GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON LOCAL
ACTION PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC

Strategic Plan

2013 to 2018

Developed and Published by: The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Board of Management.

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Supporting Documents

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Plan (1999)
The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Strategic Plan (2006 - 2009)
The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Strategic plan (2009 – 2012)
The Goolwa to Wellington LAP 10 year review (2009)

The strategic plan builds upon the goals and implementation strategies of the previous strategic plan to incorporate current trends in environmental, sustainable farming, and natural resources programs, management, application, and delivery within Australia

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Plan (1999) and all Goolwa to Wellington LAP strategic plans can be downloaded from our website:
http://www.gwlap.org.au/publications.php

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Chairperson's Foreword

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning (LAP) Association is not for profit (NFP), non-government organization established and incorporated in 1998.

We work closely with the local community to protect and restore biodiversity, sustainably manage natural resources, and implement sustainable farming systems so as to create an environment where human activity and natural ecosystems can sustainably co-exist. The Goolwa to Wellington LAP assists the community to access the necessary resources to undertake this work.

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Strategic Plan provides the basis for the operations of The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc. by identifying priority environmental, agricultural, and natural resources issues in our area and opportunities for community to address these issues.

The Board and staff of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP have reviewed the content and operation of the 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan to ensure this new document continues to provide direction for this organisation into the future.

Significantly, the Strategic Plan has been expanded to strengthen the involvement in the wider planning processes that impact on this community. This is in direct response to the perceived inadequacies of current institutional responses to many environmental and agricultural issues in the area in which we operate. In increasing our engagement with these processes we hope to assist community input and achieve greater involvement in the planning and delivery of programs which directly impinge on the community.

By continuing to adapt and modify this Strategic Plan in response to the changing context within which it operates we seek to maintain both its effectiveness and relevance within the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning area.

Harry Seager

Chairman

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The purpose of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP Strategic Plan is to:

- Provide The Board and staff with a framework in which to operate
- Provide The Board and staff with direction for the term of the strategic plan
- Assist with directing funding application submissions, works implementation, and operational direction.
- Assist in targeting works areas and sites within the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Area

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Strategic Plan is current from 2013 to 2018. The targets and indicators of success have been set according to the historical annual average volume of works and activity undertaken by the Goolwa to Wellington LAP between 1999 and 2012. All targets and indicators of success identified in this strategic plan are therefore annual targets and are to be reviewed and reported upon to the Board of Management within each year. It is envisaged that the Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board of Management will receive a report on each of the seven identified goals across the course of monthly meetings held throughout the year.

Strategic Plan Framework

The *Strategic Plan* provides an overarching framework for the Goolwa to Wellington LAP (GWLAP) to focus our work over the next five years. The key elements guiding our organisation and the work we undertake in the local community are captured in our:

- Vision statement
- Mission statement
- Key goals strategies and targets.

The *Goals, Strategies and Targets* table in section 7 provides detail on how we will achieve each goal. The Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board of Management anticipates that we will review the review of targets annually to determine the success of our approach and to develop any alternate or complimentary approaches to achieving our goals. The *Goals, Strategies and Targets* will guide the work of staff and the board and include the following details:

- Goals
- Strategy to achieving the goal
- Person(s) responsible for achieving the strategy and meeting the targets / indicators of success, and
- The targets / Indicators of success for each strategy.

Context

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association is a not for profit community organisation formed in 1998 to deliver environmental works and education, awareness raising, and community engagement programs across the Southern portion of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and Lake Alexandrina regions in South Australia. A Local Action Plan was developed through 1998 and adopted in 1999, in line with regional plans and initiatives of that time, to direct environmental program activities and investment to the area. This Strategic Plan has been developed as a continuation of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP Plan and as a complementary document to a wide range of Local, Catchment, Regional, State and Federal plans and strategies for environmental management and agricultural sustainability and production.

Goolwa to Wellington LAP Vision Statement

To create an environment where human activity and natural ecosystems can sustainably co-exist.

Goolwa to Wellington LAP Mission Statement

Working with local communities to protect and restore biodiversity and sustainably manage our natural resources.

