

# Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

October — December 2025



# Nurturing Kangaroo Island's landscapes together to create a thriving sustainable future

This is the vision of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). This report captures the work undertaken through Board projects from 1 October to 31 December 2025 to deliver this vision. Formed in 2020, the Board aims to deliver practical, on-ground programs to help manage the island's water, land and soil, pests, and biodiversity in partnership with farming groups, environmental non-government organisations, local councils and community groups. The Board consists of eight members, including a Chair, Andrew Heinrich. They have developed a *Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021-2026* (the Plan), which combines community values, local knowledge and scientific evidence into a strategic road map to guide how the Board will work in partnership with the community and investors to support the recovery and management of Kangaroo Island's landscapes into the future. The Plan aims to strike a balance between productivity and profitability, and looking after the environment to maintain biodiversity. The plan contains five regional priorities, each with a suite of focus areas to guide the actions for the Board and the wider regional community for five years.

	<b>Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making</b> <b>Focus areas:</b>
COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with all sectors of the community to improve the island's landscapes</li> <li>Making decisions based on the best available scientific, local and traditional knowledge</li> <li>Understanding, valuing and taking care of the natural environment and cultural heritage</li> </ul>
	<b>Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity</b> <b>Focus areas:</b>
BIODIVERSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding the structure and function of habitats and ecosystems</li> <li>Protecting biodiversity to minimise species loss</li> <li>Improving our understanding of the environment and the beneficial role it plays</li> </ul>
	<b>Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy</b> <b>Focus areas:</b>
ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the health of the soil, water and biodiversity that supports our economy</li> <li>Strengthening the viability of primary production through sustainable practices</li> <li>Working in partnership with industry to ensure the island's economy continues to prosper</li> </ul>
	<b>Priority: Effective water management</b> <b>Focus areas:</b>
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing water resources sustainably and equitably for all users</li> <li>Improving water quality in the island's catchments and wetlands</li> <li>Protecting aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems</li> </ul>
	<b>Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management</b> <b>Focus areas:</b>
PESTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlling and, where possible, eradicating weeds, pests and diseases</li> <li>Strengthening KI's biosecurity arrangements</li> <li>Managing the impact of overabundant native species</li> </ul>

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Cover image: Jeanette Gellard, Board Member, face painting at the Parndana Show.

# Water Resources Management

## Overview:

This program supports the Kangaroo Island (KI) community to manage their water resources in line with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act).

## Key achievements October–December:

- The Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Control Policy Review subcommittee met for the first time in December. This committee will oversee the review of the WAA Control Policy.
- Supported stream condition and macroinvertebrate monitoring across 12 sites on the island as part of the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Reports (AECRs). This statewide monitoring program is conducted every 2–5 years. The monitoring provides data on the current condition of aquatic ecosystems across KI and assesses changes to the condition. Results are also used to inform the review of KILB's Water Affecting Activity Control Policy and can help identify priority areas for management and intervention.
- Eight WAA Permits were assessed. These consisted of a range of works from new dams, to graded catchments, and crossings.
- Over 95% of all dam works permitted and completed between January–May 2025 were inspected against permit conditions. This involved the inspection of 40 dams across KI, over 21 field audits.

## Community engagement:

- Advised 19 people on matters including dam construction/enlargement, water quality, property-scale water security and WAA permitting requirements.
- Visited 11 sites to help landholders in relation to water-affecting activity permits placed, potential applications for works, or compliance-related issues.
- Supported the delivery of a waterbug sampling and identification workshop for KICE students along the Cygnet River.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities Control Policy.
- New aerial imagery was captured across KI in December 2025. The imagery will be used to identify unauthorised dams constructed since 2020.

Image below: Phoebe Edwards, Water Officer, surveying a dam.



**12**  
sites monitored for macroinvertebrates

**95%**  
of newly permitted, finished dams inspected

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- Effective water management
- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

### Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
  - » State Appropriations

# Invasive Species Control Program

## Overview:

This program manages declared weed and pest animal species in accordance with risk assessment priorities and regional management plans.

## Key achievements October–December:

### Declared weeds

- 2,000 horehound plants were controlled along 340 km roadside in Haines, Menzies and the Dudley. This is a significant reduction in the number of horehound plants controlled from the previous year.
- 500 salvation Jane plants were controlled at 12 sites revisited for control across 12 ha. All sites had much less salvation Jane than in previous years, but a new site was found.
- 1,270 Montpellier broom plants were controlled at 10 sites revisited for control over 22 ha.
- 28 African boxthorn plants were controlled as part of follow-up work along North Cape Road.
- Six gorse infestations were monitored for control. Up to 500 seedlings were destroyed. Much less gorse was found at Cassini. However, two new plants were found at two sites in Timber Creek that have not had any gorse plants for several years.
- Landholders in Haines were helped to control 1,500 yellow burrweed plants over 10 ha on a property and along roadsides.
- Summer spraying was undertaken along Hog Bay Road to control Scabiosa, Lincoln weed, horehound, fleabane and stinkwort.
- 390 bulbil watsonia plants, 380 lavatory creeper plants, 275 tree lucerne plants, 25 cotoneaster plants, 315 Cape Leeuwin wattle plants, 20 wild artichoke plants and 256 arum lily plants were also controlled.
- A week of weed surveillance was undertaken across KI with botanist Chris Brodie from the State Herbarium. Survey results will be released in early 2026. As a result the status of some plants will change from 'suspected naturalised' to 'naturalised'. A second infestation of broomrape (*Orobanche minor*) was found and removed on KI at Kelly Hill.

### Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- A pilot control trial of TBGs was undertaken to determine the most cost-effective and time efficient methods of controlling TBGs wildlings without creating significant adverse ecological impacts.
  - » Previously used control methods are no longer effective on TBG wildlings that are now up to 10 m tall, often in high densities, and often interspersed with thick native vegetation.
  - » Ten hand, mechanical and chemical control methods were trialled as part of the pilot. The cost and treatment efficiency and the ecological impact of each method was assessed.
  - » 692 ha of TBG wildlings were controlled as part of the trial.
- Concurrent to the pilot, TBG wildlings were controlled along roadsides, and retreating areas already controlled with low density germination.

### Declared and over-abundant animal management

- Began a trial to control little corellas via night-time shooting.
- Work on the eradication program for feral cats continued (see report on page 6).

### Feral pig eradication program

- The Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) are completing the final stages of the feral pig eradication program.

**1**  
pilot control trial for  
Tasmanian bluegum  
wildlings conducted

**7,461**  
declared and priority  
weeds removed

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management



## Community engagement:

### Declared weeds

- A new biological control for African boxthorn, leaf rust, developed by the CSIRO was promoted on social media.
- 15 people were supported with weed control advice and two people were assisted to identify weeds.
- Spray equipment was lent to two people.

### Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- Continued to work, engage with and retain the support of, key landholders and other stakeholders for TBG control.

### Declared animal management

- KI landholders continue to work well with the Boards permitting system to manage domestic pigs.

### Feral pig eradication program

- KI landholders were recently surveyed to identify any feral pig sightings. None were found.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

### Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program for our priority weeds: gorse, blackberry, salvation Jane, horehound, khaki weed, caltrop, bluebell creeper and control summer weeds along roadsides.

### Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Develop a report outlining the results of the pilot trial documenting optimal control methods across high and low density infestations, with a quantitative assessment of total control cost. The pilot trial report will be used to inform a TBG management plan for broader KI. This critical step will enable the Board to tackle areas previously outside of the scope of the project, however, the implementation of this control will require additional funding.

### Declared and over-abundant animal management

- Continue supporting the Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication program.
- Continue the little corella trial.
- Continue inspecting properties permitted for domestic goats and pigs and re-issue permits as required.
- Continue to manage the domestic pig permitting system, deliver compliance actions as required, respond to community reports and procure specialised equipment to enable rapid response efforts in the case of escaped domestic pig or feral pig sightings.

### Feral pig eradication program

- PIRSA will continue searching for feral pigs with detection dogs and a helicopter with thermal capabilities in 2026.

Image left: Chris Brodie, State Herbarium botanist with broomrape. Image below: TBG control as part of the pilot trial.



**692**  
ha Tasmanian blue gum  
wildling control

**19**  
people assisted with  
weed control

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Australian Government
  - » Saving Native Species - Priority Places
- Government of South Australia:
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund
  - » Department of Primary Industries and Regions
  - » Department for Infrastructure and Transport

# Feral Cat Eradication Program

## Overview:

This program is working to eradicate feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the KI Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

## Key achievements October–December:

- From October–December 20 feral cats were removed from 39,000 ha across the Dudley Peninsula and Pelican Lagoon Isthmus Management Zone.
- Soft-jaw leghold traps, thermal shooting and detector dogs were used to target known feral cats detected on 4G cameras, or sightings reported by community members, where the use of other control tools such as cage traps, had already been applied and feral cats were proving elusive.
- Sightings of feral cats recorded on the camera network remain below the historic average. The spatial distribution of feral cat sightings across the Dudley Peninsula has remained relatively uniform.
- New gates have been built for the feral cat exclusion fence and will be installed following remedial work to the track beside the existing fence, which was impacted by high king tides and storm surges.

## Community engagement:

- In October 12 Nukunu and Narungga young people travelled to Kangaroo Island to help protect Australian sea lions from diseases that feral cats spread. Working together with the KI feral cat eradication team, they learnt how to set up a monitoring and control program from the beginning, installing and downloading cameras, building Celium hubs and establishing a large array of traps in and around the Seal Bay sea lion colony.
  - » Since then, two Nukunu Narungga participants in the program have attended a vertebrate-pest training course run by PIRSA in Adelaide, with a view to pursuing work in feral cat control and land care in the future.
- Members of the KI feral cat eradication program visited Nukunu Wapma Thura in November to work with the Tracks in the Sand team including Ronald Boland, Bessie Buckskin, Indigenous Rangers and Nukunu and Narungga young people. This field trip focused on being on country and was led by Ronald and Bessie.



