

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

April — June 2026



Working together for healthy land and sea

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 2026 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: Landholder Bek Bott showing Kym Lashmar, Board Project Officer — Narrow-leaved Mallee, the extensive revegetation they have undertaken on their property.

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:

- Continued to drive the Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Control Policy Review, with significant progress on multiple policy sections regarding activities in a watercourse, lake or floodplain. These include management of structures (crossings, weirs, bridges pumps, buildings), management of obstructions (riprap, rocks, fill) and management of vegetation removal and the excavation of material.
- Seven Water Affecting Activity Permits were assessed, consisting of a range of works such as new dams, dam enlargements and landscape rehydration works (leaky weirs). 70% of applications were assessed and approved within 5 days.
- Developed and refined GIS layers to better capture water management information across KI, including dam infrastructure with low flow bypass requirements, commercial forestry properties and land use status, and subcatchment and property-level water take limits — improving the spatial foundation for permit assessment, policy review and compliance work.

Community engagement:

- Advised 43 people on matters including dam construction/enlargement, water quality, property-scale water security and WAA permitting requirements.
- Performed nine site visits relating to WAA permits placed, potential applications for works, or compliance-related issues.
- Created and supplied 48 property maps to community members with best available information on dam volumes, dam catchment areas, 1 m contours, drainage lines and dam water security under climate change scenarios (RCPs).
- Supported two KI Community Education (KICE) field days to sample macroinvertebrates and monitor water along the Cygnet River.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to provide technical, policy and administrative support for the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities Control Policy and the Board’s Water Policy Subcommittee.
- Use new aerial imagery captured across KI in December 2025 to identify unauthorised dams constructed since 2020.
- EPA Aquatic Stream Condition monitoring results for KI will be released in coming months.

Image right: Phoebe Edwards, Water Officer, assisting a KICE student to monitor macroinvertebrates.

43

people advised about water management

48

property maps created for community members

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

- Monitoring and control of khaki weed and caltrop continued into April. 35 khaki weed plants and one caltrop plant were found and controlled. Caltrop has not been detected at Reeves Point for the last five years, demonstrating the value of ongoing surveillance.
- Follow-up inspections of last year’s New Zealand mirror bush sites were completed across the island. 450 plants were found and controlled. A new infestation was controlled at Nepean Bay.
- Follow-up control was undertaken at 14 bluebell creeper infestations across KI. Over 10,000 plants were controlled by cutting-and-swabbing, spot spraying and physical removal. A new infestation was detected at Middle River Dam.
- Over 600 sweet pittosporum plants were controlled at a new infestation at Nepean Bay. A further 500 plants were found and controlled at established sites.
- 350 African boxthorn plants were controlled along Cape Willoughby, North Coast and Gap Roads. A further 200 hours of roadside control was undertaken around Reeves Point and along Burdon Drive. Outlier infestations were mapped on the north coast and Dudley Peninsula to support future work planning.
- 2,200 kg of bridal creeper corms were physically removed from a new outlier infestation west of Stokes Bay. National Parks and Wildlife Service SA staff helped control 3,000 plants at Grassdale and at Vivonne Bay.
- Several new bridal veil infestations were detected this year, including at Gregors Road, American River and near Wilson River Road on the Dudley Peninsula. Mapping and control of these outlier infestations has commenced. 15,000 plants found and controlled over 50 hours along Redbanks Road and Wallers Road.
- 500 gorse plants, predominantly juveniles and seedlings, were controlled at a new infestation on Crabs Road.
- Approximately 2,000 coastal tea-tree plants were controlled along Gosse-Ritchie Road.
- KI’s only two known spiny rush infestations were monitored and one plant detected and controlled.
- A new fountain grass infestation was reported at Smiths Bay. Approximately 100 plants growing along the coastline were found and controlled.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- Worked with TBG Ministerial Task Force to resolve policy questions relating to TBG control and how to position TBG eradication for funding support.

Declared and over-abundant animal management

- Work on the eradication program for feral cats continued (see report on page 6).

