

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

April — June 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 April to 30 June 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.



COMMUNITY

Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making
Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Effective water management
Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management
Focus areas:

- 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: Paul Jennings, Team Leader: Feral Cat Eradication, with newest recruit to the Feral Cat Eradication Program, detector dog in training Indie.

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 April-June:

- Phoebe Edwards was appointed to the position of Water Officer. She has started engaging with the Kangaroo Island community to understand the support, resources and activities that are desired, and can be delivered as a part of the role.
- To strengthen her knowledge of Kangaroo Island's riparian and aquatic ecosystems, Phoebe has been working closely with the Water Science and Hydroecology team at the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), completing a tour of KI's rivers and estuaries with DEW Senior Ecologist Doug Green. This also included familiarisation with KI flow monitoring infrastructure and beginning the process of extracting water flow and quality data across various catchments.
- Two Development Approval applications and 17 Water Affecting Activity Permits were assessed, which included 57 dam enlargements and 45 new dams. Three of the Water Affecting Activities (WAA) permits, and one Development Approval have been issued for works on properties where land use has been changed from forestry to agriculture, marking the beginning of significant change in water resource use in many sub-catchments.

Community engagement:

- 32 people were advised about dam construction/enlargement, water quality, property-scale water security, forestry transition to agriculture and WAA permitting requirements.
- Nine site visits were conducted regarding dam management and dam works permit applications, compliance, and other potential water-affecting activities.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Begin activities to support the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities Control Policy.
- Commence a review of the current Water Monitoring program to realign sites with regional priorities.
- Attend the AgKI conference on 14 August to provide information on the various water services and support available to KI landholders.

Image below: Project Officer Steve Walsh monitoring water quality.



32

people helped with water matters

17

Water Affecting Activity permits assessed

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 April–June:

Declared weeds

- 1,200 New Zealand mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) plants were mapped and controlled over 160 hours along Willoughby, Pauls and Ian’s Roads on the Dudley Peninsula. This is the first time mirror bush has been targeted for control on KI. Most of the plants were found around towns, or adjacent to homes where they were traditionally planted as a hedge.
- More than 6,000 bluebell creeper plants were found and controlled over 220 hours at Colmans, North Coast, Church, Timber Creek, Hickmans, Crabs and Georges Roads and the Playford and East West One Highways, and around Parndana.
- 1,000 sweet pittosporum plants were followed up and controlled at many infestations across the island, including along East West Highway One, and Crabs, Timber Creek, Johncock, Morgans, Millers and Springs Roads, and around Parndana. No plants were found on Timber Creek and Coopers Roads and the Rowland Hill Highway, which were all burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires.
- Continued to monitor and control caltrop at previously infested sites. One plant was found at Penneshaw. A new infestation with one large plant was found in Kingscote.
- 20 khaki weed plants were found and controlled at Reeves Point.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- TBGs were controlled over 203 ha on Heritage Agreement properties. There are fewer TBG seedlings on roadsides now and they are mostly suppressed seedlings which are just becoming visible.
- KILB staff assisted the directors of the new Koala Sanctuary to develop a TBG management plan which identifies sites, control methods, and the equipment and certification they will need to carry out the work.
- A management plan for the control of medium to high densities of TBGs within the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) guidelines has been developed by Dave Taylor. This plan has been approved by the NVC and a trial is planned to commence in spring 2025.
- New germination from plantation trees appears to be occurring in some areas.

Declared and over-abundant animal management

- No reports of feral pigs were received.
- Reviewed and restructured permitting system records.
- Investigated a fox report on Three Chain Road. Following surveying, including with thermal drones, no evidence of a fox was found.
- Work on the eradication program for feral cats continued (see report on page 6).

Feral pig eradication program

- Conducted two key landholder surveys as part of proof of freedom monitoring for the feral pig eradication program.
- Two domestic pig fencing inspections were completed and approved.
- Specialised field equipment was purchased and assembled in preparation for new pig incursions.
- Continued to support the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) to undertake the feral pig eradication program and develop and implement a proof of freedom plan.

1,200
mirror bush plants
removed for first time

6,000
bluebell creeper plants
removed from 8 sites

- 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

- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to five public inquiries about weed identification and control methods.

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

- Assisted a landholder with an application for domestic pigs.

