



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

July — September 2024

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 July to 30 September 2024 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: Keynote speaker Tiahni Adamson, a Kaurareg woman and a passionate wildlife conservation biologist, presenting at the Island Ark Symposium VIII.

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 July–September 2024:

- Conducted a desktop analysis of aerial imagery to identify unauthorised dams and support compliance activities.

Community engagement:

- Advised 14 people and consultants on matters including dam siting, forestry transition to agriculture, water quality and Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permitting process.
- Assessed eight Water Affecting Activity Permits.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to review the KI Water Affecting Activities policy, including assessing the environmental risk under various scenarios using the Kangaroo Island Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits hydro-ecological risk model.
- Continue to review and improve the operation of on-line water administration platform 'MyWater' as it undergoes a staged public release.

Image below: Burning piles of forestry trash being undertaken by landholders as part of the transition from forestry to agriculture.



14

people helped with water matters

8

WAA 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 July–September 2024:

Declared weeds

- 25,000 bridal veil plants were controlled (follow up) over 72 ha at Grace James Corner, Timber Creek, Wallers and North Coast Roads outlier infestations by spot spraying.
 - » A further 1,360 kg of bridal veil corms were physically removed over 210 hours from 5.2 km of roadside vegetation along the Hog Bay Road, and some of the side roads leading into it.
- Over 100,000 bridal creeper plants were controlled over 150 ha at the Gosse Ritchie Road and Rainy Creek infestations by spot spraying.
- Spot and boom spraying were used for follow up control of 200,000 Cape tulip plants over 220 ha at Kelly Hill and Gosse Ritchie.
- A further 5,000 Cape tulip plants were controlled using various methods along the roadsides of the South Coast Road, Jetty Road, Gosse Ritchie Road and Church Road.
- 1,000 arum lily plants were controlled (follow up) over 15 ha in western outlier infestations using the cut and swab technique.
- 40 bulbil watsonia plants were controlled at random locations on roadsides on western KI.
- A tobacco bush *Solanum mauritianum* was found on Elsegood Road. This is a new weed for KI. It is closely related to nightshades. Over the last 10 years 102 new weeds have been found on KI, including 13 new declared weeds and nine new weeds for SA.
- A review of South Australia’s List of Declared Plants and plant policies began. The review is being managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) in collaboration with landscape boards and Green Adelaide and should be completed by 30 September 2024. Public consultation will occur by 30 June 2025.
- The Board nominated Cape tulip for inclusion in the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) list as part of the new National Established Weed Priority Framework (NWEF). The National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) plans to add eight new weeds to the WoNS list and are seeking expressions of interest by 20 September 2024 with nominations closing on 12 January 2025.
- Weed risk and feasibility assessments were completed for 91 weeds found on KI. The assessment helps to determine weed management priorities for KI.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Tasmanian blue gum wildlings were controlled over 137 ha. This work focussed on sites on private lands and roadsides where control had occurred previously.

Declared animal management

- A report of feral pig diggings near Gosse Ritchie Road was investigated. The cause of the diggings is yet to be identified and on-going monitoring and surveillance is occurring.
- Work on the eradication program for feral cats continued (see report on pages 6).

Feral pig eradication program

- 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.

205,000
Cape tulip
plants removed

1,360
kg bridal veil corms
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 23 public inquiries about weed identification and control methods:
 - » two people wanted a plant identified
 - » 18 people sought weed control advice
 - » three people reported a weed.

Declared animal management

- A new domestic pig permit was granted to a landholder with a low risk property.
- The Feral Animal Control Officer responded to 11 landholder inquiries relating to domestic goat and pig management on their properties.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program targeting Cape tulip, salvation Jane, Montpellier broom, yellow burr weed, horehound, khaki weed, caltrop, African love grass and gorse.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Develop a management plan for the control of medium and high density Tasmanian blue gum wildlings in native vegetation.

Declared animal management

- Consider and develop options to expand control efforts for little corellas.

137
ha Tasmanian blue gum
wildling control

23
people assisted with
weed management advice

- 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

Image below: Recently discovered tobacco plant — a new weed for KI.



Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

The aim of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program is to eradicate feral cats from KI, beginning on the Dudley Peninsula and then moving west across the remainder of the 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 July–September 2024:

- The program is currently delivering its most intensive knockdown of the feral cat population. Winter and spring trapping is aiming to achieve a more than 60% reduction in the population, which is required for eradication success. This target is currently on track with 106 feral cats removed between 1 July–30 September 2024.
- Using Celium trap monitoring technology, 726 sensor-connected cage traps are being managed by the field team across the entire eradication zone, seven days a week, achieving 41,025 trap nights during this period.
- A new style of cage trap developed by team member Murray Schofield was successfully trialled. This longer trap uses cat scent, predominately urine, to attract feral cats. The trap was developed following repeated off-target captures and recordings of feral cats walking past traps. 44 longer traps have been strategically deployed resulting in the successful removal of 17 previously trap-shy feral cats since July.
- Thermal optics and scopes have begun to be used with a very high success rate, particularly on feral cats that have previously been observed ignoring or avoiding traps. This technology is improving all the time and in the right hands gives us a game changing advantage in locating and removing feral cats that are difficult to trap. Our experienced marksman has been instrumental in eradicating feral goats, deer and pigs from the island. He is now turning his sights to feral cats on the Dudley Peninsula. He is using information gathered from our extensive network of 4G cameras and community cat sightings, to direct his attention, and has been extremely successful this quarter removing six feral cats over seven nights in the field.
- Since the onset of our 2024 winter trapping period there has been a significant decline in feral cat activity recorded on the remote camera network. The removal of 305 feral cats on the Dudley Peninsula and Pelican Lagoon Isthmus between the months of May and September has seen a reduction in the average number of sightings each night from 13.23 in April to 6.5 in September. This is the lowest since the program began in 2020, which is extremely encouraging.

Community engagement:

- The program was very involved in the Island Ark Symposium VIII, with team members giving the following three presentations on their work to 131 attendees:
 - » Paul Jennings (Program Leader KI Feral Cat Eradication): *Lessons learned from delivering a feral cat eradication program in one of Australia's priority places for threatened species.*
 - » Josh Mulvaney (Project Officer – KI Feral Cat Monitoring and Detection): *New efficiencies in camera monitoring and all things KI and AI.*
 - » Chantelle Geissler (Project Officer – KI Feral Cat Spatial Networks): *Landholder-led feral cat trapping programs: the cats out the bag now.*

106
feral cats removed from
the Dudley Peninsula

726
feral cat traps set across
Dudley Peninsula

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

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

- The field trip for the Island Ark Symposium VIII focussed on the tools, methods and activities of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program on the Dudley Peninsula. Demonstrations were given at three different sites to over 60 delegates.
- The Feline Hotline, “*Call in a Cat*”, has been very successful with 18 calls received. These reports helped us to direct our effort to remove feral cats.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Over summer, when it becomes more difficult to cage trap feral cats, an extensive sensor-connected soft-jawed leg hold trap array will be used on the southern Dudley Peninsula. This will be complimented by cage traps, Felixer grooming traps, drone assisted thermal ground shooting and detection dogs in the central and northern regions of the Dudley Peninsula.
- The strategic and efficient use of these control tools is essential to achieving eradication. We are currently developing a proof of absence tool, alongside an eradication simulation tool, to inform how and when to use the right tools. This will be essential in the final stages of the eradication program.
- An ongoing challenge to the program has been restrictions on when and where different control tools can be used for feral cat eradication. With support from our partners, the Board is actively pursuing changes to legislation to allow the use of these effective tools and to permit the community to more actively participate in the feral cat eradication program.

Image below: Team member Cheryl-Ann Monks demonstrating how to set a soft-jaw leg-hold trap to delegates on the Island Ark Symposium VIII field trip.



3
presentations to Island
Arks Symposium VIII

18
calls received on feline
hotline *Call in a Cat*

Call in a cat
on the Dudley Peninsula
0459 952 830

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements in community engagement

July-September 2024:

Property Management Planning

- This two-year project is now complete. 20 KI farmers participated and developed Property Management Plans (PMPs) with short, medium and long term actions to improve drought resilience.
- 14 facilitators, extension workers and local experts supported the farmers to develop their plans through eight topic-specific modules, four group training events, one-on-one training and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- 19 of the farmers also received funding to support on-ground works identified in their PMPs, including fencing to protect biodiversity and manage grazing, revegetation, establishing native grasses in pasture, contour embankments to increase run-off capture in dams, liming to reduce pH, reticulated water infrastructure, establishment of perennial pasture, watercourse works to reduce erosion and increase re-hydration of soils, shelter belt establishment, dam improvements, use of biological fertilisers, deep ripping to reduce compaction of soils, containment feeding infrastructure and introduction of biochar and dung beetles to pastures.
- Six long-term demonstration sites have been developed to showcase local drought resilient practices and enable a wide group of farmers to learn through field days, case studies and peer-to-peer learning in the future.

