



**Government of South Australia**  
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges  
Natural Resources Management Board



**Northern Foothills  
Biodiversity and Land  
Management Project  
Committee**

7 August 2014

Office of the Premier  
State Administration Centre  
GPO Box 2343  
Adelaide SA 5001

To the Honorable Jay Wetherill

**Re: Northern Foothills Natural Resources Management Committee**

In response to your letter (reference # PREM14D03458) regarding the reform of South Australian government boards and committees, the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management - Northern Foothills Land Management Committee (NFBALM) wishes to present the value it provides to Government and the community. We provide a direct connection to our local community that demands transparency and value-for-money spending of the NRM levy funds. In the process, we provide effective, efficient and objective delivery of local natural resources management outcomes in the northern foothills region, independent to government and in direct support of Natural Resources Management strategies and plans. This value is shown in the following key points:

- Supported by Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges, Northern Hills, Coast & Plains sub region Manager and District Officers the Committee comprises of local rural landowners and key strategic stakeholders including local government staff and councilors, an SA Water representative and DEWNR Park Rangers.
- The Committee is active; we meet monthly in a community venue at no cost. Committee costs are negligible, with less than \$1200 pa spent on reimbursements to community members in sitting fees
- A three year membership term ensures a cohesive and unified committee group, which allows us to retain and apply considerable corporate knowledge to enable sustained momentum of planning direction and program implementation. Many of our members are previous recipients of NRM project funding, which demonstrates a whole-of-community approach to integrating the NRM's Strategic vision.
- We apply a long-term planning perspective ensuring that the NRM's strategic plan is translated into real, local and regional outcomes. In 2011-12 we produced our own NFBALM Strategic Plan (Attachment 1) to fine tune planning to be relevant to local conditions. Our committee is proactive and forward thinking. We will shortly be reviewing our NFBALM Strategic Plan to ensure it fully supports the recently revised NRM Plan.
- The committee outcomes are extensive through the delivery of successful projects; this is substantiated in our 2102-13 Annual Report (Attachment 2). Our committee involvement

ensures that landowners are equally committed to the environmental outcomes; this is usually a many-fold increase in the real value of NRM levy funds.

- Our committee processes are seen to be a significant value-enhancement to the NRM's programs as it encourages strong community consultation, engagement and involvement in land-care projects. The depth of our engagement can be seen in our Community Connections Map (Attachment 3).
- In 2012-13 the committee provided guidance with expenditure of \$149,856 on projects in our district. 29 individual landholders and 2 community groups were supported with funded projects. In addition to the funded projects, environmental threat abatement and restoration works were undertaken on public lands and roadsides in partnership with the four local governments and DEWNR.
- The committee engages with landholders with revegetation and watercourse restoration projects. We also actively support NRM efforts and local Steering Committees and Groups to battle larger landscape weed control programs, such as Western Cape Bridal Creeper, Chilean Needle Grass and Coolatai Grass programs; all these are Weeds of National significance.
- We also contribute to the planning of Landscape Programs, through which an additional \$172,000 of on-grounds works was been delivered to the Northern Foothills district in 2102-13.
- The committee is engaged in community activities such as project tours, field days and community information workshops.

We strongly believe that, through our ongoing commitment and our community engagement and agency-partnering model we directly support your aim to "give organisations and individuals more direct access to government advisory and decision-making processes".

For your consideration.

On behalf of the Committee

Yours sincerely



Steve Huckstepp

Chair, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management - Northern Foothills Land Management Committee

### **Attachments**

1. NFBALM Strategic Plan
2. NFBALM 2102-13 Annual report
3. NFBALM Community Connections Map



**Government of South Australia**

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges  
Natural Resources Management Board



**3-YEAR PLAN  
2012-2014  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN FOOTHILLS  
BIODIVERSITY & LAND  
MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
COMMITTEE**

**February 2012**

## **Vision**

Deliver sustainable land management and biodiversity improvements throughout the northern foothills district.

## **Overview**

### **Purpose**

To provide a focal direction for the Advisory Committee over the 3-year membership term 2012-2014 by outlining key strategies that will assist in the delivery of identified priority activities for the northern foothills district.

### **Context**

To contribute to the targets set-out in the AMLRNRM Board regional plan and other relevant strategic plans by way of a 3-year NFBALM broad strategic plan. This plan allows for annual review of district priorities and budgetary allocations to determine specific activities for the subsequent period.