Feral pig eradication program

- Conducted two key landholder surveys as part of proof of freedom monitoring for the feral pig eradication program.
- Attended six proof of freedom team meetings with PIRSA and National Parks and Wildlife Service Kangaroo Island (NPWS) staff.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program targeting Cape tulip, African boxthorn, bridal veil and bridal creeper.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Trial the management plan for the control of medium to high densities of TBGs. The development of the Management Plan is a critical step in allowing the Board to tackle areas that have previously been outside of the scope of the project, however, the implementation of this control will require additional funding.
- Present the “Status of Tasmanian Blue Gums on Kangaroo Island” at the upcoming Weed Management Society of SA conference in September.

Declared and over-abundant animal management

- Continue supporting the Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication program.
- 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.

Image below: Mirror bush control on the Dudley Peninsula.



203
ha Tasmanian blue gum
wildling control

1
fox report
investigated

- 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 to determine if it is feasible to eradicate feral cats from the rest of Kangaroo Island. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the KI Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

Key achievements April–June:

- From April to June 2025 161 feral cats were removed from 39,000 ha across the Dudley Peninsula and Pelican Lagoon Isthmus Management Zone.
 - Control effort was targeted in areas where feral cats were detected by camera traps and from community sightings reported to the Board.
- From 1 January to 30 June 2025 the program actively deployed 250 cameras on the Dudley Peninsula over 44,471 camera nights.
 - During this time there were 2,678 sightings of bush stone-curlews, 220 sightings of KI short beaked echidnas and there were 938 sightings of feral cats.
 - Images were processed through the eVorta platform and confirmed by human observers.
 - Comparing this with data that has been collected on these species since 2021, results indicate the current activity levels of bush stone curlews are relatively stable on the Dudley Peninsula.
 - Comparing activity levels for KI short beaked echidnas indicates their activity dipped over summer, but since April the data points towards their activity returning to the long-term average.
 - Feral cat activity is also well below average. Historically feral cat activity decreases over winter and into summer following large winter trapping campaigns.

161
feral cats removed from
KI

2
raceways built onto feral
cat exclusion fence

- 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**

- » From July 2024 to June 2025 feral cat activity declined by 46%. Over this time feral cat activity increased between November 2024 and April 2025, probably due to summer recruitment. However, between April and June 2025 feral cat activity dropped again, coinciding with the beginning of the winter trapping campaign.
- New vehicle mounted thermal detection equipment was trialled, assembled and used to detect feral cats at night on the Dudley Peninsula.
- Upgrades to the feral cat exclusion fence were made at the intersection with Hog Bay Road to prevent feral cats re-invading back on to the Dudley Peninsula.
- Feral cat detection dogs were deployed on the Dudley Peninsula in June with one landholder demonstration and two days searching for feral cats seen on 4G cameras. Three feral cats were located by the detection dogs, two from known camera detections.

Community engagement:

- The program hosted a week long field trip to Kangaroo Island with Ronald Boland and four Indigenous Rangers from Tracks in the Sand in late April-early May.
 - During the week the Tracks in the Sand team was introduced to the tools and technology used by the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication team.
 - Relationships were established between the teams. Ways to deliver cultural training for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in a culturally safe learning environment, that connects to Country and provides career pathways and opportunities, were explored.
- An article was published in *The Islander* and on the KI Landscape Board website in April: [Removing the final feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula](#).
- The Guardian* published an article entitled [Drones, AI and one long fence: Kangaroo Island’s war on a clawed predator that kills 1.5bn Australia](#) in April.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Extend the feral cat exclusion fence into Pelican Lagoon and install a gate across Ratcliffe Track adjacent to Pelican Lagoon.
 - Install 4G cameras at the raceway and road gap entrances to detect feral cats. Data collected from these cameras will be critically important in assessing the effectiveness of the physical barrier and evaluating the efficacy of audio deterrents and control devices at preventing re-invasion to the Dudley Peninsula.
 - Undertake monitoring in collaboration with the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) to gather baseline data before audio deterrents and control devices, such as Felixer Grooming Traps, are installed at the fence.
- Undertake a field trip to Nukunu Wapma Thura to install a Celium 4G camera demonstration site with the Tracks in the Sand team.