Soil extension

- The Soil Extension Officer supported farmers to establish three new demonstration sites and continue to implement demonstrations and trials with four landholders including:
 - » A farmer in Cassini was supported to spray 40 ha of their canola crop with effective microorganisms (EM). Plant sap testing was undertaken to measure the nutrient concentrations available to the plant at the time of sampling. The farmer’s sub-surface water continues to be monitored with a soil moisture probe.
 - » A farmer in Gosse was supported to continue their biological strip trials in their hay paddock. A foliar trial was also completed at their property with the Australian Soil Planners and Jenny Stanton.
 - » Wineries on the Dudley Peninsula and in Menzies were supported with advice on soil and plant nutrition.
 - » A winery in Menzies was supported to convert their lined dams to wetlands to create habitat for Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Three KI farming women were supported to attend the Women Together Learning *Thriving Women Conference* in August 2024.
- Three farmers were supported to attend a foliar fertiliser workshop run by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.
- Worked with seed producers and soil amendment companies to find potential soil health solutions and feed alternatives for KI.
- Supported AgKI to implement the perennial pasture project.
- Worked with Kllands to explore biochar trials.

14
experts helped 20
farmers with property
management plans

6
farmers supported to
attend 2 workshops on
the mainland

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

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

- Jim Mead (the new KI Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator) met with farmers who have undertaken trials or have demonstration farms.
- The spring Visual Soil Analysis monitoring was conducted on the four demonstrations established on farms through the previous Australian Government Building Resilient Agriculture project.
- Supported the KI Environmental Education Coordinator to run workshops exploring soil pH and water testing with reception to year 6 KI Community Education (KICE) students during National Science Week.
- Provided technical support regarding sustainable agriculture to the panel assessing applications for the KI Landscape Board On-ground Works Fund.

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

- The Carbon Outreach Officer met fortnightly with the state-wide team to plan the delivery of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program training workshops, and the development of training materials based on the Australian Government’s training package. Workshop messages for this program will be consistent across the state, and tailored to suit each industry and region as appropriate.
- The Carbon Outreach Officer for Kangaroo Island and several other regions attended the ‘Facilitating Learning and Change’ workshop held by SA Drought Hub in Adelaide.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue working with existing and new demonstration sites.
- Continue to support farmers with one-on-one technical advice relating to soil issues/problems.
- Build foliar fertiliser with a small group of farmers for bio-fertiliser trials next autumn.
- Deliver foundational Carbon Outreach Farming Program workshops, with more industry specific follow-up workshops to come during the latter half of the project.
- Promote the Carbon Outreach Farming Program at the Parndana show in November, inviting land managers to register their interest in upcoming workshops.

8
farmers helped with soil
trials & demonstrations

19
farmers given funding for
planned on-ground works

Image below: Jim Mead, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, with KICE students during National Science Week.



Community Education and Act Compliance

Overview:

The Compliance Officer undertakes and oversees compliance activities concerning natural resources management – including water, soil, pest plants and pest animals in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Key achievements July–September 2024:

- A new Compliance Policy and a new Compliance Procedure have been developed and approved by the Board.
- The Board approved a position on how to implement the new policy and procedure relating to unauthorised dams.
- The Board approved the establishment of the KI Landscape Board Compliance Steering Committee and its terms of reference.

Community engagement:

- Supported the KI Environmental Education Coordinator to run workshops exploring aquatic macroinvertebrates and water testing with KICE reception to year 6 students during National Science Week.
- A community engagement plan is being developed specifically targeting companies and individuals capable of installing and/or enlarging dams or completing works associated with Water Affecting Activities (WAA).

Future directions and upcoming events:

- More compliance framework documents will be completed and presented to the KI Landscape Board for approval/noting.
- A tri-fold brochure is being developed to assist companies and individuals to seek a WAA permit or Council Development Application before instigating any water affecting activities or installing/enlarging dams..

1

compliance policy & procedure approved

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:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Image below: Steve Hearn, Compliance Officer, with KICE students during National Science Week.



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 July–September 2024:

- Began upgrading the seedbank to improve storage systems.
- Worked with the KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Project Officer to increase species knowledge for propagating threatened species.
- Collated orders and formulated species lists for 2025.
- Plant propagation continued with cuttings collected and prepared and seed sown for winter and early spring germinating species.
- Trialled different propagation techniques for difficult to grow species.
- Upgraded benches in the shade house.

Community engagement:

- Helped KICE Penneshaw students with their planting at the Penneshaw Penguin Centre and the American River Community and Sports Association with their planting at the new fuel depot.
- Supported landholders through property visits for new customers and viewings of past customers previous planting sites.
- Volunteers donated 120 hours to wash pots, propagate cuttings and collect and clean seed.
- Attended a propagation workshop at Clayton Bay Nursery via Zoom.



