

North East Pastoral District Plan

2022 – 2024



Introduction

This plan provides an overview of the features of the North East Pastoral district, the key opportunities and issues relating to landscape management, and priorities for the North East Pastoral Landscape Group.

Linked bioregions

A bioregion is an ecologically and geographically defined area with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The district is comprised of two major bioregions:

- Flinders Lofty Block
- Broken Hill Complex

Size: 31,445 km² (6% of SAAL)

Towns (population): Yunta – 104 (increased since 2001), Mannahill – ~8 (no trend information available), Olary – ~8 (no trend information available), Cockburn – 90 (increased since 2001)

Aboriginal Nations: Adnyamathanha (north-west); Wilyakali (south-east); Ngadjuri (south-west)

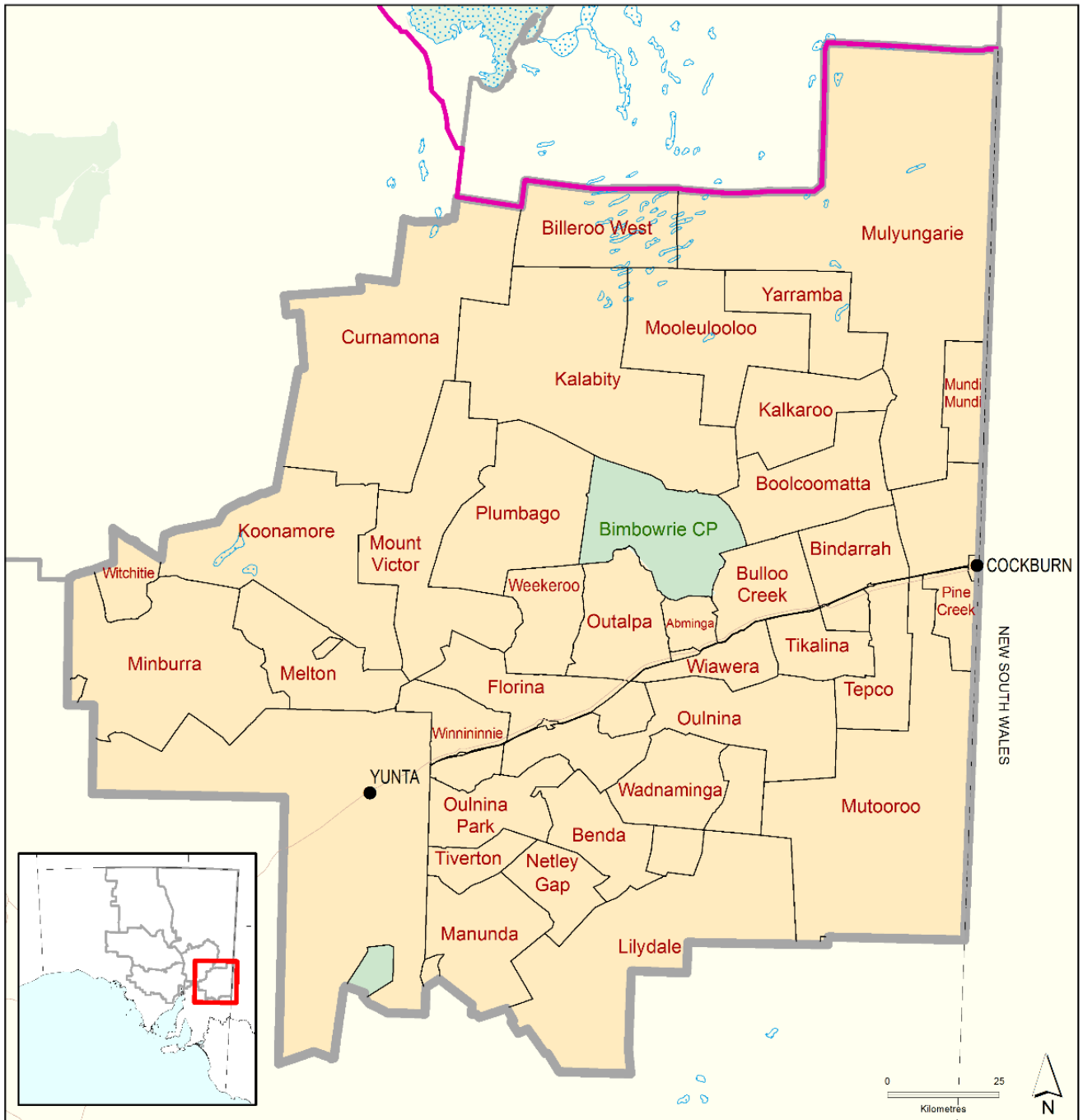
Land use: Pastoralism (predominantly sheep), mining and energy, conservation (public and private lands), recreation, service centres, towns