Image left: KILB feral cat eradication team members with the Tracks in the Sand Team during their field trip.

1
field trip with 5 people
from Tracks in the Sand

250
remote cameras
monitoring feral cat
activity

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

Image below right: Josh Mulvaney, Project Officer — Feral Cat Monitoring and Detection, explaining how a Felixer Grooming Trap works.



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 April–June:

- Three workshops focussed on Integrated Pest Management and assessing soil health were delivered during the reporting period. The sessions included consultants and support staff, reinforcing local networks and peer learning:
 1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops:
These two workshops were held in two locations on KI, over two days, to encourage participation from farmers on the eastern side and western side of the island. The workshops were presented by IPM Technologies and aimed to help participants to develop IPM Action Plans for their properties. 11 farmers attended on the Dudley Peninsula and 12 farmers attended at Stokes Bay.
 2. Visual Soil Assessment Field Day
This event was attended by 11 farmers and it practically demonstrated how to undertake a Visual Soil Assessment. It also enhanced participants’ ability to identify key indicators of soil health.
- Four demonstration sites were assessed and selected. The primary objective across all sites is to improve soil health by optimising fertiliser use — reducing reliance on conventional inputs and increasing nutrient availability through more efficient application methods. Trials will include IPM, nitrogen foliar fertiliser application, and phosphorus fertiliser efficiency. Site selection was based on the landholders’ readiness and capacity to adopt recommended practices, including pest control action plans developed through IPM workshops held in May.
- Over the past two months, the Board supported an intensive round of soil coring and sampling across multiple demonstration sites to support the design, monitoring, and evaluation of sustainable land management trials and demonstration sites. Soil samples were collected from 10 farms participating in past or upcoming demonstration activities, including control and intervention zones for valid comparison. These interventions include biofertiliser applications, gypsum and compost rate trials, and integrated pest and nutrient management strategies.
 - » Some trial sites will host side-by-side comparisons of fertiliser treatments, including multiple application rates, while others will evaluate the impact of biological inputs on soil health and crop performance.
 - » Soil cores were also collected from existing demonstration sites to investigate constraints at depth, including aluminium toxicity and perched watertables contributing to waterlogging. This deeper soil analysis will help inform targeted amelioration strategies and ensure trials are addressing the actual limitations affecting plant performance and water use efficiency.
 - » These soil investigations form a foundational component of the broader soil extension program, supporting evidence-based management decisions and ensuring local trials deliver meaningful and scalable outcomes for Kangaroo Island farmers.

84
farmers attended
8 workshops

4
demonstration sites were
selected to trial fertiliser
use

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

- A Growing KI e-newsletter was produced and distributed to 558 people from the farming community to inform them of the Board’s activities and opportunities, including carbon farming workshops, KI Native Plant Nursery, olive control and drought support.
- The Carbon Outreach Officer (COO) presented five workshops to 50 farmers and land managers across KI. These workshops covered carbon market access challenges and opportunities, as well as the practicalities, risks, and benefits of carbon farming for enhancing business productivity, achieving efficiency gains, or generating saleable carbon credits.
- Three fact sheets were produced and published on the Board’s website on:
 - » [How to use Bt \(Bacillus thuringiensis\) sprays](#)
 - » [Integrated Pest Management action on Kangaroo Island](#)
 - » [How to take a soil sample for chemical analysis](#)

558
people received an
e-newsletter

3
factsheets produced
and published

Future directions and upcoming events:

- A new Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) will be starting in late July.
- Over the next six months the COO will contact all workshop attendees individually to offer one-on-one support with property emissions calculations and land management practice changes.
- In September the COO will host another series of workshops with locally relevant information on carbon farming and low-emissions technologies and practices.
- In October a workshop will be hosted entitled *KI’s Women in Ag: Planning and Envisioning the Future*. The workshop will set the scene for the next five years of industry change as Australia and our export markets action their emissions reduction commitments.
- In late September, a hands-on workshop will be run exploring how to make foliar fertilisers, from ingredients and equipment, to mixing and application techniques.
- The SAF will be seeking expressions of interest from farmers to establish perennial pastures demonstration sites. The demonstration sites will be established using a region-specific perennial pasture guide being developed by AgKI in partnership with the Board.