2

community groups supported to plant

120

hours donated 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
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Members of the public

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to upgrade seed bank.
- Continue to extend plant ID knowledge and propagation techniques.
- Increase species diversity to include some threatened species.
- Continue to attend quarterly propagation workshops with other community nursery managers.

Image left: Kelly Mulvaney helping to organise the seedbank.

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. A threat abatement plan for bridal veil will be developed to establish a framework for the protection and enhancement of critically endangered plant species in the Eastern Plains of Kangaroo Island.

Key achievements July–September 2024:

- The KI On-ground Works Fund for 2024–25 opened on 5 August and closed on 30 August 2024. 15 applications were received seeking \$71,918. 14 of the 15 projects were recommended for funding. The projects will protect 259.2 ha of remnant vegetation and restore 9.2 ha of habitat.
- Spatial datasets with records of weeds, threatened plants and threatened plant habitats, were analysed to identify priority areas for weed assessment mapping. This analysis identified 10,884 ha of threatened plant habitat is potentially at risk from weeds, including 177.13 km of native vegetation lining roadsides in Haines and MacGillivray.
 - » Using the results of the desktop analysis, 93.3 km of roadsides with native vegetation containing threatened plants were surveyed for priority weed species. These surveys identified 17 different priority weed species within the survey area and recorded over 470 individual weeds from 132 separate locations. Survey results were mapped using ArcGIS, with the records forming the basis for on-ground control works.
- Outlier infestations of bridal veil (*Asparagus declinatus*) near threatened plant populations were assessed to identify priority weed control areas. Four priority control areas were identified and mapped spanning a combined area of 22.1 ha.
 - » Bridal veil control by specialised weed control contractors began along Starrs Road. Fifty bags of bridal veil plants and tuberous root material were physically removed from a 1 km section of roadside vegetation.
- Control of woody weed species, particularly olives, began along Elsegood Road. Control methods included cut and paint with herbicide and physical removal. The main focus area so far has been a 2 km stretch of roadside vegetation.

Community engagement:

- Extensive community engagement was undertaken to promote the KI On-ground Works funding application process and support landholders applying. This included liaising with landholders interested in applying, visiting each property seeking funding to discuss projects with landholders, assisting landholders to complete their application forms, and following-up with landholders to clarify aspects of their projects or suggest revisions to improve project outcomes.
- Native vegetation management plans were produced for five landholders wanting to pollard aging remnant KI narrow-leaved mallee trees. The purpose of the pollarding is to promote healthy new regrowth, improve the effectiveness of shelterbelts to act as wind breaks and prevent old trees from falling over and dying.
- A Salinity Management Plan was produced for one landowner. The purpose of the plan is to address the impacts of rising salt by establishing revegetation and encouraging groundcover growth to prevent further soil erosion.

15
applications received for
KI On-ground Works

5
native vegetation
management plans
produced

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: A local landholder working with the Board’s Control Officer to remove olives adjacent to their property.

- The Threatened Plant Action Group was assisted to monitor the health of Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenaea insularis*) along Elsegood Road. Beyeria bush-pea is a highly threatened KI endemic plant species that only occurs in a few small sub-populations.
- One landowner was advised about the best way to establish revegetation in an area with a large kangaroo population. Information was provided about different exclusion fence designs and possible locations for revegetation establishment.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Project sites suitable for establishing monitoring sites and areas for habitat restoration will be identified and prioritised. An initial desktop analysis has been done but further detailed site assessments are required before a final selection can be made.
- Flora and fauna will be surveyed to evaluate how effective artificially restored (revegetated) areas are at providing habitat for native animal and plant species.
- On-ground Works funding contracts will be finalised with landowners.
- Initial planning for the establishment of roadside threatened plant population barriers will be undertaken. This project will involve liaison with the KI Council and Department for Infrastructure and Transport. The purpose of the barriers is to alert workers and the public to the presence of critical threatened plant populations on roadsides, and thereby prevent them from being accidentally harmed.
- Priority woody weed control along roadsides will continue, focussing on olives. Other weed species will also be targeted as needed.
- Bridal veil control will continue. Contractors will next focus on a section of American River Road where an emergent infestation of bridal veil is threatening a population of nationally threatened KI turpentine bush (*Beyeria subsecta*).

