



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

January — March 2023



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 January to 31 March 2023 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 seven 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 over the next five years.

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

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Cover image: Feral cat trapping staff erecting a barn owl nesting box on the Dudley Peninsula to help the native predator replace feral cats and prey on introduced mice and rats.

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*.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- Mapping layers were developed for KI climate change projections and water security index.
- The final report for the *Kangaroo Island Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits* project is ready for publishing. This project collected ecological and hydrological data to assess the level of risk posed to aquatic ecosystems under different water take limits and other water management options.

Community engagement:

- Property-scale water security plan products, including climate change projections and high resolution mapping products, were shared with people attending the 2023 KI Tools and Tech Field day.
- A subcommittee to assist with the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities policy was established.
- Eight Water Affecting Activities (WAA) permit applications were assessed.
- Advised 30 people about water resources management, the requirement for WAA permits and development applications. Queries included mining proposals, burying pipelines and constructing dams in exchange for removing plantations.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Present the water module to the Property Management Planning group, including property scale water security maps and information on climate change, water requirements, water legislation and best practice water management.
- Review the KI Water Affecting Activities policy taking into account additional monitoring records, mapping layers, changes to legislation and the *KI Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits* project final report.

Image below: Mark Agnew, Water Officer, talking to landholders about runoff flow paths and water security at the 2023 KI Farming Tools and Tech Field day.



8
applications for WAA permits assessed

30
people assisted to manage water resources

- 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
 - Australian Government:
 - » Future Drought Fund – NRM Drought Resilience Grant

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 January–March 2023:

Declared weeds:

- Follow-up control was carried out on caltrop infestations at Penneshaw and Emu Bay. Only one plant was found at Emu Bay, but 10 plants were found across four sites at Penneshaw. Five unrelated caltrop reports were received in recent months, including a significant infestation at American River where members of the public had already removed around 100 plants. Board staff conducted a broad search of the area but no more plants were found outside of the control area. Follow-up control has removed an additional 27 plants.
- The khaki weed infestation at Reeves Point, first reported in February 2022, was revisited five times during the quarter, with around 1000 plants being controlled by physically removing large fruiting plants and spraying seedlings. Additional searches were performed across Council reserves around Kingscote, but no other infestations have been found.
- Significant time was spent controlling bluebell creeper infestations across KI, including Parndana, Vivonne Bay, Grassy Flat, Nepean Bay, Colmans Road, Three Chain Road, Barretts Road, Milkys Road, Playford Highway and Branch Creek Road.

1,000
khaki weed plants
controlled at Reeves Point

26
blackberry plants found &
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

Image below: Tasmanian blue gum wildlings smothering roadside native vegetation along Church Road.



- Only 26 juvenile blackberry plants were found and controlled during follow up search and control efforts across seven previously infested sites.
- Staff continued with surveys and seasonal control of priority weeds along KI roadsides, including horehound, bluebell creeper, African lovegrass and rat's tail grass.
- The Board were successful in securing \$780,000 state government funding through the Landscape Priorities Fund, to continue removal of Tasmanian blue gum wildlings from native vegetation across western KI until 2025. Funds will be used to support professional contractors and volunteer organisations to continue control works in ecologically important vegetation.
- Steve Walsh and Veronica Bates have joined the team part-time to assist with declared weed control work through until 30 June.

Declared animal management:

- Board staff visited 10 domestic pig owners to inspect pig enclosure fencing and perform risk assessments for the keeping of domestic pigs, which are a declared pest animal on KI. Six compliant pig owners will be issued with declared animal permits in early April. It is anticipated that the remaining four pig owners will be ready for their final fence inspections in April. Board staff are following up with two additional pig owners who have not yet upgraded their fences.
- Board staff performed two-yearly property inspections for owners of domestic goats to ensure permitted goats are securely confined.
- The Feral Animal Control Officer participated in a feral deer aerial shoot in south-eastern SA as part of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) aerial marksman team.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

Community engagement:

- The Animal and Plant Control Officer responded to 33 public enquiries about weed identification, advice on control methods, and the presence of declared weeds.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue seasonal monitoring and control of bluebell creeper, fountain grass, Cape Leeuwin wattle, gorse, Italian buckthorn, salvation Jane, Montpellier broom, African boxthorn, bridal veil and bridal creeper.
- Conduct a trial to evaluate the suitability and cost effectiveness of drones to detect and map African boxthorn.
- Finalise property inspections, risk assessments and issue declared animal permits for owners of domestic pigs.

