Each year the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board enters into a Service Level Agreement with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) for the delivery of the Board’s programs plus services provided by business support and the regional management team.

Details of the Board’s programs can be found in the Board’s Business Plan (2017-2020).

This report provides a quarterly update of each program, including:

- Program highlights this period
- Local government engagement for this period
- Upcoming priorities for the next period

Each milestone is assigned a status, based on its current progress.

- On track to deliver all milestones.
- On track to deliver most milestones. May be some delays.
- Unlikely to meet milestones.

Further details of each of these programs can be found on the Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula website or by contacting Tim Breuer (Senior NRM Officer – Eastern) for projects in the City Council of Whyalla and District Councils of Kimba, Franklin Harbor and Cleve areas on 0488 000 481.
Landscapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conserving and protecting species and ecosystems</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving community skills, knowledge and engagement in landscapes NRM</td>
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Program highlights this period

- Attended and encouraged community participation in the National Malleefowl adaptive management project workshops at Cowell and Whyalla
- Protect and Regenerate Endemic Vegetation (PREV) project school activities. Students recreating EP Blue Gum Communities:
  - 69 Cleve area school students and 8 school staff joined local NREP employees in planting 500 trees to revegetate degraded EP Blue Gum areas.
  - Along the Yeldulkinie walking trail 260 plants including EP Blue Gums and 10 understory species were planted.
  - Another 240 plants were used to revegetate a creek line on a local landholders property to add to direct seeding that was recently completed.
  - Students learnt why EP Blue gum communities are important and the role they play creating healthy ecosystems that benefit agricultural systems.
PREV project was finalised, with the following achieved:

- 60+ km of direct seeding revegetation of EP Blue Gum Community species
- 500 tube stock planted with students, landholders and DC Cleve
- 13km of fencing to protect existing EP Blue Gum Communities and revegetation
- Significant culvert and drainage works with DC Cleve to improve hydrological flows that will improve drainage and minimise salinity
- Small scale drainage improvements with landholder to reduce salinity impacts on EP Blue gum community
- Support in developing new EP Blue Gum Fact Sheets
- Development of an EP Blue Gum Management plan.

Held EP Blue gum workshop in Cleve with 27 attendees from landholders, students and community members eager to learn more about the threatened EP Blue Gum communities. Senior Ecologist Dr Greg Kerr presented information on:

- What is an Eyre Peninsula blue gum Woodland community and why are they threatened
- Biology of the Eyre Peninsula blue gum
- Why Eyre Peninsula blue gums are valuable in the landscape, to people & the economy
- Learn more about bird species associated with Eyre Peninsula blue gums
- How can we manage Eyre Peninsula blue gums and waterways better in the future?

Undertook total extent surveys for the EP Blue Gum communities to verify the extent of their populations

Weed control around priority EP Blue Gum sites

Site visits and advice for landholder enquiries regarding native vegetation clearance.

Local government engagement for this period

- District Manager presentation to Whyalla City Council on works and projects carried out in the previous 6 month period and upcoming priorities for the next 6 months. Focussed on Whyalla and surrounding areas as well as work benefiting the entire region.
- District Manager presentation to District Council of Franklin Harbour on works and projects carried out in the previous 6 month period and upcoming priorities for the next 6 months. Focussed on Cowell and surrounding areas as well as work benefiting the entire region.
- Presentation to District Council of Cleve and EPNRM board members at June 2019 Board meeting held in Cleve
- DC Cleve participated in EP Blue Gum community tree planting sessions along Yeldulkinie walking trail with NREP and Cleve AS Students.
- DC Cleve completed culvert install for improved drainage for threatened EP Blue Gum communities.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) project kicks off in July with works planned for Arno Bay, Franklin Harbour and Cowleds Landing Sanctuary Zone. Works will include pest plant and animal control, track rationalisation, waste removal and fencing, water sustainable urban design projects.
Coast & marine

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve community skills, knowledge and engagement in coast and marine ecosystems</td>
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Program highlights this period

- Completion of the Whyalla City Council retained earnings project - Northern Coastline Masterplan. Completion of the new facilities at the Cuttlefish dive site. New facilities include two changing rooms with enough space for 2 – 3 divers in each room, water tanks and paved pathways around the site.

![Photo 6: New cuttlefish dive site infrastructure being installed](image)

- **Cuttlefest** Thousands of people have visited Stony Point to dive and snorkel with the Giant Australian Cuttlefish. Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries together with The City of Whyalla and National Parks SA, Marine Parks and the EP NRM Board have partnered to bring to life one of the region’s best nature based tourism events. The infrastructure at the dive site co-funded by City of Whyalla and EPNRMB has been received well and has really helped to enhance the experience for people visiting the cuttlefish. Two “curious cuttles” science in the pub events have been included in this year’s program as well as a marine discovery centre, cuttlefish arts trail and an art competition.