# Activities

## **Increase and enhance biodiversity (reconstruction / remnant protection)**

- Threat management
- Increase biodiversity
- Create corridors and linkages
- Public lands biodiversity partnerships

## **Pest Control**

- Juvenile olive control
- Chilean Needle Grass
- Coolatai
- Emerging weed threats
- Priority district weeds
- Animals - rabbits

## **Watercourses**

- Stock exclusion
- Erosion control
- Revegetation/ restoration

## **Education & Community engagement**

- Education in natural resource and sustainable land management
- Increase Partnerships

## **Sustainable land management & primary production**

- Protect primary production from district threats
- Assist in implementing sustainable land management practices.

# Broad strategies

## Increase and enhance biodiversity (reconstruction / remnant protection)

Threat management	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Reduce extent and density of target threats</p> <p>Exclude stock from areas of high biodiversity</p>	<p><i>Areas of high Biodiversity at landscape scale</i></p> <p><i>Engaged NFBALM properties</i></p>	<p><i>CNG</i></p> <p><i>Blackberry</i></p> <p><i>Stock</i></p> <p><i>Coolatai</i></p> <p><i>Gorse</i></p> <p><i>Cape tulip</i></p> <p><i>WCBC</i></p>	<p><i>Buffers</i></p> <p><i>Control outliers</i></p> <p><i>Raise awareness</i></p> <p><i>Plant competitive vegetation</i></p> <p><i>Effective timing of controls</i></p> <p><i>Secure investment</i></p> <p><i>Restrict stock access by exclusion fencing or timed grazing</i></p> <p><i>Map and monitor</i></p>	<p><i>Compliance</i></p> <p><i>Incentive funding</i></p> <p><i>Circulars</i></p> <p><i>Educational tools</i></p> <p><i>Contractors</i></p> <p><i>Workshops</i></p> <p><i>Property action plans</i></p> <p><i>Maps</i></p>	<p><i>Survey and identify priority sites</i></p> <p><i>Engage landholders</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement</i></p> <p><i>Direct control / removal</i></p> <p><i>Timed control actions</i></p> <p><i>Revegetate weedy sites</i></p> <p><i>Install stock exclusion fencing</i></p>

## Increase and enhance biodiversity (reconstruction / remnant protection)

Increase biodiversity	Asset map	District Priority map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Increase species diversity at discrete sites</p> <p>Increase area of native vegetation</p> <p>Increase available functional habitat</p>	<p><i>Areas of high Biodiversity at landscape scale</i></p> <p><i>Engaged NFBALM properties</i></p>	<p><i>Properties with revegetation activities</i></p> <p><i>Areas with some biodiversity</i></p> <p><i>Private &amp; public land with remnants</i></p>	<p><i>Target properties with known remnants</i></p> <p><i>Survey remnants to understand missing species</i></p> <p><i>Use of iconic species to engage action</i></p> <p><i>Identify vegetation associations</i></p> <p><i>Value add revegetation</i></p> <p><i>Educate value of ground litter, fallen logs etc</i></p> <p><i>Support restoration projects</i></p> <p><i>Infill site plantings</i></p> <p><i>Replace weed species</i></p>	<p><i>Surveys with base information</i></p> <p><i>Incentive funding</i></p> <p><i>Committed landholders</i></p> <p><i>Regional &amp; local biodiversity plans</i></p> <p><i>Remnant sites</i></p>	<p><i>Invest in less common plant species</i></p> <p><i>Propagation/ revegetation</i></p> <p><i>Proactive engagement</i></p> <p><i>Use of media to promote value</i></p>

## Increase and enhance biodiversity (reconstruction / remnant protection)

Create corridors and linkages	Asset map	District Priority map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Increase length of contiguous corridors</p> <p>Increase number of paddock trees in pasture/grazing systems</p> <p>Increase connectivity of isolated sites /reduce distance of flight paths.</p>	<p><i>Areas of high Biodiversity at landscape scale</i></p> <p><i>Engaged NFBALM properties</i></p> <p><i>Area of remnants</i></p>	<p><i>Open grazing land</i></p> <p><i>Degraded idle properties</i></p> <p><i>Unproductive properties</i></p>	<p><i>Identify linkages &amp; opportunities</i></p> <p><i>Work in partnership with existing programs</i></p> <p><i>Link existing sites through establishment of pocket plantings &amp;/or individual paddock trees</i></p> <p><i>Promote shelter belt plantings</i></p> <p><i>Engage landholders</i></p>	<p><i>Incentives</i></p> <p><i>Grazing &amp; idle properties</i></p> <p><i>City of Playford B2B scheme</i></p> <p><i>Educational tools</i></p>	<p><i>Provide fencing for plantings</i></p> <p><i>Revegetation</i></p>