Image right: Landscape Officer Steve Walsh removing caltrop at Penneshaw.



33
people assisted with
weed management

10
domestic pig owners
assisted

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

The aim of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program is to eradicate feral cats from KI, beginning on the Dudley Peninsula and then moving west across KI. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the Kangaroo Island Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- Eradication work continued over the Dudley Peninsula. 31 feral cats were culled by KI Landscape Board staff over 3,952 trap nights using 464 traps.
 - » While feral cat activity is typically much lower over the warmer months, the reduced trap effort still yielded good results after switching to scent based lures in cage traps.
- The Celium wireless trap alert system has continued to be rolled out across the Dudley Peninsula enabling more traps to be open at once.
 - » The first stage of the rollout has focussed on the cat-free area behind the eradication front, with plans to expand the network across the Dudley Peninsula over coming months.
- The array of 210 4G connected cameras continue to monitor feral cat movements and threatened fauna sightings across the Dudley Peninsula.
 - » The rapid, automatic identification of feral cats using an artificial intelligence algorithm from the eVorta platform, enables field staff to strategically target individual cats each day, based on their locations each night.
 - » The cameras also provide baseline data, allowing us to monitor the long-term response of a range of threatened species, including KI echidnas, following the eradication of feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula.

Images below: Photographs of barn owls at two of the newly erected artificial barn owl boxes.



31
feral cats culled across the
Dudley Peninsula

464
feral cat traps
in operation

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

Visit the
[Feral Free Kangaroo Island Facebook page](#)
to learn more

Community engagement:

- Twelve specially designed barn owl nest boxes have been erected across the Dudley Peninsula to encourage the native predator to prey on introduced mice and rats, following the removal of feral cats.
 - » The nest boxes were built by the Kingscote Men's Shed, with funding from a Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grant to local landholder Peter Atkinson. Peter was inspired by KI Landscape Board Field Officer Emily Reynolds observations of the success of barn owl nest boxes while she was working on the Marna Banggara project on Yorke Peninsula in 2022.
 - » The nest boxes give barn owls greater breeding opportunities in areas where hollow-bearing trees are scarce, and the Marna Banggara barn owls have been bringing back over 25 mice to their nest box each night.
 - » Solar-powered, 4G-connected cameras are being mounted at each nest box on the Dudley Peninsula, to record barn owl activities, breeding and hunting success.
 - » [A video](#) and [media release](#) were produced to promote the barn owl nest box installations.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Increase trap effort across the Dudley Peninsula over the cooler winter months.
- Expand deployment of the Celium trap alert network across the Dudley Peninsula ahead of the upcoming winter trapping season.
- Complete installation of 4G cameras on barn owl nest boxes.

12
barn owl boxes installed
across the Dudley
Peninsula

210
4G connected cameras
to find feral cats &
threatened fauna

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
- Members of the public

Image below: An interested farmer discusses the Feral Cat Eradication Program with KI Landscape Board Feral Cat Field Officers Nathan Lennane and Emily Reynolds at the recent KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day.



Feral Pig Eradication Program

Overview:

The program aims to eradicate feral pigs from KI across private and public land, parks, reserves, forestry and agricultural farmland using a coordinated landscape approach. This program is led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) in close collaboration with the Landscape Board and KI National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The achievements below are a record of the direct contributions made by Landscape Board staff.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- The Feral Pig Control Officer and Feral Animal Control Officer continued to track, monitor and pursue feral pigs on foot. Low rainfall over the summer months has helped dry up the landscape, enabling search effort to focus on water points where feral pigs are most likely to frequent. Substantial time was spent walking remote creek systems in Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and forestry blocks in the north-west, as well as water sources on private land and in bushland across the south-west.
- The Feral Animal Control Officer spent considerable time strategically pursuing a feral pig in the south-west that had been detected 12 months prior, but had not been detected again until recently. Over a two week period, the feral pig was gradually lured out of thick bushland which had been hindering shooting options, and was finally shot.
- Both Control Officers continued to assist with the deployment and maintenance of the feral pig camera monitoring network, inspecting and servicing 87 camera sites throughout the monitoring area.

