

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

July — September 2025



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

This is the vision of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). This report captures the work undertaken through Board projects from 1 July to 30 September 2025 to deliver this vision. Formed in 2020, the Board aims to deliver practical, on-ground programs to help manage the island's water, land and soil, pests, and biodiversity in partnership with farming groups, environmental non-government organisations, local councils and community groups. The Board consists of eight members, including a Chair, Andrew Heinrich. They have developed a *Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021-2026* (the Plan), which combines community values, local knowledge and scientific evidence into a strategic road map to guide how the Board will work in partnership with the community and investors to support the recovery and management of Kangaroo Island's landscapes into the future. The Plan aims to strike a balance between productivity and profitability, and looking after the environment to maintain biodiversity. The plan contains five regional priorities, each with a suite of focus areas to guide the actions for the Board and the wider regional community for five years.



COMMUNITY

Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making

Focus areas:

- Working with all sectors of the community to improve the island's landscapes
- Making decisions based on the best available scientific, local and traditional knowledge
- Understanding, valuing and taking care of the natural environment and cultural heritage



BIODIVERSITY

Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

Focus areas:

- Safeguarding the structure and function of habitats and ecosystems
- Protecting biodiversity to minimise species loss
- Improving our understanding of the environment and the beneficial role it plays



ECONOMY

Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Focus areas:

- Improving the health of the soil, water and biodiversity that supports our economy
- Strengthening the viability of primary production through sustainable practices
- Working in partnership with industry to ensure the island's economy continues to prosper



WATER

Priority: Effective water management

Focus areas:

- Managing water resources sustainably and equitably for all users
- Improving water quality in the island's catchments and wetlands
- Protecting aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems



PESTS

Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Focus areas:

- Controlling and, where possible, eradicating weeds, pests and diseases
- Strengthening KI's biosecurity arrangements
- Managing the impact of overabundant native species

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Cover image: Phoebe Edwards, Water Officer, surveying the Chapman River prior to the artificial river mouth opening.

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:

- 43,000 plants were grown for the 2024-25 propagating season, including 8,000 for public sales, 9,700 for bushfire recovery, 10,400 for Board projects and 14,900 for private orders.
- Seeds were sown and species lists formulated for 2026 orders.
- A fungal soil conditioner was trialled to improve survival rates of more difficult species.

Community engagement:

- Site visits were conducted to support landholders with revegetation projects.
- Visitation to the nursery through public plant sales increased considerably this season.
- Presented at the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Annual General Meeting.
- Presented at a Nature Foundation webinar.
- Volunteers donated 55 hours washing pots and assisting with the collection and propagation of cuttings.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Identify species suitable for plant sales and incorporate more of these into the propagation schedule.
- Continue entering data into seed bank data base.
- Install new propagation mini tunnels to improve success rate with cuttings.

Image: Landholder Alicia Cooper collecting her 2025 order, supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for bushfire recovery.



43,000
plants grown in
2024-25

55
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

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:

- The Chapman River Artificial Mouth was successfully opened.
 - » Estuary closure is a natural, vital process for the ecological health of KI's estuaries and waterways. Natural openings of estuaries are preferred.
 - » However, when prolonged dry conditions occur in the catchment at the same time as significant ocean swells, a substantial sandbar may form at the estuary mouth.
 - » This kind of sandbar often has a very low chance of reopening on its own. This can lead to flooding of riparian (creek-line) vegetation and infrastructure for extended periods of time, and the depletion of dissolved oxygen in the system if an artificial opening is not undertaken.
 - » It is essential that interventions or actions, human-made or otherwise, are conducted in ways that limit harm to our environment and watercourses.
 - » Prior to the opening, weeks of water quality testing, shorebird surveys, beach sandbar height assessments and other forms of monitoring were conducted by the Board and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and this supported the artificial opening of the Chapman River mouth at Antechamber Bay.
 - » KI Council opened the river mouth resulting in water levels dropping by just below half a metre. This ended the prolonged inundation of Cape Willoughby Road and riparian vegetation along the estuary.

43
sites were monitored for water quality

82%
of newly permitted, finished dams inspected

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Image below: Kangaroo Island Council machinery artificially opening the mouth of the Chapman River.