2
km roadside native
vegetation controlled for
olives

50
bags of bridal veil
removed from 1 km of
roadside native vegetation



Kangaroo Island Woodland Bird Recovery Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September 2024:

- The glossy black-cockatoo nest monitoring and nestling banding program was completed for 2024. Key results were:
 - » 70 nesting attempts were recorded. 61 nesting attempts were monitored from start to completion and recorded a nesting success rate of 75%, which is much higher than most other monitored years. However, in burnt areas out west there are fewer pairs attempting to nest, resulting in fewer nesting attempts overall.
 - » 42 nestlings were banded with stainless steel leg bands to track their survival and movements over time through the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme Project.
 - » The five new nest boxes installed at the start of 2024 were all used by glossy black-cockatoos this nesting season. The nest boxes were strategically placed in areas with limited nesting habitat and this may have resulted in the quick uptake of nest box use.
- The 2024 glossy black-cockatoo population census was completed.
 - » The census surveys were carried out on 62 private landholder properties and public lands.
 - » 39 volunteers contributed 270 hours of time to help undertake surveys.
 - » A minimum population count of 422 glossies was recorded in 2024. This is slightly lower than the censuses in 2020 (454), 2022 (428) and 2023 (453). It appears the population is no longer increasing, as it was before the 2019–20 bushfires. However, the population appears to be mostly stable.
 - » From a regional perspective, the number of glossies within the population from the fire-affected north-west region of KI appears to have declined. However, regional glossy population sizes in other areas of KI were found to be similar to what was recorded in 2020 immediately after the bushfires.
 - » Low numbers of fledglings were recorded in fire-affected western areas between 2022 and 2024, compared to unburnt eastern areas. This could be due to the combined effects of fewer pairs breeding as well as low fledgling survival in some areas. Raptor predation in areas with reduced canopy cover due to the bushfires continues to be the most likely explanation for lower fledgling survival in burnt areas.
- 36 nest boxes between Stokes Bay and the Dudley Peninsula were capped for spring and sprayed with bee deterrent to prevent invasive galahs and little corellas using the nest boxes, and prevent feral bee hive invasions. Eastern nest boxes are capped as they experience the most issues with these species.
 - » Six bee hives in natural tree hollows within three different nesting sites were treated and removed once dead.
- Datasets on the occurrence of threatened woodland birds were compiled using information from the Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA) and Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).
- Entrances to crimson rosella nest boxes were constructed.
- Six log hollows for crimson rosellas were constructed using the HollowHog tool. Two of these were installed at Middle River.

75%
nesting success rate for
glossies in 2024

422
glossies counted in 2024
population census

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
- Members of the public

- Planning for the woodland birds fauna survey was undertaken.
 - » Sites were selected and mapped for 30 initial surveys based on where target species have not been recorded for many years.

Community engagement:

- A Woodland Bird Workshop was delivered to 269 reception to year 6 students from Kangaroo Island Community Education (KICE) Kingscote Campus on 18 August 2024. This workshop was delivered to celebrate National Science Week and explored the plight of KI Woodland Birds, and why some are threatened.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Conduct the first round of woodland bird surveys between October and December 2024. Transects, call-playback and bioacoustics recorders will be used in the surveys. The main species being targeted is western beautiful firetails, but all bird species identified will be recorded to create one of the largest most recent bird survey datasets on eastern KI.
- Crimson rosella and pardalote nest boxes, and HollowHog log hollows, will be installed to expand breeding habitat for these species.
- Feral bee hives will be surveyed in summer when hives are easily visible due to increased bee activity.
- Continue feral bee hive treatment in glossy nest trees.

39
volunteers gave 270 hours
to the glossy census

269
KICE students participated
in school workshop

Images below: Project coordinator Karleah Berris presenting the KI Woodlands Bird Workshop to KICE students.