Community engagement:

- During the reporting period, the Control Officers engaged with seven landholders to undertake control, monitor for feral pig sign and discuss different aspects of the Feral Pig Eradication Program.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer will participate in the final Thermal Assisted Aerial Cull (TAAC) as part of the DEW Aerial Marksman Team. The TAAC operation will commence in mid-April and will continue through to the end of June.
- The Feral Pig Control Officer will assist with on-ground support for the TAAC, and will continue with on-ground control work, focussing on searching for signs of feral pigs, establishing and monitoring free-feed stations, maintaining the 4G camera network and responding to feral pig detections with targeted baiting and ground shooting.

Image right: Creek systems in the Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area searched by Board staff looking for evidence of pig activity.



87
remote cameras
inspected & serviced

7
landholders assisted with
feral pig control

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

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia
 - » National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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 January–March 2023:

- Seedling propagation for the 2023 planting season is well underway with the completion of seed sowing for this season.
 - » Approximately 54,000 tubestock of over 145 species are currently being grown out to planting size.
 - » Seed has been collected for future planting.
- A seed cleaning machine made by Mike Bennell that the Nursery will use in the future was trialled.
- A remote sensing irrigation system has been donated to the nursery.

Community engagement:

- 10 volunteers have donated over 120 hours to help thin the young seedlings.
- The KI Nursery Manager visited four sites to give advice about weed management, revegetation and planting garden beds.
- Attended a seed conservation workshop at Cygnet Park.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Install a new irrigation system and software.
- Finalise orders and keep plants healthy before planting season.

Image left: A volunteer helping plant pig-face (*Carpobrotus rossii*).

Image right: Mike Bennell operating the seed cleaning machine.



54,000
native plants sown
for the 2022-2023
planting season

120
hours donated to the
nursery by 10 volunteers

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:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Collette Travel

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

This program uses a holistic, systems approach to assist primary producers to improve soil health and increase on-farm diversity as the basis for resilient grazing and cropping systems.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- A state-wide application to demonstrate/trial techniques to improve soil health was developed in collaboration with Soils for Life, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Soil Science Australia and SA landscape boards.
- Seven properties, including the new KI Golf Course, have been selected to undertake demonstrations of practices that improve soil health, including perennial plants with soil microbiology, marginal salt land restoration, biochar and biology, cover crops and restoring manganese deficiency after liming.

Community engagement:

- 42 participants, representing 33 properties across KI, have joined the Property Management Planning (PMP) project. These properties cover an area of 20,413 ha, or 4% of the total area of Kangaroo Island.
 - » The first PMP module, a 'needs analysis', was run on 7 and 8 of February 2023 at the Kingscote Yacht Club. This module clarified the needs and goals of participants and their properties.
 - » 36 participants representing 27 properties attended this first PMP module.
- The Board hosted the KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day on 2 March 2023 at the Cygnet River Racecourse with support from local industry group Agriculture KI (AgKI) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA).
 - » 31 exhibitors from across Australia were present to highlight the latest cutting-edge tools and tech in the agricultural world and the day included four virtual presentations and four guest speakers.



36
landholders attended 1st
'needs analysis'
PMP module

208
people attended the
KI Farming Tools & Tech
Field day

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:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants Program
 - » Future Drought Fund

» 208 people attended the KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day which was reported in [The Islander newspaper](#) following the event.