**20**  
feral cats removed  
from KI

**12**  
Nukunu and Narungga  
young people helped trap  
feral cats at Seal Bay

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

**Call in a cat**  
on the Dudley Peninsula  
**0459 952 830**

*Image below: Numbers of bush stone-curlews photographed are increasing.*

*Images right: Nukunu and Narungga people learning trapping techniques with the KI feral cat eradication program team.*

- » Together the group walked, sat and talked about the program, who they are and where they came from. Ronald spoke about his upbringing and the challenges facing young people today. Bessie spoke of family and connectedness. These conversations were extremely valuable, providing insights and building stronger relationships and trust.
  - » They spoke on the success of this pilot program, listened to young people tell them what they valued and enjoyed most and how we would like to see this program grow in the future.
  - » While there Board staff also shared their knowledge on how to trap feral cats using cage and soft-jaw leg hold traps connected to a Celium network and exchanged ideas and control techniques with the Nukunu and Narungga young people.
- The Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication program featured in an article in local newspaper *The Islander*, five national media articles, on an ABC radio interview and in two social media posts. A community update was sent via an e-newsletter to 383 people in December and the Board's webpage was updated. See: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/native-plants-and-animals/managing-pests/kangaroo-island-feral-cat-eradication-program>

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to suppress the feral cat population using targeted control tools such as soft-jaw leg hold traps and thermal shooting.
- To extend the feral cat exclusion fence further into Pelican Lagoon and replace the existing inter-tidal fence with non-corrosive materials that are both environmental sensitive and long lasting in the marine environment.
- Continue working with our technology partners from Encounter Solutions, to develop a fully automated cage trap to improve efficiency and make it easier for landholders to participate in our winter trapping blitzes.
- Seek grant funding to continue and grow work with Tracks in the Sand and Nukunu and Narungga young people. The future program will hopefully provide career pathways for young Aboriginal people and connect them with the Board and its programs.



**383**  
people received a project  
update via an e-newsletter

**7**  
national and social media  
articles produced

### Funded by:

- Australian Government:
  - » Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Purryburry Trust
- AgKI
- Members of the public



# Sustainable Agriculture Program

## Overview:

The Board recognises the ongoing land stewardship undertaken by the Island's agricultural community. This program promotes and supports the adoption of evidence based sustainable land management practices that generate productivity gains and positive environmental outcomes.

## Key achievements in community engagement

### October–December:

- The new Property Management Planning (PMP) program has been re-designed, incorporating feedback from previous participants to focus on practical skills, decision-making frameworks and implementation support, rather than technical theory.
  - » Land managers from 18 farms have signed up to the new Property Management Planning (PMP) program.
  - » Delivered development workshop 1. *Setting Direction* on 16 December with Beck Burgess, farm business coaching and strategy specialist. 18 people attended the workshop and were given the framework and tools to clarify goals, priorities and direction for their property management plans. The workshop was delivered with a strong focus on group exercises, team-building and peer-to-peer learning.
  - » Continued engaging with agronomists, consultants and industry stakeholders to support PMP delivery and ongoing one-on-one follow-up with PMP participants. This enables the program to link participants with relevant specialist advisors (e.g. water, soils and farm planning) to support on-farm implementation.
- Delivered technical workshop *Turn Feed Budgets into Profit* on 14 October 2025 with Basil Doonan (Pinion Advisory).
  - » The 11 participants learnt how to measure feed supply, match it to livestock demand, and plan for feed deficits or surpluses. Many reported this helped them understand their true carrying capacity and feel more confident planning ahead, rather than reacting to seasonal conditions.

**18**  
farms doing Property Management Planning

**3**  
workshops hosted or supported

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

### Funded by:

- Australian Government:
  - » Future Drought Fund
  - » Carbon Farming Outreach Program
  - » Natural Heritage Trust, Climate-Smart Agriculture Program
- Government of South Australia:
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund

» Farmers left with practical budgeting tools, spreadsheets, and a clearer ability to make proactive decisions around destocking, supplementary feeding, and pasture management to improve both profitability and animal condition. Following the workshop the Landscape Officer has been working with the participants to implement feed budgets on their properties.

- Continued management and monitoring of farm demonstration sites. Baseline soil, plant and management data was collected and interpreted at demonstration sites to support comparison of control, intervention and other treatment variables.
- Supported Sarah Stanton to deliver her *Vermi-composting Workshop* on 15 December. The workshop showcased practical on-farm composting and worm-based systems to support soil health, nutrient cycling and farm resilience to 19 participants.