Location

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP area situated in the southern most part of the Murray Darling Basin and covers an area of 265,000ha. The Local Action Planning Area extends north to Harrogate, East to Callington and Wellington where the River Murray meets Lake Alexandrina, across Lakes Alexandrina and Albert to include Hindmarsh and Mundoo Islands, the River Murray Mouth, and Goolwa. The western boundary incorporates the Mount Lofty Ranges towns of Mount Compass, Meadows, Mt. Barker, Nairne, and Brakunga. Included in the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area are the Eastern Mt. Lofty Ranges catchments of the Bremer Angas, and Finniss Rivers and the Tookyerta, Tooperang, Bull, Meadows, Mount Barker, Dawsley, and Currency Creeks. All catchments in the GWLAP area terminate directly to Lake Alexandrina.

Figure 1. The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Region

Board and Staff

In 2013, and at the time this strategic plan was completed, the GWLAP has 13 Board Members, and 12 staff members as follows;

Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board members

- Harry Seager (Chairman)
- Bruce Brooks (Vice Chairman)
- Derek Fenton (Public Officer)
- Margaret Wilksch (Treasurer)
- Merri Tothill (Secretary)
- Chris Bagley
- Cr. Ian Grosser
- Paul Johnston
- Barry Lincoln
- Jan Meek
- Peta Page
- Cr. Keith Parkes
- Gerry Thompson
- Anne Welsh

Goolwa to Wellington LAP Staff members

- Tony Randall (Programs Manager)
- Caroline Holloway (Manager - Finance and Administration)
- Jacqui Wilson (Management and Administrative Support)
- Ben Simon (Senior Project Officer – Eastern Hills and Murray Plains)
- Will Miles (Senior Project Officer – Coorong and Lakes Projects Coordinator)
- Liz Schofield (Manager - Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre)
- Regina Durbridge (Project Officer - Monitoring and Evaluation and Wetlands)
- Leah Sullivan (Lakes Revegetation Planner and Coordinator)
- Aaron Cheesman (Lakes Revegetation Planner and Coordinator)
- Kerri Bartley (Project Officer - Lake Alexandrina on ground works)
- Sherie Bain (Project Officer – Eastern Hills and Murray Plains)
- John Gitsham (Project Officer – Fleurieu Swamps Recovery)
- Up to 10 casual employees for implementation of specific projects at key times throughout the year.

Goolwa to Wellington LAP staff are overseen by the Board of community volunteers from a range of industries and interest groups. The Goolwa to Wellington LAP is funded by several key investment partners including The South Australian Government Department for Environment, Water, and Natural Resources, The South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Board, and The Australian Federal Government. The Goolwa to Wellington LAP also receives significant and valued funding contributions from Local Government bodies, Non-Government Organisations, and from corporate and philanthropic project partners.

Works and activities.

The main functions of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP are the provision of on ground works to landholders through an incentive program, and undertaking community engagement and support projects to assist local communities to manage their natural resources in a sustainable manner that suits local enterprises, environment, and socio economic factors. Works include:

- Threatened plant and vegetation communities restoration and management
- Native Grasslands and Woodlands management and restoration
- Fencing and conservation management of remnant native vegetation
- Fencing watercourse areas and water bodies
- Establishment of stock water points
- Revegetation with local native plant species for watercourse restoration, biodiversity enhancement, erosion management, and salinity and Acid Sulphate Soils mitigation
- Landclass fencing
- Establishing windbreaks
- Establishing wildlife corridors
- Management of soil erosion sites
- Management of Acid Sulphate Soils sites
- Perennial pasture and fodder shrub establishment
- Farm Forestry establishment
- Woody weed and pest animal management.

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP also undertakes a wide range of other projects in the areas of environmental and natural resource management including;

- The provision of detailed and specific environmental and property management advice to rural property owners
- Wetland management and management plan development
- Community engagement and education programs and activities
- Provision of support to Landcare Groups, Agricultural Bureaus, Catchment Groups, Bushcare Groups, Coastcare Groups, and other local community groups interested or participating in environmental and agricultural works and activities
- Development and delivery of environmental monitoring and evaluation programs
- Property and catchment planning
- Strategic planning for natural resources management
- Conducting, facilitating, and assisting field research trials
- Agricultural sustainability and productivity improvement programs
- Climate change investigation and mitigation
- Delivery of School based education and engagement programs
- Irrigation efficiency projects
- Partnership projects with business, industry groups, Local Government, and government agencies.