## Increase and enhance biodiversity (reconstruction / remnant protection)

Public lands biodiversity partnerships	Asset map	District Priority map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Developed working relationships with public land managers</p> <p>Supporting high value biodiversity projects</p> <p>Integrated approach, efficient use of resources, value adding.</p>	<p><i>Areas of high Biodiversity at landscape scale</i></p>	<p><i>DEWNR conservation &amp; recreation parks</i></p> <p><i>Local government natural reserves</i></p> <p><i>Road Marker System (RMS) &amp; Bush For Life (BFL) sites</i></p>	<p><i>Identify key staff involved in biodiversity management</i></p> <p><i>Maintain regular communications for information exchange with biodiversity managers</i></p> <p><i>Share resources/data</i></p>	<p><i>Organisational staff</i></p> <p><i>Friends of Parks</i></p> <p><i>NGO eg NEHECA</i></p> <p><i>NRM communities</i></p> <p><i>Information materials eg management plans, survey data</i></p> <p><i>NFBALM budget, Council funding, NRM grants</i></p>	<p><i>Through NRM communities??</i></p> <p><i>DEWNR Park Rangers &amp; Friends of Parks</i></p> <p><i>Arrange annual information exchange meetings</i></p> <p><i>Propose worthy partnered projects</i></p>



<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Juvenile olive control</b>	Asset map	District Priority map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<b>Outcome:</b> Reduced environmental threat and economic costs by controlling plants before reaching reproductive maturity	<i>Areas of high biodiversity</i>  <i>Project properties</i>	<i>High biodiversity roadsides</i>  <i>Roadside infestations</i>	<i>Identify &amp; map mature &amp; juvenile infestations</i>  <i>Prioritise removal in and near biodiversity assets</i>  <i>Promote efficiency of early control to community</i>  <i>Ensure follow up control on sites cleared of mature olives</i>	<i>Mapping tools</i>  <i>Incentives</i>  <i>Contractors</i>  <i>Tree Poppers for free loan</i>  <i>Educational material</i>	<i>Removal of juvenile olive trees</i>  <i>Engage contractors</i>  <i>Prioritise control sites</i>  <i>Monitor cleared sites for regeneration of seedlings</i>

<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Chilean Needle Grass</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Reduced threat to biodiversity and primary production in district</p>	<p><i>Areas of high biodiversity &amp; primary productive properties</i></p> <p><i>Project properties</i></p>	<p><i>Affected roadsides</i></p> <p><i>Affected properties</i></p> <p><i>Council mowing pathways</i></p>	<p><i>Eradicate outliers</i></p> <p><i>Set containment lines</i></p> <p><i>Seasonal surveys</i></p> <p><i>Biosecurity / hygiene</i></p> <p><i>Timed control</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness</i></p> <p><i>Compliance</i></p> <p><i>Secure investment</i></p> <p><i>Coordinate control with Council</i></p>	<p><i>City of Playford</i></p> <p><i>DEWNR staff resources</i></p> <p><i>OTH CNG Community Group</i></p> <p><i>Incentive funding</i></p> <p><i>Maps</i></p> <p><i>Contractors</i></p> <p><i>Educational tools</i></p> <p><i>NRM Act / Regulations</i></p> <p><i>NRM Act &amp; Authorised Officers</i></p>	<p><i>Pre &amp; post season meetings with Council</i></p> <p><i>Survey &amp; Control of roads</i></p> <p><i>Community working bees on private property</i></p> <p><i>Hygiene awareness</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness via letters, local newsletter &amp; field day</i></p> <p><i>Road signage</i></p> <p><i>Assisting primary producers</i></p> <p><i>Record, revisit &amp; report</i></p>

<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Coolatai</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Understand extent of distribution</p> <p>Eradicate outlier populations</p> <p>Contain core infestation zone</p> <p>Reduce threat to biodiversity and primary production</p>	<p><i>Areas of high biodiversity</i></p> <p><i>High value primary production Properties</i></p>	<p><i>Affected private and public lands</i></p> <p><i>Cobbler Creek</i></p> <p><i>Little Para Reservoir</i></p> <p><i>Boral Salisbury &amp; Para Hills</i></p>	<p><i>Agency collaboration</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness</i></p> <p><i>Eradicate outliers</i></p> <p><i>Set containment lines</i></p> <p><i>Introduce competitive vegetation</i></p> <p><i>Survey</i></p> <p><i>Timed control</i></p> <p><i>Secure investment</i></p> <p><i>Compliance</i></p>	<p><i>Local Government</i></p> <p><i>SA Water</i></p> <p><i>DEWNR staff</i></p> <p><i>Incentive/grant funding</i></p> <p><i>Mapping tool</i></p> <p><i>Contractors</i></p> <p><i>Educational material</i></p> <p><i>NRM Act &amp; Authorised Officers</i></p>	<p><i>Spraying of infestation</i></p> <p><i>Hygiene awareness</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness</i></p> <p><i>Advertisements in local publications</i></p> <p><i>Road signs</i></p> <p><i>Survey, map outbreaks and core zone</i></p> <p><i>4 yr control plans</i></p>