- A Healthy Soils Workshop presented by international plant and soil health educator Joel Williams was held on 20 March 2023. 21 people attended and learnt about the role of key elements in providing plant nutrition and energy requirements and the benefits of soil biology, organic matter and plant biodiversity in crops and pastures.
- A [Growing KI e-newsletter](#) was published in February to promote sustainable agriculture on KI and connect KI landholders with latest information, trials, tools and technologies.
- Biological liquids were prepared for 10 landholders with grazing and viticulture enterprises.
- Nine farmers were assisted with advice about soils, native vegetation and grazing management. Farmers from the grazing and viticulture industries were also assisted with soil analyses and soil tests were conducted on two properties.

21
people attended Healthy
Soils workshop

10
landholders assisted to
prepare biological liquids

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The next three PMP modules will cover water, soil and financial management. A module on water management will be presented by KILB Water Officer, the PMP Lead Project Facilitator, and KILB Sustainable Agriculture Project Officer on 1 and 2 of May 2023. This module will look at water security on participants' properties, best practice water management, maximising water security and regulatory requirements. The soils and financial management modules are planned to be held before the end of June 2023.
- A qualitative assessment of biological liquids and soil will be undertaken at a number of properties using biological liquids to improve soil health and fertility.
- A viticulture field day with soil pits will be held at Bay of Shoals and False Cape wineries. Soil extension officers and viticulturists from the mainland will attend to discuss viticulture management and potential soil improvement methods.
- Soil samples will be taken and analysed from four demonstration farms.

Image below left: KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day. Image below right: Joel Williams presenting the Healthy Soils Workshop.



KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will improve the condition, extent and connectivity of remnant KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland community patches through direct investment in threat mitigation actions and empowering landholders to undertake best practice management of narrow-leaved mallee on their properties.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

Bridal veil is a significant threat to KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland and the populations of nationally threatened plants growing within it.

- In 2018 when the project began, a baseline survey of bridal veil was undertaken spanning 2,100 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland. 1,886 infestations of bridal veil were recorded, with the highest density of infestations along Barretts and Redbanks Roads.
- Following this survey, bridal veil control areas were established across 1,060 ha of non-continuous, critical nationally threatened plant habitat.
- Bridal veil infestations were controlled annually from 2019 to 2022 with 537 infestations controlled in total during that time. The annual number of infestations ranged from 25 in 2020 to 323 in 2022.
- 13,078 individual bridal veil plants were removed over the course of the project, with annual removals varying significantly from 48 plants in 2019 to 10,520 plants in 2022. This increase in abundance of bridal veil is likely due to the wetter, cooler weather conditions experienced during 2020–2022, which created favourable growing conditions for bridal veil.

1,060 ha
bridal veil control
undertaken annually

13,078
bridal veil plants removed
between 2019–2022

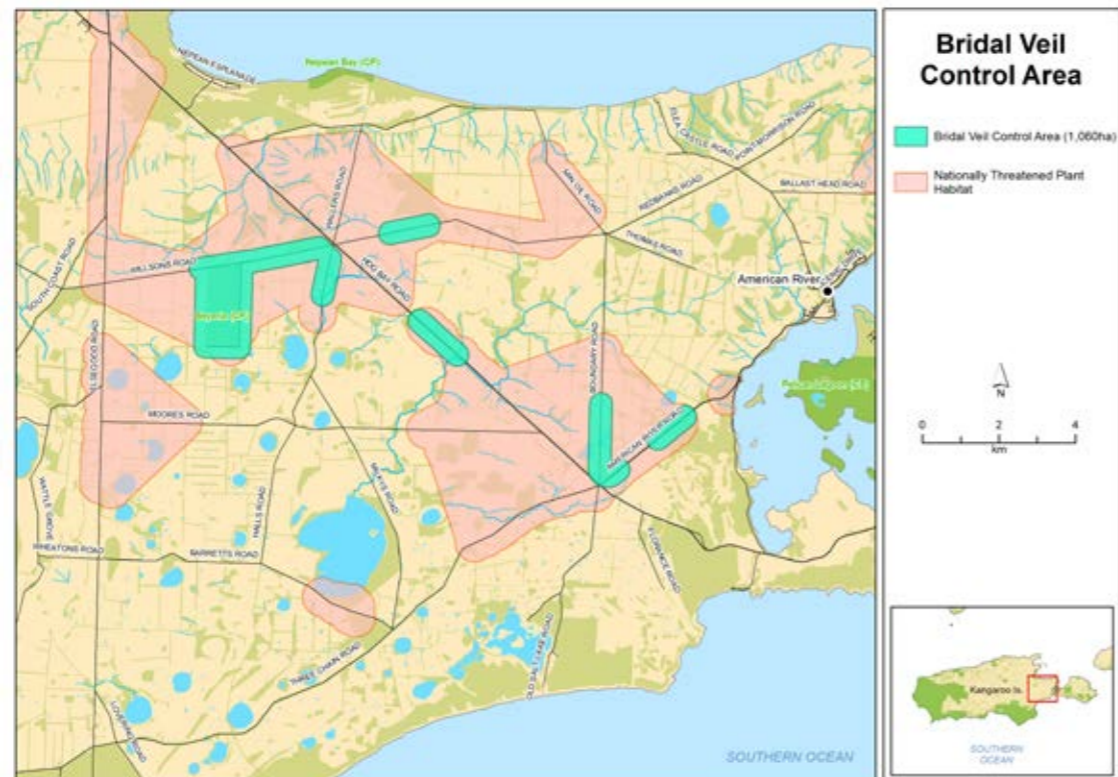
Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government: National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships

Map of bridal veil control areas within the critically nationally threatened plant habitat KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland.



Future directions:

Critical threatened plant habitat can only be kept free of bridal veil through ongoing monitoring and control, as bridal veil infestations increased during the life of the project. Without ongoing monitoring and control of future emerging infestations, further establishment of bridal veil will continue to occur.

Glossy black-cockatoo Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will deliver emergency interventions for SA glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) affected by bushfires to assist with their recovery, including protecting glossy black-cockatoo (glossy) nests from predators to improve nesting success.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- 133 individual nest trees across Kangaroo Island were checked for maintenance requirements:
 - » six had their tree collars replaced and a further four had tree canopy pruned to prevent possums gaining access to nest trees and predated on glossy black-cockatoo eggs and nestlings
 - » 20 nests were re-sprayed with insect deterrent to prevent bee hive invasion
 - » 23 nest trees had the remote cameras installed above nests for monitoring purposes serviced.
- Monitoring has shown nest boxes are vital to the recovery and continued nesting of glossies.
 - » Nest box use has increased significantly post-fire after almost two thirds of monitored hollow-bearing nest trees were destroyed in the 2019–20 bushfires within the fire scar.
 - » This year 50 glossy pairs have begun nesting, with 42 pairs (84%) using nest boxes installed and maintained by the recovery program.
 - » Other species have also increased their use of nest boxes post-fire. This year nine nest boxes have been used for breeding by barn owls and 18 by yellow-tailed black-cockatoos.
 - » In February 2023, 61% of nest boxes checked were occupied by a nesting glossy black-cockatoo, yellow-tailed black-cockatoo or barn owl, showing how highly sought after these nest boxes now are for hollow-nesting species on KI. Conversely on the mainland nest boxes are often rarely used.

84%
of glossy pairs using
artificial nest boxes to
breed

133
nest trees checked for
maintenance needs

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

Community engagement:

- Project staff contributed to the recently published CSIRO book *Australia's Megafires: Biodiversity Impacts and Lessons from 2019–2020* through contributions to two chapters and a case study on glossies.
- Liaised with 18 KI landholders to access glossy nest trees for maintenance.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Assist landholders to plant 4,000 sheoaks near existing glossy flocks.

Images: Other species happy to benefit from maintained glossy nest boxes including from left–right: yellow-tailed black-cockatoos, barn owls and Australian wood duck.



Kangaroo Island Dunnart Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will support the recovery of the Kangaroo Island dunnart following the 2019–20 bushfires by implementing key priorities of the *2011 Recovery Plan for the Kangaroo Island dunnart* and the 2019 draft *Conservation Advice for the Kangaroo Island dunnart*.