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 July–September 2024

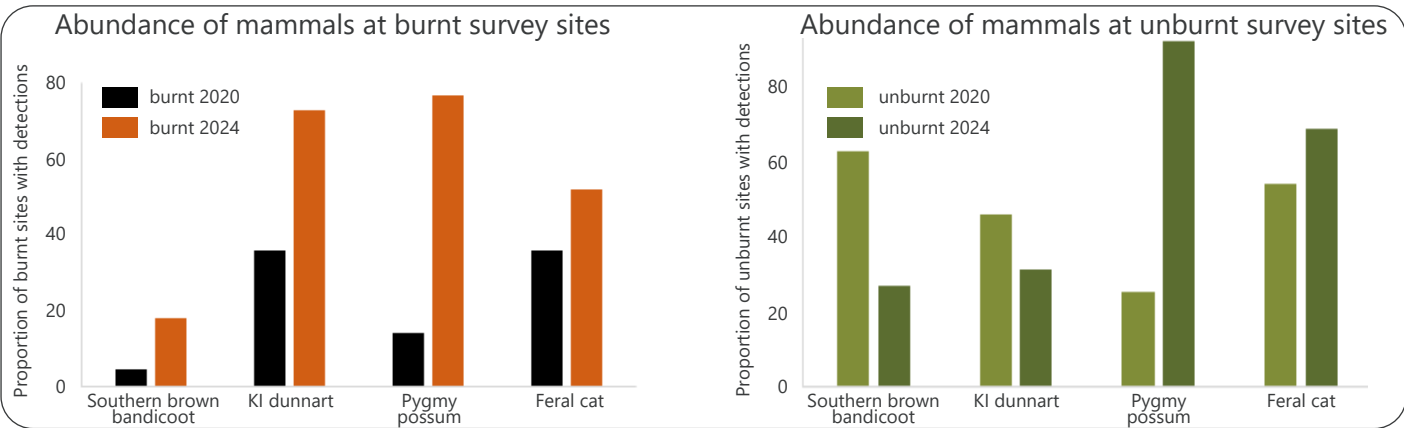
- 62 of 70 long-term monitoring sites were installed across western KI.
- A range of underground ‘bunker’ designs to protect endangered southern brown bandicoots during fires have been developed for deployment on western KI. They will be installed in unburnt patches of native vegetation, which are currently the strongholds for southern brown bandicoots. The Rotary Club of Burnside is seeking funding for more bunkers to install next year at four southern brown bandicoot sites, and one prescribed burn site. Bunker temperatures will be monitored during the prescribed burn.
- Images and their associated data from all long-term monitoring sites from 2020–24 have been processed using the MegaDetector AI program to identify other mammals and species of interest. The analysis of this data will give a snapshot of changes since the 2019–20 bushfires.

Overall trends include:

- » Southern brown bandicoots were initially mostly found in unburnt sites. Over time their detections at unburnt sites has decreased and they are still only being recorded in low numbers at burnt sites. This is cause for concern.
- » Initially post-fire KI dunnarts were more commonly found in unburnt sites. However, they now seem to prefer recovering burnt native vegetation, as they are found in a large number of sites there.
- » Pygmy possums have made a remarkable recovery in all habitat types post-fire. Initially they were in low numbers in both burnt and unburnt sites post-fire but now they are being recorded at higher numbers at both sites.
- » Feral cat detections have increased in 2024, compared to immediately after the bushfires. This is concerning, especially given southern brown bandicoots are not recovering well so far. Further targeted feral cat management in southern brown bandicoot strongholds is an option to address this.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Complete installation of small mammal survey sites and then survey for 50 days at each site.
- Build, install and monitor southern brown bandicoot ‘bunkers’.
- Analyse KI echidna and goanna data from long-term monitoring sites from 2020-24.



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 July–September 2024

- The Coasts Project Officer attended a Birdlife volunteer management workshop and season planning sessions with the regional hooded plover monitoring coordinators in September.

Community engagement

- A coastal birds presentation and field exercise focussing on little penguins were presented to 21 year 4 and 5 students at KI Community Education on 8 August.
 - » The classroom presentation included information about the ecology of local coastal bird species, including their habitat requirements, threats and conservation activities employed to monitor and protect them.
 - » Students then went on a field trip to KI’s largest penguin colony at Emu Bay. Here they used a map to search the outskirts of the colony for signs of coastal birds without disturbing them. They also identified any threats they observed on their walk.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Conduct an island-wide little penguin census in October 2024 to compare population estimates during the second seasonal clutch of chicks to those from 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2023.
- Install infrastructure to protect hooded plover nests during their breeding season. This will include fencing and signs where appropriate, to share information and create visual barriers for people visiting beaches with these beach-nesting birds.
- Meet with the team collaborating on the Australian sea-lion shelter project to discuss shelter design, construction, installation and develop a monitoring plan. The team has representatives from KILB, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).



Image below: Students searching for sign of little penguins and other coastal birds during their field trip.

21
students attended coastal birds presentation

1
Birdlife workshop attended

- 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.

Community engagement July–September 2024:

- Assisted KICE to present at, and attend, the Island Ark Symposium VIII.
- Developed and coordinated a ‘sustainable science session’ across the three campuses as part of National Science Week from 12-18 August. 269 students from reception to year 6 participated. Three stations were set up and Board staff gave a presentation and a hands-on science activity at each one. The activities were connected with the National Science Week theme: *Species Survival, more than just sustainability*. The sessions focussed on:
 - KI’s threatened woodland birds and how dietary specialisation can increase the risk of extinction for bird species. This was delivered by Karleah Berris, KI Woodland Bird Project Coordinator.
 - The importance of soil health and how to test the pH of soil, delivered by Jim Mead, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator.
 - Aquatic macroinvertebrates and how they can be used to test for water quality, delivered by Steve Hearn, Compliance Officer.
- Assisted the Board and KICE to deliver a coastal birds presentation and field exercise focussed on little penguins to year 4 and 5 students on 8 August.
- Coordinated and presented a professional development session for 14 KICE teachers on 5 September at their staff training day. The session provided ideas and activities for lesson planning and increased teachers skills and knowledge relating to bird observation, identification, resources and programs available, Birdlife applications, and manual and online data portals.