Since the incorporation of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP in 1998 there have been a significant volume of works completed and people engaged in the wide range of programs that have been run and managed by the Goolwa to Wellington LAP. The following table details the type and volume of works undertaken and number of people engaged for each financial year since incorporation of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP:

		Financial Year Ending															
Works Category	**Unit**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**Total**
Remnant Vegetation Fencing	Km	n/a	2	26	28	52	42	19	27	20	21	36	27	51	43	22	**416**
Remnant Vegetation Area Managed	Ha	n/a	24	135	193	280	180	140	245	168	175	280	178	355	403	603	**3359**
Fencing Watercourse	Km	n/a	5	14	31	25	31	13	21	36	24	8	18	16	10	4	**256**
Fencing Revegetation	Km	n/a	3	9	18	28	41	11	54	46	45	31	60	49	38	15	**448**
Revegetation (including watercourse)	Ha	n/a	18	61	136	169	131	118	271	401	423	348	411	432	389	324	**3632**
Establish Water Points	Number	n/a	6	5	24	14	22	12	42	62	40	24	2	100	43	54	**450**
Fencing Lake Edge	Km	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	5	8	10	11	24	22	21	21	130	25	13	**293**
Lakeshore Erosion Management	Km	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	11	13	15	13	9	12	5	7	6	**96**
Fodder Shrub Establishment	Ha	n/a	n/a	9	16	13	7	11	12	39	19	28	14	25	25.9	0	**219**
Perennial Pasture Establishment	Ha	n/a	n/a	135	273	405	487	80	248	193	138	154	122	133	168	35	**2570**
Landclass Fencing	Km	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	6	10	4	8	9	10	7	12	6	5	1	**85**
Soil Improvement (liming/clay spreading/delving)	Ha	n/a	45	168	270	329	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**812**
Threat Abatement Time	Hours	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	115	447	517	680	550	1651	1358	2156	**7474**
Threat Abatement Area Managed	Ha	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	220	260	340	275	622	580	976	**3333**
Farm Forestry	Ha	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	7	7	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**29**
Wetlands Managed	Number	10 wetlands managed over the period (not all wetlands were managed in all years due to funding constraints and drought)															**10**
Wetlands Area Managed	Ha	The collective area of the 10 wetlands managed is 2680 Ha															**2680**
Landowners provided with on ground works technical advice	Number	N/A	50	100	100	100	100	200	200	250	250	300	350	350	358	378	**3278**

Figure 2. Summary of works and engagement undertaken by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc.

Strengths of Local Action Planning:

- Strong and unwavering community focus of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP
- Community ownership of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP through being a community Board managed not for profit organisation,
- Fast response time to community and individual's needs,
- Flexibility in the delivery and implementation of projects,
- Links with community members and goods and service providers that facilitate value adding to projects through volunteer and physical resource Contributions
- Knowledge and understanding of local area, conditions and issues facing landholders
- Locally based staff and offices makes LAP staff easily accessible and able to be responsive to community and project needs
- Ability to work one on one with landholders on their properties in their environment.
- Large volunteer network incorporating over 50 Landcare, Agricultural, Catchment, Bushcare, and Coastcare groups, and many hundreds of landholders

Challenges:

- Annual funding does not always align with best practice delivery of on ground works and environmental timeframes and parameters
- The impacts of a changing climate on the region
- Greater community awareness of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP and its activities in the region sees a greater interest in undertaking programs and on ground works projects than available funds permit.
- Status of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP as funding initiatives change
- NRM industry is moving towards a cost recovery for service provision
- Contraction of Government Departments and amalgamations may leave the Goolwa to Wellington LAP vulnerable to funding cuts and / or changes to funding priorities.
- Maintaining a community voice to all levels of government to ensure community concerns, ideas, and knowledge are heard and incorporated into NRM, agricultural and environmental planning and policy documents.