Key achievements January–March 2023

- 70 autumn fauna monitoring sites were installed to detect changes in the occupancy of KI dunnarts across their range and in response to habitat recovery since fire and management actions, such as feral cat control.
 - » Sites were selected to give temporal and spatial replication and to determine which environmental and habitat variables, such as burnt vs un-burnt habitat, time since fire, vegetation type and understorey complexity, predict the occurrence of the KI dunnart.
 - » Four additional sites were installed outside of the current predicted range of the KI dunnart, but within its previous historic extent, at Seal Bay Conservation Park and Springs Road, Cassini.
- 14 trial sites were installed to compare KI dunnart preferences for artificial refuges and natural dens in burnt and unburnt sites.
- The threatened species team continued to control feral cats across areas impacted by 2019–20 bushfires to support wildlife recovery. The team removed 59 feral cats from over 4,820 trap nights.
- 290 feral cat stomachs are currently being analysed. Preliminary results show five feral cats consumed KI dunnarts and one a platypus.

Community engagement:

- Six volunteer rangers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWSA) joined the KI dunnart recovery team to assist with the autumn monitoring program of this tiny carnivorous marsupial.
- An [update about feral cat control](#) work on western KI to benefit KI dunnarts and other native fauna was sent to participating landholders, community members, project partners and funders.
- A presentation was given to the 2023 Feral Cat Symposium organised by the WA Feral Cat Working Group about how Celium trap alert technology is enabling the effective control of feral cats and supporting landholder led trapping programs.
- Two social media posts were released of a video of a [KI dunnart catching and eating its prey](#) and the assistance given by the National Parks and Wildlife Service [Volunteer Rangers](#) to project staff.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Complete autumn long-term monitoring surveys and trials to determine the fire resistance and thermal suitability of artificial refuges.
- Complete data analysis of feral cat stomachs and continue feral cat control.

70
KI dunnart monitoring sites established

59
feral cats removed from KI dunnart habitat

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:

- Australian Government:
 - » Environmental Restoration Fund

Image below: NPWSA volunteers work with KI Landscape Board KI dunnart program manager Paul Jennings to establish a monitoring site.



Oyster Reef Construction Program

Overview:

This project has built a series of 20 small, native oyster shellfish reefs close to Kingscote and American River to provide important habitat for premium recreational fishing species and to contribute to the national shellfish reef restoration initiative. The reefs, will be initially seeded with wild caught native oyster larvae (spat) and will also provide a substrate for natural spat settlement.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

- Modules designed to provide protected settlement surfaces for spat were deployed onto the new reefs this quarter.
 - » Large terracotta tile modules constructed by the Kingscote Men's Shed were deployed by a team of local growers from KI Shellfish using their small barge.
 - » 600 ceramic razorfish forms were hand-installed into the sandy seafloor between patches of reef forming limestone. These modules mimic the natural structures provided by razorfish (*Pinna bicolor*) beds which provide habitat for remnant angasi oysters around KI.
- All reef structures were also spread with discarded and sun-cured oyster shell to mimic the physical and chemical properties of an established oyster reef which larvae will seek out.

Community engagement:

- [A video](#) was developed and distributed promoting the new oyster reefs with support from Jane Bamford, the ceramist who created the razorfish forms, funded by a grant with the Australia Council for the Arts.
 - » The video was filmed by Stefan Andrews of Ocean Imaging and released to coincide with Sea Week.
 - » To coincide with the video launch, [a media release](#) was published which was been shared by the Australian Associated Press across many local, state and national networks.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Install final remaining ceramic and free terracotta forms.
- Seed new oyster reefs with wild-caught native oyster spat.
- Assist KI Community Education year 11 and 12 students to install an environmental monitoring rig at the Kingscote reef site.

Image below: Razorfish forms being placed among the limestone in the new oyster reefs (Stefan Andrews of Ocean Imaging).



600
razorfish forms placed in the new oyster reefs

1
video filmed about the new oyster reefs

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » Fisheries Habitat Restoration

Australian Sea Lion Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment across the 80 known breeding sites of the Australian sea lion to conduct a risk assessment that identifies key threats and prioritises the future actions to be implemented to recover the species. This assessment will be produced to inform a review of the Australian Sea Lion Recovery Plan, and two national scale workshops will provide a clear strategic opportunity to discuss priorities under-pinning a proposed National Australian Sea Lion Recovery Team.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

A feral cat survey was conducted in Seal Bay Conservation Park to gain an understanding of their role as a vector of parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* for Australian sea-lions.