Feral pig eradication program

- On 10 June 2026 the Department of Primary Industries and Regions stated that proof of freedom has been achieved and that feral pigs have been eradicated from KI.
- The Board continued to implement, monitor and support managing domestic pigs and to act as conduit for community reports of feral pigs to the Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). No reports of feral pigs were received.

1
feral pig eradication
completed

32,537
declared and priority
weeds removed

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to three reports of priority weeds and provided weed management advice to six landholders.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

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

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue control programs for one-leaf Cape tulip, African boxthorn, bridal veil and bridal creeper.
- Deploy the weed wiper to assist landholders with one-leaf Cape tulip control.
- Continue monitoring and following up reports of infestations to support weed control objectives.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Continue to work with TBG Ministerial Task Force to resolve policy questions relating to TBG control and how to position TBG eradication for funding support.

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.
- Implement the Feral Pig Incursion Response Plan and investigate any sightings of feral pigs or their sign outside of national parks on KI.

Image: Contractors cutting and painting sweet pittosporum at Nepean Bay.



3
new priority weed reports
investigated

6
landholders assisted to
manage weeds

Funded by:

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

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June:

- Between April 1 to June 30 the program removed 96 feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula and the Isthmus Management Zone (IMZ). Of these 89 feral cats were removed over 49,572 trap nights, using cage and soft-jaw leghold traps. Shooting and Felixer Grooming Traps removed three cats each respectively and detection dogs assisted with the removal of one cat.
- Of the feral cats removed 52% were female. Of these females 85% showed no reproductive sign, 8% were pregnant and 6% lactating. Sexes could not be determined for cats removed using Felixer Grooming Traps.
- Development of the double lure cage trap by team member Murray Schofield has significantly increased the efficacy of the trapping program. Trap dimensions have been modified and use a scent rather than a food-based lure. In this quarter >600 baited cage traps removed 16 cats whilst <70 double lure cage traps removed 43 cats. Based on this success the trap array now contains >100 double lure cage traps, with plans in place to increase this number significantly during July and August.
- A fauna survey continued to detect changes in the abundance of KI short beaked echidnas and of bush stone-curlews. Between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 280 cameras were deployed across the Dudley Peninsula over 81,154 camera nights. During this time the program made 5,867 sightings of bush stone-curlews and 694 sightings of KI short beaked echidnas. The numbers of both these species appear to be stable.
- The feral cat exclusion fence was upgraded to better prevent feral cats moving through and past it at the main road fence interface and at the highly dynamic intertidal interface at Pelican Lagoon. At the road the overall fence gap was reduced from 42 m to 13.5 m and within 2 m each side of the formed road surface. Raceways 50 m long by 2.5m wide were installed improving our ability to detect cats approaching and attempting to breach the fence. Angled fencing at the entrance to the raceways entrain cats and wildlife away from the road and into raceways. For wildlife this provides safe passage and movement away from the road. For feral cats an array of 4G and AI integrated thermal video cameras allow early detection and the ability to activate traps or deterrent devices. An environmentally sensitive floating pontoon was installed where the fence enters Pelican Lagoon, extending beyond the low water mark to prevent incursions..

96
feral cats removed
from KI

52%
feral cats removed
female

- 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:

- On 27 May 40 people attended a community BBQ in Penneshaw co-hosted with the Penneshaw Progress Association. The BBQ gave residents and landholders the chance to meet the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Team, ask questions and see some of the tools being used in the 2026 winter knockdown.
- The Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program was promoted through two social media posts, two articles in The Islander, a revision of the Boards webpage and the distribution of the e-newsletter Nine Lives to 535 people.

40
people attended
community BBQ

100
double lure traps
built

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Intensive trapping and control will continue through the remainder of 2026 with the aim of achieving a 95% reduction in the feral cat population on Dudley Peninsula.
- The program is anticipating the arrival of 10 Intellicapture cage trap prototypes for field testing. The traps have been co-designed with Encounter Solutions and the Alinytjara Wiluara Landscape Board as a fully automated live capture system. This novel technology will vastly improve the efficiency of trapping programs and allow control to occur over ever-increasing scales.
- Monitoring and detection methods are being refined to complement the existing extensive 4G camera network. Thermal drones and feral cat detection dogs are being used to systematically search for feral cats across the Dudley Peninsula and will be critically important as feral cat numbers decrease across the eradication zone.

