



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

October–December 2021

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

This is the vision of the new Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). This report captures the work undertaken through Board projects from 1 April to 30 June 2021 to deliver this vision.

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

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

Contents

Water Resources Management	3	KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Program	10	Community Grants programs	17
Invasive Species Control Program	4	KI Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery	11	Planning & Evaluation Team	18
Feral Cat Eradication Program	6	KI Dunnart Recovery	12	How we can help	19
Feral Pig Eradication Program	7	Oyster Reef Construction	14		
Sustainable Agriculture Program	8	KI Native Plant Nursery	16		

Cover image: KI Dunnart Recovery Team staff with the recently found female KI dunnart.

Water Resources Management

Overview:

This program supports the Kangaroo Island (KI) community to manage their water resources in line with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- Calculated dam capacities across KI using high resolution elevation survey data.
- Progressed compliance and enforcement matters under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.
- Re-established riparian vegetation survey transect marker pegs that were burnt in the 2019–20 bushfires.
- Surveyed macroinvertebrates and vegetation for use in water security planning.

Community engagement:

- Promoted the projects offering water security plans and post-fire watercourse stabilisation through the [Growing KI e-newsletter](#).
- Sought expressions of interest from landholders wanting funding and advice to remediate or stabilise erosion around watercourses and develop water security plans. Five landholders have applied. The nominated sites have been visited.
- Promoted the Water Management Program in brochures and displays available at the Kingscote and Parndana shows.
- A Science in the Pub event was held in partnership with Adelaide University in November with presentations about developing property-scale water security plans and analysing sediment cores from lakes to learn from historical drought and fires. 30 people attended.
- Received 17 Water Affecting Activities (WAA) permit applications and two Development Applications.
- Advised about 50 people about water resources management, the requirement for WAA permits and development applications. These queries related to the implications of forestry transitioning to agricultural production on water availability and maps for farm planning.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Select scope of work to be funded and undertake remediation or stabilisation works to stabilise post-fire erosion around watercourses.
- Analyse the water level, vegetation and macroinvertebrate monitoring data collected for use in developing property-scale water security plans.
- Continue to develop products derived from the high resolution elevation survey for water management.
- Continue to work with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Compliance Unit and the KI Council to progress compliance and enforcement activities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the KI WAA policy.

Image right: An image generated from analysing high resolution elevation survey data showing where water flows and areas subject to inundation.

17

Water Affecting
Activity
applications
received

30

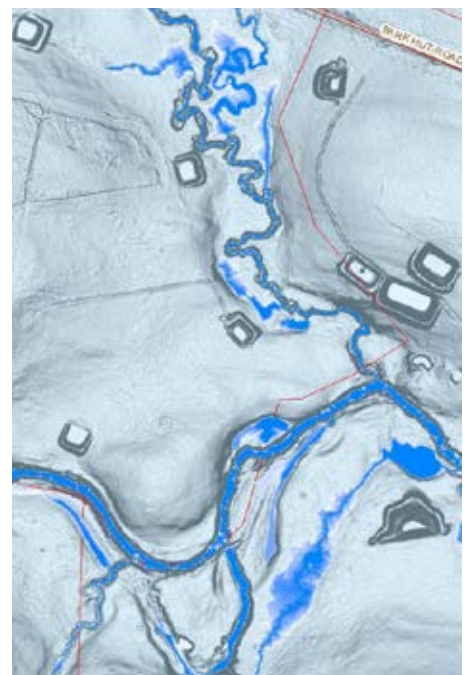
people attended
a Science in the
Pub event

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations
- Australian Government:
 - » Future Drought Fund – NRM Drought Resilience Grant
 - » Bushfire recovery package for wildlife and their habitat



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 October–December 2021:

Declared weeds:

- More than 500,000 one-leaf Cape tulip plants were controlled across 257 ha of public and private land around Karatta. This control work proved more challenging than usual due to significant post-fire regrowth and wet, boggy conditions making access difficult.
- Following a report from a member of the public, 160 kg of bridal creeper corms were physically removed from a new infestation at Latham Conservation Park and an adjacent property.
- 120 ha of bridal veil corms were physically removed from the outlier infestation at Timber Creek.
- Significant time was spent monitoring and controlling salvation Jane along roadsides to reduce its spread by vehicles. 45 ha were controlled at the large Western River Cove infestation, and another three outlier infestations were controlled across 20 ha of private property.
- Several Montpellier broom infestations have significantly reduced in size following control, with an additional 15 ha being controlled in recent months.
- Roadside control of horehound was carried out at Emu Bay, Cassini, North Cape and on the Dudley Peninsula. The number of plants in controlled areas continue to dwindle, however several isolated plants have been found on roadsides near Pelican Lagoon where the weed is common on private properties.

