

Future proofing agriculture on Kangaroo Island 2018–19



Project summary

The Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management (KI NRM) Board partnered with Agriculture Kangaroo Island (AgKI) and Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to deliver the project. The project was designed to address the following issues impacting agriculture on Kangaroo Island:

1. Adaptation to changing climates.
2. Adaptation to changing market demands.
3. Soil carbon.

Farmers attended workshops, field trips and presentations to help set priorities and future direction for Kangaroo Island in four key areas.

Project components

The project had four components:

1. To develop a KI Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan that clearly identifies critical and strategic activities, responsibilities, timeframes or triggers, and the likely funding needed to support KI's primary production sector to adapt to significant changes in climate.
2. To review existing and emerging tools and technologies to identify those that will support improved on-farm decision making and adaptation to changing climates.
3. To assist at least three interested and eligible farmers to submit projects to the Emissions Reduction Fund using the Australian Government's Sequestering carbon in soils in grazing systems methodology (or to other carbon credit schemes as appropriate).
4. To identify the most suitable stewardship and accreditation scheme for KI croppers, graziers, horticulturists and viticulturists together with a strategy to promote its uptake and incorporation into the Authentic Kangaroo Island brand membership criteria.



What have we achieved?

1 climate change adaptation plan developed and
3 reports about farm accreditation schemes, soil carbon and tools and technology written for KI



4 media releases
10 social media posts and
4 E-news posts
published about the project



84 farmers surveyed to set priorities for future KI farming events

90 farmers and
10 industry groups participated in the project



9 events held including
5 workshops and
2 field trips

1. Climate Action Plan

A plan was developed by KI farmers for KI farmers and other industry and government stakeholders, identifying key priorities and strategies for adapting to the climatic changes that are anticipated for KI. With warming and drying, seasonal shifts, and more intense weather events are predicted.

Short-term adaptations may only need small incremental changes to farming practices, while medium to longer term adaptations will be more resource intensive, require some lead-in time, and may even require a complete transformation in approach. The action plan is practical and focused on tangible outputs.

2. Tools and technologies review

A desktop review was conducted to identify new and innovative tools and technologies to improve on-farm decision making and farming practice. The proponents of the most promising tools and

technologies will now be invited to the island to demonstrate and showcase them to interested farmers and tours to tech expos on the mainland will also be supported.

3. Brown carbon credits

The benefits of sequestering more carbon are multiple and include:

- » An additional source of on-farm income through the generation of carbon credits.
- » Increased soil carbon and improved soil condition leading to improved production and profitability.
- » Being carbon neutral on-farm will help to maintain and improve market access through

demonstrating sustainable and responsible production, as well as mitigating climate change.

Opportunities under the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund using their methodologies for sequestering soil carbon in grazing systems were explored and work is ongoing to assess the financial viability of registering an aggregated project for the island.

4. Stewardship and accreditation schemes

Potentially suitable farm stewardship and accreditation schemes were investigated. Credible stewardship and accreditation schemes give consumers the reassurance they are increasingly seeking, that food is produced in a sustainable and ethical way. Maintaining KI's market access, substantiating the KI brand proposition and fetching a premium price for product is a priority for the island.

- » Stewardship schemes should also seek to facilitate improved access to finance and should be practically useful to farm managers, rather than being an added burden. The proponents of the most suitable schemes will now be invited to the island to share more detailed information with interested farmers.

For more information

All project reports and presentations can be found at:
www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/land-and-water/Future_Proofing_Agriculture_on_Kangaroo_Island_Project

Funding source

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Images by Kangaroo Island Industry Brand Alliance