269
students attended
National Science Week
activities

14
teachers attended
professional development
session

- 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

Image below: Board staff Steve Hearn, Deb Laver and Jim Mead with students from Parndana Campus during National Science Week.



- Developed resources for the Bird Watching resource kit including ID charts, how to guides and data sheets.
- Coordinated an inter-campus Twitchathon from 16–20 September to complement the KI Twitchathon.
 - Over 176 KICE students participated over the week. Prizes were awarded for the most birds spotted (primary and secondary), most creative team name and most time spent spotting birds.
 - A suite of resources were developed to support the Twitchathon including a data sheet, certificates, prizes and promotional material.
- Successfully obtained a grant to support the first Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) Forum from the Our Town Committee.
- Engaged with a UniSA professional placement student to assist in them to develop educational resources.
- Provided one-on-one assistance to eight KICE teachers relating to nature walks, nature journals, local ID resources, little penguins, local coastal erosion, persuasive writing ideas, sustainable agriculture, school sustainability group, school garden and threatened species day bake off.

176
students participated in
KICE Twitchathon

8
teachers supported
one-on-one

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Attend Green Adelaide professional development for teachers *Sustainability in the classroom and beyond!* with five KICE teachers.
- Present a breakout bird watching session at the Nature Event during the school holidays on 11 October. This event is being presented by the KI Council in partnership with the Board, Parenting KI and National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Host a Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) Forum for years 4 and 5 at Flinders Chase National Park Visitor Centre on Tuesday 12 November.

Image below left: Students participating in the KICE Twitchathon.

Image below right: Environmental Education Coordinator Deb Laver dressed for the KICE Twitchathon.



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 July–September 2024:

1. Media

1. 12 articles were published in *The Islander* over the quarter:

- 12/7/24: [Symposium shaping up](#)
Announcement of keynote speakers for Island Arks Symposium VIII.
- 12/7/24: [Free tickets to the 2024 Thriving Women Conference up for grabs](#)
Promotion of Board support for three island women connected to agriculture to attend the Women Together Learning's prestigious *Thriving Women Conference*.
- 8/8/24: [Speakers at Symposium](#)
Promotion of two of the most respected figures in conservation and science education: the Threatened Species Commissioner, Dr Fiona Fraser, and Professor Christopher Daniels, to speak at the eighth Island Arks Symposium to be held on KI from August 26–28.
- 13/8/24: [KI Landscape Board farewells long-term staff member Sharon Gullickson](#)
Farewelling staff member Sharon Guillickson, long-term executive assistant and board coordinator, following her retirement after 15 years of service to the Board.
- 21/8/24: [KI Landscape Board funding available for on-ground works](#)
Invitation to KI landowners, including farmers, lifestyle property owners, landcare and community groups, to apply for on-ground work grants.
- 23/8/24: [Engage with global conservation efforts at next week's Island Arks Symposium on KI](#)
Promotion of local discount for KI residents to attend the Island Arks Symposium VIII, providing a cost-effective way to gain valuable insights and perspectives on conservation and ecology.
- 27/8/24: [Eighth International Island Arks Symposium kicks off on Kangaroo Island](#)
Promotion of the beginning of Island Arks Symposium VIII at the official opening night, marked by an Acknowledgment of Country by Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna, and Narungga man Bill Wilson.
- 30/8/24: [Faces at the Island Arks Symposium opening](#)
Promotion of attendees at the official opening night of the Island Arks Symposium VIII.
- 1/9/24: [Apply now to be a member of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board](#)
Promotion of opening of applications for people interested in joining Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.
- 3/9/24: [KI farmer's innovations take seed across the world](#)
Promotion of Island Ark Symposium VIII keynote speaker Nick Berry and the development of his company Seed Terminator.
- 16/9/24: [Sustainable agriculture practices](#)
Promotion of Derek Wheaton, has been working with the Board to develop primary production trials on his property *Stranraer* at MacGillivray with 720 ha sheep, with promising results
- 26/09/24: [Funding available for KI farmers to improve soil health](#)
Promotion of funding available to KI farmers to establish new primary production demonstration sites or trials on KI to enhance soil health.