Image far left: Community members with the Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Team at the community BBQ in Penneshaw.

Image below: Installing a section of the feral cat exclusion fence on pontoons into Pelican Lagoon

- Funded by:
- Australian Government:
 - » Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds
 - Government of SA
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
 - Ian Potter Foundation
 - Purryburry Trust
 - Jaramas Foundation
 - Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
 - Members of the public

Call in a cat
on the Dudley Peninsula
0459 952 830



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:

- The KI Integrated Farm Planning (PMP) project continued to support participants through implementation-focused activities designed to build confidence, strengthen decision-making and progress individual Property Management Plans.
 - » Workshops held included a two-day Soil Health and Fertility workshop (23 April 2026, delivered with Soil Land Food, 18 participants) and a Leadership and Communication for Agricultural Businesses workshop, facilitated by Darren Williams and David Westbrook (Farm Owners Academy) (27 May 2026, 10 PMP participants).
 - » Specialist one-on-one and small group support was given to PMP participants through SA Drought Hub funding, generally following each workshop, to support participants in translating workshop content into practical, farm-specific actions. This included property planning with Adrian Drew, soil consultations with David Hardwick, farm business planning with Chris Scheid, and sap analysis interpretation with Jenny Stanton, alongside ongoing individual technical support provided directly by project staff.
 - » Project staff continued to provide facilitation, mentoring and implementation support. This included connecting participants with appropriate specialists, discussing potential actions and helping participants translate workshop learning into practical next steps.
- The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) conducted autumn Visual Soil Assessments across four long-term demonstration properties and monitored two Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration sites. At one pasture site, monitoring was undertaken before and after a biofertiliser application to assess potential changes in pasture quality. At the horticulture site, monitoring data informed an annual report documenting pest occurrence, management interventions, outcomes, and future recommendations.
 - » The SAF also participated in carbon calculation support sessions delivered by the Board’s Carbon Outreach Officer and attended two Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) sessions with a local producer group, supporting ongoing producer learning and knowledge exchange.
- Eight demonstration sites are now operating across KI trialling a range of sustainable agricultural techniques. These sites are providing locally relevant evidence to support informed decision-making and the adoption of sustainable land management practices. This includes:
 - » Two demonstration sites in pasture and horticultural systems implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) actions.
 - » Two demonstration sites established in grazing and cropping systems to assess practical approaches to improving nutrient use efficiency through targeted soil, plant and crop monitoring trialling foliar fertiliser and phosphorus use.
 - » Four demonstrations sites on three farms trialling a range of different sustainable agricultural practises that were established in 2019.

2
workshops hosted or supported

2
carbon calculation sessions held

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

- Two carbon calculation sessions were held to guide landholders on estimating farm emissions, understanding carbon balances, and exploring opportunities to improve emissions efficiency within their farming systems.
- A school student specialising in agricultural undertook work experience with the Sustainable Agriculture Team. The student was given practical exposure to soil assessment methods, land management concepts, and sustainable agriculture activities undertaken by the Board.
- Two videos were produced to:
 - » share practical guidance on the preparation and application of foliar fertilisers, supporting improved nutrient-use efficiency and sustainable crop management through real on-farm experience. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9hBBWemR64>
 - » highlight key concepts and learnings presented during the Foliar Fertiliser Workshop. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQehYhlfSAU>
- A case study was produced demonstrating how a KI farmer is using AI tools to improve farm planning, record keeping and business decision-making. See: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/land-and-farming/land-management-support/ai-tools-for-better-farm-records-and-decisions>
- A factsheet was developed to summarise practical applications of artificial intelligence tools for farm record keeping, information management and decision support. See: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/land-and-farming/land-management-support/tools-tech-session-notes-for-using-ai-for-farming>

21
people attended workshops

4
demonstration sites monitored

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue working with individual PMP participants so they can keep building and applying their plans over time.
- Deliver a Low Stress Stock Handling Workshop in August 2026.
- Support the establishment of the Perennial Pastures Demonstration Site.
- Undertake spring monitoring activities across demonstration sites, including Visual Soil Assessments and IPM demonstration site monitoring where required.