<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Emerging weed threats</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<b>Outcome:</b> Reduce the incidence of emerging weeds becoming widespread	<i>Areas of high biodiversity</i>  <i>Project properties</i>	<i>Roadsides</i>  <i>Affected properties private / public</i>	<i>Early identification research &amp; scope threat</i>  <i>Survey</i>  <i>Eradicate outliers and roadside populations</i>  <i>Secure investment for early control</i>  <i>Agency collaboration</i>  <i>Community awareness</i>	<i>DEWNR staff</i>  <i>NFBALM Committee</i>  <i>Incentive funding</i>  <i>Maps</i>  <i>State Herbarium</i>  <i>Contractors</i>  <i>Educational tools</i>	<i>Spraying / removal of infestation</i>  <i>Hygiene awareness</i>  <i>Community awareness</i>  <i>Road signs</i>  <i>Record, revisit &amp; report</i>  <i>Survey, map outbreaks and core zone</i>

<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Priority district weeds</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<b>Outcome:</b> Protection of biodiversity and primary production assets through strategic use of resources to reduce threat	<i>Areas of high biodiversity</i>  <i>Project properties</i>	<i>Survey maps</i>  <i>Roadsides</i>  <i>Affected properties private / public</i>	<i>Seasonal conditions</i>  <i>Outliers</i>  <i>Containment lines</i>  <i>Competitive vegetation</i>  <i>Agency collaboration</i>  <i>Community awareness</i>  <i>Secure investment</i>  <i>Compliance</i>	<i>NRM staff resources</i>  <i>Incentive funding</i>  <i>Maps</i>  <i>Contractors</i>  <i>Educational tools</i>  <i>NRM Act / Regulations</i>  <i>Regional Pest Management Plans</i>	<i>Spraying / removal of infestation</i>  <i>Hygiene awareness</i>  <i>Community awareness</i>  <i>Advertisements in local publications</i>  <i>Record, revisit &amp; report</i>

<b>Pest Control</b>					
<b>Animal pests</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery / Actions
<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Reduce the effect of pest animals on biodiversity and primary production</p>	<p><i>Areas of high biodiversity</i></p> <p><i>Project properties</i></p>	<p><i>Host properties private / public</i></p>	<p><i>Make use of favourable seasonal conditions for control</i></p> <p><i>Agency collaboration</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness</i></p> <p><i>Secure investment</i></p> <p><i>Compliance</i></p>	<p><i>SA Water</i></p> <p><i>Local government</i></p> <p><i>NRM staff resources</i></p> <p><i>Incentive funding</i></p> <p><i>Contractors / shooters</i></p> <p><i>Educational tools</i></p> <p><i>NRM Act / Regulations</i> <i>Authorised Officers</i></p>	<p><i>Control / eradication of pest animal</i></p> <p><i>Engage contractor</i></p> <p><i>Workshops/ field days</i></p> <p><i>Advertisements in local publications</i></p> <p><i>Record, revisit &amp; report</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement</i></p>

<b>Watercourses</b>					
<b>Stock exclusion</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Reduce grazing impact on riparian vegetation</p> <p>Reduce impact on bank integrity and erosion risk</p> <p>Improve water quality by reducing contamination</p>	<p><i>Major water course systems</i></p> <p><i>Little Para River &amp; Gould Creek catchments</i></p> <p><i>Engaged NFBALM properties</i></p>	<p><i>Landholdings with significant flow watercourses</i></p> <p><i>Large grazing properties</i></p>	<p><i>Restrict stock access</i></p> <p><i>Promote healthy waterways</i></p> <p><i>Offer incentives</i></p> <p><i>Appropriate stocking rates</i></p>	<p><i>Incentives</i></p> <p><i>Education / fact sheets</i></p>	<p><i>Stock exclusion fencing</i></p> <p><i>Remove stock</i></p>
<b>Erosion control</b>	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Stable banks and stream beds</p>	<p><i>Major water course systems</i></p> <p><i>Little Para River &amp; Gould Creek catchments</i></p>	<p><i>Landholdings with significant flow watercourses</i></p> <p><i>Large grazing properties</i></p> <p><i>Known significant erosion issues</i></p>	<p><i>Restrict stock access</i></p> <p><i>Revegetate banks</i></p> <p><i>Control erosion through structural modifications</i></p> <p><i>Enforce compliance</i></p>	<p><i>Incentives</i></p> <p><i>Education / Fact sheets</i></p> <p><i>NRM Act / Regulations, Authorised Officers</i></p>	<p><i>Stock exclusion fencing</i></p> <p><i>Revegetation</i></p> <p><i>Install erosion control structures</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement</i></p>