Tasmanian blue gum (TBG) wildlings:

- The TBG Landscape Officer continued to liaise with weed contractors and assist volunteer groups Trees for Life, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia and Kangaroo Island Conservation Landholders Association to identify and control priority infestations of TBG wildlings across western KI.
- Board staff worked closely with Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) to draft legislative changes to list TBG wildlings as a declared weed on KI. The proposed changes will make it easier for the Board to work with landholders to control TBG wildlings in high priority areas. A three week public consultation period on the proposed changes commenced on 23 December.

Pest animal management

- The KI Pest Animal Control Officer investigated a report of an exotic paradise flying snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*) at Island Beach.
- Board staff worked closely with PIRSA to draft legislative changes to help reduce the risk of domestic pigs on KI becoming feral. This important step will support eradication efforts by preventing new feral pig populations establishing on KI from domestic pig escapees, once the current population of feral pigs have been eradicated. Public consultation on the proposed changes was completed during December.
- Eight Board staff continued to work on eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs (see project reports on pages 6 and 7).

Domestic animal management

- Board staff inspected and conducted a risk assessment of a property to advise a landholder about keeping domestic goats under the KI permitting system.

500,000
one-leaf Cape tulip plants
found and removed

160 kg
of bridal creeper removed
from a new infestation

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

- Fences for domestic goats were inspected on three properties following reports of domestic goats escaping from two of the properties.

Phytophthora cinnamomi (Pc)

- The Board supported Flinders University to collect around 60 soil samples from known and suspected Pc sites across KI. These samples will be used to refine pathogen identification and develop a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test to cross-validate identification.

Community engagement:

- Over 30 volunteers, including eight Board staff, participated in a community weeding day organised in conjunction with Trees for Life, to help remove TBG wildlings from bushfire affected native vegetation along Church Road.
- Several staff attended the Kingscote and Parndana Shows to discuss animal and plant control programs with members of the community.
- The KI Weeds Officer responded to five public reports of weeds, assisted six people with weed identification, advised seven people about weed control, and assisted with a weed identification workshop for National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWS) staff.
- The KI Feral Animal Control Officer spoke with students from Pembroke School about feral animal control programs.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- A permit system for domestic pigs (similar to that used for domestic goats) will be developed and introduced to allow KI landholders to keep domestic pigs under permit.
- Ongoing seasonal control of priority weeds across KI, including bluebell creeper, blackberry, gorse, Cape Leeuwin wattle and caltrop.

60 soil samples collected to refine a new method of identification

domestic goat fences inspected on 4 properties

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Land Levy
- Government of South Australia and Australian Government:
 - » National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery

Image below: Board staff and volunteers removing TBG wildlings along Church Road at a community weeding day.



Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- With the warmer weather, feral cat control has focussed on removing feral cats that have moved back in to the eradication zone, where the eradication has occurred. Densities of feral cats in this zone is very low compared with outside the zone. Feral cats moving back into this zone are potentially moving much larger distances than those with established home ranges.
- 15 feral cats have been culled during this quarter using cage traps and soft-foot leg-hold traps, over 1,279 trap nights across 20,258 ha. This represents trapping across 65% of the Dudley Peninsula. Five feral cats were captured in cage traps and 10 feral cats were captured in soft-foot leg-hold traps. The trapping was undertaken primarily over farmland.
- 90 4G connected cameras, coupled with artificial intelligence for feral cat detection, have been deployed to detect feral cats coming back behind the eradication line and to target trapping effort.
- Camera monitoring has found southern brown bandicoots within woodland on the southern Dudley Peninsula. Unfortunately they have not been detected elsewhere on the Dudley Peninsula, but project staff will keep looking.

Community engagement:

- The completed feral cat fence was officially opened by Honourable David Speirs MP Minister for Environment and Water on 8 October.
 - » 80 people attended the event from the local community, KI Council, KI Land for Wildlife, Nature Foundation, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), and the National Feral Cat and Fox Coordinator.
 - » Following the launch, the program held a webinar with for the Australian Government, National Environmental Science Program, project supporters and international colleagues.
- The National Landcare Program promoted the achievements of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program on [their Facebook page](#) in October 2021.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue feral cat control, moving west across the Dudley Peninsula into Penneshaw.
- Trial advanced technologies, including surveillance cameras with image recognition software, at the feral cat fence gaps.
- Continue to examine the distribution of southern brown bandicoots on the Dudley Peninsula in more detail.
- Host the final workshop for the *Feral Cat Strike Force* project.