Image right: Participants at the Soil Health and Fertility workshop with soil specialist David Hardwick.



Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June:

- Eight landholders constructed 9.17 km of fencing to protect 62.64 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland through the On-ground Works Grant program. Another two landholders completed revegetation and salinity control projects, helping to restore a combined 0.4 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee and riparian habitat.
- Passive bioacoustics data recorded in artificially restored (revegetated) and remnant habitats was analysed. Over 1 terabyte of audio files were processed to generate species lists of birds and other animals and compare these two habitats. Between the 10 survey locations, 47 bird and other animal species were identified. Not all detections (e.g. honeyeaters) could be identified down to genus- or species-level, therefore the total number of species detected is conservative.
- Weed control was undertaken in priority KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland. More than 5,000 individual weeds from 16 different species were controlled at 1,074 locations within 54.6 km/273 ha of roadside and privately owned native vegetation in proximity to populations of threatened plant species. The majority of control focused on *Asparagus declinatus* (bridal veil), *Solanum linnaeanum* (apple of Sodom), *Olea europaea* ssp. (olive) and *Pittosporum undulatum* (sweet pittosporum).

Community engagement:

- Final site inspections were conducted for ten completed on-ground works projects. A further seven revegetation projects are due to be completed soon.
- A new threatened plants webpage on the KILB website was created. This webpage provides information about KI's threatened plants, where they occur, how to identify them and why they're threatened. More threatened plants. More species will be added over time. See: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/native-plants-and-animals/supporting-biodiversity/kangaroo-island-threatened-plants>

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Final inspections of remaining revegetation projects will be conducted.
- Planning for the 2026-27 on-ground works funding round will begin at the start of July. This year funding will broaden and focus on waterway health and restoring riparian areas, as well as protecting and restoring KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland.

Image right: A bioacoustic recorder capturing the sounds of fauna in revegetated and remnant KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland.



62.64
ha KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee woodland
protected

5,000
weeds removed from
priority KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee Woodland

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

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:

- Approximately 47,000 native plants were grown this season. This includes 35,000 for private landholders and people participating in the On-ground Works Program and 12,000 for public plant sales.
- Continued collecting seed to replenish the seed bank and for the On-ground Works Program direct seeding project.
- Collated late orders using spare stock.

Community engagement:

- Weekly social media posts advertised a 'plant of the week' to increase public sales. There has been good visitation to the KI Native Plant Nursery on the days when it was open to the public.
- Conducted site visits with landholders and community groups to assist with their revegetation projects.
- Volunteers donated approximately 60 hours at the nursery trimming plants, washing pots, and weeding.
- Assisted year 8 students from KICE Parndana Campus to infill plant a shelterbelt.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue seed collecting to replenish the seed bank.
- Continue entering data into the seed bank data base.
- Begin propagating cuttings and winter germinating species for the 2027 season.
- The nursery will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May 6 until August.

47,000
plants grown for
planting in 2026

60
hours given to the
nursery by 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:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
- Members of the public

Image left: Plants ready for sale.
Image below: KI Native Plant Nursery Manager, Jo McPhee, with KICE students.