- Water quality testing was undertaken at 43 sites across the island as a part of the Board's soon to be reviewed Water Monitoring program.
- 11 Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Permits were assessed, which included 18 dam enlargements and 17 new dams.
- 82% of all dam works permitted and completed between January and May of 2025 were inspected to ensure they comply with permit conditions. This involved the inspection of 36 dams across the island.

Community engagement:

- 15 people were advised about dam construction/enlargement, water quality, property-scale water security, forestry transition to agriculture and WAA permitting requirements.
- 22 site visits were undertaken to help landholders place water-affecting activity permits, with their potential applications for works, and compliance-related issues.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities Control Policy.
- Support the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the next iteration of Aquatic Ecosystem Reports (November 2025) where stream condition and health of 12 sites across the island will be surveyed.
- Participate at the Board's stall at the Kingscote and Parndana shows in November with a cool water bug display and the opportunity to chat with the Water Officer about anything 'water'.

15
people advised about water management

22
sites visits to help landholders

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations

Image below: Kym Lashmar, Narrow-leaved Mallee Project Officer, helping the KI Water Officer with a survey of native vegetation along a stream in the Middle River catchment.



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:

Declared weeds

- Mapping and controlling bridal creeper continued out west in the hundreds of Ritchie, Newland and Duncan. Two new infestations were found. About 10,000 plants were controlled along the South Coast Road between Rainy Creek and Hickmans Road. However, the focus remains on outlier populations west of Vivonne Bay and Stokes Bay.
- 5,000 bridal veil plants were controlled at outlier infestations, particularly on the Dudley Peninsula. Two new outlier infestations were found: at the western end of East West Highway One and Bomb Alley Road.
 - » A further 6,000 bridal veil plants were controlled by a local contractor over 220 hours along Hog Bay and American River Roads funded by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.
- About 15,000 one-leaf Cape tulip plants were controlled over approximately 600 km of roadsides and at a new outlier infestation in the South West River catchment.
- 128 African boxthorn plants were controlled at Baudin Beach. This area had not been controlled for over 10 years.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- TBGs were controlled over 71 ha.
- Preparations were undertaken for a pilot control trial of TBGs.

Declared and over-abundant animal management

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

Feral pig eradication program

- The Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) are completing the on-ground components of the feral pig eradication program. 180 field cameras were installed at strategic locations across the island. eDNA tests have not detected any pig DNA. Three reports of feral pigs were received from the general public. All were investigated by PIRSA staff with no conclusive evidence found.

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- An updated KI weed ute guide has been published and is now available to the public.
- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to 52 public inquiries: 21 people reported a weed, seven people wanted a weed identified, 16 people sought weed control advice and eight people borrowed the weed wiper for Cape tulip control.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling (TBG) control

- Continued to work, engage with and retain the support of key landholders and other stakeholders for TBG control.
- Presented at the Weed Management Society of SA conference: ‘Status of Tasmanian Blue Gums on Kangaroo Island’.

10,000
bridal creeper plants
removed from outliers

5,000
bridal veil plants removed
from outliers

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

Declared animal management

- Assisted a landholder with an application for domestic pigs.

Feral pig eradication program

- The ‘Squeal on a pig’ hotline is still operational.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program targeting African boxthorn, yellow burrweed, salvation Jane, Montpellier broom, gorse, caltrop and khaki weed.
- Survey for new weeds with a weed botanist.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Conduct a pilot trial of the management plan for the control of medium to high densities of TBGs. The development of the Management Plan is a critical step in enabling the Board to tackle areas previously outside of the scope of the project, however, the implementation of this control will require additional funding.

Declared and over-abundant animal management

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

Feral pig eradication program

- PIRSA will continue searching for feral pigs with detection dogs in 2025 and 2026 and a helicopter with thermal capabilities.

71
ha Tasmanian blue gum
wildling control

15,000
one-leaf Cape tulip plants
removed from 600 km

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 right: The new, modified weed wiper for controlling one-leaf Cape tulip being tested.

