Period 1 July – 30 September 2019

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 (2019 - 2022).

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.

Further details of each of these programs can be found on the Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula website or by contacting Susan Stovell (Manager, Planning and Engagement) on 08 8688 3201.
Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of Water Allocation Plan (WAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Affecting Activities (WAA) processed and managed</td>
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**Implementation of Water Allocation Plan (WAP)**

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Southern Basins and the Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas, Eyre Peninsula was endorsed by the State Government on 28 June, 2016. The WAP manages the extraction of groundwater from wells within two Prescribed Wells Areas (PWAs). Southern Basins PWA is located between Coffin Bay and Port Lincoln on southern Eyre Peninsula, and the Musgrave PWA is located between Lock and Elliston on western Eyre Peninsula.

If you would like more information on the WAP, you can download a copy of the Water Allocation Plan for the Southern Basins and the Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas by clicking here.

**Program highlights this period**

- Extensive work was undertaken to prepare draft 2018 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem report cards for five Red Gum monitoring sites.
- Continued the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem related monitoring and data analysis as required.

**Local government engagement for this period**

- NA

**Upcoming priorities for the next period**

- Finalise the five draft 2018 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem report cards and make publically available.
- Continue the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem related monitoring and data analysis as required.

**Water Affecting Activities (WAA) processed and managed**

Water Affecting Activities are activities and works that can impact on the health and condition of water resources, water dependent ecosystems and other water users. Under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, an approved permit is required to undertake a Water Affecting Activity.

If you are planning to undertake a Water Affecting Activity, please read the factsheet Permits - Water Affecting Activities and don’t hesitate to contact the region’s Water Resources Assessment Officer.

**Program highlights this period**

- 1 WAA permit applications received and 1 approved.
- 5 Active Compliance issues.
  - 1 investigations into non-complying and unsafe saline groundwater drainage trench construction. Voluntary compliance and additional works is expected to be completed in 2019.
  - 1 pending investigation into a Groundwater Access Trench/Soak enlargements.
  - 2 compliance case closed. Voluntary compliance actions completed.
  - 1 report of watercourse obstruction investigated.
- 22 Water salinity/pH tests completed at the Port Lincoln NREP office.
- New and top of the range water salinity meters provided to Cleve and Elliston NRM offices.
- Training for Water salinity testing (stock water) provided to staff at Cleve, Elliston and Streak Bay NRM offices.
- State Water Affecting Activity Working group meeting attended for Water Management System project.
- Licenced well meter reading completed for Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Water Area.
- Water resources presentation provided to farmers group.
- Water quality and stock water workshop provided to local school.
- 15 Water Affecting Activity enquiries received and completed.
Common enquiries relating to:
- Dryland salinity and new drainage works.
- New dams and farm water supply options.
- Cleaning dams (many dry dams throughout the region)
- Work on soaks and springs.

- 4 inspection on completed Water Affecting Activity works.
- Photo: Recently built farm dam within the Tod River Catchment.

- Photo: Drainage works in progress with specialised tilt bucket in operation.

Local government engagement for this period
- District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.
  - Advice provided with regards to the security of stock and domestic water supply.
Upcoming priorities for the next period

- WAA permit application processing.
- WAA enquiries fielded and responses provided.
- Licenced well Meter Reading.
- WAA compliance cases investigated.
- Completion of WAA works inspections.
- Regional water testing undertaken and support provided.
- Work with local government on any WAA / field based water resources issues.

Landscapes

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Implementation of the Biodiversity Monitoring Program

In 2015-16, the Board established the Biodiversity Monitoring Program, which will result in 355 sites across the region being monitored (using the Bushland Condition Monitoring methodology) on a ten year rotational basis. To supplement this important monitoring a Citizen Scientist network has been established to undertake annual bird surveys at some of these sites.