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:

- 39 glossy black-cockatoo nest boxes were closed for spring (which is outside the glossy black-cockatoo and yellow-tailed black-cockatoo late summer to winter breeding season) to exclude little corellas and galahs. Eggs laid by the pest species were also removed.
- Trees with natural hollows and nest boxes were checked to ensure possum exclusion barriers were intact and tree canopies were isolated. Possum exclusion barriers were installed or replaced on 22 nest trees. Bridging canopies were pruned on 40 nest trees.
- Ten sites with small woodland bird nesting boxes and carved hollows, and 16 sites with already established cockatoo-sized nesting boxes, were inspected for maintenance needs. 15 cockatoo nest boxes and 12 smaller woodland bird species nest boxes needed maintenance.
- Eucalypt forest around and adjacent to nest trees was searched for bee hives. 109 nest boxes/tree hollows were treated to remove or prevent active European bee hives.
- Bioacoustic recorders were placed at 16 sites on the Dudley Peninsula to collect baseline data on bird species composition (presence/absence) before feral cats are fully eradicated.
 - » The recorders were placed in fragmented/degraded woodland in the agricultural landscape (four sites), large areas of intact woodland (six sites) and heath/woodland communities close to the coast (six sites).
 - » These surveys capture nocturnal birds well, which are often missed during daytime in-person surveys.
 - » To date agricultural areas recorded higher average numbers of bird species due to the presence of self-colonising species (e.g. galah, little corella) or species highly tolerant of disturbance (e.g. Australian magpie, barn owl, rainbow lorikeets).
 - » In contrast, coastal vegetation and continuous woodland resembling more natural states contained bird communities including the endangered KI western whipbird and KI southern emu-wren.
 - » Several generalist species were present in all three habitat types, including the bush-stone curlew, superb fairy-wren, silvereye, striated pardalote, KI grey currawong and New Holland honeyeaters.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- A spatial analysis will be undertaken to prioritise revegetation areas for the next 10 years.
- Building of insulated nest boxes for trialling in summer 2026–27.
- Annual glossy black-cockatoo census to be conducted in September.

62
glossy nest boxes
installed & protected

16
sites sampled for birds on
Dudley Peninsula

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Image right: Torran Welz, Glossy black-cockatoo Field Officer, cleaning a bee hive from a glossy 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:

- Stand-alone, motion activated, infrared cameras were used to investigate the effectiveness of the ‘fire bunkers’ installed to give bandicoots refuge during and after fire. This survey repeated one undertaken immediately after the bunkers were installed in spring 2025. The data will be used to determine the suitability of these fire bunkers and whether further development and refinement of the bunkers is required.
- Seventy long term monitoring sites were surveyed for the tenth time since the 2019-20 bushfires across western KI to capture fauna activity during autumn (March–June) 2026 using remote cameras with a drift-line fence.
 - » The surveys detected KI dunnarts 269 times, southern brown bandicoots ten times, KI short-beaked echidnas 110 times, pygmy possums 776 times, Rosenberg goannas 48 times and feral cats 162 times.

Community engagement:

- A Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forum for 23 year 5 KICE students was held at a site in Flinders Chase National Park where ongoing surveys for threatened mammals are undertaken and artificial refuges are in situ for KI dunnarts, on 19 May 2026.
 - » The forum raised awareness of the threats and challenges facing small to medium mammals on KI following the 2019-20 bushfires.
 - » Students learnt about the Board’s research into threatened mammals, the ethics underpinning this and different survey techniques and participated in activities demonstrating different survey methods, animal handling and processing techniques.
 - » It is hoped these young environmental leaders will build connection and understanding of threatened mammal species on Kangaroo Island and spread awareness.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Analyse data from last 10 surveys for report on post-fire mammal response.
- Continued monitoring of habitat augmentation and compilation of data on use of bandicoot bunkers.
- Plan bandicoot trapping to contribute to a larger statewide southern brown bandicoot project later this year.

70
sites surveyed
for 10th time

23
YEL students learnt about
threatened mammals

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Image: Year 5 KICE YEL students learning how to measure an animal.



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:

- Water samples were collected each week for the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Water Testing Program.
- Temporary fences, signs and A-frame chick shelters were installed at key breeding locations at 15 beaches across KI to reduce pedestrian and vehicle disturbance to hooded plover pairs and their chicks during the hooded plover breeding season. These were managed by KI Landscape Board staff and members of the KI Friends of the Hooded Plover community group.
- Targeted coastal weed control was maintained 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. Weeds removed included African boxthorn, kikuyu grass, invasive succulents, stinkwort, Lincoln weed and bridal creeper. This strategic effort aimed to reduce competition from invasive species, enhance native coastal vegetation, and improve breeding success for vulnerable coastal birds.