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September:

- From July to September 2025 37 feral cats were removed from 39,000 ha across the Dudley Peninsula and Pelican Lagoon Isthmus Management Zone.
- Sightings of feral cats recorded on the camera network are at the lowest levels since the program began and are maintaining a stable trend following the winter trapping season.
- Between April and September, we managed between 250–400 cage traps at any one time. Initially traps were opened in the northern and central regions of the peninsula, in response to the seasonal increase in feral cat activity due to lambing. As catch per unit effort decreased at the end of winter, we transitioned to opening traps in southern regions where feral cat sightings tend to increase towards spring.
- Our team visited the Flinders Rangers in July to assist Ronald Boland and his team from Tracks in the Sand to set up a Celium hub and traps, as well as to install cameras to detect invasive and native species on Nukunu Country. This program is a two-way learning experience for both parties; with our team gaining knowledge about culture and traditional land management practices.
- The feral cat exclusion fence was upgraded where it intersects Hog Bay Road. This has involved narrowing the gap by constructing raceways on each side of the road, allowing wildlife to travel safely through, but at the same time giving us the ability to detect, remove or deter feral cats attempting to breach the fence.
- A recruitment process has just been undertaken to employ field and technical staff to support operations and on-ground delivery. There will be a strong focus on induction and training of these six new staff to build program capacity again leading into 2026.

Image right: Costa Georgiadis with Ronald Boland (Tracks in the Sand), Paul Jennings (Project Leader - Feral Cat Eradication, KILB) and Chantelle Geissler (Project Officer - Feral Cat Spatial Networks, KILB) at the National Landcare Conference.



37
feral cats removed from
KI

46
landholders supportive of
soft-jaw leghold traps

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

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

Community engagement:

- In January 2025, the program was granted Ministerial approval to use soft-jaw leghold traps following amendments to the Animal Welfare Regulations.
 - » This approval removed the 1 km exclusion buffer from a residence provided landholder permission was given.
 - » Since this time, the program has contacted and met with 46 landholders across the Dudley Peninsula who have all given written approval.
 - » The landholders initially contacted hold the largest individual, or group of, properties. As a result more than 70% of the Dudley Peninsula has been approved to use this critical tool.
- Four on-line articles, two videos and a facebook post have all been published about the KI feral cat eradication program.
- 2 presentations were given at conferences:
 - » Josh Mulvaney presented at the National NRM Knowledge conference: *'Taming the terrain: leveraging technology to manage feral cats at landscape scale'*.
 - » Paul Jennings and Chantelle Geissler, together with Ronald Boland, presented at the 2025 National Landcare Conference: *'How cutting-edge invasive species technology is building stronger partnerships and overcoming challenges to deliver best practice feral cat management programs on Kangaroo Island.'*
- Dudley Peninsula landholders have increasingly spotted native wildlife, including bush stone-curlews, hooded plovers, and juvenile goannas, following our intensive cat control efforts. Recently southern brown bandicoots have also been sighted, including three sightings in Dudley Conservation Park and two at the feral cat exclusion fence.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to contact the remaining rural landholders and those peripheral to settlements to maximise usage of soft-jaw leg hold traps
- Continue to suppress the feral cat population using targeted control tools such as soft-jaw leg hold traps and thermal shooting.
- Complete upgrades to the exclusion fence.
- Undertake an Australian first audio deterrent trial on the island with researchers from the University of Newcastle and Bush Heritage Australia to prevent incursions.
- Set up a Celium connected feral cat trapping array with Ronald Boland and the Tracks in Sand team in October, as part of the Australian sealion resilience project, aiming to reduce feral cat disease impacts.
- Return to the Southern Flinders Rangers on Nukunu country in November for the final exchange trip of the program.
- To extend the feral cat exclusion fence further into Pelican Lagoon and replace the existing inter-tidal fence with non-corrosive materials that are both environmental sensitive and long lasting in the marine environment.
- Continue working with our technology partners from Encounter Solutions, to develop a fully automated cage trap to improve efficiency and make it easier for landholders to participate in our winter trapping blitzes.