**48**  
people attended workshops

**4**  
demonstration sites monitored

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Host a workshop: *Envisioning the future* on 29 January with Jasmin Piggott, a crop farmer, native flower grower from Miltalie, and Alex Comino, Carbon Outreach Officer.
- Host a workshop: *Genetics, eID and Carbon-Smart Breeding* on 13 February 2026 with James Meckiff (JM Livestock), Jonathon England (eID and on-farm technology) and Tim Prance (pasture and grazing expert).
- Prepare for the Tools and Tech sessions to be held in late March 2026, focusing on the use of artificial intelligence and digital tools for recording and managing on-farm data.
- Continue one-on-one follow-up support for PMP participants with external specialist advisors, aligned to individual property priorities.
- Deliver upcoming PMP workshops focusing on water planning, soils and farm systems, with an emphasis on applied learning and peer-to-peer problem solving.
- Support participants to develop summer feed budgets to assist with decision-making around stocking rates, supplementary feeding and risk management.
- Coordinate and undertake summer soil testing across participating properties and demonstration sites to inform nutrient management and planning.
- Continue monitoring and analysis of demonstration sites, including development of management plans based on data collected to date and upcoming harvest outcomes.
- Progress remaining biofertiliser demonstration sites through to autumn, with SAP (plant tissue) testing used to assess nutrient status and support management decisions ahead of winter.
- Compare results in demonstration sites across control, intervention and other treatment variables to assess agronomic and economic impacts.
- Develop extension materials and case studies from demonstration sites to support wider adoption.

Image left: Participants at the feed budgeting workshop.

Image right: Farmer Sarah Stanton and Cassandra Douglas-Hill, Landscape Officer, at Sarah's Vermicomposting workshop.



# Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

## Overview:

This project supports landholders to improve the condition of Kangaroo Island's natural environment through native vegetation protection and restoration works with a focus on threatened ecological communities and critical habitats.

## Key achievements October–December:

- Two landholders constructed 0.85 km of fencing to protect 9.55 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland (NLM) as part of On-ground Works projects. One landholder also planted 75 seedlings to help restore 0.37 ha of NLM habitat.
- Vegetation floristics surveys have been completed at all ten of the restoration monitoring locations to capture maximum species richness data. This data will be combined with previously collected plant species diversity and structure data to assess the overall success of habitat restoration works.
- Spring restoration monitoring fauna surveys have been completed. These surveys are a repeat of the autumn surveys previously undertaken. Surveys included deploying drift line camera traps and bioacoustics recorders. Data is still to be analysed, but will be used to assess the overall success of habitat restoration works.
- The 2025–26 on-ground works funding round was finalised, with 16 landholder projects approved for funding. These projects will deliver 14.9 ha of revegetation and 86.4 ha of remnant NLM habitat protection.
- Priority weed surveys have been completed over 200 ha of roadside vegetation, remnant native vegetation and agricultural land throughout the eastern plains and Dudley Peninsula. Surveys spanned areas where control works were undertaken in 2024 and also newly identified infestations. These surveys will be followed-up by weed control works in late 2025 and early 2026.

## Community engagement:

- The Narrow-leaved Mallee Project Officer has been working with the KI Council regarding their roadside maintenance program to prevent impacts to threatened plants on roadsides. As part of this, over 100 threatened plants along seven roads were flagged with markers. These plants will hopefully be avoided by contractors undertaking maintenance works in the future.



**9.55**  
ha KI Narrow-leaved  
Mallee woodland  
protected

**0.37**  
ha threatened plant  
habitat planted

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Government of South Australia
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government
  - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places

- A landholder in Seddon was assisted to manage dead trees burnt during the 2029–20 bushfires. A site visit identified over 100 dead trees that were potentially still protected under the *Native Vegetation Act*, despite no longer providing habitat for native species or shelter for livestock. A solution to this issue was confirmed through correspondence with the Native Vegetation Council, allowing the landholder to remove the dead trees and establish a series of new native vegetation shelterbelts.
- Discussions regarding the construction of roadside signage identifying areas of critical threatened plant habitat were conducted with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Discussions also included revising the existing DIT roadside marker system, which is designed to alert contractors to environmental assets and limits the type of works that can occur in sensitive areas. Further discussions are planned.
- Revegetation advice was provided to two landholders looking to undertake future habitat restoration projects. The advice related to site preparation, protection fencing and general revegetation planning.

**10**  
flora surveys conducted in  
restored and remnant NLM

**200**  
ha NLM assessed for  
priority weeds

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue planning to establish signage for threatened plant populations along roadsides in conjunction with the KI Council. The purpose of the barriers is to alert workers and the public to the presence of critical threatened plant populations on roadsides, and thereby prevent them from being accidentally harmed.
- Flora and fauna data collected as part of the restoration monitoring project will be analysed.
- Priority weed control will be undertaken to protect populations of threatened plants. Control will focus on areas treated during 2024 as well as areas of new infestations. Control works will mainly focus on olives, but will also include other priority weeds, including aloe and apple of Sodom.

*Image below left: Newly protected and revegetated KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland.*

*Image below right: Aloe plants invading KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland in roadside vegetation.*



# Kangaroo Island Woodland Bird Recovery Project

## Overview:

This project will deliver strategic on-ground management actions to assist the recovery of key woodland bird species post-fire. Actions will include revegetation for priority woodland bird species, habitat augmentation through the installation and maintenance of nest boxes, pest management to control species that invade tree hollows, and monitoring of key species in partnership with the local community.

