

# Your Landscape Levy at work

SA Arid Lands region

## YOUR LANDSCAPE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

**The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is responsible for overseeing the management of a landscape that covers more than half of South Australia – an area greater than 500,000 square kilometres.**

This means its annual income of about \$5million, generated from a number of sources, including grants and levies, amounts to less than \$10 per square kilometre.

To help the board meet its responsibilities, a land-based levy and a water levy are collected annually. This enables the board to deliver programs across the region and also provides leverage to obtain funding from government and industry to increase outcomes for the community.

In **2020/21** the board's combined funding has contributed to the following activities:

### DISTRICT SUPPORT

Six Community Landscape Officers (CLOs) support the region's seven districts: North East Pastoral; Marla Oodnadatta; North Flinders; Marree Innamincka; Gawler Ranges; Kingoonya and Port Augusta-Quorn.

Twenty-four Landscape Group meetings were held and in 2020/21 CLOs supported their groups to: host community activities and events; plan for further projects; connect with SAAL Landscape programs; and work with communities, land managers and stakeholders around landscape management issues and concerns.

## PEST MANAGEMENT

- Wild dog management – bi-annual bait injection service, subsidised baits, compliance, aerial baiting, promotion and training in the use of Wild Dog Scan, data management and coordination with PIRSA for trappers and the bounty
- Implementation of Best Practice Guidelines for Wild Dog Control
- Roadsides in the Port Augusta-Quorn district mapped for key weeds, including Boxthorn, Cactus and Pepper trees and control work undertaken for Boxthorn
- Mapping of buffel grass across all national and state Highways in SA Arid Lands region
- Weed control for Mimosa Bush over an area of 3200 hectares in the Marree Innamincka district
- Monitoring of pig and camel impacts in the Marree Innamincka and Marla Oodnadatta districts and feral pig trapping at Innamincka
- Monitoring the numbers of foxes and other pests and of herbivore browse impacts
- Goat and fox control in the Gawler, Olary and Flinders Ranges
- Worked with staff at Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) on their weed control program and with Yappala IPA on a Pepper Tree control trial
- Coordinated cochineal release to tackle opuntia at 11 new sites on 10 properties along the Saltia Creek and at sites around Port Augusta, and further release and monitoring at 16 previously engaged properties across the Gawler Ranges, Port Augusta-Quorn, Kingoonya, North Flinders, North East Pastoral and Marla Oodnadatta districts
- Mapping of 'garden' weed threats at Leigh Creek prior to the reduction in housing



Government of South Australia  
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

**SAAL LANDSCAPE**  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**SA ARID LANDS**



Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park members were part of the Gudgeon capture team



Marree Aboriginal School students attended an Outback Kids Day



Cochineal was released at new properties on Saltia Creek to help control opuntia cactus



The North East Pastoral Field Day was held at Mannahill

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Despite the challenges with COVID, board staff were able to deliver a number of community activities face-to-face and online. These included:

- North East Pastoral Field Day at Mannahill with almost 200 attendees
- 11 Native Plant Propagation workshops across the region, including in Marla Oodnadatta and Kingoonya Districts
- Snake Awareness workshop at Innamincka
- Animal Nutrition workshops at Clifton Hills, Yunta and Hawker
- Support for the formation of a Port Augusta Coastcare group
- Native grass ID workshop in Quorn
- Chemcert training for 12 volunteers in the Port Augusta-Quorn district
- Support of the Nukunu Healthy Country Planning
- Samphire Walk and Gawk event at Winninowie Conservation Park and Port Augusta's Back Beach.
- Support of the Reconciliation Day event in Port Augusta
- Native Grassland Restoration presentation in Quorn
- Support of the Nukunu Kids Weekend at Pichi Richi Park
- Update of the Top 10 Travel Tips and the Great Tracks brochures
- Supported the Flinders Family Fun Day in Leigh Creek
- Stall at the PIRSA Livestock Tech Expo at Hawker
- Organic workshops for baiting wild dogs
- Planning meeting for the RAMSAR Strategic Adaptive Management
- Online Grant writing workshop
- RCS Grazing Workshop, Port Augusta
- Managing Pastoral Country Forum in Coober Pedy
- Scavenger Hunt for Kimba Area School junior primary students at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden
- Worked with Arabana Aboriginal Rangers on restoration work in the Neale's catchment area, Marla-Oodnadatta
- Region-wide Summer Series of online production-based workshops
- Online scavenger hunt for children in the North East and North Flinders