<b>Watercourses</b>					
<b>Revegetation/ restoration</b>	Asset map	District Priority map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<b>Outcome:</b>  Increased area of riparian vegetation  Increase contiguous projects  Improved condition of riparian and aquatic vegetation	<i>Major water course systems</i>  <i>Ephemeral systems</i>  <i>Little Para River &amp; Gould Creek catchments</i>	<i>Engaged NFBALM properties</i>  <i>Little Para River &amp; Gould Creek catchments</i>	<i>Promote healthy waterways/ community awareness</i>  <i>Landholder engagement</i>  <i>Reduce weed threats</i>  <i>Revegetation</i>	<i>Education / Fact sheets</i>  <i>Incentives</i>  <i>Contractors</i>  <i>District Officers</i>  <i>NRC</i>	<i>Weed control</i>  <i>Revegetation</i>  <i>Workshops/ field days</i>  <i>Promotional material/ media</i>



<b>Education &amp; Community Engagement</b>			
<b>Education in natural resource and sustainable land management</b>	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Increased awareness</p> <p>Changed perceptions</p> <p>Increased capacity to implement SLM</p> <p>Increased adoption/ application of SLM practices</p>	<p><i>Engage community through education and action</i></p> <p><i>Make resources available and provide "tools" (knowledge &amp; equipment)</i></p> <p><i>use of local media</i></p>	<p><i>Publications- fact sheets, website, media</i></p> <p><i>Technical expertise</i></p> <p><i>Sustainable Agriculture team</i></p> <p><i>DEWNR Community Engagement Directorate</i></p> <p><i>Funding (Incentives &amp; grants)</i></p> <p><i>Best Practice Land Managers &amp; sustainable properties</i></p> <p><i>Free loan equipment</i></p> <p><i>Soil sample kits</i></p> <p><i>Display stands/kits</i></p>	<p><i>Send Targeted circulars (locality or topic focussed)</i></p> <p><i>Produce Publications ( promotional or alerts)</i></p> <p><i>Host Field days/ workshops</i></p> <p><i>Host Presentations/ Seminars</i></p> <p><i>Collate and Manage a catalogue of resources</i></p> <p><i>regular stall or presence at OTH community market</i></p> <p><i>Access &amp; allocate funding</i></p> <p><i>Provide technical advice to assist with property planning</i></p> <p><i>Encourage landholders to speak with neighbours</i></p> <p><i>Show case projects</i></p> <p><i>Establish/ strengthen committee- community liaison</i></p> <p><i>Establish/ strengthen Committee- Agency liaison</i></p>

## Education & Community Engagement

Increase Partnerships	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Leveraged gains</p> <p>Stronger relationships and involvement</p> <p>Greater access to wider community</p> <p>Increased promotion of NFBALM</p> <p>Increased knowledge of existing programs</p> <p>Influence decision making</p>	<p><i>Develop stronger relationships with community groups, NGO's and relevant Local Government to enable influencing decision making and effecting efficient delivery of NRM projects</i></p>	<p><i>Committee</i></p> <p><i>Local Councils</i></p> <p><i>Community Natural Resource Centres</i></p> <p><i>Websites</i></p> <p><i>Lists of community groups</i></p> <p><i>NRM database</i></p>	<p><i>Identify groups</i></p> <p><i>Establish/ strengthen Committee- community liaison</i></p> <p><i>Establish/ strengthen Committee- Agency liaison</i></p> <p><i>Coordinate project delivery with groups</i></p>