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

65%
of Dudley Peninsula
trapped for feral cats

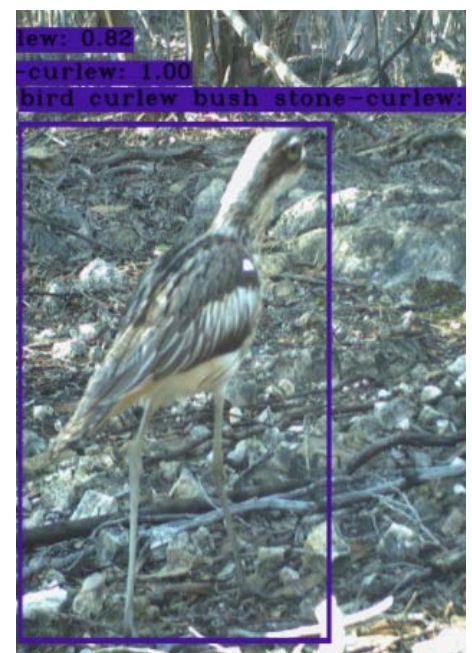
Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants
 - » Bushfire Wildlife and Habitat Recovery Fund
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- Members of the public

Image below: Bush stone curlew identified through eVorta recognition software.



Feral Pig Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- Following on from the winter Thermal Assisted Aerial Cull (TAAC), the KI Feral Animal Control Officer and Feral Pig Control Officer have continued to track, monitor and pursue the remaining feral pigs on foot. Twenty-one of the remaining pigs were destroyed across plantations and private land using a combination of baiting and ground shooting, with dozens more pigs currently being pursued.
- Both Control Officers assisted in the deployment of a 4G-connected camera network to detect and monitor feral pig activity across western KI. These cameras are connected to the same eVorta artificial intelligence algorithm currently being used by the Feral Cat Eradication Program, which will enable pigs to be automatically identified and alerts sent to Control Officers in real-time.
- The Control Officers continued to collect routine eDNA water samples to detect the presence of feral pigs at long-term monitoring sites.

Community engagement:

- The Control Officers engaged with 20 landholders across central and western KI to discuss different aspects of the Feral Pig Eradication Program.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- On-ground control work will continue, focussing on searching for signs of feral pigs, establishing and monitoring free-feed stations, maintaining the 4G camera network and responding to feral pig detections with targeted baiting and ground shooting.
- The KI Feral Animal Control Officer will participate in the next TAAC scheduled for March.

21
feral pigs destroyed

20
landholders supported
with feral pig control

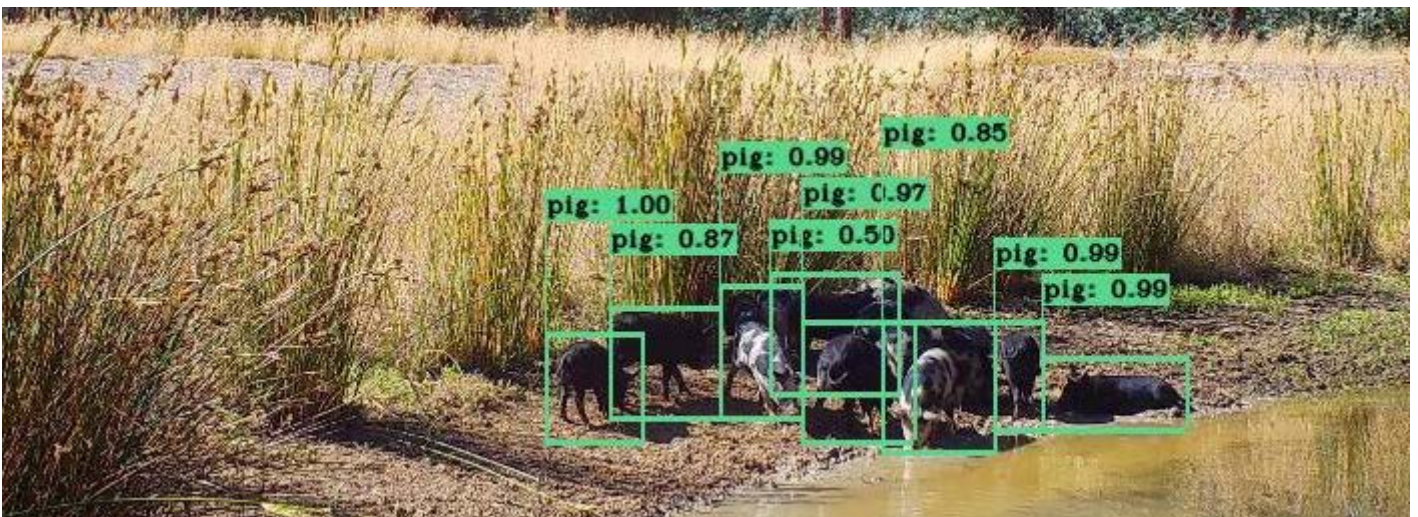
Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Image below: Feral pigs automatically recognised by the eVorta artificial intelligence algorithm on one of the new 4G-connected monitoring cameras deployed by Board staff in north-western KI.



Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

This project 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 October–December 2021:

- The Sustainable Landscapes Team worked with farmers to implement four regenerative agriculture trials this quarter.
 - » Soil testing was undertaken in Spring with the assistance of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator. Soil results were the subject of a zoom mentoring session with Kim Deans (Reinventing Agriculture) on 1 December which covered a soil monitoring refresher and management strategies to implement based on the results. The trial farmers discussed their challenges and successes over the past 12 months and their plans for the next year.
 - » In October, Dick Richardson (Grazing Naturally) delivered individual *Advanced Grazing Implementation Workshops* with each farmer hosting a trial. On 27 October he presented *Introduction to Grazing Naturally Workshop* for interested public.
- The Sustainable Landscapes Team were part of a successful bid for funding under the *Smart Farms Small Grants: Soil Extension Activities* stream.
 - » The project aims to empower land managers to have responsibility over their soil health, thereby improving productivity, profitability and environment outcomes. Land managers will be equipped with the latest soil science and skills and knowledge to translate soil test results into on-farm actions to improve soil health.
 - » This collaborative application involved seven landscape boards and will include five soil extension officers working across 93 million ha. Through the project the Board will employ a part-time Soil Extension Officer for two years.
 - » These officers will build a soil-health network, working collaboratively with industry and agriculture groups, soil specialists and researchers across SA to deliver extension activities and promote and facilitate involvement of land managers in the *National Soil Monitoring and Pilot Program*.
 - » The grant will also fund trials, demonstration and monitoring sites, training and the development of education and extension media.
- The Sustainable Landscapes Team initiated a discussion with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board with both teams excited to collaborate on more sustainable agriculture events and activities to give both regions greater access to broader networks and information.

17
people attended a Grazing
Naturally workshop

1 grant
successfully obtained for
soil health activities

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program
Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants
Program



Image left: Dick Richardson engages all ages during his Grazing Naturally Workshop.

Community engagement:

- Three farmers hosting regenerative agriculture trials participated in Dick Richardson's *Advanced Grazing Implementation Workshops*. The one on one sessions covered many topics including stocking rates, pasture quality and quantity, kg of dry matter per ha, feed budgeting, stock days per ha and looking at nutrition via manure, and much much more.
- 17 people participated in the *Introduction to Grazing Naturally* Workshop with Dick Richardson at Jenny and Will Stanton's property. Grazing systems were discussed and in the paddock, participants saw how grasses actively build soils with their root systems, creating sugars and storing carbon. Paddocks were compared and their dry mass calculated using an easily replicable stocking calculating system.
- An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) field day was held in December to explore the EcoVineyards project.
 - » 13 people attended including staff from three KI vineyards and other interested community members.
 - » The presenters included Dr Mary Retallack (Retallack Viticulture) insect specialist, Phil Barron (Barron Environmental) bird specialist, and Veronica Bates (KI Native Plant Nursery) native plants specialist.
 - » Biodiversity plans have been developed for three vineyards with associated soil and insect monitoring undertaken.
- A [Growing KI e-newsletter](#) was published in December 2021.
- Promoted events, webinars, useful information and links relating to Livestock SA Grants, IPM Workshop, Grazing Naturally Workshop and regenerative ag speakers through four email campaigns and 35 social media posts.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Work will begin on a KI Soils Book with information on issues and best practice soils management.
- The Sustainable Landscapes Team is keen to look for ways to increase the services and value it provides to the broader KI agricultural sector and will conduct a strategic planning process in consultation with key stakeholders.

3 vineyards participated in the EcoVineyards field day

soil monitored on
4
demonstration farms

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants Program

Image below: Mary Retallack demonstrating the wide variety of good and bad insects found in vineyards.



KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community Recovery Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- One landholder fenced 55.4 ha of remnant KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland to protect it from stock grazing.
- Three landholders revegetated 1.42 ha of KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland with tubestock and protected this with 0.68 km of new fences. The purpose of the revegetation was to recreate KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland and strengthen corridors between remnant vegetation patches.
- 2,728 minor infestations of bridal veil were identified and manually removed from 1000 ha of high value KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland containing populations of nationally threatened *Beyeria subsecta* (KI turpentine bush), *Olearia microdisca* (small-flower daisy-bush), *Spyridium eriocephalum* var. *glabrisepalum* (Macgillivray spyridium) and *Leionema equestre* (saddle-leaf Phebalium).

