



# Flinders Island Safe Haven project



## What makes Flinders Island unique?

Flinders Island is a unique and wild place, with around 50 km of diverse and stunning coastline, featuring granite boulders, limestone headlands, sandy beaches, dune systems and sheltered bays. Approximately 75% of Flinders Island is covered with native vegetation, including remnant Drooping Sheoak woodlands, Tea Tree forests and native vegetation.

Flinders Island is one of South Australia's largest islands at 4,000 ha.

## What is happening on Flinders Island?

From 2025, Flinders Island is being transformed into a safe haven for nationally threatened species.

Across Australia there is a network of more than 100 havens, consisting of predator-free islands and 20 fenced areas that contain mammals susceptible to predators.

Once pests are eradicated from Flinders Island, the island will be part of Australia's safe haven network and threatened plant and animal species can be re-introduced. This will create a lasting impact that will stimulate conservation and nature-based tourism with opportunities for the community to get involved.

## What pests will be eradicated?

From May 2025, an eradication program will focus on mice, rats and cats. Best practice rodent and feral cat eradication methods will be used with technical experts being engaged for the project.

By the end of 2025, the eradication process should be complete.

## Why is this happening on private land?

Working collaboratively with private landholders is recognised as a critically important step in modern conservation efforts.

The owners of the island, the Woolford family, are dedicated to creating a haven for threatened species, working with a skilled team to enhance the island's ecosystem. A conservation agreement will be placed over most of the island, in addition to an existing Heritage Agreement that covers about 250 ha.

The unique nature of islands provides natural biosecurity barriers that dramatically reduce the cost to maintain a feral-free environment as well as a high level of ongoing protection against reinvasion.



## How will visitors to the island be impacted by this project?

The local community who regularly visit the island are critical to the success of this project.

**From May to December 2025, the island will be closed while the eradication process takes place.**

When the island is open for visitors, support the project by following biosecurity procedures – all detailed on the [Flinders Island Eco Escape site](#) including:

- Contacting the landowners if you are planning a trip BEFORE you leave the mainland.
- Checking the [biosecurity checklists](#) when considering visiting the island.
- Ensuring that all luggage has been checked and packed in accordance with the Flinders Island Biosecurity Plan.
- If arriving by plane, boat or barge, be sure to check the correct procedure for packing to avoid bringing unwanted rodents and pests.
- Not bringing firewood.
- Checking all surfboard covers, swags and tents, BBQ bags and other high-risk items to ensure there are no stowaway pests before leaving the mainland.

Biosecurity for the island is the responsibility of everyone who visits the island. Following these simple steps will make all the difference to the project success.

## How is this project funded?

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government, the South Australian Department for Environment and Water and the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board in partnership with the Woolford family.

## What happens after the eradication operation is declared a success.

A report by the [Threatened Species Recovery Hub](#) has identified the mammal species for inclusion in safe havens (those that are highly susceptible to predation by cats and foxes). This report has provided the basis for a strategic assessment of the highest priority species to introduce on Flinders Island. The mammal species candidates for introduction to Flinders Island included 18 identified as extremely or highly susceptible to predators. Also, some species need to be secured in more havens, whereas others are relatively well-conserved in existing havens. Based on this assessment the following species are prioritised on the short-list:

1. Banded Hare-wallaby
2. Southern Brown Bandicoot (ssp. Nauticus; Nuyts islands)
3. Greater Stick-nest Rat.

For the initial phase of introductions, the proposal is to introduce the banded hare-wallaby and Nuyts Southern Brown Bandicoot. Subsequent introductions would in part be informed by the success of the first two species.



## More information

For more information and project updates see [www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/flinders-island](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/flinders-island) or <https://flindersislandeco.com/>

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