Indigenous Peoples

The Ngarrindjeri people are the original indigenous inhabitants of the lands and waters of the Murray River, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, the Coorong and adjacent areas. The Ngarrindjeri people continue to occupy, enjoy, manage and use their inherited lands and waters within the area of the River Murray, Lower Lakes, Coorong and adjacent areas. Creation stories and oral traditions have been passed down from generation to generation and with them a detailed knowledge of Yarluwar-Ruwe (sea country). Ngarrindjeri have a unique philosophy regarding the connectivity of country / body / spirit. Ngarrindjeri Ruwe / Ruwar (country / body / spirit) concerns Ngarrindjeri rights and responsibilities as traditional owners and consideration that all things are connected. Ngarrindjeri also see their homelands as a cultural landscape, shaped during the creation by Ancestral beings and by the management of Ngarrindjeri as custodians of the land. Ngarrindjeri histories and creations stories document changes in the ecological character of the region.

The Peramangk people are the original indigenous inhabitants of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. The Peramangk enjoy a rich and unique culture that is distinctly different from the neighbouring indigenous peoples to the east and west, with many exquisite rock art sites occurring across their homelands. Many place names across the Mount Lofty Ranges are derived from Peramangk words and there are numerous examples of Peramangk language influencing property names.

Climate

The climate of the area is strongly influenced by topography and the ameliorating affects of the ocean. Rainfall ranges from 900mm in the Mount Lofty Ranges along the western edge of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area to 500mm on the eastern flanks of the Ranges. Rainfall on the plains to the east of the ranges declines to approximately 350mm at the Murray River near Wellington. The northern side of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert is in the rain shadow of the Mount Lofty Ranges and receives in the order of 400 mm annual average rainfall. The southern part of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert receive higher rainfall due to the influence of the coastal weather patterns. The weather is usually more moderate in the hills (frequently up to 5 degrees cooler) and near the coast (frequently up to 10 degrees cooler) than those in Adelaide. Frosts are common throughout the hills in the winter and early spring. Frosts are rare at the coast but occur on the plains. Under current climate change predictions, the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area is predicted to be become warmer and drier with less frequent but greater intensity rainfall events and more hot days in each year.

Topography and soils

The most pronounced features of the area are the hills, plains, lakes and coastline.

The Mount Lofty Ranges to the West of lake Alexandrina are over 350m above sea level and rise to 517m at Mount Barker. The hills have steep slopes and broad flat valleys. The valleys typically have shallow to moderately deep acid-neutral, loamy sands to clay loams (with clay subsoils over basement rock) or acid-neutral sands over clay sub-soils.

The plains to the east of the ranges and around the lakes slope from the base of the hills to the River Murray, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the sea. The eastern plains drop from 75-100m elevation above sea level to sea level and are quite flat over most of the area. The surface of the plains is often made up of windblown sand deposits.

Soils on the plains are generally sand or loams over clay becoming calcareous at depth, red to dark soils with clay at depth, or calcareous soils with shallow carbonate layers. South-east to north-west trending dunes of white, red or brown sand, overlay parts of the eastern plains. They are often low in fertility and non-wetting in nature. There are areas of deep loams and clay surface soils associated with the Angas-Bremer River systems near Langhorne Creek.

The area between Boggy Lake and Wellington is very low lying with many areas in this locality inundated by the 1956 River Murray flood. Shallow water tables and the area's soils contribute to its natural salinity with much of this area serving as a regional groundwater discharge area.

The lakeshores and Hindmarsh and Mundoo Islands form the third major feature of the topography. The shorelines are often high in silt and clay content and are integral to the region's environmental importance, attracting a wide range of local and migratory aquatic birds.

The Sir Richard Peninsula on the western side of the Murray Mouth, like Younghusband Peninsula on the eastern side of the Murray Mouth, is an extensive coastal sand dune formation.

Soil salinity is present in the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area, occurring in the Mount Lofty Ranges and on the plains, with extensive areas of natural salt pans occurring on the Nothern side of Lake ALexandrina. During the drawdown of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert between 2007 and 2010 acid sulphate soils (ASS) developed on the exposed lakebed soils, and lakebed sediment eroded dramatically through wind action.