## Key achievements October–December:

- 11 artificial nest boxes were installed for glossy black-cockatoos.
  - » We looked at information collected between 2020 and 2025 to find places where a shortage of nest boxes might be affecting glossy black-cockatoos. We identified sites where the existing nest boxes and natural tree hollows were already fully used by the birds. New nest boxes will now be installed there in 2026. This will give glossy black-cockatoos more places to nest in their 2026 breeding season, which runs from late January to July.
  - » A mixture of ‘cockatubes’ (black-cockatoo nest boxes constructed by the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Landcare Group) and 300 mm PVC cockatoo nest boxes (constructed by Board staff) were installed at six sites.
  - » All 11 newly installed nest boxes were protected from predation with a corrugated iron tree collar to stop climbing mammals accessing the tree, and by pruning the canopy to stop animals jumping to the nest tree from adjacent trees.
- A further 15 sites were assessed and 10 selected for the future installation of nest boxes for the endangered KI glossy black-cockatoo, vulnerable KI crimson rosella, and declining yellow-tailed black-cockatoo.
- At the start of summer all of the glossy nest boxes were re-opened again ready for their breeding season. 42 nest boxes were closed from August–November to exclude little corellas and galahs. All of these nest boxes were also sprayed when opened with a spray to prevent feral honey bees establishing hives.

## Community engagement:

- Karleah Berris, Team Leader Biodiversity, presented *Habitat augmentation and fauna recovery after the 2019-20 bushfires on Kangaroo Island* at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide in November 2025, speaking about glossy nest boxes, dunnart refuges and bandicoot bunkers.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Install nest boxes at four more sites.
- Continue excluding possums and removing bee hives where required at glossy nests.
- Monitor closely the glossy breeding season which is just beginning, after the lowest number of nest attempts were recorded last year. This may be due to a combination of hot weather early in the season and drought conditions in the lead up to the start of the breeding season.
- Construct insulated nest boxes to test if we can improve the thermal suitability of our nest boxes, particularly for sites where canopy cover is still limited post-fire.

**11**  
glossy nest boxes installed & protected

**10**  
sites selected for future bird artificial nest boxes

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Government of South Australia
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government
  - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places

Image below: Sandra Leigh, Biodiversity Project Officer, installing a glossy nest box.



# Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

## Overview:

The Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery grows over 150 different species of KI native plants, which can be used for revegetating land, windbreaks, coastal plantings and home garden use. The Nursery Manager is available for native vegetation management advice to assist landholders with their projects.

## Key achievements October–December:

- Sowed seed, transplanted seedlings and propagated cuttings for 2026.
- Orders have been confirmed to grow approximately 20,000 plants for private landholders and KI Landscape Board project orders. An order for a further 17,000 plants is being confirmed. Approximately 8,000 plants will be grown for public plant sales.
- Mini propagation tunnels were installed to improve success propagating cuttings.
- Seed from threatened species were collected and propagated.
- A Work Health and Safety (WH&S) audit of the nursery was conducted and safety signage and equipment purchased as a result.

## Community engagement:

- Hosted a visit to the nursery of environmental educators from the mainland landscape boards, organised by Deb Laver, Environmental Education Coordinator.
- Site visits were conducted to support landholders with revegetation projects.
- Assisted Friends of Parks Western Districts to collect seed at Remarkable Rocks, Flinders Chase National Park for their revegetation work there.
- Helped Friends of Parks Western Districts and KI Community Education (KICE) students to sow seed for planting in Flinders Chase National Park in 2026.
- Attended the Kingscote and Parndana shows.
- Attended a nursery managers meeting at Yankalilla.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue with seed collection to replenish seed bank.
- Continue entering data into seed bank data base.
- Sow seed, continue transplanting and thin tube stock.
- Consolidate species and batch orders for 2026.

**20,000**  
plants ordered for 2026

**12**  
mainland educators visited nursery

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island’s economy

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Members of the public

Image: Friends of Parks Western Districts and KICE school students sowing seeds with Sandra Leigh, Nursery Assistant, for Flinders Chase National Park.



# Kangaroo Island Habitat for Biodiversity Project

## Overview:

This project will synthesise baseline and post-fire recovery biodiversity project datasets collected as part of the KI Dunnart Recovery Program and continue to build on those datasets for target species through re-surveying long-term monitoring sites seasonally during spring and autumn.

## Key achievements October–December:

- An additional ten ‘bandicoot fire bunkers’ were installed across five sites during this reporting period to increase the structural complexity of burnt habitat and provide fire-resistant structures.
  - » These bunkers aim to increase the structural complexity of post-fire landscapes, and also provide structures that would be resistant to fire in the event of future wildfires.
  - » Southern brown bandicoots are known to require structurally complex habitats for denning in during the day and much of this habitat was destroyed in the 2019-20 bushfires.
  - » Bunkers were installed below ground with a minimum of 10 cm of soil between the roof of the bunker and ground level for adequate insulation from fire. Stand-alone motion activated cameras were set up facing the entrance of each bunker to survey for species visitation and use.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Prepare for and undertake the monitoring of small mammals at long-term survey sites in autumn.