Image below: Alex Comino, KI Carbon Outreach Officer presenting a carbon farming workshop at Penneshaw.



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 April-June:

- Continued weeding and maintaining plant stock in preparation for collection of orders. 35,000 plants have been ordered for 2025.
- Public sales have been going well with 4,500 plants sold to date.
- Continued cleaning the seed collected in 2024-25 and weighing and entering it into the seedbank data base.
- Collected seed for species to be sown in late winter and early spring, and sowed autumn species for planting in 2026.

Community engagement:

- Supported landholders through property visits and advice to people visiting the nursery to purchase plants.
- Assisted the American River Progress Association to plant a new garden at the art gallery.
- Assisted KICE Parndana Campus students to plant butterfly attracting species on their campus.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to clean seed and map seed collection sites.
- Continue entering data into the seed bank data base to inform seed required for 2025-26 propagation.
- Continue trialling different propagation methods to improve germination success.
- Present to the Hindmarsh Island Landcare AGM in July.

Image below left: Nursery Manager Jo McPhee with students at Parndana Campus before planting their butterfly garden.
Image below right: Volunteer Nick Gornall burning banksia cones to release and prepare their seeds.



35,000
plants ordered for
planting this season

4,500
native plants sold
to the public

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



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 April-June:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- KI Community Education (KICE) Parndana Campus installed a weather station. This is being used as a learning tool, especially in Agriculture Science classes, enabling students to monitor weather and soil data and changing farming conditions across KI.
- Landholders in Duncan hosted three community sessions on their property and demonstrated to 24 people how cleared landscapes can be restored through revegetation, improving the habitat for native species.
- Supported KI Land for Wildlife to remotely monitor 25,000 ha of private conservation land using 50 remote 4G cameras, detecting over 500 feral cats, and controlling 89 feral cats.
- Twenty-five applications were received for the 2025-26 Grassroots Grants round totalling \$127,459.
 - Following assessment eleven community and landholder projects were offered \$56,161.
 - Individuals and groups were awarded grants ranging from \$1,075 to \$8,000 for projects such as restoring native vegetation around a lake, protecting and establishing native vegetation to shelter stock and encourage biodiversity, creating initiatives at the local school to recycle plastic and grow native plants, planting drooping sheoaks to increase glossy black-cockatoo feeding habitat, and establishing confinement yards and perennial pastures to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The successful projects from the 2025-26 round of KI Grassroots Grants will begin on 1 July 2025.

Image below left: Participants learning about revegetation techniques in Duncan.

Image below right: KICE students helping to install a weather station at Parndana Campus.



3
community sessions held
to explore successful
revegetation techniques

11
projects funded through
2025-26 Grassroots
Grants

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



Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

Overview:

This project will support 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 April–June:

- Two landholders protected 7.73 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland with 3 km of fencing.
- Another landholder protected and restored 0.69 ha of revegetation to address rising salinity and conserve several paddock trees.
- Flora and fauna surveys were completed as part of the habitat restoration monitoring project to collect baseline data on species diversity and structural composition of artificially restored (revegetated) habitats.
 - » Vegetation was surveyed within 30 10 m x 10 m quadrats at ten locations: five in restored (revegetated) habitats and five in equivalent remnant habitats. Early analysis of data revealed 80 species of plants were recorded: 47 species in restored habitats, compared to 45 recorded in remnant habitats.
 - » Fauna surveys in these areas detected 21 species of animals on drift-line cameras: 21 species were found at restoration sites and 17 species were found at remnant sites. Further analysis is being conducted.
- Permanent photopoints were established at five sites to document the evolution of improvements to the natural environment landholders are making through on-ground works projects.

Community engagement:

Native vegetation protection and restoration

- A Vegetation Management Plan was completed for a landholder wanting to pollard a small patch of aging KI Narrow-leaved Mallee on the Dudley Peninsula. The purpose of the pollarding is to force the trees to regenerate, thereby improving their health and preventing them from being blown over during strong winds and being lost completely.
- Another preliminary site visit was conducted with a landholder west of Parndana wanting to improve the health of native vegetation on their property. A Vegetation Management Plan will also be drafted for this property following a detailed vegetation survey.