Community engagement:

- The report *Population status of little penguins (Eudyptula minor) on Kangaroo Island in 2025* was released and promoted through the print and social media.
- A radio interview was given to ABC Adelaide discussing the 2025 little penguin census results and the Board’s work with the coastal community.
- An article was published in *The Islander* on 4 June 2026 which gave an overview of reef restoration projects completed on KI, with an emphasis on the Board’s *Ostrea angasi* restoration sites, their progress and how the community can access them.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Report on the community-led Oyster Reef Restoration Project.



Image below: Hooded plover chick shelters, protective fencing and signage at Stokes Bay.

15
beaches with protection
for hooded plovers

30
ha coastal weed control
undertaken

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

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:

- Applications for the seventh round of the KI Grassroots Grants opened on 1 April 2026 and closed on 5 May 2026. Applicants applied through the on-line grant management program SmartyGrants.
- Twenty-nine applications were received, ranging in value from \$1,229 to \$13,500 (the minimum and maximum amounts being offered was \$1,000 and \$8,000 respectively). The total value of the applications for 2026 was \$166,742.
- Thirteen applications were successful.
 - » Four volunteers organisations will receive funding to revegetate coastal vegetation in Penneshaw and Baudin Beach, support landholders to control feral cats on western KI and reprint the KI Bird Identification Guide brochure.
 - » Two KICE projects will restore the community garden at Kingscote Campus and rehabilitate a water logged area at Parndana Campus.
 - » Five landholders will protect and restore native and riparian vegetation on their properties.
 - » A landholder on the Dudley Peninsula will improve their soil health through nutrient amendments, establishing perennial pastures, weed control and revegetation, underpinned by soil and sap testing.
 - » Another landholder will be supported as they construct a natural filtration pond system through help to fence their existing dams.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Help successful applicants begin their 2026-27 KI Grassroots Grants projects.
- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants and applicants with their projects.

Image below: KICE students participating in the marine plastics project funded through a 2025-26 Grassroots Grant.



29
applications received

13
projects funded for
2026-27

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Environmental Education Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements in community engagement April–June:

- Delivered the first SA and Australian curriculum aligned unit plan on freshwater ecology.
 - This was developed collaboratively with the Board’s Environmental Education Coordinator and KICE and is specific to KI.
 - The unit plan was trialled and tested in Term 2 by the KICE Kingscote Campus year 7/8 Science class and included two field trips supported by the Board’s Environmental Education Coordinator and Water Officer.
 - This has also led to the development of resources including *Native Fish of KI* and a *How to Guide to iNaturalist*.
- Supported 25 KICE students to plant 280 native plants at Cape Rouge with local volunteer group BirdLife Kangaroo Island for the second year in a row. It is hoped this will become an annual event.
- Coordinated and delivered the Term 2 YEL forum for 23 year 5 students at Flinders Chase National Park focussing on KI threatened mammals research and artificial refuge installation.
- Supported a school excursion to the KI Rare Plant Garden and a private farming property ‘Bella Vista’ to explore soil health.
- Supported an April school holiday nature education excursion to Timber Creek organised by Parenting KI and National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWS SA).

25
KICE students planted with BirdLife KI

1
Freshwater Ecology Unit Plan developed

- 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

- Fostered an on-going relationship with the KICE Outdoor Education class and Friends of Parks KI West to support their Grassroots Grant to rehabilitate the old walking track to Remarkable Rocks within the Flinders Chase National Park.
- Supported the KICE microplastic project.
- Managed, maintained and expanded the education resources library. This library loaned resources and equipment to over 300 students in Term 2 including binoculars, wildlife cameras, PPE, tree planting equipment, water quality testing kit aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling, telescopes etc.
- Developed KI specific posters for [bats](#) and fungi.
- Attended the *Adelaide Hills Fungi Festival 2026* hosted by Hills Environment Centre at Arbury Park Outdoor School, where links were created and resource support sought for developing KI educational fungi resources.