*Image below: Hannah Byrne-Willey, Biodiversity Project Officer and Torran Welz, Glossy black-cockatoo Field Officer installing a bandicoot bunker.*



**10**  
bandicoot bunkers  
installed at 5 sites

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Australian Government
  - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places

# Improving Coastal Habitats Project

## Overview:

This project will undertake actions to improve the quality of habitat for Kangaroo Island’s priority coastal species through habitat augmentation, protection and revegetation. Key coastal habitats and threatened species will also be monitored to provide information and direction for current management actions, with a focus on the Board’s newly constructed native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) reefs and little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colonies.

## Key achievements and community engagement October–December:

- Increased water sample collection across Kangaroo Island to include nutrient samples, as well as microalgal sampling, for the SA Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Water Testing Program.
- The KILB Biodiversity unit completed the 2025 island-wide little penguin census in October 2025. The survey team was assisted by staff from the Penneshaw Penguin Centre. Results show an increase in the estimated population of breeding adults on Kangaroo Island compared with the 2023 and 2024 results.
- Monitored hooded plovers at prioritised locations over spring and into summer. Deployed access control activities to protect adults, chicks and eggs from disturbance, including temporary signage, fencing and chick shelters as appropriate.
- Baited Remote Underwater Video surveys (BRUVs) were conducted in American River in October, seven months after the 2025 harmful algal bloom was identified on Kangaroo Island. Video surveys were taken at the restored oyster reef sites and both seagrass and rocky reef reference sites to measure diversity and abundance of fish life post-reef construction and compare pre and present 2025 algal bloom.
- A Facebook article was posted reminding the KI community to report fish kills relating to PIRSA FishWatch, as well as report dead marine species to the KI HAB iNaturalist project, and where to find wellbeing support.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to monitor hooded plover breeding activity, and deploy signage, fencing and chick shelters as needed.
- Renovate and translocate timber artificial little penguin burrows from Kingscote to the expanding Emu Bay colony, in collaboration with the Burnside Rotary club and KICE Outdoor Education class.

**8**  
sites surveyed for  
little penguins

**15**  
hooded plover sites  
surveyed & protected

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Australian Government
  - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places

*Image below: A little penguin and chick found during the recent survey at Emu Bay.*



# Communications and media

## Overview:

This project provides professional communication services, processes, advice and support to the Board, General Manager and project staff. All work is in line with the Board's priorities and direction and tailored to the community and national/international audiences through targeted messaging and communication methods.

## Key achievements October–December:

### 1. Media

1.1 Local media: Thirteen articles were published in the media over the quarter:

- 2/10/25: [Free workshop to help KI farmers turn feed budgets into profit](#)
- 5/10/25: [Joaquín Pillado joins KI Landscape Board as sustainable agriculture facilitator](#)
- 17/10/25: [Stop Weeds in Their Tracks: Kangaroo Island Weeds Guide Out Now](#)
- 18/10/25: [Plan for property's long-term success](#)
- 21/10/25: [How you can help shape our new 5-Year Landscape Plan](#)
- 3/11/25: [Cash to conserve cockatoo population](#)
- 3/11/25: [Shelterbelts support productivity and biodiversity](#)
- 6/11/25: [Meet the bluetick coonhounds catching feral cats on Kangaroo Island](#)
- 27/11/25: [Free workshop to help KI farmers plan for success](#)
- 28/11/25: ['Hoodie' chicks take flight at Emu Bay, giving hope for vulnerable beach dwellers](#)

**45**  
social media posts viewed  
by 210,000 people

**13**  
media articles published  
locally

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective water management
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

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# Canines v cats

By Dani Brown

MEET Indi - the newest weapon in the arsenal for the fight to remove feral cats from Kangaroo Island.

Indi is a bluetick coonhound puppy and is the fourth of her kind to join Paul Jennings' pack on the North Coast.

The quartet of Jager, Murra, Spur, and Indi have been trained by Mr Jennings, who is the KI feral cat eradication program manager.

The dogs specifically trail and bay the feral cats, then Mr Jennings catches them.

This team is just one part of the wider eradication program on the island.

Mr Jennings took on his first bluetick coonhound, Jager, in 2018 when his "hobby" began.

"I was aware of the eradication program and the fact that they were going to need cat detection dogs at some point in the future, so I thought, 'I've got some time, I'll take up a hobby and see if I can train one of these dogs,' he said.



- 28/11/25: [New habitat for KI's rarest plants takes root at Red Banks](#)
- 6/12/25: [KI's Young Environmental Leaders go underground at Kelly Hill Caves](#)
- 7/12/25: [KI Landscape Board offers free Ladies Day Luncheon at Springs Road Winery](#)

1.2 Radio: Four interviews were given to ABC North West radio:

- 4/10/25: Shawn Hinves was interviewed about owner need the extra vigilance on biosecurity over the school holidays due to controls on varroa mite spread.
- 28/10/25: Paul Jennings, Manager of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program was interviewed about cat detection dogs used in the program.
- 4/11/25: Dr Karleah Berris interviewed about the effect of bushfires on the population of Glossy black-cockatoos
- 26/11/25: KILB's Coastal Officer, Alex Comino was interviewed about Hooded Plover chicks at Emu Bay.

