatic evidence of regeneration at a number of sheoak sites around Elliston which have been fenced off from domestic stock.



Photo 11: BCM monitoring shows evidence of regeneration at Sheoak site near Elliston: 2010 vs 2020

- All approvals and permits are in place for the *Greater Bilby Supplementary Project* and we are on track for release of bilbies in October 2020.
- Preparation is underway for bilby supplementation at Venus Bay Conservation Park, including working with a Masters Student and installation of additional 25 remote sensing cameras.
- Working in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), remote sensing cameras have been set up to look at the impact of fire on malleefowl and the presence / absence of feral predators in recently burnt and unburnt country.

Local government engagement for this period

- Met with the District Council of Streaky Bay to discuss a potential signage project for the local Council area, including interpretive signage and directional/tourism signage.
- Undertook a threatened plant site assessment for the District Council of Streaky Bay prior to commencement of the *Eyes on Eyre* works at Tractor Beach.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Supported local volunteers to complete Bushland Bird Monitoring.
- 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.



Photo 12: Recent prescribed burn Kulliparu Conservation Park.

Photo 13: Unburnt area at Kulliparu Conservation Park

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Greater Bilby Supplementation from Thistle Island to Venus Bay Conservation Park – October 2020.
- Biennial Beach Nesting Bird Monitoring in November.
- Malleefowl grid monitoring.
- Grazing Grasslands Workshop in October.
- Addressing various ongoing compliance issues at Coorabie.
- Engagement with the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board and the Far West Coast Ranger program.

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

Program highlights this period

- Grassroots Grants applications were completed and applicants notified of the outcomes. For details of the successful applicants see the Regional Business Plan Achievement Report
- Four Grassroots Grant applicants from the Western District were successful.

Local government engagement for this period

- Two Grassroots Grants applications submitted by local government were successful. The District Council of Elliston and District Council of Streaky Bay have each been awarded one grant.

Communications and community engagement for this period

- Nothing to report.

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.