7.73
ha KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee woodland
protected

30
vegetation survey
quadrats monitored

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

- Support was offered to a Haines landholder with threatened plant species, who is currently replacing their fences. The landholder was open to stepping the new fence in a short distance from their boundary to help protect the threatened plants.
- Two landholders were given general vegetation management advice relating to KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland and other coastal native vegetation.
- Three landholders were advised about clearing native vegetation to access tracks, construct a new dam and develop their landscape.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to establish photopoints at on-ground works projects.
- Continue working with a Haines landholder to protect threatened plant species as they construct new fences on their property.
- Plan to establish roadside threatened plant population signage/barriers in liaison with the KI Council and Department for Infrastructure and Transport. These barriers will alert workers and the public to the presence of critical threatened plant populations on roadsides, preventing them from being accidentally harmed.
- Complete the data analysis of the habitat restoration monitoring recorded through vegetation quadrats, drift-line camera traps and bioacoustics recorders.
- Inspect remaining on-ground works revegetation projects due to be completed by the end of August.
- Fencing for the threatened plant habitat restoration is due for completion by mid-July. This will be followed soon after by planting, which should be completed during August.

Images below left: Kym Lashmar, Narrow-leaved Mallee Project Officer, surveying previously revegetated habitats with Board staff.

Image below: Simon and Marissa Veitch with their children Ivy and Ava at their farm where they have been protecting and revegetating KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland.



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 April–June:

- 18 glossy black-cockatoos nest sites for have been checked for maintenance requirements and were monitored for usage since the year began. Nest box maintenance and possum exclusion measures have been carried out as a priority.
- 30 glossy black-cockatoo nestlings have been banded this year. Monitoring has shown that to date this season there are fewer nestlings than in any of the last five years. Nesting success is similar to previous years, however, fewer pairs seemed to be nesting this year. Glossy black-cockatoos delayed nesting at the start of the breeding season, possibly due to hot weather. This may have contributed to some pairs not breeding this year. Coupled with this, the dry conditions of the last 12 months may have reduced this year’s sheoak cone crops, which could also be impacting on glossy black-cockatoo breeding.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Revegetation will be undertaken over two days in July in a 3 ha fenced section of Latham Conservation Park, to increase the habitat of woodland birds, in particular glossy black-cockatoos and western beautiful firetails.
 - » This is a joint project with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) KI, who will construct the fence and expand the fenced revegetation project already at the site.
 - » Plant species tailored to attract the target bird species are being grown by the KI Native Plant Nursery.
- Bees invading nests will be treated following the nesting season.
- The glossy black-cockatoo census will be undertaken in September.

Image below left: Installing nest boxes made from hollow logs. Middle image: An artificial glossy black-cockatoo nest box. Image right: An artificial pardalote nest box.



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 April–June:

- Seventy long term monitoring sites were surveyed to detect threatened mammals between January and June 2025 using the drift line survey method.
 - » Each site was surveyed for 50 nights. 1,041 target animals were recorded: 235 KI dunnarts, 24 southern brown bandicoots, 100 KI echidnas, 458 pygmy possum species, 55 Rosenbergs goannas and 169 feral cats.
 - » These ongoing surveys are useful for detecting changes in the abundance of species over time since the 2019-20 bushfires. This data enables informed decisions for ongoing threatened species management on western KI.
- The recently installed ‘bandicoot fire bunkers’ were monitored with an individual camera trap for up to 106 nights.
 - » 1,730 animals were recorded. 34 different species were detected. The most photographed animal was the common brushtail possum with 554 detections. 18 southern brown bandicoots, 17 KI echidnas, 16 pygmy possum species, 23 Rosenbergs goannas and 88 feral cats were detected.

Community engagement

- Karleah Berris, A/Team Leader Biodiversity, gave a school talk to Parndana Reception and Year 1 students to raise awareness of endangered species living in bushland near them. Before the talk the students took a remote camera home with them and Karleah talked about the resulting photos during her visit. Following the talk students walked around bushland surrounding the school to look for evidence of bandicoots (diggings), which the students found and successfully identified.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Establish and monitor small mammals at long-term survey sites in spring.

Image below: A southern brown bandicoot at the entrance to a newly installed bandicoot fire bunker.