Hydrology

The nature of the major geological units dictates the availability and nature of groundwater supplies. In the hills, aquifers in fractured rock formations have variable yields and quantities, depending on soils and rock type and the degree of fracturing, topography and climate.

Around Mount Compass sandy glacial deposits contain a considerable volume of water. The exact relationship between recharge, water use for irrigation and surface water flows in this area is largely unknown.

On the plains, the Mannum Formation in the Murray Group Limestone serves as an aquifer and has provided water for the Langhorne Creek area where it has been used to irrigate vines, fruit trees, lucerne and vegetables.

A weak confining group generally caps the Murray Group, although it is ineffective to the south closer to Lake Alexandrina. The confined aquifer recharges along the escarpment and riverbeds, keeping salinities low, whilst further away from recharge areas salinities can be quite high. An overlying unconfined aquifer is generally saline with variable salinity levels. Groundwater extraction for consumptive use has depleted groundwater resources and increase salinity levels of aquifers in some areas.

Surface waters

Surface waters are an important attribute of the Lakes Alexandrina and Albert area, particularly Lake Alexandrina where several watercourses from the Mount Lofty Ranges terminate. The main catchments which all drain from the Mount Lofty Ranges towards and into Lake Alexandrina are the:

- Bremer River Catchment (including the Bryce, Spring, Waterhole, Salt, Mount Barker, Nairne, Dawsley, Western Flat, Rodwell, Red, and Mosquito Creeks)
- Angas River Catchment (including Dawson, Middle, Burnside, and Paris Creeks)
- Sandergrove Creek Catchment
- Finniss River Catchment (including the Meadows, Sheep Station, McHargs, Blackfellows, and Giles Creeks)
- Tookyerta Creek Catchment (including the Tooperang and Nangkita Creeks)
- Deep Creek Catchment
- Currency Creek Catchment

Prior to European settlement, the streams of the region had a gentle cross bed profile and were thickly vegetated with moderate channel definition. Land clearance, stock and introduced plant species together with changed flow rates have altered stream flow dynamics causing erosion and threatening built structures.

Lake Alexandrina and Albert along with the Coorong and River Murray Mouth form the Coorong and Lower Lakes Ramsar Wetlands of International Significance. The River Murray Mouth was kept open with the aid of dredging for a period of eight years (2002 to 2010) due to insufficient flows to maintain natural connection with the Southern Ocean.

Native Fauna

The native fauna of the area was thought to be extremely diverse prior to European settlement and was similar to that found across large parts of South Eastern Australia. With large scale land clearance occurring quite rapidly after European settlement in 1836 many localised extinctions occurred in the years immediately following. The diversity of mammal species, particularly small mammals, declined rapidly with land clearance and the introduction of predatory animals from Europe. Native fish have declined significantly in diversity and population with the reduced water quality and altered flow regimes and water chemical composition. A number of native birds are either extinct in the region or are declining in numbers as a result of habitat fragmentation, reduced diversity, dominance of invasive or aggressive species and predation.

Some large bodied mammals such as kangaroos have benefited from the altered landscape being more suitable to their requirements, as have some bird species such as magpies and galahs. Koalas, which are not endemic to the Mt. Lofty Ranges, are prevalent and increasing in numbers across the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area.

The Lakes Alexandrina, Albert and the Coorong Ramsar (Wetlands of International Significance) area is subject to the Korea-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (Kamba) and the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (Jamba) due to the high levels of migratory bird habitation .

The Lakes Alexandrina, Albert and the Coorong Ramsar area along with Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, are listed under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) (1999) for the significance of native fish, birds and flora.

Native Vegetation

The native vegetation of the area is largely governed by topography and climatic influences. The Mount Lofty Ranges support Mesmate Stingybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) and Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) woodlands in the higher rainfall locations of the ranges. These are typically comprised of a shrubby mid and understorey with some grassy areas. Occurring through the Finniss River and Tookayerta Creek Catchments are the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999) listed Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps. These are permanent aquatic ecosystems whose vegetation community is only found on the Fleurieu Peninsula of South Australia.