Catchment and key waterways: Water resources are not a particular feature of the North East District. In the range country within the area are fractured rock groundwater aquifers with some spring outlets between Yunta and Olary. For the most part, however, there are very few reliable natural waters. The southern area falls within the Murray Darling catchment.

National Parks and Reserves: Bimbowrie and Pualco Conservation Parks

Key stakeholders:

- First Nations organisation – Ngadjuri Adnyamathanha Wilyakali Native Title Aboriginal Corporation NAWNTAC
- Pastoralists
- Bush Heritage Australia
- University of Adelaide
- Tourism
- Outback Communities Authority
- Schools
- Townships
- Volunteers
- Mining industry
- National Parks and Wildlife Service



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|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Landscape District Boundary | NPWSA Reserve | Dog Fence | Coastline |
| Pastoral Station | Salt Lake | Major Road | Place Name |

Figure 1: Map of the North East Pastoral district

Role of the Board

Under the Landscape South Australia (LSA) Act 2019, the Board's role is to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources. Particular reference is given to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control. The Board operates as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities and works with the community in delivering its responsibilities under the LSA Act. Its roles include education and awareness raising aimed at practice change and adoption, encouraging and supporting legislative compliance, and enforcement when needed.

Role of the North East Pastoral Landscape Group

Landscape Groups are an important conduit for community input to landscape planning and design of the Board's programs. Groups work with local communities, to support the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan and increase community awareness of Board programs within a Group's area.

Landscape Planning Framework



How this plan was developed

This plan was developed through a series of planning sessions with the North East Pastoral Landscape Group in 2021. Information was drawn from past planning documents, current projects and stakeholder knowledge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This district plan will be reviewed each year with the North East Pastoral Group to evaluate progress against priorities and plan for the next year of activities.

VISION

Leading the way to biodiverse and productive landscapes in a changing climate

SA Arid Lands regional priorities

Priorities

Focus areas



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

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

- C1** Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all Board business
- C2** Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- C3** Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

- W1** Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
- W2** Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems
- W3** Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- L1** Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems
- L2** Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure
- L3** Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

- B1** Managing key threats to protect natural values
- B2** Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery
- B3** Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems


















PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes.

- P1** First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes
- P2** Supporting Landscape Groups to lead community action and education
- P3** Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature
- P4** Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes

North East Pastoral District priorities for landscape management




Priorities*	Landscape impacts	District Ranking ^	Alignment to Regional Priorities**
Mitigating and adapting to climate impacts	Climate change predictions for the district are for higher temperatures, declining rainfall, more extreme weather events and increased salinity. Support opportunities to adapt to harsher climate conditions, diversify livelihoods and offset carbon emissions.	High	
Over-grazing, Erosion and Landscape Rehydration	High levels of total grazing pressure including livestock, overabundant native herbivores and introduced herbivores lead to loss of biodiversity and ground cover, and increased erosion. Impacts include land degradation, habitat and species loss, and agricultural productivity loss where over grazing occurs. Landscape rehydration improves carbon stocks and soil biological activity for drought resilience and pasture recovery after drought, benefitting production, biodiversity and climate mitigation.	High	 
Loss of Social Licence	Bridging the gap between rural and urban communities through increased awareness of land management practices	High	
Feral Predator Control – Fox and Cats	Predation by foxes and cats results in loss of native fauna, disruption to ecosystem processes and also impacts livestock - particularly lamb mortality (foxes).	Med	
Weed Control	Weeds displace native vegetation with flow-on effects for native fauna and impact on stock management/pastoral production.	Med	 
Industry Development Impacts	Vegetation clearance by industry developments such as mining, pastoralism, energy and infrastructure, decrease biodiversity and disrupt ecosystem processes. Support restoration through revegetation to increase habitat, vegetation connectivity, and restore ecosystem processes. Includes restoration of riparian, plains and ranges habitats.	Med	
Rubbish and Pollution	Illegal dumping ends up degrading the landscape and compromising biodiversity.	Med	
Nature and Cultural Knowledge and Awareness	Support more knowledge and awareness in the younger generation about the importance of local culture and biodiversity through school programs. Better understanding of historical landscape management	Med	
Supporting Community Action	Support opportunities for building community capacity and community-led action through	Med	



	grants and events. More resilient and adaptable communities		
Water Over Extraction	Over extraction or diversion of ground and surface water requires management of water affecting activities. Impacts may include landscape dehydration, draw down on ground water and cultural desecration	Low	
Inappropriate Fire	Species loss, change to ecosystems, potential for desertification	Low	
Disease Vectors		Low	
Respect and acknowledgement of Traditional Owner beliefs, language and cultural sites	Impacts include loss of understanding of landscape management, cultural heritage loss and desecrated cultural sites		

* Priorities include both threats and opportunities ranking.

^Priority ranking for the district considers the **magnitude** of the threat or opportunity (how **severe/influential** and how **widespread/ relevant**) it is, as well as the **reversibility** of its impacts. ** Some district priorities may not be regional priorities for the Board.

North East Pastoral District - Current programs and opportunities

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
 Climate Resilient Region					
Mitigating and adapting to Climate Impacts	High	<i>Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS) Project:</i> Building pastoral sustainability and climate adaptation through workshops, property management planning, grants, sticky beak tours, and field days.	Current /2018-2023	SAAL LB	C2, L3
		<i>Carbon Farming workshops & forums</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	C2, C3
		<i>Drought Hub</i> (Future Drought Fund program)	Current /2021-?	PIRSA, UoA, SAAL LB	C2
 Water Management					
Landscape Rehydration	High	Landscape Literacy Workshop	Current	SAAL LB, DEW, BH	W3
Water Over-extraction	Low	<i>Water Affecting Activities Control Policy (on-going)</i> - Monitor Water Affecting Activities and promote awareness	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	W1
 Sustainable Land Management					
Grazing pressure - Rabbits	High	<i>Rabbit disease releases</i>	Current /Ongoing	PIRSA	B2
Grazing pressure - Goats		<i>Review of goat management</i>	Current	SAAL LB	L2
Grazing pressure - Kangaroos		<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership Co-ordinator</i>	Current /2021-2023	Sevenses Creative (Coordinator) SAAL LB	L2
Soil Erosion and Rehabilitation		<i>Koonamore/Osborn Reserve workshop</i>	Current - Sept 2022	SAAL LB, Landholder, University of Adelaide	L3

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
Weed Control		<i>Cactus Control Project</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, Landholders, Volunteers	L3
		<i>District Weed Strategy</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	L3
		<i>Chemcert Refresher Course</i>	Current	SAAL LB	L3
Disease Vectors & Feral Predator Control - Feral pigs	Medium	<i>Pig surveys and control project</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	L1, L2, L3
 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity					
Feral predator control - Wild dogs	High	<i>Biteback wild dog control program</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1
		<i>Wild dog trapper workshop</i>	Current	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1
		<i>Dog fence re-build</i>	Current / 2021-?	PIRSA	L1
Feral predator control - Cats		<i>Bounceback and Beyond – monitoring cameras and baiting assessments</i>	Current /2018-2023	SAAL LB	B2
Feral predator control - Foxes		Fox control programs inc baiting	Potential	PIRSA	B1
Damage to Cultural Sites	Medium	Cultural site mapping, monitoring and protection	Potential		P3
Tourism impacts - Rubbish & pollution		Top 10 travel tips promotion	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, FROTOA	P1, P3
Inappropriate Fire	Low		Potential		
Industry development impacts	Not specified		Potential		
 People and Partnerships					
Education	High	<i>Yunta North East News contributions</i>	Current /ongoing	SAAL LB	P3
		<i>Workshops and training opportunities</i>	Current /ongoing	SAAL LB	P3