- A network of 79 feral cat traps (51 cage traps and 28 soft-jaw foothold traps) linked via the Celium network were installed adjacent to the Australian sea-lion population in Seal Bay Conservation Park from January to March 2023.
- 36 feral cats were caught over 2,076 trap nights, (27 feral cats in cage traps and nine in soft-jaw foothold traps).
- Samples were collected from 30 feral cats to determine their levels of *Toxoplasma gondii*.

Community engagement:

The first workshop for the Australian sea-lion was held on 22 February 2023 at Kingscote.

- 89 people participated in person and on-line.
- Eight experts presented their perspectives of the key risks, threats and priority knowledge gaps for Australian sea-lion populations.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Spatial risk assessment to be completed by South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).
- Workshop the outcomes of the risk assessment and develop priorities for Australian sea-lion management in the future.
- Analyse the blood collected from feral cats at Seal Bay Conservation Park for *Toxoplasma gondii*.

89
people participated in
the sea-lion workshop

36
feral cats removed
from Seal Bay
Conservation Park

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:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Heritage Trust
 - Emerging Priorities

Image below: Graphic recordings from the first workshop.



Community grants programs

Overview:

These grant programs support the KI community to undertake on-ground actions to benefit the natural resources of Kangaroo Island. Grants reported here include the KI Landscape Board Grassroots Grants and Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants.

Key achievements January–March 2023:

Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants

- Six landholders erected 36 km of fencing to protect 345 ha of burnt and regenerating native vegetation, some of which contains threatened species.

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- A farmer from Duncan protected 32.73 ha of regenerating native vegetation.
- A landholder from the Dudley Peninsula was assisted to revegetate 0.7 ha with 150 seedlings, test for and manage *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, map, manage and monitor bridal creeper, control erosion and monitor native flora and fauna on their property.

Community engagement:

- Landholders with Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants were contacted with a reminder that the deadline for fence completion is 31 May 2023.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The 2023-24 round of Grassroots Grants will open for applications on 3 April and close on 1 May 2023.
 - » \$52,000 is available through the KI Grassroots Grants to support projects valued between \$1,000 and \$8,000 on Kangaroo Island.
 - » The KI Grassroots Grants are available to fund any activity that improves the health of, and/or connects people to, KI's landscapes and contributes to the KI Landscape Plan 2021-2026.
 - » Projects must be completed by 30 June 2024, unless they contain revegetation activities and then the completion date can be extended until 30 September 2024.
 - » For more information go to the [KILB website](#).
- The KI Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants will continue to run until 31 May 2023.

Image left: Newly erected fence in Cassini supported by a Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grant.



345 ha
regenerating burnt native
vegetation protected

0.7 ha
revegetated on the
Dudley Peninsula

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
 - » Minister for Environment and Water

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 January–March 2023:

- The [KI Landscape Board Instagram](#) page was launched, with over 15,000 views of our videos about oyster reef restoration, barn owl nest boxes and KI dunnarts since February.
- A [seven minute video](#) about the oyster reef restoration project was publicised through a media release on 4 March. The story received national coverage [through ABC](#) and Australian Associated Press, with publication in dozens of online news sites from Newcastle to Tasmania [to Perth](#), as well as locally in *The Islander*.
- A [three minute video](#) about the installation of barn owl nest boxes on the Dudley Peninsula was published on YouTube and publicised by a media release on 23 March. The video received over 300 views within the first week.