As you head east from the ranges to the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges foothills, the rainfall becomes more moderate and Stringy Bark forests give way to Blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasiculosa*), Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) and Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*) grassy woodlands. These are often characterised by the presence of the local Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and have limited canopy structure. A key characteristic of these vegetation communities is the dominance of a grassy understorey, often hosting a myriad of lilies and orchids.

As you move further east onto the plains, the native vegetation becomes predominantly mallee vegetation communities. There are several types of mallee trees occurring in the local area including the Ridge Fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus incrassata*), Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*) White Mallee (*Eucalyptus gracilis*), and the Slender leaf mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*).

The vegetation fringing lakes Alexandrina and Albert is made up of several wetland vegetation communities and types including Swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*), samphire (*Halosarcia species*), lignum (*Duma florulenta*), Typha (*Typha domingensis*), Juncus (several species), Schoenoplectus (several species), phragmities (*Phragmites australis*), and Gahnia (*Gahnia filum*). The occurrence and density of these vegetation communities and types is largely determined by degree and frequency of inundation, and quality of soil and water. In recent years some areas have declined significantly in health as a result of the receding water levels. In turn however, some plants such as phragmites have colonised new areas.

The native vegetation of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area has been largely cleared for agricultural purposes, with an average of approximately 4% remaining across the area. Remnancy is greater in the Mount Lofty Ranges due to more shallow and infertile soils which are unsuitable for agriculture and difficulties in clearing steep land.

Threatened Species

There are a large number of threatened fauna, fish, and plant species occurring across the GWLAP area, many of which are associated with threatened vegetation communities. The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999) lists three vegetation communities within the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area, these being:

- Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula
- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus oderata*) grassy woodland of South Australia
- Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia

There are many individual mammal, bird, reptile, fish, and plant species listed under the EPBC Act and on the South Australian register of threatened, rare and vulnerable species. The Goolwa to Wellington LAP is working to protect threatened species through the protection, restoration, and expansion of suitable habitat area.

Economic Activities

In the Mount Lofty Ranges, grazing of sheep and cattle along with relatively recent vineyard expansion are the main forms of land use. Up until the 1990s dairy production was a major land use however this has reduced significantly. Vegetable production, orchards, horse breeding and training, remnant and revegetation, conservation parks and forests occupy large areas with rural living and limited cropping completing the scene.

On the plains, cropping and grazing are the dominant land uses, although some land holdings accommodate vineyards and vegetable production. Historically the main area for vineyards has been from south-east of Strathalbyn through Langhorne Creek to Milang. The scale of vineyard operations has expanded significantly in this area over the past 15 years. Intensive livestock industries such as piggeries and hatcheries also occur. Grazing is the predominant land use on Hindmarsh and Mundoo Islands.

Overall, the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area generates more than $170 million from primary production activities per annum. The most significant commodities in that total are livestock, grapes, cereal crops, vegetables, wool, hay, and milk.

Mining operations occur in some areas, in particular lead and zinc mining at Strathalbyn, Copper mining at Kanmantoo, and sand mining at Mount Compass and Tooperang. Quarrying for a range of stone products occurs in several locations throughout the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area. There is moss rock removal undertaken from some properties in the hills. Salt and lime or gypsum are mined on the plains around the Lakes.

Tourism is a key economic activity, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Langhorne Creek and Currency Creek Wine Regions, around Lake Alexandrina, and along the South Coast in the towns of Goolwa, Port Elliot, and Middleton.

The larger towns of Mount Barker, Strathalbyn, and Goolwa support significant retail and light industrial areas.

Socio-economic factors

The total population of the Lakes and adjoining Ranges areas and towns is approximately 55,000 (ABS 2012). Population levels are increasing significantly due to many of the hills towns being within commuting distance of Adelaide, and recent urban area expansion approvals for Mount Barker and Goolwa. These towns are two of the fastest growing in South Australia.

The main towns in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges are Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Nairne, Callington, Kanmantoo, Macclesfield, Meadows, Ashbourne and Mount Compass.