400
cage traps managed to
control feral cats

7
media articles and
videos produced

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

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements in community engagement July–September:

- The Board has received funding to support 20 farmers to undertake property management planning (PMP). The framework and full 18-month program content have been designed, and planning with external stakeholders and potential presenters is complete. Expressions of Interest have been sought through local networks, community groups, social media, media outlets, and via email. Participants are currently being selected.
- The Board's Sustainable Agriculture Team attended the Agriculture Kangaroo Island (AgKI) annual conference in August and had a stall there to engage with KI farmers. They also produced a booklet for distribution outlining the skills and services they offer and the events and funding opportunities available through the Board.
- In August the Sustainable Agriculture Team showcased sustainable agriculture to 22 Year 5 KI Community Education (KICE) students as part of their Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) Term 3 excursion.
 - » The YEL students participated in a range of activities with the Sustainable Agriculture Team to learn about water, soil, vegetation, carbon storage and weeds on a local farm.
 - » As part of the activities, students were assigned a map of a Kangaroo Island property and developed a property management plan from information gained through various sustainable agriculture information stations.
- In September the Board held a free workshop entitled '*Unlocking the Power of Foliar Fertilisers*' as a hands-on learning exercise for KI farmers. 29 farmers attended the workshop.
 - » Local and intra-state expert farmers, agronomists and soil experts helped deliver and facilitate the workshop including Dr Amanda Shapel, Principal Officer at Soil Action, PIRSA, Jenny Stanton, KI based agronomy specialist and Tom Robinson (Hoyleton), a cropping and livestock specialist with expertise in practical farm solutions and foliar fertiliser applications.
 - » The workshop offered interesting insights for experienced farmers and those keen to learn cost-effective methods for producing fertilisers. Workshop participants learnt how foliar feeding complements soil fertility strategies as well as gaining insights into soil health, carbon dynamics, and sustainable farming practices and carbon emissions reduction.
 - » A Soil Organic Carbon Workshop and Q&A session was delivered in September as part of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program. This workshop was prepared for participants in the KI Soil Carbon Quantification project run by PIRSA and FarmLab. Dr Amanda Schapel, Principal Officer for Soil Action with PIRSA, provided a results explainer for ten baselined and four paddock comparison properties, helped interpret the results and identify where realistic soil organic carbon gains could be made. Seven people attended. Land managers for the other properties in the trial who did not attend were sent their property's reports and Amanda's contact details for any follow up questions.

22
students attended YEL
sustainable ag forum

6
demonstration sites were
monitored for soil health

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

- During this reporting period, Visual Soil Assessments (VSA) were conducted in six selected paddocks on the four different demonstration farms established in 2020.
 - » Farmers and Board staff collaborated to evaluate key soil quality indicators such as structure, porosity, organic matter presence, root development, and biological activity.
 - » Results were scored using the Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) methodology and complemented with laboratory soil testing to provide a comprehensive baseline.
 - » This activity aimed to build farmer skills in recognising soil health indicators while also generating valuable data for project monitoring and future land management planning.
- A Growing KI e-newsletter was produced and distributed to 558 people from the farming community to inform them of the Board's activities and opportunities, including strategic planning workshops, Tasmanian bluegum wildling control, free resources for KI landholders, seasonal weed management, funding opportunities and upcoming events.
- A video promoting the recently released KI Soils Guide has been developed. This shows farmers how to do Visual Soils Analysis and soils testing. See [How to test soils on Kangaroo Island](#).

558
people received an
e-newsletter

29
people attended foliar
fertiliser workshop

Future directions and upcoming events:

- In October a Feed Budget and Livestock Decision-Making Workshop will be hosted.
- In October a workshop will be hosted entitled *KI's Women in Ag: Planning and Envisioning the Future*. The workshop will set the scene for the next five years of industry change as Australia and our export markets action their emissions reduction commitments.
- The SAF will be seeking expressions of interest from farmers to establish perennial pastures demonstration sites. The demonstration sites will be established using a region-specific perennial pasture guide being developed by AgKI in partnership with the Board.
- Host the first PMP session in December with Beck Burgess, who specialises in farm business coaching and strategy.

Image below: Local farmers listening to cropping and livestock specialist Tom Robinson at the recent foliar fertilisers workshop.



Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September:

- Three landholders constructed 2.7 km of fencing to protect 109.86 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland as part of On-ground Works projects. Six landholders also planted over 4,100 native plant seedlings to help restore 5.92 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland habitat.
- A 1.24 ha area of biodiverse threatened plant habitat was established on a property at Point Morrison. Over 2,100 native plant seedlings were planted at the site, including nationally threatened *Olearia microdisca* (small-flower daisy-bush), *Leionema equestre* (saddle-leaf phebalium) and *Spyridium glabrisepalum* (MacGillivray spyridium).
- Permanent photopoints for monitoring completed on-ground works projects were established at 11 sites. The purpose of the photopoints is to document the evolution of improvements landholders are making to their properties through the on-ground works scheme.
- The 2025-26 on-ground works funding round was advertised and received a high level of community interest. 18 project applications were received, requesting approximately \$127,000 worth of funding, which is more funding than is available.

Community engagement:

Native vegetation protection and restoration

- Final inspections were conducted for nine completed on-ground works projects. Two outstanding projects are due to be completed soon.
- Site visits with landholders applying for on-ground works funding were conducted. Site visits are used to evaluate and gain a better understanding of project proposals. Discussions with landholders can also be used to provide advice about how to improve projects.



109
ha KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee woodland
protected

1.24
ha threatened plant
habitat planted

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

- A tree planting event for year 6 KICE students took place on a property at Wisanger. The tree planting was part of an on-ground works project helping to restore KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland, increase farm biodiversity, address rising salinity and create a vegetation corridor for native wildlife. The event was attended by approximately 30 KICE students and teachers.
- Thirteen volunteers and Board staff helped to plant the 1.24 ha area to restore threatened plant habitat. Over the course of two days, over 2,100 seedlings from approximately 50 different species were planted, including several species that are Nationally, State or regionally threatened.
- Four native vegetation clearance application referrals requesting KI Landscape Board comment were received from the Native Vegetation Council. Due to concerns with two of these referrals, staff undertook site visits to better inform referral responses.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Planning for the establishment of roadside threatened plant population signage/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.
- Spring restoration monitoring surveys are currently underway, with camera trap drift lines and audio recorders re-deployed at all ten monitoring sites. Floristics vegetation surveys will also be conducted.
- Weed control will be undertaken to protect populations of threatened plants. Control will largely target roadside vegetation, but will also include adjacent properties. Focus weeds will include bridal veil, bridal creeper and olives.

Image below left page 12: A photopoint image showing the revegetation undertaken with KICE students at Wisanger.

Image below page 13: Volunteers planting biodiverse threatened plant habitat at Point Morrison.

Image below right page 13: Jo McPhee, KI Native Plant Nursery Manager, planting the nationally threatened saddle-leaf phebalium to create biodiverse threatened plant habitat at Point Morrison.



11
sites established with
permanent photopoints

30
students helped restore
threatened plant habitat



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:

- The abundance of feral European bee hives within open dry sclerophyll forests on KI with an overstorey dominated by tall mixed Eucalyptus species over a shrubby understorey layer was surveyed.
 - » The survey aimed to establish how prevalent hives are in natural forests on the island.
 - » These surveys were undertaken over two years, with four surveys per year.
 - » Five large tree species were surveyed within our sites: *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (sugar gum), *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (SA blue gum), *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gum), *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* (pink gum) and *Eucalyptus viminalis* (manna gum).
 - » Across all five species and all sites, only 32% of the 204 individual trees surveyed had a hollow entrance, indicating they contained at least one hollow.
 - » 11% of hollow bearing trees were occupied by feral honey bee hives, which is very similar to results obtained at 2024 survey sites.
- 3.64 ha in Latham Conservation Park was planted with 2,611 KI native plants from 20 species to increase foraging habitat for threatened woodland birds.
 - » The area adjoins a site previously successfully revegetated and is protected by a browser-proof fence. Data from woodland bird surveys in 2024-25 were used to prioritise where revegetation would be most effective.
 - » Plant species were selected based on foraging requirements of threatened KI granivorous woodland birds.
 - » 45 staff from the Board and NPWS planted the seedlings at the site.
- Glossy black-cockatoo nest boxes at risk of being used by galahs, little corellas and ducks were closed to reduce competition and the chance of disease transmission between species. Beak and feather disease can survive up to four months in nest hollows and has a high mortality rate for nestlings. With avian influenza a real risk, sites where nests were closed were expanded to include those that have recorded ducks nesting in nest boxes, as ducks are a carrier of avian influenzas.
- The island-wide glossy black-cockatoo population census was undertaken in September.
 - » A minimum population count of 446 glossy black-cockatoos was recorded in 2025, which is only slightly lower than counts obtained in 2020 (454) and 2023 (453).
 - » Census data from the past six years post-fire indicates the population trajectory is no longer increasing as it was pre-fire, but it has remained relatively stable since the 2020 fires, which is still good news.
 - » Regionally a slight decline was recorded in the population size of glossy black-cockatoos in the fire-affected north coast region of KI, but regional population sizes in eastern unburnt KI were slightly higher.
 - » Low numbers of fledglings were recorded in fire-affected western areas between 2022 and 2025 compared to unburnt eastern areas. This could be due to the combined effects of fewer pairs breeding and low fledgling survival in some areas. Lower overall numbers of fledglings in 2025 could be due to reduced food availability following a dry 12 month period impacting breeding.