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
Nature and Cultural Knowledge Awareness		<i>Increased engagement with NAWNTAC with view to project development</i>	Current	SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1
Loss of Social Licence					L3
Diversification					L3
Supporting Community Action		<i>Face-to-face landholder engagement and property visits</i>	Current/ongoing	SAAL LB, Stakeholders	P4
		<i>Landscape Group support</i>	Current/ongoing	SAAL LB, LG Group	P4
		<i>Progress Association support</i>	Current/ongoing	SAAL LB, Progress Associations	P4
		<i>Ladies Day/ Succession planning workshop</i>	Complete	SAAL LB	P4
		<i>Face-to-face grant writing workshop</i>	Complete	SAAL LB	P4
		<i>Rabbit Control workshop at Minburra</i>			
All and Sundry Access	Med				
Corporate Buy-up of Stations	Med				
Lack of Knowledge of Cultural Sites	Not specified	<i>Increased engagement with NAWNTAC with view to project development/increased educational opportunities</i>	Current	SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1
Access to Cultural Sites	Not Specified	<i>Increased engagement with NAWNTAC with view to project development</i>	Current	SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1

North East Pastoral District Landscape Group actions

District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status
Climate Resilient Region					
Mitigating and adapting to climate impacts	Supporting community action to explore carbon opportunities	Conduct introductory carbon farming and carbon accounting workshop			
Water Management					
Landscape Rehydration	Supporting community action to achieve land management outcomes	Conduct Landscape Literacy workshop	April 2023	SAAL LB, Bush Heritage, DEW,	
Sustainable Land Management					
Weed Control	<i>Weed Control – cactus, boxthorn and other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Promote Port Augusta cochineal nursery to community through YNEN, landholder visits & community events e.g. races - Promote drill/fill machine via YNEN - Work with Northern & Yorke on cactus - Complete district weed strategy & promote to district - Investigate possible new volunteer groups for weed control (gold prospecting, mineral & 4WD clubs) - In-person workshop for grassroots grants (include BPS) - Service spray pack, return to NEP (find a location) & promote through YNEN & landholder visits 	<p>YNEN article Ongoing Nov 2021 LG meeting</p> <p>Oct/Nov 2022</p> <p>2023/24 FYR</p>		<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete Ongoing Complete</p>

District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status
		- Conduct weeds workshop at Mingary	2023/24 FYR		
Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity					
Soil erosion & conservation	Supporting community action to achieve land management outcomes	- Erosion workshop at Koonamore/Osborn Reserve	2023 – Jan - tentative	SAAL LB, Koonamore Station, Uni of Adelaide	Rescheduled from Sept 2022
		- Neville Bonney Roadshow – native plant ID, propagation, bush foods	April 10		Complete
People and Partnerships					
Education - Communication & collaboration	Supporting community action to achieve land and water management outcomes	-			
		- Monthly Yunta North East News articles	Monthly		Ongoing
		- Seek photos of tourism impacts from landholders through YNEN? (needs more workshopping – CG)			
		- Put up Top 10 Travel Tips signs at information bays in Yunta and Cockburn			Complete
		- Native plant workshops/pitfall trapping event for kids – Yunta or central location	May/June 2023		
		- Ladies Day – succession planning, grants, plant propagation	March 30		Complete
		- Conduct minimum 6 new property visits	Ongoing		Complete

Prepared by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board on behalf of the
North East Pastoral Landscape Group
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SA Arid Lands Landscape Board