The main towns around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are Goolwa, Clayton Bay, Milang, Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek, Wellington, Tailem Bend, Meningie, and Raukkan.

Population growth has put increased pressure on rural land for housing, raising land prices and making it more difficult for agricultural enterprises to expand or justify the relatively low returns in relation to real estate prices. There has been an increase in road use, use of recreational facilities and a consequent increase in pollution and demands on waste and effluent disposal across the area. Population pressures have also impacted negatively on native flora and fauna through increased habitat disturbance and vegetation fragmentation.

Many rural property owners in the Goolwa to Wellington LAP area, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges, work off farm for at least a proportion of their time in order to derive income. These people still derive income from the rural property however this is not generally sufficient to support themselves and their families.

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Goals, Strategies, and Targets

Detailed below is an implementation plan to deliver the vision and mission of the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc. It identifies the strategies to achieve each goal and the associated targets for each strategy. Each target will be reviewed annually and may be amended at the discretion of the Goolwa to Wellington LAP Board. The degree to which many of the targets and indictors of success can be implemented will be dependent upon both the level of funding and the activities for which funding is made available.

Goal 1 – Promote environmental and agricultural resilience and sustainability within the community .			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
1.1	Review and provide an updated Communication and Marketing Plan / Strategy that indicates client and stakeholder groups and the most appropriate methods of communication and information dissemination.	GWLAP Board / Programs Manager	Communication and marketing plan / strategy developed and updated as required. Communication and marketing plan / strategy implemented Measure business levels as an indicator of success. Measure levels of program engagement, enquiries, visits to website, visits to facebook page as an indicator of success.

Goal 1 – Promote environmental and agricultural resilience and sustainability within the community .			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
1.2	Apply for funding under various streams and programs to achieve the goals and strategies identified in this strategic plan	Programs Manager / GWLAP staff	The goals and strategies identified in this strategic plan are funded and the associated targets being met.
1.3	Ensure delivery methods and business activities align with the Goolwa to Wellington LAP mission statement.	Programs Manager all GWLAP staff.	GWLAP projects and associated delivery targets align with the GWLAP mission statement. Project delivery models and methods align with the GWLAP mission statement.
1.4	Ensure delivery methods and business activities meet the needs of the local community.	GWLAP staff and partner organisations	Review response forms / feedback from groups. Maintenance of continued or ongoing relationship with clients. Measure levels of program engagement by local community. Additional volunteers are engaged in GWLAP activities.

Goal 1 – Promote environmental and agricultural resilience and sustainability within the community .			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
1.5	Develop a strong volunteer base.	GWLAP Board, Staff, Partner organisations.	Existing groups are actively engaged in GWLAP Program Short term volunteers are engaged. Young people are encouraged and assisted to volunteer.

Goal 2 - Manage impacts of climate change			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success.**
2.1	Increased awareness of LAP Board and Staff in relation to developments on climate change science and management and mitigation practices and methodologies.	GWLAP Board and Staff	GWLAP Board and staff to attend information sessions on climate change to maintain currency on the issues and management options for climate change.
2.2	Develop biolinks between remnant and revegetated areas where possible to increase ecological resilience in the landscape.	All staff	Remnant and revegetated areas linked annually. GIS mapping and planning tool maintained to facilitate good planning.
2.3	Undertake studies on LAP operational and administrative activities and how they might be influenced by climate change	GWLAP and project partners	Collaborative or commissioned study undertaken. Recommendations from studies are incorporated into GWLAP operating procedures and practices where practicable.
2.4	Reduce, mitigate and/or offset GWLAP carbon emissions.	GWLAP Board and Staff	Measure the amount of CO2 reduced, mitigated, or offset by the GWLAP through the results of GWLAP carbon audit.