Program highlights this period

- A number of bushland bird monitoring sites were surveyed by volunteers and NREP staff. NREP have been continuing to support volunteers with face to face discussions, technical support as well as knowledge sharing via social media and email.
- Organised and ran a training day in early September in Wudinna for volunteers in relation to the bushland bird monitoring project and continue to support the volunteers to successfully undertake this monitoring.
- The EP Birds portal where volunteers enter data needs to be transferred to another host so preparation for this has happened.
- Undertook planning for and started undertaking Bushland Condition Monitoring at another 40 sites across Eyre Peninsula.

Local government engagement for this period

- NA

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Organise for verified bird data to be downloaded into the Biological Database of South Australia.
- Complete transfer of EP Birds portal to new host.
- Continue to support volunteers undertaking bushland bird monitoring with face to face discussions, technical support as well as knowledge sharing via social media and email.
- Complete the 40 Bushland Condition Monitoring sites for 2019 and finalise the associated paperwork.
Coast & marine

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<td>Delivery of coastal projects (e.g. LiDAR, Eyes on Eyre)</td>
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Delivery of coastal projects (e.g. LiDAR, Eyes on Eyre)

Program highlights this period

- The Eyes on Eyre project has continued to work with local councils to progress planning for coastal campground nodes. Coastal sites to have concept plans undertaken include Fitzgerald Bay, Point Gibbon, Redbanks, Lipson Cove, Fishery Bay, Farm Beach, Sheringa Beach, Walker’s Rock and Tractor Beach. Councils have now adopted the concept plans and planning is continuing to obtain native vegetation clearance approvals where required.
- Now that we have projected sea level rise flood mapping for Eyre Peninsula we are using this information in many ways such as commenting on development applications and assisting with prioritisation of onground works.
- Presentation on LiDAR and Inundation mapping to the zone emergency management committee, stimulating discussion in regard to storm surge and flooding risks at the regional scale.

Local government engagement for this period

- In conjunction with EPLGA and RDAWEP the Eyes on Eyre project has worked very closely with all coastal councils on Eyre Peninsula in this period.
- The LiDAR project has worked very closely with all coastal councils on Eyre Peninsula in this period to make sure this project ends up with products that are useful for coastal local councils.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The Eyes on Eyre project will see NREP staff, RDAWEP staff and local council staff work to finalise the appropriate approval processes for each site and apply for funds to build the infrastructure.
- The LiDAR project will continue to work towards finalising a web application that will help visualise the coastal inundation layers.

Sustainable farming

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<td>Delivering the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivering the region’s Regenerative Agriculture Project</td>
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Delivering the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator services

The Australian Government, through the Regional Land Partnerships of the National Landcare Program, have funded the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RALF) in core funding for five years. The role has been split, between NREP and two of our partners; Lower Eyre Agricultural Development Association (LEADA) and Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation (EPARF). This arrangement will be formalised through contractual arrangements and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Program highlights this period

- EPARF Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) retired on June 30 2019. The position has been advertised. Ms Holly Whittenbury started on September 30 2019 based at Minnipa.
- The Eyre Peninsula NRM RALF has changed from Mary Crawford to Sarah Voumard.
- The RALF’s have been assisting agriculture groups across EP to organise their Sticky Beak days and attending where practical.
The Regenerative Agriculture and Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators Advisory Group held their 6 monthly meeting in September.

Local government engagement for this period
N/A

Upcoming priorities for the next period
Attending the State Landcare Conference at Bordertown.

Delivering the region’s Regenerative Agriculture Project
The Regenerative Agriculture Project on Eyre Peninsula, will, over the next five years, increase awareness, knowledge and the adoption of land management practices to restore soil pH levels, increase soil organic carbon levels and reduce the risk of nutrient loss from wind and water erosion. The project will support farming systems groups and individual farmers to implement best practice management and showcase the results to the broader farming community, through extension activities, pH mapping, pH testing, demonstration sites, forums and monitoring sites.