## Sustainable land management & primary production

Protect primary production from district threats	Asset map	District Priority Threat map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Improved primary production through reduced threats</p>	<p>primary productive properties by type</p>	<p>Localities of threats by type:</p> <p>Plants, erosion, fire, soil degradation, insects, animal, water quality</p>	<p>Identify &amp; understand threats</p> <p>Aim for prevention</p> <p>Appropriate stocking rates</p> <p>Raise community awareness</p> <p>Compliance</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Networks</p> <p>PIRSA</p> <p>Trials/ studies</p> <p>Council compliance</p> <p>NRM Act/ regulations</p>	<p>Media</p> <p>Workshops/ field days</p> <p>Control</p> <p>Enforcement</p>

<b>Assist in implementing sustainable land management practices</b>	Asset map	Strategy	Resources	Delivery
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Increased uptake of sustainable land management practices</p> <p>Greater use of property planning</p>	<p>Engaged landholders with property plans</p> <p>Properties with potential for improved sustainable land management</p> <p>Properties under threat</p>	<p>Property planning</p> <p>Improving land management planning course participation</p> <p>Community awareness of available resources</p>	<p>Soil test kits</p> <p>Incentives</p> <p>District officers</p> <p>Sustainable Ag Team</p> <p>Educational materials</p>	<p>Property visits</p> <p>Workshops/ courses/ field days</p> <p>Provision of materials/ tools/ advice</p> <p>Use of media</p>



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## **NFBALM Committee Annual Report 1Jul12-30Jun13**

### **1. Committee Membership**

The new three year membership term has allowed for a more cohesive and unified committee group, which has supported a more sustained momentum of planning direction and program implementation. However, we recognise there is a risk that the whole committee could change every three years, which would lead to a dramatic loss of ‘corporate knowledge’ and momentum. The committee process is seen to be a significant value-enhancement to the NRM’s programs as it encourages strong community consultation, engagement and involvement in land-care projects.

The positions of Chair and Deputy Chair were unchanged. The Committee met 10 times for formal evening discussions and twice for daytime organised activities. The committee also were further involved in other community engagement activities organised by the program, such as a project tour, field days and information workshops.

During the year the membership saw two resignations and three new appointments. The committee thanked retiring members for their considerable contribution over their membership terms. The 2012/13 membership listed in table 1 Appendix 1.

The Committee sincerely thanked both the One Tree Hill Country Fire Service and Soccer Club for the use of their facilities for meetings and delivery of community events throughout the year.

### **2. Landholder Projects (Incentive Program)**

Throughout the year 29 individual landholders and 2 community groups were supported with funded projects in comparison with 39 in 2011/12. In addition to the funded projects, threat abatement and restoration works were undertaken on public lands and roadsides in partnership with the four local governments and DEWNR. A summary of on-ground outputs is attached as Appendix 2 with a summary of new projects approved in 2012-13 listed in Appendix 3.

There was lower engagement with landholders in revegetation and watercourse restoration projects this year than in the previous. This was largely due to the need of the District Officers (DOs) to direct their attention to coordinating larger weed control programs, such as the large

scale Western Cape Bridal Creeper (WCBC), Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Coolatai Grass programs.

Whilst these weed control programs are of vital importance to this district and to those adjoining, the DOs engagement comes at a resource cost to the natural resource / land management projects on private land. The completed projects are making a difference to the protection of the environment; however, it is clear that the investment being made is not enough to meet the challenges threatening the district.

### **3. Budget**

The 2012-13 budget was \$149,750 and we committed and spent \$149,856, ie a small overspend of 0.07%. Most noticeably the second largest budget line (LS6 – Manage Threats to Ecosystems), representing 30% of the budget, was over- allocated by 7%. A summary is provided in Appendix 4.

### **4. Landscape Programs**

The Committee receives updates of regional coordinated weed and land management programs operating in the Northern Foothills district, from the DO Tracey Hardwicke. Through these programs, an additional \$172,000 of on-grounds works has been delivered to the Northern Foothills district.

Steering Committees and groups with interests in the Northern Foothills District additional to the NFBALM Committee include:

- The Coolatai Grass Steering Committee
- The One Tree Hill Chilean Needle Grass Community Group
- The Western Cape Bridal Creeper Community Steering Group

Some NFBALM committee members have been actively engaged with these committees providing a two-way communication link to the committee.

The updates committee received on Major Weed Control Programs and activities in the Northern Foothills District are attached as Appendix 5. The committee acknowledges the exceptional work of DOs in the coordinating and delivery of priority weed control programs, including the regional WCBC eradication program and district CNG and Coolatai Grass control programs. These programs require extra resources and more positive community engagement for them to be delivered effectively.