446
glossies found in
population census

3.6
ha threatened woodland
bird habitat revegetated

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

- » A flock of 51 glossies was seen at Penneshaw in Baudin Conservation Park. This is the highest count ever recorded on Dudley Peninsula (with a further five glossies also found at Lashmar Lagoon). Breeding was only first recorded on the Dudley Peninsula in 2015, and this year we had nine pairs nest on the Dudley, seven of which successfully fledged a young. This Dudley population breeds exclusively in nest boxes.
- » The expansion and increases in the glossy population on eastern KI is really testament to the long-term work to protect nests from predation and competition, and provide nesting boxes in key areas out east.

40
volunteers gave 238 hours
to glossy census

4
workshops presented for
KICE students

Community engagement

- 40 volunteers contributed 238 hours to make the census possible.
- To celebrate National Science Week in August, Karleah Berris, Team Leader Biodiversity, ran four workshops with year 3-6 KICE students from Kingscote Campus over half a day. Each workshop contained 15 students and explored how bird sounds can be expressed visually using spectrograms, enabling students to listen to the sound while visualising it.
 - » The workshops raised awareness of the special and endemic woodland birds of KI, threats to species, and the aims of our fauna survey work.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Construct insulated PVC cockatoo nesting boxes and trial of thermal properties over the summer months.
- Conduct further surveys to gain a better understanding of the population size and extent of endangered western beautiful firetails on KI.

Images below: Board and NPWS staff planting habitat for glossy black-cockatoos and threatened woodland birds at Latham Conservation Park. Left is Karleah Berris, Team Leader Biodiversity and right Deb Laver, Environmental Education Coordinator.



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:

- Seven sites were assessed and five selected for installing fire-proof bandicoot bunkers. The sites initially selected were those with the most frequent and consistent bandicoot detections over time. Further prioritisation was then based on a combination of factors including:
 - » frequency and consistency of bandicoot detections
 - » burn status (representation of burnt and unburnt sites)
 - » soil type (ability to install bunkers below ground)
 - » accessibility (ability to transport bunker materials to site).
- Camera trap surveys between 2020 and 2022 to determine the post-fire distribution of the KI dunnart were re-analysed to extract data on focal species, including endangered southern brown bandicoots, KI echidnas, pygmy possums and Rosenberg’s goannas. These surveys were originally just screened for KI dunnarts and feral cats.
 - » The re-analysis was undertaken to ensure decisions and planning for threatened species management on KI are underpinned by sound scientific data. This reanalysis has created an important presence/activity dataset for these focal species in different habitats across KI.
 - » At least one focal species was detected at 95% of sites (185 sites). Southern brown bandicoots were only detected at 30% (59 sites) and were restricted to the central and western KI. The furthest east detection was in the Cassini area, and there were no detections on the Dudley Peninsula.
 - » Rosenberg’s goannas, pygmy possums and echidnas were detected throughout the entire island with no apparent geographic influence, at 64 (32%), 95 (49%) and 165 (85%) sites, respectively.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Monitor small mammals at long-term survey sites in spring.
- Install bandicoot bunkers at five more sites.

Image below: A southern brown bandicoot feeding on Banksia ornata (desert banksia) photographed in a survey in 2021.