Community engagement:

- Landholders were assisted with their revegetation and fencing projects being funded through the 2020-21 on-ground works funding round.
- The National Landcare Program posted this projects achievements on their Facebook page in December 2021. See <https://bit.ly/3rc8EOp>

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Ongoing inspection and finalisation of Narrow-leaved Mallee on-ground works landholder projects as they are completed.

55.4 ha
KI narrow-leaved mallee
woodland fenced

2,728
bridal veil infestations
removed from KI narrow-
leaved mallee woodland

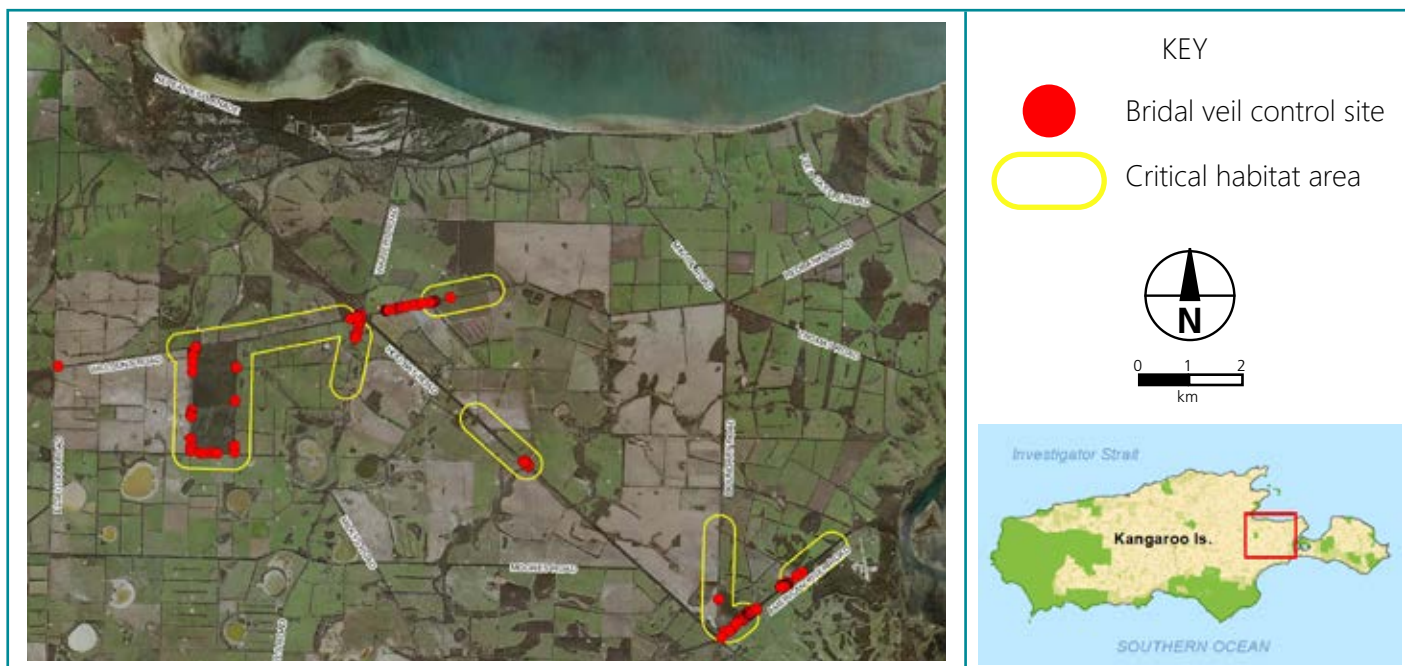
Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
National Landcare Program
Regional Land Partnerships

Map below: Bridal veil control in critical threatened plant habitat in 2021.



Glossy black-cockatoo Recovery Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- Predators were controlled at 59 glossy nests including:
 - » removal of bee hives from 12 glossy nest hollows
 - » treatment of 38 glossy nest hollows to prevent bees from establishing
 - » installation of possum barriers on tree trunks and canopy pruning at six glossy nest hollows that were new, or where previous protection had failed
 - » removal of galah eggs from three glossy nests.
- The Glossy black-cockatoo census was undertaken in October with the help of 41 volunteers. A minimum population count of 377 glossy black-cockatoos was found, which is 17% less than were found in the 2020 census. It appears the bushfires have caused a food shortage for glossies living within and adjacent to the burn scar, as there is foraging evidence on a high proportion of drooping sheoaks in this area, many of which have no cones available.
- Trials were established to compare the internal temperatures of two different nest box types and natural hollows, to determine whether nest boxes will have adverse impacts on nesting success under predicted climate change scenarios.