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 April–June:

- Signs and barrier fences were installed at key hooded plover breeding locations on beaches across Kangaroo Island to reduce pedestrian and vehicle disturbance to their nests and chicks.
 - Structures to control access were installed and managed by Board staff and members of the KI Friends of the Hooded Plover community group.
 - Signs and fences were removed and replaced as pairs of hooded plovers moved through the stages of laying and then caring for eggs, caring for chicks and then fledged juveniles, throughout the breeding season.
 - The Kangaroo Island region’s hooded plover population had a good season with 0.53 fledglings per monitored breeding pair. This sits just above the minimum required number of fledglings to maintain a population.
- Target coastal weeds were controlled over 30 ha of critical seabird and shorebird breeding habitat at Emu Bay on Kangaroo Island’s north coast, including the Emu Bay Creek mouth.
 - The primary target weeds were African boxthorn, kikuyu grass, and invasive succulents. Control was completed in June once African boxthorn was actively growing after the delayed start of the winter rain period.

Community engagement

- A series of Facebook posts about the harmful algal bloom with updates and sources of reliable information were published in May and June.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Monitoring of hooded plover breeding activity from August 2025.
- Coastal revegetation over 1 ha at Emu Bay and Penneshaw little penguin colonies.
- Renovation and translocation of suitable little penguin burrows from Kingscote’s severely declining population to Emu Bay’s increasing colony.
- Surveys of Kangaroo Island Landscape Board oyster reefs and reference sites using Baited Remote Underwater Video systems (BRUVs).



Image below: A nest sign installed at a hooded plover breeding site.

19
hooded plover breeding areas protected

30
ha weed control in sea and shorebird 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:
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
 - Australian Government
 - Saving Native Species – Priority Places

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 April–June:

- Hosted a YEL forum for year 5 students on 30 June in Dudley Conservation Park. The forum focussed on the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program. The students learned how to apply a range of technology used to help eradicate cats and used some of this technology in mock scenarios simulating the current work undertaken to remove feral cats from the Kangaroo Island landscape.
- Supported the five KICE secondary students who are members of the Youth Environment Council (YEC) with the projects they are undertaking through the YEC.
- Supported the five KICE YEC students to attend the YEC camp at Arbury Park Outdoor Education school and attended the camp too.
- Assisted a teacher to find a guest speaker and kit related to macroinvertebrates.
- Developed the Environmental Education Program newsletter for Term 2 and distributed it to KICE staff.
- Encouraged KICE staff to apply for the KI Landscapes Board Grassroots Grant.
- Coordinated a presentation by local KI entomologist Richard Glatz to preschool and year 4 students at Parndana Campus.
- Coordinated Birdlife Australia volunteer Caroline Paterson to present and assist Parndana year 1/2 students to conduct a bird survey and establish a bird monitoring site.
- Coordinated a presentation on the southern brown bandicoot to the reception and year 1 class at Parndana.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Develop education modules for teacher use connected with the curriculum.
- Prepare for the YEL forum in third term.
- Support YEC students with their projects
- Prepare Professional Development opportunity for KICE staff with Nature and Sustainability Network during their KI visit in October.

Image below: KICE students in the YEL group watching a presentation from the KI Feral Cat Eradication Team during their recent forum focused on the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program.



25
students attended the Young Environmental Leaders Forum

5
students supported with projects for the SA Youth Environment Council

- 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

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 April–June:

1. Media

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

- 3/4/25: [Grassroots grants that support KI communities to thrive](#)
- 8/4/25: [‘Grandicoot’ day out for KI’s Young Environmental Leaders bushfires](#)
- 8/4/25: [Removing the final 150 feral cats from Dudley Peninsula](#)
- 11/4/25: [Landscape Board’s Grassroot Grants available for KI landholders](#)
- 17/4/25: [Campaign to control olive ‘wildings’ on Kangaroo Island’s eastern plains](#)
- 8/5/25: [KI native plant nursery open, set to bloom following funding boost](#)
- 8/5/25: [Free workshops and funding available for KI landholders to improve soil](#)
- 16/5/25: [Letter to farmers from KI Landscape Board chairman Aphid Heinrich](#)
- 23/5/25: [Future KI leaders attend Youth Environment Council sustainability camp](#)
- 3/6/25: [Getting started with carbon farming – free workshops on KI Getting started with carbon farming – free workshops on KI](#)
- 14/6/25: [KI native plant nursery proves popular as winter rains finally come to island](#)

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

- 7/4/25: The Board’s Environmental Education Coordinator, Deb Laver, was interviewed about the southern brown bandicoot fire-proof bunkers installed by the Young Environmental Leaders program.
- 4/5/25: The Board’s Carbon Farming Outreach Officer, Alex Comino was interviewed about the free introduction to carbon farming workshops taking place across Kangaroo Island.