Goal 3 – Conserve and restore Biodiversity in the GWLAP area.			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
3.1	Increase biodiversity restoration works from a property scale to a catchment scale by promoting collaboration amongst neighbouring landholders	GWLAP staff	Increase in number of new property owners involved in on ground works. Number of adjoining properties undertaking on ground works and management.
3.2	Identify priority areas and vegetation communities and undertake works on biodiversity conservation and restoration in these areas as appropriate and feasible.	GWLAP staff	250 Ha hectares conserved and / or managed.
3.3	Protect, conserve and expand the habitat area of threatened flora and vegetation communities	GWLAP staff	Number of Ha of threatened plant communities and species managed (subset of the 250 Ha target for strategy 3.2) Number of threatened plant species managed.
3.4	Protect, conserve and expand the habitat area suitable for threatened and vulnerable fauna	GWLAP staff	Number of Ha managed that provides threatened Fauna habitat (subset of the 250 Ha target for strategy 3.2)

Goal 4 - Improve health of creek, river, wetland, and coastal systems			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
4.1	Increase creek, river, wetland, and coastal systems rehabilitation and management from a property scale to a catchment scale by promoting collaboration amongst neighbouring landholders	GWLAP staff	Increase in number of new landholders involved in on ground works. Increased number of adjoining properties undertaking on ground works and management.
4.2	Target creek, river, wetland, ground water, and coastal systems for rehabilitation where opportunities exist or present.	GWLAP staff	10 Ha of riparian area protected / restored / managed 10 km of lakeshore protected / restored / managed 30 Ha of wetlands protected / restored / managed 30 Ha of coastal environments protected / restored / managed

Goal 5 – Promote and help implement sustainable land management and farming systems			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
5.1	Work with agricultural industries and primary producers to promote sustainable land management and agricultural practices	GWLAP Board and staff	Support for industry and primary producers to promote and implement sustainable land management and agricultural practices. Dissemination of information relating to sustainable land management to clients, the community, and industry groups Run 4 events annually to promote and educate on sustainable land management practices.
5.2	Facilitate change by collaborating with relevant agencies, industry groups and land owners	GWLAP Board and staff	Establish 100 Ha of erosion management / mitigation works through perennial vegetation and wind break establishment and soil remediation and management activities. Provide sustainable land management advice to 100 property owners through property visits and other means of communication.

Goal 6 - Monitor and evaluate on ground works			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
6.1	Develop monitoring and evaluation plans for each project	GWLAP staff	Plans developed for each project and used as a basis for measuring project success.
6.2	Review each project as per the monitoring plans	GWLAP staff (relevant Project Officers to review their projects)	Projects reviewed as per the relevant monitoring plan, recommendations made and implemented.
6.3	Undertake field monitoring activities to determine the success of on ground works and associated baseline information.	GWLAP staff	Detailed field monitoring (Bushland Condition Monitoring, Native Fish Monitoring, Water Quality Monitoring etc.) undertaken on 10 project sites.
6.4	Ensure that field monitoring results are made known to landholders involved in the project and to those whom the results may be beneficial, the funding bodies, interest groups, and wider community	GWLAP staff	Monitoring results have been provided to property owners and other relevant stakeholders.
6.5	Undertake or facilitate research and field based investigations into areas of interest where information is unknown or limited.	GWLAP board, Programs Manager, GWLAP Staff	1 research or field trial undertaken Results of research and field trials promoted to GWLAP, staff, clients, partners and stakeholders. Recommendations are incorporated into GWLAP operating procedures and practices where practicable.
6.6	Maintain currency of GIS data input and management systems and record keeping.	Programs Manager, GWLAP Staff	All on ground works data is entered into GWLAP GIS management system.

Goal 7 - Negotiate with government			
	Strategy	**Responsibility**	**Annual Target / Indicators of success**
7.1	Monitor Federal, State and local government policies, plans, strategies, activities and proposals against GWLAP strategic plan	GWLAP Board and staff	Awareness of current funding opportunities and submission of appropriate applications and responses.
7.2	Participate through appropriate processes and channels to influence government policies, plans, strategies, activities, and proposals that are likely to have significant positive or negative impacts on community based environmental and agricultural initiatives or the environment.	GWLAP Board and Programs Manager	Active negotiation and participation with government on related proposals, plans and initiatives is undertaken.
7.3	Establish and maintain appropriate communication links with government representatives and staff	GWLAP Board and staff	Appropriate communication links are developed and maintained to enable community view points and issues of concern to be heard and considered.