Improving Coastal Habitats Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements and community engagement July–September:

- Collected water samples each week from across KI for the SA Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Harmful Algal Bloom Water Testing Program.
- Historical data from hooded plover surveys undertaken across KI between 1985 and 2023 was collated into a baseline dataset.
 - » This dataset is being used to identify habitat extent for threatened hooded plovers on KI and to prioritise management actions for threats at important breeding sites.
- Two coastal areas at Emu Bay and Penneshaw were revegetated to provide habitat for threatened birds and mammals in targeted coastal areas.
 - » A diverse mix of native coastal shrub, grass and groundcover species were planted across 1 ha.
 - » 800 seedlings were planted by 50 volunteers from Emu Bay Progress Association and year reception, 1, 5 and 6 students from KICE’s Penneshaw campus and Board staff.
 - » Selected sites were adjacent to critical coastal-breeding bird habitat.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Undertake the KI little penguin population census.
- Monitor hooded plovers over the breeding season and use signage and fencing as appropriate to protect nests and chicks and control beach access.
- Deploy hooded plover chick shelters to beaches with chicks. These shelters are used to provide shade and protection to small chicks and are removed from the beach once the chicks fledge.



Image below: Students from KICE’s Penneshaw campus help plant coastal bird habitat at Penneshaw.

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:

1. Media

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

- 31/7/25: [Parndana students plant butterfly garden with help of KI Landscape Board](#)
- 2/8/25: [Bushfire-proof bunkers offer new hope for endangered bandicoots on KI](#)
- 8/8/25: [On-ground works funding available for KI landholders from Landscape Board](#)
- 9/8/25: [Recipients announced for Round 6 of KI Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants program](#)
- 21/8/25: [Last chance to purchase native plants for 2025, order plants for 2026](#)
- 22/8/25: [Community input wanted on 2026-2031 Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan](#)
- 23/8/25: ['Weed wiper' tools available for KI landholders to tackle one-leaf Cape tulip](#)
- 4/9/25: [KI Landscape Board hosts free fertiliser workshop for KI landholders](#)
- 5/9/25: [KI's young environmental leaders empowered by landscape board](#)
- 7/9/25: [KICE students step up to shelter vulnerable hooded plover shorebirds](#)
- 11/9/25: [Chapman River opening proceeds after delay for safety of ecosystem](#)
- 16/9/25: [Free carbon farming workshops for KI landholders](#)
- 30/9/25: [Bee debris potentially from Riverland detected at KI ferry sparks biosecurity alert](#)

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

- 2/7/25: The Board's Environmental Education Coordinator, Deb Laver, was interviewed about the southern brown bandicoot fire-proof bunkers installed by the Young Environmental Leaders program.
- 30/7/25: The Board's Biodiversity Team Leader Karleah Berris was interviewed about revegetation undertaken over two days in July, in a 3 ha fenced section of Latham Conservation Park, to increase the habitat of threatened woodland birds.
- 27/8/25: The Board's Agriculture Extension Officer and Property Management Plan (PMP) Coordinator, Cassandra Douglas-Hill, was interviewed about free property management plans available to KI farmers.

1.3 Seven articles were published in state and national media:

- 17/7/25: [Great Australian Outdoors – Kangaroo Island's push to eradicate feral cats](#)
- 23/7/25: SBS — [Kangaroo Island leading the war on Australia's feral cats](#)
- 23/7/25: SBS Chinese — [Removing feral cats from Kangaroo Island](#)
- 28/7/25: [Women Love Tech — Four Women Using Innovation to Protect Australia's Environment](#)
- 2/8/25: AOL — [The Predator Killing 1.5 Billion Animals a Year, and the Island Fighting Back](#)
- 15/8/25: Joe Rogan — [Australia's feral cat problem](#)
- 23/8/25: The Singularity Hub — [Drones versus feral cats on Kangaroo Island](#)

45
social media posts viewed
by 324,900 people

13
media articles published
locally

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

2. Social media

- 45 Board Facebook posts were viewed by 324,900 people, up 102% on last quarter.
- A [Facebook post](#) advertising positions vacant in the Board's feral cat team was viewed by more than 11,200 people.