- Site visits with Arno Bay Estuary Group to support and investigate Native Vegetation clearance options for boardwalk development

- Site visits for accommodation development adjacent samphire areas along the coast at Arno Bay.

Local government engagement for this period

- Several meetings have been held with Whyalla City Council regarding development of dolphin management plan and citizen science project for Whyalla marina dolphins.

- Meetings held with Whyalla City Council regarding review and Board endorsement of the Whyalla Stormwater Management Plan.

- Planning meetings held with Whyalla City Council and Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries for Cuttlefest 2019.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Collaboration between EPNRM, Whyalla City Council and University of Adelaide internship student on development of Dolphin citizen science project.
Pest plants & animals

Milestones

| Monitor and facilitate management of priority pest plants and animals |

Program highlights this period

**Pest Plants**

- Pest Plant surveys - 1700ha of roadside was surveyed for 8 declared species of weed, and control measures applied to 100ha. This eliminated nearly 6000 individual weeds, between 6 staff members across all EEP District Council Areas.

![Photo 7, 8 and 9: NREP staff controlling African Boxthorn around priority EP Blue Gum communities.](image)

- Weed control to support EP Blue Gum communities - 735ha of roadsides were surveyed for 6 pest weed species covering Boxthorn, Silver Leaf Nightshade, Gazania, Aleppo Pine, Bridal creeper, and Opuntia to create a buffer zone around important EP Blue Gum sites. 12700 plants were identified for potential control. 1050 plants and 30ha were controlled for Boxthorn, while a further 1450 plants over 9ha were controlled for Silver Leaf Nightshade and Gazania. 5 Aleppo pines were also removed. Weed control options were also discussed with landholders for control on adjoining properties.

- Boxthorn has been a large focus in this quarter with continued surveying of just under 650ha and control applied for 84ha. Control was predominately conducted around the Arno bay area (including the Lincoln highway, 5-cross roads rd, Verran rd, and pumping station rd), and buffer zones along roadside to protect EP Bluegum areas (including Bartel-Smith rd, Gum flat rd, and Syvertsen rd). Granular herbicide was used to poison approximately 3300 plants while 1200 were manually cut and swabbed with gel based herbicide, in total targeting around 4500 plants.

- Silverleaf Nightshade - Control has started on 9ha of Silverleaf Nightshade focused around buffer zones on roadsides to protect EP Bluegum areas. 1450 plants with good leaf to absorb herbicide have been targeted.

- Gazania - Control has started on 1ha of Gazania focused around buffer zones on roadsides to protect EP Bluegum areas.

- Aleppo pine - 5 pines have been removed around buffer zones on roadsides to protect EP Bluegum areas.

- African lovegrass - A new site on the Birdseye HWY has been identified with 9 plants treated.

- Surveying of the Kimba area has continued with 210ha been covered and a 100 plant outbreak of Apple of Sodom, a 100m section of Kahki weed, 4 Opuntia, 4 Bridal Creeper, and 2 Boxthorn identified for future control.

- Further surveying of 420ha for Boxthorn, Silverleaf Nightshade, Gazania, and Opuntia have also been conducted in the Cleve and Arno areas for immediate and future control.
**Pest animals:**

- Rabbit warren ripping has been conducted on roadsides in the hundred sections of Solomon, Kelly, Heggaton, and Mangalo. 47 warrens were identified for warren destruction with ripping of all completed by the end of June. 10 landholders adjacent to works have been contacted to date to engage them with the project and discuss rabbit population sizes on private lands, with informative phone messages also left for a further 12 landholders. Warrens have also been surveyed on the Arno bay coast for future ripping.
• Fox Bait manufacturing of over 30,000 baits to be used in Gawler ranges NP with the Western EP NRM staff
• Continued to provide fox bait services to landholders
• Wild dogs - Set up the EEP Wild Dog group with drying trays, manufacturing tables and storage for when we get wild dog incursions on EEP. Provided by PIRSA Drought Funds

Local government engagement for this period
• Engagement and communication with Kimba council regarding rabbit warren ripping works
• Engagement and communication with Cleve council regarding boxthorn control and weed management efforts surrounding EP bluegum communities.