35
social media posts

12
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

Three interviews were given to ABC North West radio:

- 17/7/24: KILB Communications and Media Coordinator interviewed to promote the Island Arks Symposium VIII.
- 14/8/24: KILB Manager of Sustainable Landscapes interviewed about a new project designed to inform farmers about how to reduce their carbon emissions and advise farmers about the carbon market.
- 12/9/24: KILB Soil Extension Officer Cassandra Douglas-Hill interviewed about a project designed to help farmers improve their soil health and the profitability of their farms.

One article was published through ABC media on-line:

- 7/9/24: [SA farmer and engineer creates farm machinery to destroy weed seeds during harvest](#)
Information about Nick Berry, and the farm machinery he has created that destroys weed seeds during harvest.

2. Social media

- 35 social media articles were posted on the [Board's Facebook page](#). These posts reached 16,700 people, 4.7% more than last quarter, and attracted 46 new followers.
- A Facebook post about the [KI Native Plant Nursery](#) on 21 July was viewed by 4,569 people.

Community engagement:

- Planning and delivery of the Island Arks Symposium VIII was supported. 131 delegates attended from 24 islands from August 26–28.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Thank you event for Dudley Peninsula landholders involved in feral cat blitz.
- Partner with AgKI, PIRSA and KI Council to develop a suite of communications about permit processes for dam construction and enlargement.
- Partner with PIRSA to develop a guide for invasive weeds on Kangaroo Island.
- Develop promotional materials to support the KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland and threatened plant restoration program.

Image below: Delegates at the Island Ark Symposium VIII.



131
delegates attended Island Ark Symposium VIII

4,569
people viewed post on KI Native Plant Nursery

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 July–September 2024:

- Five output and annual reports and one outcome report were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project.
- Three annual progress reports were submitted to non-Government organisations.
- Supported the development of the project *Kangaroo Island - Farming towards the Future* with the Australian Government.
- Finalised the *Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Emergency Response Framework for Natural Assets*. This plan and the associated maps will be available on the Board's website in the near future.
- Supported the planning and delivery of the Island Arks Symposium VIII hosted by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. 131 delegates attended from 24 islands from August 26–28.
 - » The Symposium took place in the Performing Arts Centre on the Kingscote Campus of the local school Kangaroo Island Community Education.
 - » Keynote speakers included: Nick Berry (Seed Terminator), Tiahni Adamson (Young Australian of the Year), Clem Newchurch and Paul Dixon (Firesticks — SA Kurna Hub) and Jo Ritchie (Natural Logic Environmental Management) with grandson Maximilian Reed (Masters of Environment student).
 - » 39 speakers delivered 32 presentations under five themes: Integrated Land Management and Restoration, Islands Under Threat, Islands as Arks, Indigenous Stewards Managing Land and Sea and Valuing people and place.
 - » Guest speakers Professor Chris Daniels (Department for Environment and Water) and Dr Fiona Fraser (Threatened Species Commissioner) spoke at the Welcome event and the Symposium dinner held at the Kangaroo Island Brewery with guest artists Double Header and the Bowerbird Collective.

Community engagement:

- 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.

Image right: Will Durack chairing the Island Ark Symposium VIII.

14
reports submitted to
project funders

39
speakers supported to
present at Symposium

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



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 July–September 2024:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- Farmers from Borda planted a range of perennial pastures over 55 ha using a no-till seeder through Grassroots Grants funding from 2023–24.
- AgKI installed a weather station on a farm at Gosse. This complements their 11 weather stations across KI which are providing extensive cover across KI to track variation in both weather and soils across the island. The stations monitor temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind, fire danger index and soil moisture and the data is available on the AgKI website. This project was supported through Grassroots Grants funding from 2023–24.
- The Threatened Plant Action Group worked to restore critical habitat of Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenea insularis*) by removing the weed bridal veil adjacent to Beyeria bush-pea plants along priority roadsides and protecting 87 plants from macropod grazing in Beyeria Conservation Park. This project was supported through Grassroots Grants funding from 2023–24.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants with their projects.

Image below: The threatened Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenea insularis*) which the Threatened Plant Action Group has targeted their actions to save from weeds and native wildlife browsing.



55
ha perennial pastures
planted using no-till
method

87
Beyeria bush-pea plants
protected in Beyeria
Conservation Park

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

How we can help you



KI Native Plant Nursery

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

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



KI native vegetation

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

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



Soil Extension Officer

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

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 Mark Agnew
8553 2476
mark.agnew@sa.gov.au



Weed control

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

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



Pest animal control

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

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



Feral pig control

- » control of feral pigs
- » feral pig 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