Community engagement

- A Chewings newsletter was published in December.
See link: <https://bit.ly/3334oLj>

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Finalising landholders for the winter 2022 plantings of 7,000 drooping sheoaks to spread sheoak woodlands across the landscape.
- Two research students will begin their projects:
 - » an Honours student will investigate glossy's use of planted sheoak post-fire
 - » a PhD student will further investigate the effect of the 2019-20 bushfires on glossy nesting and foraging activity.

377 glossies
were found in the census,
17% less than 2020

pest control
undertaken at **59**
glossy
nests

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government: Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

Image below: Carrying new nest boxes across Middle River.



Kangaroo Island Dunnart Recovery Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- A female KI dunnart carrying eight babies was captured on the first night of pitfall surveys with Zoos SA in November 2021.
 - » This is the first dunnart with young ever caught on KI and a very positive sign for the species following the bushfires two years ago.
 - » The babies were the size of a grain of rice the first time they were caught, but when they were re-captured a week later they had doubled in size, indicating they are doing very well!
 - » Due to the KI Landscape Board's work, the traps were placed in an area where KI dunnarts are frequently detected, to make best chance of capture.
 - » Zoos SA and the KI Landscape Board are working collaboratively to gain a better understanding of KI dunnart biology and home range which is crucial for informing conservation of the species.
- A Kangaroo Island dunnart was detected on remote camera at one new site this quarter at Cape du Couedic. This is the third site that has recorded the KI dunnart in the Cape du Couedic area, which is the only unburnt patch in the south-west section of Flinders Chase National Park. The project has now found KI dunnarts at 67 sites. There were 84 individual KI dunnart detections at sites this quarter, bringing the total number of individual detections for the project to 496. This project has now surveyed 238 sites across the island for KI dunnarts.
- Survey effort continued to extend further east from the large intact protected areas of native vegetation in the west, to fragmented native vegetation in forestry and agricultural lands in the east.
 - » Despite survey efforts no KI dunnarts were detected across the 19 eastern sites surveyed.

1 KI dunnart
caught with
8 babies

84 KI dunnart
detections

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » Environmental Restoration Fund
 - » Bushfire Wildlife and Habitat Recovery
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery



- The high number of KI dunnart detections across the fire scar, may indicate that the KI dunnart responds positively after a fire.
- Feral cats were controlled systematically across sites where KI dunnarts have been detected, and broadly across the fire scar, to buffer these sites from re-invasion. 165 feral cats were removed this quarter from 25,550 ha of public, private and forestry properties.
 - » Control effort strategically focused on private land, roadside and plantations bordering Flinders Chase National Park, to buffer areas in the park with critical habitat for a suite of threatened species, from feral cat re-invasion. This approach has proven to be successful with numbers of feral cats present in priority conservation areas remaining at very low levels.

165 removed from
feral cats KI dunnart
habitat

4,135
trap nights to remove
feral cats

Community engagement:

- A presentation was given to a webinar by the Threatened Species Recovery Hub and NRM Regions Australia entitled '[Saving Wildlife after bushfires: what is the evidence for effective action?](#)'.
- A project update was emailed to participating landholders and partners in December 2021.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Complete the initial island-wide KI dunnart distribution survey and establish sites on suitable habitat across the island, in wilderness protection areas and conservation parks, and significant patches of native vegetation on forestry and private properties.
- Continue strategic feral cat control within KI dunnart habitat.
- Establish a demonstration site of the Trap Alert system to monitor feral cat traps. This remote system will alert the team when a trap has been triggered, saving time manually checking traps each day.



Image page 12: The female KI dunnart caught during the survey with Zoos SA.

Image below page 12 right: A Kangaroo Island dunnart photographed recently.

Image above page 13: KI dunnart feral cat team examining a soft-jaw leg-hold trap.

Image below page 13: The excited team cannot believe they have caught a KI dunnart on their first night of trapping.



Oyster Reef Construction Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- Waste oyster shell from The Oyster Farm Shop in American River was collected, sun cured and used to fill commercial oyster baskets, making 160 spat collectors. 80 of these collectors have been deployed so far in Western Cove, Nepean Bay in November and December 2021. Oyster spat will settle on the shell surfaces in the baskets of the spat collectors, as they mimic natural oyster reefs where larvae prefer to settle. These baskets will be left in the bay to protect settled spat while they grow until March 2022, when the collected oysters will be distributed onto the newly built reefs.
- A Development Approval Application to build reef structures and an Ecologically Sustainable Development Risk Assessment Report were prepared and submitted to the State Commission Assessment Panel. These documents detail reef sites and their selection, ground-truthing analysis, reef design and materials, deployment, spat collection methodology and addresses how the proposed shellfish reef meets the coastal zone objectives and principals as listed in the SA Planning and Design code.