Upcoming priorities for the next period
• Priorities include continued control of Boxthorn in the Arno bay, 5-cross roads, region and additionally extending onto HWYs between Arno Bay and Whyalla, and Cowell and Cleve. Voluntary compliance will be pursued for adjoining properties for further private control of boxthorn.
• Control of Silverleaf nightshade and Gazania on roadsides to contain spread.
• Opuntia control across the whole EEP region with potential to introduce control beetles at eligible sites.
• Continued monitoring of rabbit warrens and working with landholders in regards to further control on properties and roadsides with potential for the release of K5 in areas of high rabbit population.
• Weed and rabbit warren destruction in buffer zones around significant salt marsh areas as part of the STAR project
• Annual boneseed control will also commence in September.
Sustainable farming

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<tr>
<td>Improve community skills, knowledge and engagement in Sustainable Agriculture</td>
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Program highlights this period

- NRM Farm training for NRM staff. It is hoped that staff will be able to engage and train landholders who wish to utilise this farm planning/management tool.
  - nrmFarm is a free web based NRM farm management tool which allows property owners to create and save maps of their farm including property boundaries, paddocks and infrastructure.
  - Land managers can now record information such as weed sightings, rabbit warrens, soil test results, chemical applications, sowing dates, yield data and livestock movements.
- Provide information to landholders regarding soil modification for improved germination and yield
  - Clay spreading and delving
- Organised a tour of sheeted catchments in the district for several landholders who are investigating whether or not to invest and install one for their own water security
- NRM Officers attended and supported the ‘Drought Outreach Roadshow’ events focussed on farming in dry times, pest plant and animal control and funding opportunities, Kimba, Cleve, Cowell.
- Improved land management with the use of temporary electric fencing provided for by the EPNRM Board protecting vulnerable soils from further erosion.
- Meeting with Major General Steven Day from the Drought Taskforce to discuss drought issues with landholders and other stakeholders and review how drought assistance could be improved and what farmers actually need.
- Undertake two lots of quarterly Erosion Protection surveys for DEW with PIRSA Staff across all EEP council boundaries also including DC Lower Eyre, Elliston and Wudinna.
- Assisting farmers to access On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

Local government engagement for this period

- No activities for the period

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Case management for landholders affected by dry times
Communications & engagement

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<tr>
<td>Effective community engagement and education programs</td>
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Program highlights this period

- Blogs for PREV project highlighting weed control efforts and tree planting outcomes
- Engagement with proposed Renasco Graphite mine operators near Arno Bay regarding environmental issues.
- Nature Soothes - Saltmarsh Field Trip with Whyalla Country Health SA Mental Health Rehabilitation.
- Six groups of high school students from Cowell, Cleve, Kimba and Whyalla attended field trips to snorkel with the giant Australian cuttlefish over three days. Students learned why marine park sanctuary zones are important for protecting key breeding areas like the cuttlefish coast which hosts the only known mass breeding aggregation of cuttlefish in the world. The cuttlefish are an important icon and nature based tourism asset for the Whyalla region.
- Environmental and Cultural Field Trip to Cowleds Landing Sanctuary Zone with Nicolson Avenue Primary School Aboriginal students. Aboriginal students learnt about Barngarla culture and sea country in a local protected area, including the role Aboriginal people have played as stewards of the land historically and now in partnership with NRM and Marine Parks.
- Supported Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week activities with Nicolson Avenue Primary School.
- Supported two self-elected (Year 7-10) Youth Environment Council (YEC) students by providing opportunities for the students to develop knowledge, skills, and confidence to run their own environmental action projects in their local community.
- Contributed to the City of Whyalla Cuttlefest program by providing a range of Citizen Science and School Activities over the Cuttlefest period May-August.
- Liaison with Whyalla Barngarla about future environmental and cultural field trips for schools.
- Liaison with Zen Simec and Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park about solar field development plans.

Photo 12: Aboriginal students from Nicolson Avenue Primary School learn about coast and marine protected areas and Barngarla culture on a field trip to Cowleds Landing Sanctuary Zone (Eight-Mile Creek) near Whyalla.
Photo 13: Students from Kimba Area School learn through an immersive snorkelling experience (at the Stony Point dive site near Whyalla) how Marine Park Sanctuaries like the Cuttlefish Coast protect whole ecosystems.

Photo 14: Youth Environment Council (YEC) Students Brayden Lawrie and Keira Berryman from Cleve Area School are being coached to lead environment projects within their local community. Brayden’s project will concentrate on pest plants and animals and Keira’s project will have coast-marine focus.

Local government engagement for this period
- No activities for the period

Upcoming priorities for the next period
- STAR project
- Boxthorn control