Community engagement

- Community consultation on the Board's new Landscape Plan took place in:
 - Penneshaw, at the Dudley United Football Club on 2 September.
 - Parndana, at the Parndana Bowling Club on 3 September.
 - Kingscote, at the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board's Boardroom on 3 September.
- The Kangaroo Island Weeds Guide was distributed at:
 - Penneshaw Community Business Centre
 - FPAG Rural Supplies, Kingscote
 - Elders, Kingscote
 - Nutrien Ag Solutions, Kingscote
 - Keilem Rural and Hardware Store, Parndana
 - Davo's Deli, Parndana
 - Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and PIRSA Office, Kingscote
 - Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery.

7
articles published in state
and national media

8
KI centres distributing the
KI Weeds Ute Guide

Funded by:

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

Image below: Board General Manager Will Durack, working with community members from the Dudley Peninsula at the workshop to develop the new landscape plan in Penneshaw.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Community education campaign about 15 priority weeds on Kangaroo Island.
- Media coverage of the glossy black-cockatoo 2025 survey.
- Media coverage of the little penguin 2025 survey
- Community engagement at the Kingscote and Parndana Shows.
- Communications for the Country Planning project.
- The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age covering KI's feral cat eradication program.
- Media coverage of threaten flora species project.
- Promotion seeking Expression of Interest for the new Water Committee Member
- Promotion of the upcoming Property Management Plan course.
- Promotion of the KI Weeds Guide.



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:

- Five output reports were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT).
- Development continued on the Board's new Landscape Plan which will cover 2026-2031.
 - » Consultation workshops were conducted with both board members and staff in August and September 2025. These workshops were well attended and were used to draft priorities, outcomes, focus areas for the new plan.
 - » The Board work-shopped their vision and amended the current vision to be 'Working together for healthy land and sea'.

Community engagement:

- Three community workshops were delivered in Penneshaw, Parndana and Kingscote on 2 and 3 September 2025 to develop the new Landscape Plan. These workshops were all well attended by 32 community members and provided some valuable input towards our new Landscape Plan.
- The Board continued to support the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga Aboriginal Nation Groups to undertake a Country Planning process for Kangaroo Island. From 8-10 September 2025 a KI Country Planning Gathering was held on Kangaroo Island. The three respective Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs), the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC), Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) and Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), nominated 12 people each to attend the Gathering. The Gathering included field trips and workshops. On the final day of the Gathering a ceremony was held and representatives from the three PBCs signed a 'Statement of Commitment' to develop a comprehensive country plan that honours their histories, cultures and future together.
- 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.
- 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.
- Conduct Board, staff and community workshops across KI to refine the current Landscape Plan's priorities and focus areas as part of the development of the 2026-31 Landscape Plan.

Image right: Participants at the landscape planning workshop in Kingscote.

5
reports submitted to
project funders

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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



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

July–September:

- Hosted a YEL forum for year 5 students in August focussed on sustainable agriculture on a local farm. Students participated in a range of activities and learnt about water, soil, vegetation, carbon storage and weeds and developed a property management plan.
- Supported the five KICE secondary students who are members of the Youth Environment Council (YEC) with the projects they are undertaking through the YEC.
- Helped teachers to organise planting excursions at Penneshaw, Remarkable Rocks and on local farms for KICE Kingscote and Penneshaw years reception, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- Developed the Environmental Education Program newsletter for Term 3 and distributed it to KICE staff.
- Coordinated a very successful KICE Twitchathon from 15–19 September across all campuses where 280 students participated.
- Continued to develop resources for teachers to use in classrooms connected with the Australian Curriculum.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Develop education modules for teacher use connected with the curriculum.
- Prepare for the YEL forum in fourth term.
- Support YEC students with their projects.
- Host the statewide Nature and Sustainability Network in October and prepare a Professional Development opportunity for KICE staff with them.



280
students participated in
KICE Twitchathon

4
student tree planting
excursions supported

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: KICE YEL students with staff from the Board's Sustainable Agriculture Team.

How we can help you



KI Native Plant Nursery

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

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



KI native vegetation

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

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



Soil Extension Officer

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

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



Water management

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

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



Weed control

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

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



Pest animal control

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

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



Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

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

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



Feral cat control

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

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