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- Support for Blinman Parachilna Pest Plant Control Group volunteers who treated more than 2500 cacti through chemical and biological control, contributing almost 4000 volunteer hours in 2020/21
- Support for the Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park gudgeon monitoring with Grassroots Grants funds

## WATER PROGRAMS

- Adoption of the Far North Prescribed Wells Water Allocation Plan and commencement of key implementation projects
- Water management advice and property visits
- Endorsement of the Water Affecting Activities Control Policy
- Water Affecting Activity permits, enquiries and general communications
- Input into mining, energy and development proposals
- Partner in Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience (IGABDR) program to support activities that contribute to water savings and management of the GAB resource
- Support for Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee
- Assistance with the Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Adaptive Management Plan and monitoring and risk assessment processes
- Collaborating with the Great Artesian Basin Senior Officials and supporting the formation of the Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Developing communication materials for *Great Artesian Basin Springs: a Plan for the future* and engaging with volunteers and community on GAB Springs projects.
- Community consultation and site visits in Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta, William Creek and Marree



Government of South Australia  
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

**LANDSCAPE**  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**SA ARID LANDS**



Malleefowl



Sandhill Dunnart



Dusky Hopping Mouse

## THREATENED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Translocation of Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon to double known populations
- Monitoring populations of *Senecio megalossus*, *Xerothamnella parvifolia* and Slender Bell-fruit
- Continued audio surveillance survey for Night Parrots, other birds and frogs in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area, with some indication that Night Parrots may still be using the area.
- Fauna surveys for Malleefowl, Dusky Hopping Mouse, Crest-Tailed Mulgara, Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Sandhill dunnart and fish (Cooper Creek)
- Monitoring of the Western Quoll and Brushtail Possum populations in the Flinders Ranges to understand how they coped with successive dry years.
- Assessment of a second potential new reintroduction location for Western Quoll and Red-tailed Phascogale.
- Continued feral predator camera monitoring program across the Olary, Flinders and Gawler Ranges comparing fox baited areas with unbaited areas.
- Re-assessed herbivore impact on long-lived plants to assess sustainability of current feral herbivore management practice on vegetation types across public and private lands in the Flinders, Olary and Gawler Ranges.
- Continued baseline assessments of feral pig and large feral herbivore impacts in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area
- Continued assessment of vegetation responses to changes in surface water flows from infrastructure developments in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area
- Monitoring herbivore impact on listed threatened flora species
- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby ground surveys at known locations and herbivore impact assessment sites

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Partnered with Nature Foundation SA to run activities at Hiltaba and Witchelina for its Kids on Country program.
- Outback kids day for Marree Aboriginal School and children along the Birdsville track
- Citizen Science Scat project with School of the Air students.
- Two native bee presentations for children at the Augusta Park Childhood Services Centre
- Renewable energy presentation to Year 5 students at Stirling North Primary School
- Plant propagation workshop at Leigh Creek Area School

## GRASSROOTS GRANTS

The Board awarded more than \$100,000 to 15 projects in its first round of Grassroots Grants. This included: Andu (Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby) assessment on Yappala (IPA); Reducing weed infestations at Beltana; Development of stage 1 of the Copley Botanic Garden; Supporting threatened species reintroductions at Secret Rocks; Pepper tree and Athel pine eradication projects at Pernatty and Wilkatana; Weed control along the Pichi Richi Railway corridor; development of a Native Perennial Grass Production Demonstration Site at Quorn; support for the production of Adnyamathanha Plant book 'Wirti Valki'; Surveys to investigate population dynamics and declines of the threatened Thick-billed Grasswren; and stage 2 of the Algebuckina Waterhole Protection project.

## PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Facebook page
- SA Arid Lands Landscape Board website
- Quarterly *Across the Outback* newsletters, including two print editions
- *Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area*
- The Board's annual Business Plan.
- Three newsletters for the Port Augusta-Quorn district

## FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about upcoming events and the work of the landscape groups and the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board follow us on Facebook (SA Arid Lands Landscape Board) or head to our website [www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/home](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/home)