Community engagement:

- The Oyster Farm Shop in American River has supported the Oyster Restoration Project since its inception. Waste shell from their shop is being collected in designated bins and used as a settlement substrate in our spat collectors.

160
spat collectors built to
harvest oyster larvae

50
fishers surveyed about
the new oyster reefs

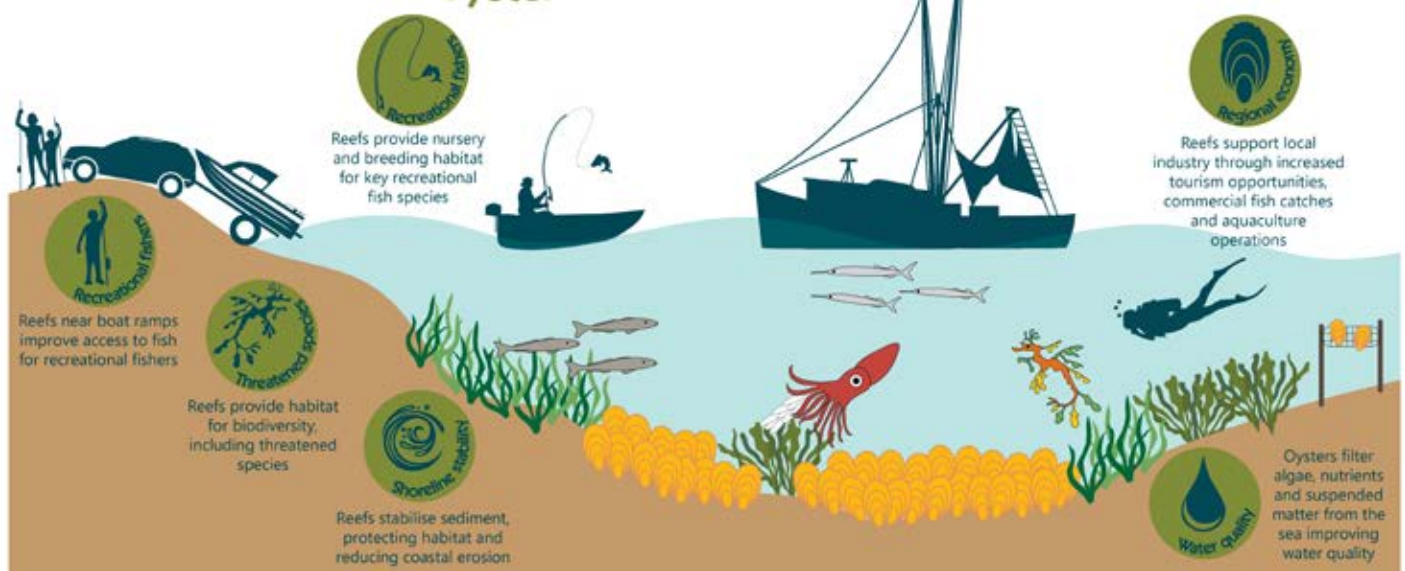
Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » Fisheries Habitat Restoration

The benefits of native oyster reefs



- Local and visiting fishers were surveyed to gain an understanding of how they like to fish on the island, their knowledge of local oyster reefs and inform them of the project. The purpose, strategy and timeline of the project were discussed with participants, and their feedback was collected on selected sites and knowledge of historical and current *Ostrea angasi* locations on the island. These surveys were conducted at boat ramps and jetties in popular fishing locations around Nepean Bay. Surveys were also conducted at both the Kingscote and Parndana agricultural shows where reef construction materials were showcased.
- Presentations about the project were prepared and given to KI Council, and Local Progress Associations.
- Meetings were held with the project collaborators and Blue Infrastructure technical and working groups including: DEW, PIRSA, SA Research and Development Institute, Environment Protection Authority, Coast Protection Board, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Attorney-General's Department — Planning and Land Use Services, SA Water, SA Oyster Growers Association, Wildcatch Fishers Association, University of Adelaide and Flinders University.

80 spat collectors deployed in Western Cove

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Deploy more spat collectors in Nepean Bay's Western Cove.
- Construction of 10 reefs in both Kingscote and American River sites.
- Seeding of oyster reefs with juvenile spat from collectors.

Image below left: Alex Comino, Oyster Reef Restoration Project Officer, collecting oyster shells from The Oyster Shop for use in spat collectors.

Image below right: Alex and Paul Jennings creating spat collectors.