Community engagement:

1. Media

- 21/02/2023 [Kangaroo Island farmers can reap the benefits of cutting-edge technology](#) (*The Islander*)
- 27/02/2023 [KI agricultural field day with high-tech products to ease the burden for farmers](#) (*The Islander*)
- 04/03/2023 [Art meets science: Ceramic razorfish shells grow new life on KI reefs](#) (*The Islander*)
- 13/03/2023 [Expert to dig the dirt on good soil health during special visit](#) (*The Islander*)
- 20/03/2023 [Owl nest boxes erected as native predator swoops in to replace feral cats](#) (*The Islander*)
- 23/03/2023 [Barn owls join fight against Kangaroo Island pests](#) (*InDaily*)
- 27/03/2023 [Growing success of Kangaroo Island's Grassroots Grants](#) (*The Islander*)

2. Social media

- 10 posts covering the oyster reef video, barn owl nest box installations, KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day, KI dunnart videos, promotion of Cat Eradication Officer position, and KI dunnart monitoring with National Parks and Wildlife Volunteers were posted on the [KI Landscape Board Facebook page](#).



15,000
views of videos on
KILB Instagram

Glossy Facebook post
reached
30,000+
people

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program
 - Regional Land Partnerships
- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations

- » The post about the new glossy black-cockatoo nesting season with photos of baby owls and cockatoos reached over 30,000 people and was shared 23 times.

3. Radio interviews

- 06/03/2023 ABC Radio North and West SA: Interview with KI Landscape Board's Program Officer Coasts Alex Comino and ceramicist Jane Bamford.
- 23/03/2023 ABC Radio Adelaide: Live interview with host Peter Goers and KI Landscape Board's Feral Cat Field Officer Emily Reynolds.
- 23/03/2023 ABC Radio: Interview with KI Landscape Board's Feral Cat Field Officer Emily Reynolds for news segments.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Create short videos about the work of the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program team, farmers participating in Property Management Planning and the recovery of Simon Kelly's farm after the bushfires.
- Highlight Grassroots Grants project success stories.
- Promote report about the impact of diseases spread by feral cats to the KI sheep industry.
- Review and rebuild KI Landscape Board YouTube channel.

Image below left: Daniel Clarke, new KI Landscape Board Communications and Media Coordinator.

Image below right: Interested farmers discuss feral cat control on western KI to assist fauna recovering from the 2019-20 bushfires with Chantelle Geissler, KI Landscape Board Feral Cat Field Officer, at the recent KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day.



20+
media articles
published nationally

3
radio interviews
conducted

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 January–March 2023:

- Submitted output reports for the following projects to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT):
 - » Core Services
 - » Recovering the KI Narrow Leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community through local landscape action
 - » Creating a safe haven for the KI dunnart and other priority threatened species by eradicating feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula
 - » Building resilient agricultural systems on Kangaroo Island
 - » Supporting the recovery of the KI dunnart through conservation and management actions
 - » Building native oyster shellfish reefs to improve fish habitat on KI
 - » Prioritising on-ground actions for the Endangered Australian sea lion
 - » KI Echidna monitoring, protection and recovery network.
- Submitted the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Response to Approach to Market: 22-23 BCD 01 in relation to the Establishment of a Panel of Regional Delivery Partners for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Services for Australian Government funding.

Community engagement:

- Assisted the Communications and Media team and project staff 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 Government and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Seek funding to continue KI Landscape Board project work past July 2023.



8
reports submitted to
project funders

161
paged KI Landscape Board
tender developed

- Links to KI Landscape Plan**
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 - Effective water management
 - Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

- Funded by:**
- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program
 - » Regional Land Partnerships

Image below: Farmers watching the Australian Wool Industry catch and drag module sheep delivery unit at the KI Farming Tools and Tech Field Day.

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 Narrow-leaved mallee

- » advice on how to manage KI narrow-leaved mallee
- » grants available to protect and revegetate KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland

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



Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

- » assist with sustainable agriculture activities, e.g. workshops, demonstrations and peer learning sessions

Contact Venetia Bolwell
0437 172 877
venetia.bolwell@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 Mark Agnew
8553 2476
mark.agnew@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 goat and deer reports

Contact Bronwyn Fancourt
8553 2476
bronwyn.fancourt@sa.gov.au



Feral pig control

- » control of feral pigs
- » feral pig trap hire
- » feral pig reports on eastern KI

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



Feral cat control

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

Contact Bronwyn Fancourt
8553 2476
bronwyn.fancourt@sa.gov.au