### **5. Committee Activities**

a. **Project Assessment Panels.** An Assessment Panel was formed from the committee membership on three occasions to evaluate funding work plan proposals. These Assessment Panel meetings were held prior to a Committee meeting where a summary of the projects and outcomes were presented for committee endorsement. The Assessment Panel process continues to be a highly focussed and effective way of reviewing project work plan objectives to ensure they meet funding criteria. The review process adds considerable value to projects and enhances

the quality of subsequent committee deliberation as a direct result of the community engagement.

b. **Strategic 3-year Plan.** The committee has realised an important long-term vision through the finalisation of the strategic plan of the Northern Foothills District. The plan takes the overarching guidance of the regional NRM plan and then identifies priority activities and strategies at the district level. This enables a long-term strategic approach for the delivery of the incentive program and, as such, helps prioritise resource allocation.

c. **Liaison with Significant Land Managers.** The effectiveness of the committee is enhanced by encouraging involvement by a large range of key stakeholders, such as SA Water, local councils and DEWNR. This liaison and involvement is seen as essential to the success of the committee's outcomes, to the point where councillors and organisational representatives have been asked to provide a proxy if they are unable to attend meetings.

d. **Education.** Committee has become more informed by receiving presentations by knowledgeable guest speakers such as Adrian Shackley from GEHA and Tony Fox (NRM induction). Education of the wider community was undertaken through DO and committee member support of field days, information sessions and newsletter contributions.

The NFBALM committee developed a brochure in 2011/12 about the incentive program that could be adapted and used by other district projects. However, due to the integration of DEWNR the production of the brochure remains on hold with the Communications and Engagement Department.

e. **Concern about Weed Spread through Stock Movement.** The committee has ongoing concerns about the potential contribution of stock agistment and associated movement to the spread of weeds. We intend to follow this up with PIRSA and known local stock managers in the next financial year.

f. **School Annual Tree Planting Project.** The Committee again supported an annual school involved tree-planting program on a NFBALM Project property. In June 2013, as part of an Environmental Studies course, the Elizabeth Grove Primary School planted 1200 seedlings on a Medlow Road, Uleybury property. Some committee members also helped out on the day.

## 6. Committee Outlook

As highlighted above, the committee intends to focus on implementing the Strategic Plan so we can deliver a consistent approach in the management of the incentive program.

### Prepared by:

Monica Seiler, Project Officer  
Steve Huckstepp, Deputy Chair  
Sandra Harbison, Committee member

Northern Foothills Land Management Project  
Natural Resources, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges  
Approved by NFBALM Committee: 17/09/2013

## NFBALM 2012/13 Committee Membership

Member	Position	Joined	Current Term Expires
	Landholder, Playford	Oct 2011	Oct14
	Landholder, Playford	Inaugural 2004	Oct14
	Landholder, Tea Tree Gully	Inaugural 2004??	Oct14
	Landholder, Playford	July 2010	Oct14
	Landholder, Playford	July 2009	Oct14
	Landholder Adelaide Hills	June 2012	Oct14
	DEWNR	July 2009?	Oct14
	Councillor, City of Tea Tree Gully	July 2008?	Oct14
	SA Water representative	Nov 2011	Oct14
	Northern NRM Group member reps	Oct 2011	Oct14
	City of Tea Tree Gully, Biodiversity Project Officer	June 2012	Oct14
	Councillor, City of Playford Council	Sept 2012	Oct14
	NFBALM Project Officer	n/a	n/a
	Northern Foothills District Officer	n/a	n/a
	Acting Northern Service Area Manager	n/a	n/a

## Terminating membership

	Councillor, City of Playford	Inaugural 2004	1Jul12
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## Summary of On-Ground Outputs

Onground Outputs	# or Ha	Km or Ha
Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers created	3	
Number of field days, workshops, seminars, consultation sessions, demonstrations, study tours and courses conducted	4	
Number of alternative watering sites installed	5	
Area (ha) of riparian land protected from stock impacts for water quality outcomes, and stream bank length (km) protected	4.4Ha	1.7Km
Area (ha) of native vegetation protected by fencing (km)	4.5Ha	0.53Km
Area (ha) planted local native species	16.2Ha	
Area (ha) of exotic perennial pastures established	3Ha	
Area (ha) of pest plant control measures implemented to protect Environmental Values (Roadside/Private)	19Ha	17.4Ha
Area (ha) of pest plant control measures implemented to protect Productive Values (Roadside/Private)	15Ha	38.5Ha
Area (ha) of native vegetation being managed through minimum disturbance bush regeneration activities (Roadside/Private)	36.2Ha	39.4Ha
Area (ha) of land protected from land degradation through Stock Control / Land class fencing (km)	4.6Ha	0.13Km
Area (ha) of soil treatment for other than erosion or acid sulphate soils	3 tests	11Ha