300
students used education resources library

23
YEL students participated in Term 2 forum

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue developing a second unit plan focusing on sustainable water use and management in collaboration with KICE. This will be trialled with the Penneshaw year 2/3/4 class. Two more unit plans will be delivered in the in 2027 school calendar year.
- Support National Science Week 2026 at KICE.
- Run the annual KICE intercampus bird twitchathon.
- Continue to deliver a Young Environmental Leaders forum each term.
- Continue to adapt and develop KI specific environmental education resources.

Image below left: KICE students monitoring water as part of the Freshwater Ecology Unit Plan.

Image below right: KICE students sorting microplastics to use to make useful products as part of the microplastics project funded by the Board’s Grassroots Grants program.



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–July:

1. Media

1.1 Local media: 25 articles were published in the media over the quarter:

- 2/4/26: [Seeds of the future: KI kids growing conservation from the ground up](#)
- 2/4/26: [Carbon farming workshops for KI primary producers](#) (print)
- 2/4/26: [Tackling corella numbers](#) (print)
- 9/4/26: [Students helping penguins](#) (print)
- 10/4/26: [KICE students take action to protect KI's little penguins](#)
- 14/4/26: [Grants open to support KI landholders, community projects](#)
- 16/4/26: [Students plant for the future](#) (print)
- 23/4/26: [Grants support KI farmers and community groups](#) (print)
- 30/4/26: [Native plant nursery opens to help Kangaroo Island grow local](#)
- 7/5/26: [New Minister onto cats](#) (print)
- 7/5/26: [Native plant nursery opens to help green island](#)
- 16/5/26: [Little penguin survey shows promising signs, but long-term protection still needed](#)
- 21/5/26: [Penguin survey results](#) (print)
- 24/5/26: [KI Landscape Board works to enhance little penguin breeding habitat](#)
- 27/5/26: [Soil health workshop puts KI farm productivity under microscope](#)
- 28/5/26: [Creating penguin habitat](#) (print)
- 4/6/26: [Soil lessons](#) (print)
- 7/6/26: [Dudley community getting behind feral cat eradication team](#)
- 11/6/26: [Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication project evening](#): photos
- 11/6/26: [Dudley feral cat evening](#) (print)
- 17/6/26: [Kangaroo Island declared 'feral pig-free'](#)
- 18/6/26: [Free of feral pigs](#) (print)
- 18/6/26: [Community learning about feral cats](#) (print)
- 25/6/26: [Dealing with earth mite](#) (print)
- 27/6/26: [Healthier pastures could hold the key to red-legged earth mite control](#)

1.2 Radio: Six interviews were given to radio:

- 1/4/2026: Afternoons with Jo Laverty – Little corella control trial (Will Durack)
- 14/4/2026: North and West - KILB Grassroots Grants program (Joe Relic)
- 4/5/2026: 891 - 2026 feral cat winter blitz on the Dudley Peninsula (James Johnson ISC)
- 20/5/2026: 891 Mornings - KI's little penguin population (Dr Karleah Berris)
- 25/5/2026: North and West – KI Dunnart Recovery (Dr Karleah Berris)
- 29/5/2026: South Australian Country Hour - [Councils call for access to bird baits to manage little corella numbers](#)

50
social media posts viewed
by 255,300 people

25
media articles published
locally

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
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1.3 35 articles were published in state, national and international media:

- 1/4/26: ABC News: [Thermal imaging and night-time shooting key to Kangaroo Island corella control, authority says](#)
- 1/4/26: [news.com.au](#), [The Advertiser](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [The Chronicle](#): Wild way island is tackling invasive birds
- 1/4/26: The Australian: Island tackles invasive birds in hi-tech style
- 9/4/26 - Guardian Australia: [‘They poo all over the yard’: little corellas are terrorising Kangaroo Island – and nothing can stop them](#)
- 9/4/26: FIVEAA Breakfast: [Corellas are ‘terrorising’ Kangaroo Island](#)
- 10/4/26: [Penola Pennant](#) (p49), [Border Chronicle](#), [The Border Watch](#): Learn about carbon farming
- 13/4/26: YourLifeChoices: [They culled thousands—so why are locals still suffering?](#)
- 23/4/26: Inside State Government: [How smart tech is reshaping feral pest control across SA landscapes](#)
- 7/5/26: InDaily; [Bid to clear feral cats from KI in winter blitz](#)
- 22/5/26: Fleurieu News: [BBQ to highlight feral eradication program](#)
- 23/5/26: ABC News / ABC South East SA; [Kangaroo Island’s little penguin numbers rise after record low in 2024](#)
- 29/5/26: Landcare in focus: [From worms to whole systems on Kangaroo Island](#) (page 54)
- 30/5/26: ABC News / ABC Rural: [New artificial homes help Kangaroo Island dunnarts recover after bushfire](#)
- 31/5/26 - ABC News SA TV: [Kangaroo Island dunnart recovery](#) – 7 pm television bulletin
- 10/6/26: Mirage News: [Kangaroo Island Declares Victory Over Feral Pigs](#)
- 11/6/26: InDaily: [Detector dogs and thermal imaging see KI lead world in feral breakthrough](#)
- 13/6/26: news.com.au: [Kangaroo Island claims victory in war on feral pigs](#)
- 16/6/26: [Country News](#), [Deniliquin Pastoral Times](#): Kangaroo Island now free of feral pigs
- 18/6/26: Australian Hunter: [Kangaroo Island declared feral pig-free](#)
- 25/6/26: ABC News / ABC South East SA: [Kangaroo Island declared feral pig-free two years after last sightings](#)
- 25/6/26: ABC News TV: [Military-grade thermal imaging and helicopters deployed to eradicate feral pigs](#)
- 26/6/26: Daily Adelaide: [Kangaroo Island declares feral pig eradication](#)

2. Social media

- 50 KILB Facebook posts viewed by 255,300 people, up 29.6 % on last quarter.
- A Facebook video [Meet the next generation of Kangaroo Island glossy black-cockatoos](#) was viewed by more than 46,300 people.
- A Facebook post [KI farmers — Grassroots Grants are now open](#) was viewed by more than 30,400 people.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Promotion of plants and services available at the KI Native Plant Nursery.
- Promotion of projects funded by Board's Grassroots Grants and On ground Works programs.
- Community communications of critically endangered beyeria bush pea at Elsegood Road, weed management, last feral pig policy on KI and biosecurity on KI.
- Refresh KI Landscape Board website.

35
articles in state, national &
international media

4
radio interviews
given

Funded by:

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

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 and an outcomes report were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT). Two progress reports and four final reports were submitted to the Government of SA Landscape Priorities Fund.
- On 15 May 2026 the Honourable Emily Bourke MLC, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, endorsed the new Kangaroo Island Regional Landscape Plan 2026–2031 (the Plan). This Plan will come into effect on 1 July 2026.
 - » The Plan will guide the Board's priorities, investment, partnerships and on-ground action across five connected priorities for the next five years.
 - » The Plan was developed through extensive consultation with the KI community, including more than 450 interactions involving community members, school students, land managers and partner organisations.

Community engagement:

- Project staff were assisted with communications and media to develop promotional material for KI Landscape Board projects.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Assist projects with reporting and monitoring requirements and liaise with the Australian and South Australian governments and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Continue to support the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga Aboriginal Nation Groups to undertake a Country Planning process for KI.
- Seek funding to continue KI Landscape Board project work.



1
**KI Regional Landscape
Plan 26-31 endorsed**

17
**reports submitted to
project funders**

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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- Effective water management
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Funded by:

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

Image: The Board with the new Plan.

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
kinativeplantnursery@sa.gov.au



KI native vegetation

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

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



Soil Extension Officer

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

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



Water management

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

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



Weed control

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

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



Pest animal control

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

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



Feral cat control

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

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