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.

![Status Legend]

Further details of each of these programs can be found on the Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula website or by contacting Liz McTaggart (Senior Natural Resources Officer – Western) for projects in the District Councils of Ceduna, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Wudinna and far west coast areas on 08 8626 1108.
**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

- Following use of LiDAR to detect possible Mallefowl mounds within the Venus Bay area, confirmation of the first Mallefowl mound within Venus Bay Conservation Park exclosure was confirmed on 6th September.
- One large mound found with significant amount of egg shell present providing evidence of at least one breeding pair of Mallefowl within the exclosure area.

Annual Bushland Condition monitoring is well underway with eight out of twenty sites completed to date for western district.

Spider orchid and Pink Lady orchid species recorded at a number of sites.
Positive regeneration at the sites which are being monitored for the first time in 10 years (see before and after photos).

Four landholders engaged in fencing projects to protect areas which have been revegetated with Sheoak. Positive germination being seen after winter rain.

- Site visits completed responding to three reported possible native vegetation clearances in central eyre peninsula including red gum vegetation community.
- Two site visits and native vegetation advice provided to landholders regarding permitted native vegetation clearance under the *Native Vegetation Act Regulations*.
- Logistics and support for Australia Wildlife Conservancy translocation of threatened Greater Stick-nest rats.
Local government engagement for this period

- Native vegetation advice provided to District Council of Streaky Bay regarding overhead powerline upgrades requiring native vegetation removal.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Malleefowl monitoring
- Completion of all Western district Bushland Condition Monitoring sites, including saltmarsh performance sites.

Coast & marine

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

Delivering on district Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery Australian Government project including:

- Hooded Plover breeding monitoring set up at seven sites, including engagement of three volunteers.
- Ten sites surveyed across Western Eyre Peninsula to assess presence of Hooded Plovers, including up to eight Hooded Plovers present on St Peters Island.
- Nesting recorded at three sites, including the first recorded Hooded Plover breeding attempt in Australia for this season at Entrance Beach.
- Site visit completed to all Environmental Protected and Biodiversity Conservation Act listed tidally connected samphire areas in the western district.
- Undertaken remediation activities at three sites, including weed control and debris removal.
- Remediation work involving weed control has also occurred at the Bairds Bay samphire site, and included control work on the roadsides leading into the area.
Local government engagement for this period

- Engagement with District Council Streaky Bay, District Council of Elliston and District Council of Ceduna regarding potential hydrological projects in saltmarsh area.
- Site visit with District Council of Streaky Bay to look at Baird Bay saltmarsh protection and future adaption study for inundation and storm surge protection works.
- Advice / input into Regional Coast Protection Grant application with District Council Streaky Bay.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Beach nesting bird session with Streaky Bay Area School
- Hoodie monitoring at confirmed breeding sites and undertake threat mitigating activities as required at each site.
- Review of all Hooded Plover signage, including replacing signage in partnership with local council, public land managers and private landholders.

Pest plants & animals

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<tr>
<td>Monitor and facilitate management of priority pest plants and animals</td>
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Program highlights this period

- RHDVK5 virus release undertaken at 5 sites on Central EP.
- Bridal creeper biological control (Rust fungus) monitoring with three landholders.
- Inspect feral goat enclosure at Mt Wedge.
- Inspection at Cocata Conservation Park and surrounding land following report of feral goat presence.
- Provide updated policy and info to former local deer farm operator.
- Fountain grass control at Elliston and Lock.
- Buffel Grass monitoring and control far west roadsides.
- Boneseed control at Elliston, Venus Bay, Talia, Murdinga, Warrachie and Lock.
- African Boxthorn, Aleppo Pine, Opuntia control undertaken at priority sites central eyre.
- Targeted weed control within Streaky District to improve the integrity of three priority saltmarsh sites.
- Provided information on recently updated State Deer Policy to landholders in Elliston area.
- Working with landholder to fumigate fox den as alternative to baiting.
- Ongoing trial at Venus Bay for feral cat ‘Felixer’.
- Remote sensing camera monitoring for potential wild dog movement along Iluka haul road.
- Investigation of reported dingo sighting around Warramboo area.
- Support landscape scale baiting program across Gawler Ranges area.

Local government engagement for this period

- Gazania control with Ceduna Council at Denial Bay.
Upcoming priorities for the next period

- RHDV5 virus release Streaky Bay District sites

Map of Priority pest plant control in the Western District
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
- NREP staff attendance at Charra, Goode, Streaky Bay, Wirrulla and Far West Sticky Beak Days. Discussed RK5 virus release, rappa electric fencing for short term erosion management and incentive rate funding for water infrastructure.
- Water meter reading for licence holders in Musgrave Prescribed Wells area.
- Water sample testing for three landholders.
- Mouse monitoring completed with CSIRO for 10 locations across central eyre peninsula. The results indicated low mouse abundance.

Local government engagement for this period
- Nothing to report.

Upcoming priorities for the next period
- Induction of new EPARF and NRM Officer Central Eyre.

Figure 1. Current mouse abundance (Jul 2019)
Communications & engagement

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<td>Effective community engagement and education programs</td>
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<td>Implementation of Aboriginal engagement strategy and support the development of projects with Aboriginal communities</td>
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Program highlights this period


- Finalisation of Eyre Peninsula Aboriginal small grants program for 18-19, funding for local schools and community groups for a host of Connection with Country and cultural events. Activities included a bush medicine cultural mentoring trip near Koonibba and a playgroup on Country excursion to various culturally significant sites across the far west of Eyre Peninsula.

- Consultation with community at Ceduna, Yalata, Scotdesco and Oak Valley to finalise the Wardu Talking Poster.

- Western NRM officer supported community bird training in Wudinna.

- Promotion of Nature Play SA West Coast Roadshow 16 – 19 September.

- Supported work experience student for parks and NRM work experience including visitor management assessment, marine debris survey and best practise rabbit control methods.

Local government engagement for this period

- Meeting with Elliston Council to provide information on Bramfield parklands and Elliston wetlands.

- Meet with Elliston Council CEO and inspect Bramfield parklands in regards to weed issues.

Upcoming priorities for the next period

- Finalisation of Wardu Talking Poster working with Community, Far West Aboriginal Women’s Council and Far West Languages Center.

- Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover and Shorebird school workshops.