## Revegetation Activities

<b>Total # Properties</b>	<b># Contractor Plantings</b>	<b># Landholder Plantings</b>	<b>NF total \$</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$10,296</b>
<b>NF Total # Plants</b>	<b># Contractor Plants</b>	<b># Landholder Plants</b>	
<b>4975</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>4000</b>	

## List of Landholder Projects Approved in 2012-13

Location	Summary	Approval date
Lower Hermitage	Blackberry, olive, gorse control. Bushcare weed control	15/8/12
Gould Creek	Coolatai, olive, boxthorn, dog rose and horehound control.	15/8/12 (renege)
One Tree Hill	CNG treatments, soil tests and fertilizer in support of OTH group.	15/8/12
Uleybury	Landclass fencing of 1Ha for 2013 native plant revegetation.	21/11/12
Gould Creek	Olive control and Bushcare weed control.	21/11/12 (offer withdrawn)
Bibaringa	Local native grass seed restoration.	21/11/12
Paracombe	Watercourse and shelterbelt fencing, revegetation and culvert construction.	21/11/12
Inglewood	Gorse, briar rose, olive, hawthorn control. Fencing of riparian area.	20/3/13
Houghton	Gorse & blackberry control, riparian area fencing.	20/3/13
Lower Hermitage	Gorse & blackberry control, riparian area fencing.	17/4/13

The 2012-13 Budget Summary

DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY									
District: Northern Foothills		Financial Year: 2012/2013							
Project line and description	Total Budget	Total Tasks	Total Allocated		Total Paid		Total Unallocated		
<b>LS0100.01</b> Increase the extent of functional ecosystems	\$19,000.00	41	\$17,009.50	89.52 %	\$17,009.50	89.52 %	\$1,990.50	10.48 %	
<b>LS0600.02</b> Manage threats to remnant ecosystems	\$36,000.00	35	\$35,851.00	99.59 %	\$35,851.00	99.59 %	\$149.00	0.41 %	
<b>LS0700.03</b> Manage threats to primary production	\$8,000.00	10	\$6,911.46	86.39 %	\$6,911.46	86.39 %	\$1,088.54	13.61 %	
<b>LS0705.04</b> Roadside Weed Control	\$52,450.00	19	\$59,704.50	113.83 %	\$59,704.50	113.83 %	OVR -\$7,254.50	-13.83 %	
<b>LS1000.05</b> Property planning and sustainable land management practices	\$6,800.00	15	\$5,127.90	75.41 %	\$5,127.90	75.41 %	\$1,672.10	24.59 %	
<b>WA0300.06</b> Protect and rehabilitate watercourses	\$27,500.00	18	\$25,252.00	91.83 %	\$25,252.00	91.83 %	\$2,248.00	8.17 %	
<b>Summary of all costs:</b>		<b>138 Tasks</b>	<b>\$149,856.36</b>	<b>100.07 %</b>	<b>\$149,856.36</b>	<b>100.07 %</b>	<b>OVR -\$106.36</b>	<b>-0.07 %</b>	

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### Major Weed Control Programs and Activities in the Northern Foothills District 2012-13

Project	Description	\$ NFBALM	\$ Other
Cobbler Creek	Protection of High Biodiversity areas through bush-care control of invading Coolatai grass		3,500
Cobbler Creek	Western Paddocks – control of core infestations of Coolatai grass	3,000	2,350
Coolatai Grass	Outlier properties Survey & Control; Rail Corridor		6,800
Coolatai Grass	Reserves & Roadsides Outlier Program (Northern Group Area)		2,000
Western Cape Bridal Creeper	Outlier areas Survey and Control		75,000
Western Cape Bridal Creeper	Core areas Search and Control		75,000
Chilean Needle Grass	Roadsides	6,000	1,515
Chilean Needle Grass Community Group	CNG Control programs	4,400	7,500
Roadside Programs	Roadside Program and GIS mapping Roadside Assets	21,000	
Adelaide Hills Council Area	Roadside Weed Control		5,000
Adelaide Hills Council Area	RMS sites		2,000
Houghton Creek	DEWNR Crown Land, Private & Adelaide Hills Council partnered weed control and riparian restoration	1,000	3,000
Crosshill Road Olive Control Demonstration site	City of Playford Roadside Restore Project –	1000	1,000
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>36,400</b>	<b>184,665</b>

**Attachment 3**  
**To Letter to Premier**  
**NFBALM Community Connections Map**

[Map removed for publication]