1.3 Nine articles were published in state and national media:

- 3/4/25: Environment SA: [Beat the invaders: Five ways we’re tackling pest species in SA](#)
- 5/4/25: yahoo! news: [Pockets of Australia have success in feral pig eradication](#)
- 7/4/25: The Cool Down: [Island resident employs unexpected tactic to fight back against dangerous predators: ‘Harder than anything else I’ve done, purely because of how smart they are’](#)
- 17/4/25: yahoo! news: [Urgent \\$6.2 million plea to protect iconic Aussie island from invasive ‘killer’](#)
- 23/4/25: Stock Journal: [Funding key to continue the success of Kangaroo Island’s feral cat program](#)
- 27/4/25: The Guardian: [Drones, AI and one long fence: Kangaroo Island’s war on a clawed predator that kills 1.5bn Australian animals a year](#)
- 6/6/25: We Are SA: [The nose knows! Meet the dogs sniffing for South Australia](#)
- 26/6/25: ABC Radio | online: [SA landscape boards crack down on illegal dams](#)
- 30/6/25: msn online: [SA landscape boards crack down on illegal dams](#)

22
social media posts viewed
by 159,000 people

11
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

2. Social media

- 22 Board Facebook posts viewed by 159,00 people.
- A Facebook post depicting [feral cats attacking native species at the Feral Cat Exclusion fence](#) was viewed by 12,400 people.
- A video about the [Kangaroo Island Young Environmental Leaders](#) was viewed by over 2,480 people.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The SBS will publish a story about feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island.
- The launch of the Kangaroo Island Weeds Guide and community education campaign about 15 priority weeds on Kangaroo Island.
- Community planting day with KICE students on National Tree Day 25 June 2025.
- Community consultation for the revision of the KI Landscape Board Strategic Plan.
- Promotion of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee on-ground works grant funding.
- Promotion of projects funded through the 2025 Grassroots Grants program.
- ABC story about southern brown bandicoots inhabiting fire-proof bunkers installed at Flinders National Park in March this year.
- Guardian story featuring Ronald Boland and the feral cat eradication program on Kangaroo Island.
- Statewide Landscape Board media release about outcomes of Soil Extension Project and launch of the Knowing Your Soils book and Knowing Your Soils Ute Guide.

9
articles published in state
and national media

12,400
people viewed post on
feral cats at exclusion
fence

Funded by:

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

Image below: SBS journalist interviewing the Board’s Project Leader: Feral Cat Eradication Paul Jennings and Project Officer: Feral Cat Spatial Networks Chantelle Geissler.



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 April-June

- Five output and annual reports were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project.
- Six progress reports were submitted to the Government of SA through the on-line SmartyGrants reporting tool.
- The Board has begun developing their next Landscape Plan which will cover 2026-2031. Consultants have been engaged by the Board to design and deliver a series of Board, staff and community consultation workshops and other forms of external consultation on current landscape plan, and to work with board staff on the production of the new plan document.

Community engagement:

- Hosted a tour for two representatives from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water focussed on the work they are funding. The tour provided an opportunity to highlight the incredible work happening on KI, the strength of our organisation, the incredible people within it and to discuss our future needs.
- Assisted project staff with communications and media to develop posters, web pages, media articles, factsheets, newsletters, ute guides 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.
- Conduct Board, staff and community workshops across KI to refine the current Landscape Plan's priorities and focus areas as part of the development of the 2026-31 Landscape Plan.

Image below: Josh Mulvaney, Project Officer: Feral Cat Monitoring and Detection, explaining the Celium system used on feral cat traps to Karen Andrews, Assistant Director, Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner.



16
reports submitted to
project funders

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

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 Jo Sullivan
8553 2476
jo.sullivan@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 Cassandra Douglas-Hill
0402 107 167
cassandra.douglas-hill@sa.gov.au



Feral cat control

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

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