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 October–December 2021:

- Seed collection has been ongoing to supply the KI Native Plant Nursery and facilitate propagation of tubestock for the 2022 planting season. Both seed and cutting material were collected from 60 different species. Many of the seedlings grown from the seed and cuttings will be used to revegetate areas of nationally threatened KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland and to restore bushfire affected areas.
- Seedling propagation for the 2022 planting season at the KI Native Plant Nursery is also well underway. Over 57,000 plants are being grown to fill the orders received, including 15,875 seedlings specifically for Narrow-leaved Mallee On-ground Works recovery projects. This is well over the capacity of the Nursery and has resulted in boxes of plants being stored on makeshift benches and on pallets under benches. Over 120 different species of KI native plants are being grown this year at the KI Native Plant Nursery.

Community engagement:

- Nursery staff visited three local landholders to advise them on the best native plants to grow on their properties and how to look after them. They are also working with KI Spirits and the Aurora Ozone to help these businesses grow KI native plants in their gardens and will be re-planting the gardens in front of the Pier Apartments with KI native plants this year.
- A presentation was given at the EcoVineyards Integrated Pest Management field day about the benefits of growing KI native plants to assist good insects and deter bad ones in vineyards.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue growing and maintaining seedlings growing out in the KI Native Plant Nursery for planting in late autumn/winter this year.

57,000
KI native plants currently
growing at the KI Native
Plant Nursery

15,875
plants being grown for
KI narrow-leaved mallee
restoration

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- 8 Billion Trees
- Collette Travel

Image below: Makeshift benches are required this year so the KI Native Plant Nursery can grow enough plants just to fill their orders for landholders.



Community grants programs

Overview:

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

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- There were 53 successful grant recipients for Round 1 of the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants.
 - » Over \$1.29 million has been allocated to Round 1 to help fund 395 km of fences to protect unburnt and regenerating native vegetation, within and adjacent to, the 2019-20 bushfire scar.
- Two KI Grassroots Grants projects from the previous 2020-21 round have been completed:
 - » removing African boxthorn from 40 ha at Cape St Albans
 - » installing 11 strategically located signs to inform beach goers about hooded plovers and how they can help them.

Community engagement:

- Assisted landholders to submit their applications through SmartyGrants. For successful projects, assisted landholders with their acceptance paperwork so they could finalise their grants and receive the funding.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- A second grant round of the 2021-22 KI Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants will be opening at the end of January that aims to help fire-affected landholders to further protect and restore native vegetation on their properties.

Image below: A recently installed sign alerting beach goers about hooded plovers at Stokes Bay.

53
landholders to receive
funding from KI Bushfire
Recovery Fencing Grants

395
km
fences to be
funded from
Round 1 of the
Fencing Grants

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Land Levy
- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations
 - » Minister for Environment and Water
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery



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.

11 reports
submitted to
project funders

Key achievements October–December 2021:

- Submitted output reports for the following projects to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT):
 - » *Core Services*
 - » *Recovering the KI Narrow Leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community through local landscape action*
 - » *Creating a safe haven for the KI dunnart and other priority threatened species by eradicating feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula*
 - » *Building resilient agricultural systems on Kangaroo Island*
 - » *Supporting the recovery of the KI dunnart through conservation and management actions*
 - » *South Australian Glossy Black-Cockatoo Post-fire Recovery*
 - » *Controlling feral cats to protect priority fauna species on KI*
 - » *Supporting the post-fire recovery of the Glossy Black-cockatoo on KI through conservation and management actions*
 - » *Helping threatened species on KI to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires through on-ground actions*
 - » *Building native oyster shellfish reefs to improve fish habitat on KI.*
- Developed a report for the work being sponsored by 8 Billion Trees that is assisting fire-affected landholders undertake revegetation on their properties.

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:
 - » National Landcare Program
 - » Regional Land Partnerships

Community engagement:

- Reviewed and revised the KI Landscape Board webpage and assisted with its transition to a new web platform.
See www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki
- Assisted with the development of posters, web pages, media articles, factsheets, newsletters and flyers for KI Landscape Board projects.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Assist projects with reporting and monitoring requirements and liaise with the Australian Government and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Develop a comprehensive MERI plan to measure the success of the landscape plan in maintaining or improving the condition of KI's landscapes.

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 Veronica Bates
0437 322 692
veronica.bates@sa.gov.au



KI Narrow-leaved mallee

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

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



Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

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

Contact Cassandra Douglas-Hill
0437 172 877
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 ferret permits
- » feral goat and deer reports

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



Feral pig control

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

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



Feral cat control

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

Contact Ashleigh Wycherley
0427 947 223
ashleigh.wycherley@sa.gov.au