1.3 Nine articles and two videos were published in state and national media:

- 8/10/25: Mirage News – [Protecting Kangaroo Island's World-renowned Ligurian Bees](#)
- 8/10/25: Glam Adelaide – [SA ramps up biosecurity to protect Kangaroo Island's unique Ligurian bees from invasive varroa mite](#)
- 9/10/25: We Are SA – [Bee-warned: Extra measures in place to protect KI's hives](#)
- 10/12/25: Forbes – [Meet The Australian Marsupial That Survived A Near-Total Wildfire Wipeout. Hint: It's Smaller Than A Mouse](#)
- 14/12/25: The Sydney Morning Herald – [It's gruesome work, but on Kangaroo Island, it's one of the best things an animal lover can do](#)
- 14/12/25: The Age – [Inside the plan to rid Kangaroo Island of feral cats](#)
- 14/12/25: The Brisbane Times – [It's gruesome work, but on Kangaroo Island, it's one of the best things an animal lover can do](#)
- 14/12/25: The Sydney Morning Herald (video) – [Kangaroo Island fights back against cats](#)
- 14/12/25: The Age (video) – [Kangaroo Island fights back against cats](#)

### 2. Social media

- 45 KILB Facebook posts viewed by 210,000 people, down 35% on last quarter.
- A Facebook post providing a [community update on the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program](#) was viewed by more than 10,000 people.

### Community engagement

- Two *Growing KI* e-newsletters were sent to more than 540 people in October and December. These e-newsletters promote the work of the KI Landscape Board, with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture activities, events and funding opportunities.

### Future directions and upcoming events:

- Media coverage of the glossy black cockatoo 2025 survey.
- Media coverage of the little penguin 2025 survey.
- Promotion of the statewide Landscape Board carbon farming webinars.
- Promotion of the Ladies Day Luncheon at Springs Road Winery focused on carbon farming.
- Promotion of the genetics, carbon farming and E-ID workshop at Ella Matta in partnership with AgKI.

Image left: An article on the front page of *The Islander* about the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program.

**9**  
articles published in state  
and national media

**4**  
radio interviews  
given

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Australian Government
- Government of South Australia:
  - » State Appropriations

# Environmental Education Program

## Overview:

This project is partnering with the local school KI Community Education (KICE), to develop and implement a free environmental education program embedded in the Australian (R-10) and SA (11-12) curriculum.

## Key achievements in community engagement

### October–December:

- Hosted a two-day landscape board Environmental Educators network meeting on Kangaroo Island. 12 people attended from around the state. As part of the meeting the Education Coordinator hosted a KICE staff environmental education professional development session with support from the visiting Environmental Education officers.
- Coordinated the final Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forum for the year at Kelly Hill Caves. The forum was supported by National Parks and Wildlife staff and local entomologist Dr Jess Marsh and showcased the mysterious (and largely unknown) world of cave spiders. Students had the opportunity to take part in adventure caving, learn about karst systems and cave dwelling invertebrates. Students also had the opportunity to observe cave invertebrates under the microscope and will help name a newly discovered cave spider found at the Kelly Hill Caves in the future.
- Supported YEL participants to present to the KI Landscape Board about their experiences with the program.
- Supported five Youth Environment Council students to finalise their projects.
- Together with the Water Officer, supported the KICE Kingscote year 7 science class with an aquatic macroinvertebrate excursion to Cygnet River, using resources and equipment from the KILB loan library.
- Supported KICE Outdoor Education students to work with Friends of Parks KI Western Districts with seed propagating for planting in Flinders Chase National Park together in 2026.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Work with a dedicated KICE teacher to develop specific curriculum aligned unit plans addressing the Scientific Understanding Achievement Standards for Years 3 and 7. A unit plan for year 7 will be trialled in Term 2 2026.
- Continue to develop environment educational resource guides on a range of environmental topics while also developing localised resources to be uploaded and made available via the KILB Environmental Education page.
- Facilitate the third year of the annual inter-KICE campus twitchathon.
- Support KICE involvement in events such as Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day and other celebratory environmental events.
- Continue to run a Young Environmental Leaders program for grade 5 students.



Image right: Landscape board Environmental Educators from across SA meeting with KICE teachers.

**12**  
SA environmental educators at KI forum

**5**  
Youth Environment Council students helped

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- Effective water management
- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

### Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund

# Planning and Evaluation Team

## Overview:

This team works with all KI Landscape Board projects to support their effective and efficient delivery and to assist them to meet their reporting responsibilities. The team also coordinates the KI Landscape Board's strategic planning, including evaluating performance towards implementing the KI Landscape Plan.

