

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board presents Communique #3 with highlights from the board meeting held 25 November 2020.

Biosecurity SA



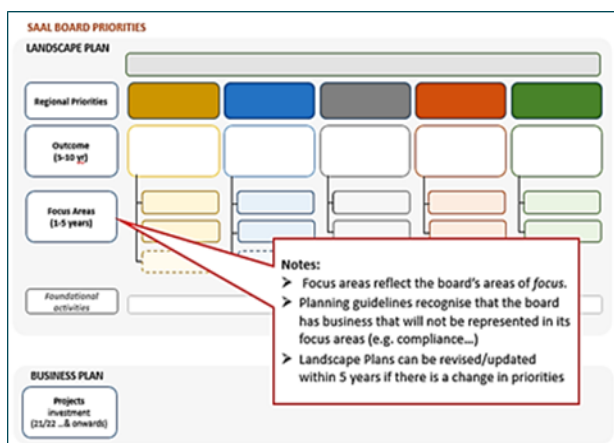
At the September meeting, kangaroo management and the board's role in managing over-abundant species was a priority item on the agenda.

The November meeting saw feral goat management as one of the topics presented to the board by the biosecurity team from PIRSA, led by Dr John Virtue, General Manager Strategy and Policy Invasive Species (pictured) and included Brad Page (Principal Biosecurity Officer Pest Animals) and Michaela Heinson (Principal Biosecurity Officer Weeds & Aquatic Pests).

Presentations were given on Biosecurity as it applies to the Landscape SA Act, pest weeds and animals, with a focus on feral goats.

The board was briefed on the partnership between PIRSA and the previous NRM board, and retained a commitment to continue working together to tackle the biosecurity issues faced by the board in the SA Arid Lands region.

Regional Landscape Plan



Progress on formulating the regional landscape plan is continuing with the board holding a workshop to examine different models and decide on one that best encapsulates the board's highest priorities focus areas and vision statement. The board agreed on its five highest priorities and a vision statement was agreed upon for the draft plan.

The board will revisit the landscape plan before the end of the year and again in January 2021 in anticipation of endorsing a final plan at the scheduled meeting in February 2021. The plan will then be released for community consultation. In the meantime staff members, as the technical experts in the plan's priorities and who will be responsible for the plan's implementation have had the opportunity to provide their input and feedback.

Future Drought Fund

Under the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Grants Program an application for- "*Sustaining and optimising what nature has provided - coordinating kangaroo management for resilient agriculture, landscapes and economic diversification*" was submitted by the board in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Alinytjara Wilurara, Eyre Peninsula and Northern & Yorke landscape boards and included 10 letters of support from stakeholders across a range of sectors.

The model proposes the establishment of an Optimised Kangaroo Management Partnership and employment of a partnership coordinator to facilitate stakeholder engagement, strategy development and prioritisation of projects.

The Future Drought Fund Grants program provide up to \$100m annually nationwide to support organisations, farmer groups and individuals undertake projects that contribute to improved drought resilience of agricultural landscapes.

Biteback Program

Biteback has been delivered by the SAAL board since 2009 and has industry, levy and partner investment to ensure its success. In recent months, a significant amount of regional activity has occurred in wild dog management across agencies and stakeholder groups and in line with the dog fence rebuild. Biteback bait injection services from July to November 2020 serviced 74 properties for a total of 39,676 baits.

Three workshops, a joint program between PIRSA, SA Arid Lands, and the Far West Dog Fence Boards Association were held in November 2020 across the region demonstrating how organic certified properties are able to undertake baiting for wild dogs without affecting their certification.

An aerial wild dog bait was conducted by board staff over 8 days between 14 September and 1 October 2020. The operation deployed 47,695 meat baits over 9,539 km of bait lines (an average of 5 baits per km) on 88 pastoral properties. The actual total distance flown was 12,415 km. PIRSA has also undertaken additional aerial baiting services recently alongside the board's Biteback Program.



Pictured above - Loading the plane with fresh meat baits at the Blinman airstrip

Looking Forward - 2021

What a year 2020 has been, however the board and its staff have carried on, facing each challenge and overcoming many obstacles to

continue to fulfil its obligations to the community of the SA Arid Lands.

Unfortunately the SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Day, which had been deferred from May to December 2020, was postponed a second time. The board was eagerly looking forward to showcasing the range of programs and projects it delivers in the region.

Now the board and staff are looking to December 2021 to stage the field day and, as before, will utilise this time to ensure that when it does go ahead it will be the best version possible.

Despite this additional set back, a summer series of webinars delivered by many of the proposed presenters of the field day has commenced.



The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and a bright and prosperous 2021.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meetings 2021

24 & 25 February 2021

21 & 22 April 2021

23 & 24 June 2021

25 & 26 August 2021

27 & 28 October 2021

15 & 16 December 2021

SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Day

2 & 3 December 2021

Please check the website for further details

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au)