

ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT 2021-2022

CARING FOR LAND, WATER AND NATURE

The SA Arid Lands Landscape region is vast and home to some of Australia's iconic Outback landscapes, and water systems including the Great Artesian Basin aquifer and the Lake Eyre Basin.

The 500,000 square kilometre region covers almost half of South Australia and has less than two percent of the State's population. Despite this, it contributes significantly to the State's resources in pastoral production, mining, tourism and other industries.

The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board works across this region and partners with community, industry, traditional owners and government agencies to ensure there is a sustainable approach to the management, protection and restoration of soils, water, native plants and animals.

The board's five-year Regional Landscape Plan outlines the board's priorities. Together with its annual Business Plan, these plans ensure there is a balance between the needs of regional communities and the sustainable management of the environment.

The board has five key priorities:



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION



WATER MANAGEMENT



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Other key functions include development of water allocation plans for prescribed water resources which in this region is the Far North Prescribed Wells. It also operates as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities.

The board's work is funded through the collection of a land-based levy and a water levy, some of which allows the board to leverage additional funding for the provision of landscape management work in the region.

Average annual
rainfall of
100-250mm

OUR REGION

The SA Arid Lands
region covers

**525,000 km² or
52,500,000 ha**

26,000 people live here



TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUPS

Adnyamathanha, Antakirinja Matu –
Yankunytjatjara, Arabana, Barngarla,
Dieri, Eringa, Gawler Ranges,
Irrwanyere, Kokatha, Malyankapa,
Ngadjuri, Nukunu, Tjajiwara Unmurru,
Wangkangurru/ Yarluyandi, Walka
Wani, Wilyakali, Yandruwandha/
Yawarrawarrka

MAIN INDUSTRIES



Mining
Pastoralism
Tourism



MAJOR CENTRES

Port Augusta
Quorn
Hawker
Woomera
Roxby Downs

Andamooka
Coober Pedy
Marree
Leigh Creek



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

Resilient landscapes, communities, and enterprises are mitigating and adapting to climate change

- 6 pastoral businesses supported to develop Property Management Plans to improve their capacity to adapt to climate variability
- 4 training workshops – Personal business drivers; Financial management for businesses; Action planning; Carbon in rangelands grazing systems
- 1 major field day, and 2 'stickybeak' demonstration days at Buckleboo & Wintinna
- 5 Building Pastoral Sustainability landholder grants supporting on-ground works or trials valued at \$114,300



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

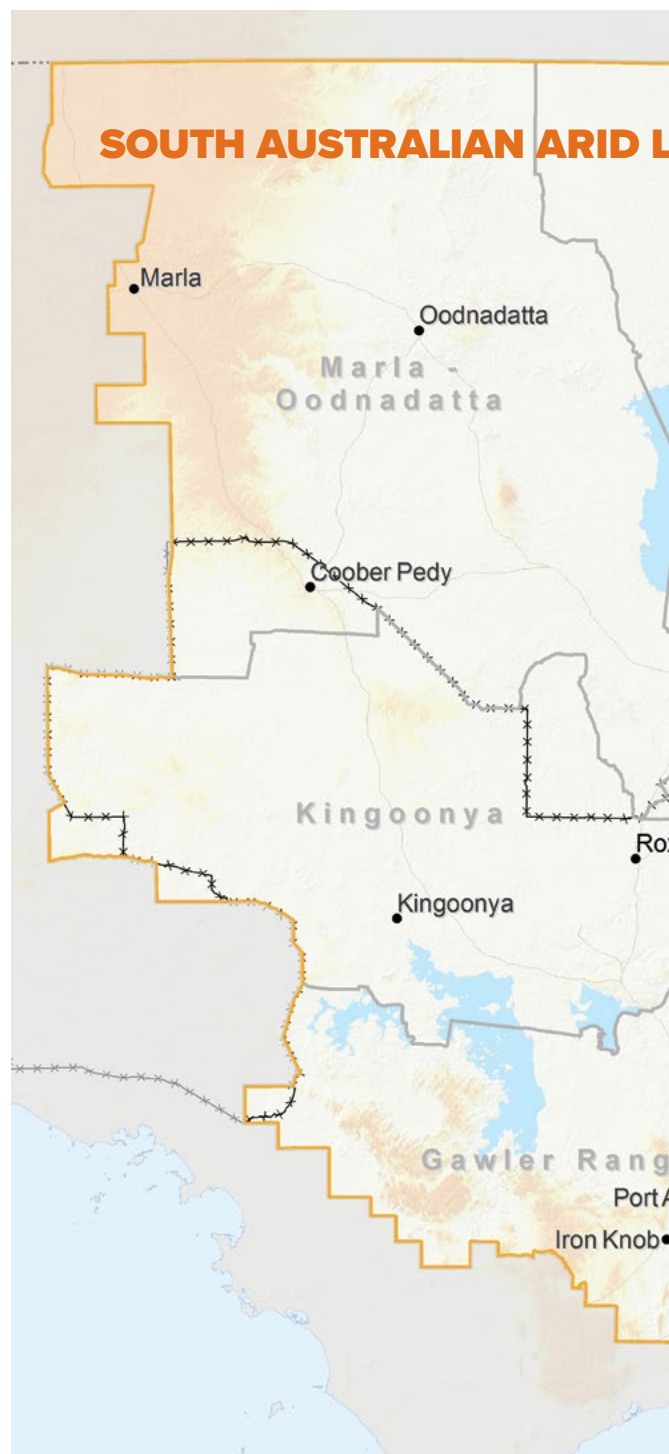
- Unbundled water authorisations sent to licence holders
- 294 GAB wells inspected across 40 properties
- 1790ML of water saved for the Great Atresian Basin annually
- 47 water affecting activities, 8 applications granted, 4 WAA permits enquiries addressed
- Support for development of the first draft Strategic Plan for the Lake Eyre Basin