Program highlights this period
- Regenerative Agriculture Program (RAP) Mixed Species Crops and Pastures for Soil Management Demonstration Guidelines were revised for the spring/summer call. Three applicants from Wharminda, Ungarra and Yallunda Flat were successful with an expression of interest to establish spring/summer demonstrations.
- The two 2018-19 soil carbon demonstrations at Kimba and Lock were established in autumn and have been monitored during the growing period showing some good results considering the seasonal conditions.
- The soil carbon demonstration site at Lock was visited as part of the Lock, Murdinga and Tooligie Sticky Beak day with favourable comments.
- One of the autumn/winter mixed species demonstration at Minnipa was delayed due to seasonal conditions and availability of seed.
- The 2018-19 Mixed Species demonstration at Lock was established and monitored during the growing season. This site was visited by participants in the GRDC/Regenerative Agriculture Masterclass held at Lock in September.
- The Farmers Connect EP e-newsletter was published in September and emailed to some 400 farmer contacts.

Local government engagement for this period
- N/A

Upcoming priorities for the next period
- Expressions of interest are open for the Soil Carbon and the autumn/winter Mixed Species demonstrations.
- Preparations are underway for a Regenerative Ag Forum in November/December
Regional partnerships

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Implementation of Local Government Engagement Strategy
In August 2017, the Board developed a Local Government Engagement Strategy, which has the following objectives:

- Shared ownership of sustainable outcomes with our Local Government partners
- Shared benefits through increased community capacity in understanding NRM issues and being able to confidently create solutions that have landscape scale impacts
- Enhanced social cohesion whereby individuals and communities have a greater confidence, influence and involvement in NRM services
- Improved NRM outcomes for our Local Government partners as a result providing opportunities for input into the decision making processes, better communications and improved awareness and understanding.

NREP is working collaboratively with Local Government at multiple levels and the activities undertaken are reported on a quarterly basis in this report. The can be found under the Local government engagement for this period sections.

Planning & strategy

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<td>Implementation of the regional NRM Plan, Policies and MERI. Annual review of Business Plan, and other strategic planning tools</td>
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Implementation of the regional NRM Plan, Policies and MERI. Annual review of Business Plan, and other strategic planning tools

*The Eyre Peninsula Regional NRM plan 2017-2027 was approved in May 2017 and is available for download on the NREP website in separate components. The strategic component of the Plan includes three goals, which are underpinned by six strategic priorities and provides a regional snapshot. The region has been divided in to five sub-regional planning areas, and sub-regional descriptions have been developed as separate components to describe the landscapes, as well as the lifestyles and livelihood that influence how the landscape is managed in each of the areas. There is also a policy document that provides the policy framework for how land, pest plant and animals and water affecting activities are to be managed in the region.*

Program highlights this period

- The final component of the regional NRM Plan, is the Business Plan, the latest version was approved on 27 March 2019 and is available on the website.
- A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan was approved on 17 April 2019 to enable the board to measure how effective it has been in achieving the goals in the strategic plan.

Local government engagement for this period

- Council queries in regard to 2019-20 council quantum’s, land use type rates and access to the gazettal notices have been responded to in a timely manner.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- The next business plan review is due in October 2019.
Board administration & operational management

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EPNRM Board and Committees supported, Budget approved, annual report prepared and Board minutes available to public

Program highlights this period
- The Board Budget for 2019-20 was approved at the June Board Meeting.
- The Financial Management Compliance Program for 2019-20 was approved at the August Board Meeting.
- The Board continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis, with a meeting held in Cowell on 27th August, 2019.

Local government engagement for this period
- Representatives from the District Council of Franklin Harbour attended the EPNRM Board meeting on the 27th August, 2019 and discussed local issues with the Board Members.

Upcoming priorities for the next period
- The draft annual report will be provided to the Board at the October meeting, with finalisation in November, 2019.
- Board meetings next quarter will include Ceduna (October) and Port Lincoln (December).