## Key achievements October–December:

- Five output reports were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) and eight progress reports were submitted to the Government of SA through the SmartyGrants portal.

## Community engagement:

- Development continued on the Board's new Landscape Plan which will cover 2026–2031.
  - » As part of the planning process the Board had a stall at both the Kingscote and Parndana Shows. Visitors to the stall were asked to prioritise the activities they believe the Board should be focussing on over the next five years. This information was then used to develop the new landscape plan.
  - » The community actively engaged with the prioritisation with 177 people participating in it at Kingscote and 143 people participating in it at Parndana.
  - » A workshop was also held in November with agency staff and stakeholders from NP&WS, PIRSA, KICE, Tourism KI and the KI Council to develop the new Landscape Board Strategic Plan for 2026-2031.
- The Board promoted their work to the community at the Kingscote and Parndana shows with project information, face painting, native plant sales, pin the tail on the glossy, count the sheoak cones, oyster filtration demonstration, macroinvertebrates to view and other sustainable agriculture activities.
- A successful two day tour of the Board's biodiversity-focussed activities and the feral cat eradication program was given to independent senator David Pocock.
- Project staff were assisted with communications and media to develop posters, web pages, media articles, factsheets, newsletters and flyers for KI Landscape Board projects.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Assist projects with reporting and monitoring requirements and liaise with the Australian and South Australian governments and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Continue to support the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga Aboriginal Nation Groups to undertake a Country Planning process for KI.
- Seek funding to continue KI Landscape Board project work.
- Consult with the community on the draft Landscape Plan 2026–2031 for six weeks from February to March.

Image right: A participant selecting their priorities for the Board at the Kingscote Show.

**13**  
reports submitted to project funders

**320**  
people helped develop priorities for the plan

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective water management
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

### Funded by:

- Australian Government
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Government of South Australia
  - » Landscape Priorities Fund



# Community grants programs

## Overview:

The Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants program supports KI individuals, volunteers, community groups and other not-for-profit organisations, with local landscape management projects.

## Key achievements October–December:

- A landholder in Cassini established and promoted the benefits of a large-scale vermicomposting system for their farming enterprise to improve soils and water retention, mitigate soil erosion, sequester carbon, reduce or end fertiliser and pesticide use, and manage water and pests and diseases.
- KICE Parndana Campus installed a weather station on campus to use in Agriculture Science classes to enable students to monitor weather and soil data and changing farming conditions across the island.
- Landholders in Duncan hosted three sessions on their property to demonstrate to 24 people how cleared landscapes can be restored through revegetation, improving habitat for native species.
- The Parndana Progress Association protected the Parndana Community Garden with a vermin-proof fence and planted 36 native plants to attract small birds beneficial to the garden.
- Landholders in Haines established a 1.2 hectare fenced shelterbelt of native vegetation containing 1000 native plants, including threatened plants. They engaged with the school and students helped plant the shelterbelt.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants with their projects.

*Image below left: Reception students helping to plant a shelterbelt with threatened plants in Haines.*

*Image below right: Volunteers fencing the Parndana Community Garden to protect it from wildlife.(Parndana Progress Association)*



**1000**  
native plants planted in  
shelterbelt

**24**  
people learnt about  
revegetation

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective water management
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Government of South Australia:
  - » State Appropriations



# How we can help you



## KI Native Plant Nursery

- » local native plants
- » growing, planting and revegetation advice suited to KI soils and climate
- » plant identification

Contact Jo McPhee  
0437 322 692  
jo.mcphee@sa.gov.au



## KI native vegetation

- » advice on how to manage KI native vegetation
- » grants available to protect and revegetate KI native vegetation

Contact Kym Lashmar  
8553 2476  
kym.lashmar@sa.gov.au



## Soil Extension Officer

- » assist with agricultural pests and weeds, growing and monitoring soil health and plant nutrition, grazing management, feed budgeting, using biological stimulants and fertilisers

Contact Cassandra Douglas-Hill  
0402 107 167  
cassandra.douglas-hill@sa.gov.au



## Water management

- » advice on water affecting activities and permits e.g. dams and earth works in or near a water body
- » advice on water resources e.g. salinity, wells

Contact Phoebe Edwards  
0477 013 051  
phoebe.edwards@sa.gov.au



## Weed control

- » weed management advice
- » weed identification
- » reports of new weeds
- » hire of cape tulip weed wiper

Contact Jason Walter  
0418 708 557  
jason.walter@sa.gov.au



## Pest animal control

- » domestic goat and pig permits
- » feral pig, goat and deer reports

Contact Brenton Florance  
0427 618 304  
brenton.florance@sa.gov.au



## Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

- » soil monitoring and soil health
- » demonstration and trial sites
- » shelter belts and revegetation
- » sustainable land management

Contact Joaquin Pillado  
0437 172 877  
joaquin.pillado@sa.gov.au



## Feral cat control

- » control of feral cats
- » feral cat trap hire

Contact Paul Jennings  
8553 2476  
paul.jennings@sa.gov.au