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- 52 ground baiting injection services delivered across 7 districts
 - 107,310 baits distributed to 141 participating properties
- Aerial baiting across 6788km of bait lines involving 65 properties
- 6 new releases of Cochineal biological control agent and continued support of past releases
- 6 volunteer groups supported
- 58 volunteers, 2,200 volunteer hours
- 28 property visits by the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator





PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

- Aerial control of pigs and large feral herbivores across 89,000 ha
- Weed control across 4,400 ha
- Surveys of large feral herbivores and pig impacts in Coongie Ramsar area
- 3 threatened native animal species surveyed (Crest-tailed Mulgara, Dusky Hopping-mouse, Night Parrot)
- Successful re-introduction of Western Quoll to the Gammon Ranges
- Cat control across 54,000 ha
- Fox control across 863,000 ha and 25 properties)
- Goat control covering 363,000ha, across 10 properties
- Surveys of pest activity (foxes, cats, goats, rabbits in the Flinders and Gammon Ranges, and goats in the Olary Ranges)
- 6 surveys of threatened native animals (including the Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Malleefowl, Western Quoll and Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby
- 2 surveys of threatened native plants (Slender bell-fruit and Xerothamnella)



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes

- 38 Landscape Group meetings across 7 Landscape Districts
- Delivered 48 land holder capacity building and community education events
- Support of 3 volunteer groups who contributed almost 3,500 hours
- 14 Grassroots Grants valued at almost \$100,000
- 2 workshops to build relationships with traditional owner groups
- 4 editions of *Across the Outback* delivered to 1,200 subscribers

Key Projects in 2021-22

Biteback

The board runs a comprehensive Wild Dog Management Program in partnership with PIRSA, landholders, Livestock SA and other investors such as the Australian Government and Sheep Industry Fund. The board supports the 21 wild dog local area groups in the region to implement strategies in the 'Wild Dog Management Best Practice Guidelines'.

Optimising kangaroo management

Kangaroo over-abundance is a threat to the environmental and economic sustainability of rangelands areas. This two-year project brings together key stakeholders from across the region and state to find and test new approaches to kangaroo management that can reduce the impacts of kangaroo over-abundance on ecosystem health, livestock production and animal welfare.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM PROJECTS

Building Pastoral Sustainability

This project aims to build pastoralists' capacity to respond to the region's highly variable climate through adaptation, innovation and diversification. The project delivers property management planning support, customised trials, on-ground works, and learning opportunities focused on practices and technologies that can improve land condition, sustainability of production and the resilience of pastoral enterprises. Diversification pathways, and improving understanding of weather and climate information are a focus for 2022/23.

Coongie Wetland Wonders

The Coongie Lakes Ramsar Wetland is internationally recognised for its ecological values and the site provides habitat for native fish and a number of endangered animals such as the Dusky Hopping Mouse, and Crest-tailed Mulgara. This Regional Land Partnership project focuses on protecting Ramsar values by controlling pest animals – particularly feral pigs and large feral herbivores that cause damage to waterholes and vegetation, and invasive weeds, including Buffel Grass and Mimosa Bush. Populations of key native species are being monitored, and acoustic surveillance is being used to determine the presence of the Night Parrot.

Bounceback and Beyond

This project partners with the Department for Environment and Water's long-running Bounceback Program, delivering conservation gains for a number of threatened animal species. This is achieved through coordinated, landscape-scale threat management across the Flinders, Gawler, Olary and Gammon Ranges. Bounceback and Beyond focuses on protection of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Western Quoll, Malleefowl, Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Slender Bell-fruit, and Xerothamnella but also benefits many native plants and animals. Control of foxes, feral cats and feral goats is a key focus of the project. Threatened plant species assessments are undertaken to track long-term trends for the Slender Bell-fruit, Menzell's Wattle, Purple-wood Wattle, Xerothamnella parvifolia, Spidery Wattle, Ooldea Guinea-flower and West Coast Mintbush. These assessments will compare the threat posed by introduced herbivores in areas where control is undertaken compared with unmanaged areas.



National
Landcare
Program



Building Pastoral Sustainability



Coongie Wetland Wonders



Bounceback and Beyond

