ABOUT THE MARREE-INNAMINCKA DISTRICT

The Marree-Innamincka district covers more than 200,000 square kilometres (20% of South Australia) in the north-east of the region and is bounded by the Simpson Desert and Lake Eyre to the west, the North Flinders and North East districts to the south, and South Australia’s north and east borders.

COMMUNITIES

The permanent population of the district is approximately 200 people. A further 300 transient workers service the petroleum industry and 45,000 tourists visit the region annually. Townships include Innamincka, Marree, Lyndhurst and Moomba.

CLIMATE

The climate is characterised by long dry periods, highly unpredictable and variable rainfall, summer storms and extreme summer temperatures (36-45 Celsius). Average annual rainfall is 125mm but can range between 0 and 500mm. Evaporation is extremely high, exceeding 3,800mm in some areas.

LAND FORMS

The district is dominated by three main land forms. These are stony tablelands and gibber downs, the dune fields and sandplains of the Simpson, Tirari and Strezlecki Deserts and the floodplains, channels and ephemeral lakes of the major river systems. Minor landforms include arid ranges and playa lakes.

VEGETATION

Major vegetation types include:
Dunes: canegrass, spinifex, sandhill wattle, needlebrush, whitewood, narrow-leaf hopbush.
Watercourses & Floodplains: river red gum, coolibah, river cooba, Broughton Willow, lignum, old man saltbush, bluebush, Mitchell grass, cottonbush, swamp canegrass.
Salt Lake Surrounds: samphire, sea-heath, nitre bush, bladder saltbush, bluebush.
Ranges: mulga, red mallee, dead finish, fuschia bush, emu bush, bluebush, bladder saltbush, rock sida.
Tablelands & Gibber Downs: bladder saltbush, bluebush, cottonbush, copperburr, Mitchell grass, emu bush.

WATER

The two major water resources in the district are the Great Artesian Basin and the river systems of the Cooper Creek and Diamantina/Warburton River. Irregular flood waters terminate in an extensive network of swamps and lakes such as Goyders Lagoon, Coongie Lakes and Lake Eyre in extreme flows.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRY

The major land use within the district is beef cattle production, with some sheep production south of the dog fence. Other land use includes oil, gas and geothermal exploration/production, parks and reserves, tourism and Aboriginal managed lands.
Priority issues identified by the MARREE-INNAMINCKA COMMUNITY

- road condition management
- mining & exploration impacts
- tourism impacts
- increasing labour costs
- water management
- feral animals, particularly wild dog, fox and rabbit
- youth leaving the area

Activities delivered in the MARREE-INNAMINCKA DISTRICT

- 86% properties participated in at least one natural resources management activity
- 79% properties participated in pest animal management across 4,325,799 hectares (including wild dog, rabbit, goat, camel, donkey, horse, pig)
- 21% properties participated in weed management covering 7410 hectares (including buffel grass, athel pine, mimosa bush, Noogoora burr, prickly acacia)
- Water Allocation Plan implemented
- Water affecting activities permit policy
- Aquatic ecosystem condition monitoring
- Biophysical, cultural and social assessment of Channel Country (Cooper, Diamantina and Georgina catchments)
- Flora and fauna monitoring
- Fish ladder option investigated
- Visitor management infrastructure installed
- Tourism information products developed
- District-scale strategic weed management planning
- Landscape-scale, cross-border feral pig management
- Pest monitoring (early detection)
- Wild dog management
- Small incentive grants to subsidise the cost of pest, weed and soil management
- Incentives available for young people for natural resources management participation
- Advice on mining and exploration issues
- Improved road condition management

SA ARID LANDS ACTIVITIES 2010-13

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS OVERALL 7,001 PEOPLE
% OF PROPERTIES (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) PARTICIPATING IN AT LEAST ONE ACTIVITY 84%
NUMBER OF TRAINING/AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS 324
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS 22,426
NUMBER OF ACROSS THE OUTBACK SUBSCRIBERS 1,400
NUMBER OF WEBSITE VISITORS 14,184

1 Reported through SA Arid Lands NRM Board-sponsored surveys: Strategic Planning for District NRM Groups (surveys undertaken mid to late 2012).
2 Ehrenberg-Bass Natural Resource Management Participation, Knowledge & Skills in the SAAL Region (interviews with pastoral landholders undertaken in mid to late 2012).
3 Extracted from activities database held by SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board, 2010-2013.