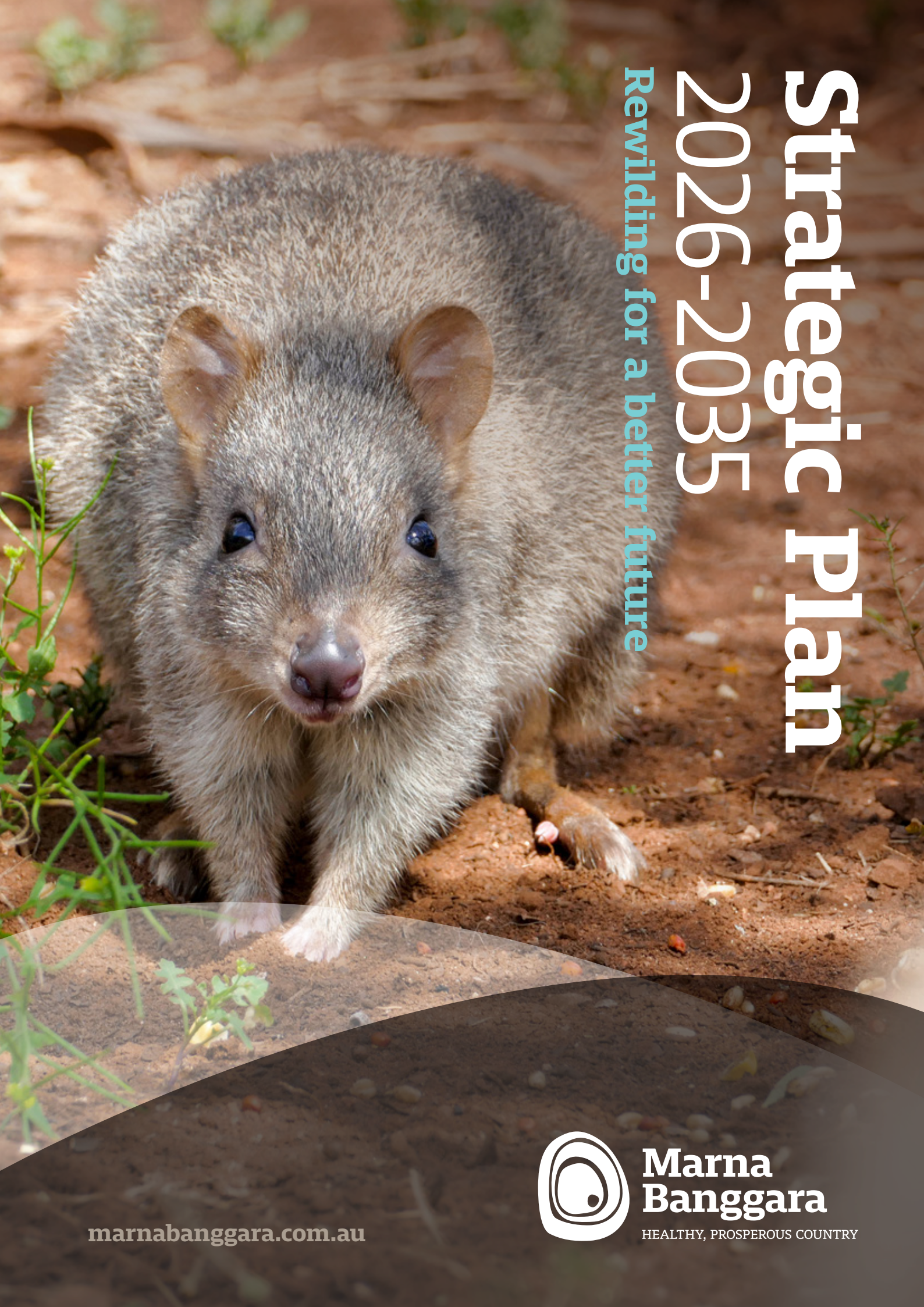


Strategic Plan 2026-2035

Rewilding for a better future

Marna Banggara

HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY

marnabanggara.com.au

marnabanggara.com.au

Cover photo credit: Zoos SA

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government, the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, the SA Department for Environment and Water, and WWF Australia, in partnership with Zoos SA, the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and with the support of Traditional Custodians, the Narungga people.

Australian Government

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTHERN AND YORKE

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

WWF

ZOOS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Narungga Nation
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
Community. Culture. Progress.

Rewilding for a better future

Acknowledgement of Country

The Narungga people are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Marna Banggara project operates and have been for tens of thousands of years. The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board acknowledges and respects this custodianship, and acknowledges Elders past, present, and emerging.

Marna Banggara, translating to ***healthy, prosperous Country*** in Narungga language, recognises and respects the relationship Aboriginal people have to Country, and is committed to supporting Traditional Custodians, Aboriginal people and organisations' involvement in the management of land, sea, and water.

Contents

Executive Summary

Marna Banggara – Healthy, Prosperous Country

Marna Banggara is an ambitious, collaborative project working to bring nature and people back into balance on South Australia's southern Yorke Peninsula (SYP). Guided by the vision of a healthy, resilient landscape where native species can once again thrive, the project combines science, community, and culture to revitalise ecology, agriculture, and economy.

Since the program's inception (as Great Southern Ark), Marna Banggara has made noteworthy progress—reintroducing locally extinct species such as the brush-tailed bettong, restoring vital habitats, and reducing the impact of feral predators. These achievements have been made possible through strong partnerships with Narungga Traditional Owners, local landholders, conservation organisations, government agencies, and research institutions, all united by a shared commitment to Caring for Country.

Looking to the future, Marna Banggara aims to consolidate and expand rewilding efforts, connect and protect habitats, and inspire communities to continue leading the way in landscape-scale restoration. Together, these efforts will ensure that the SYP becomes a place where wildlife flourishes, ecosystems function naturally, and people feel proud to be part of nature's renewal.

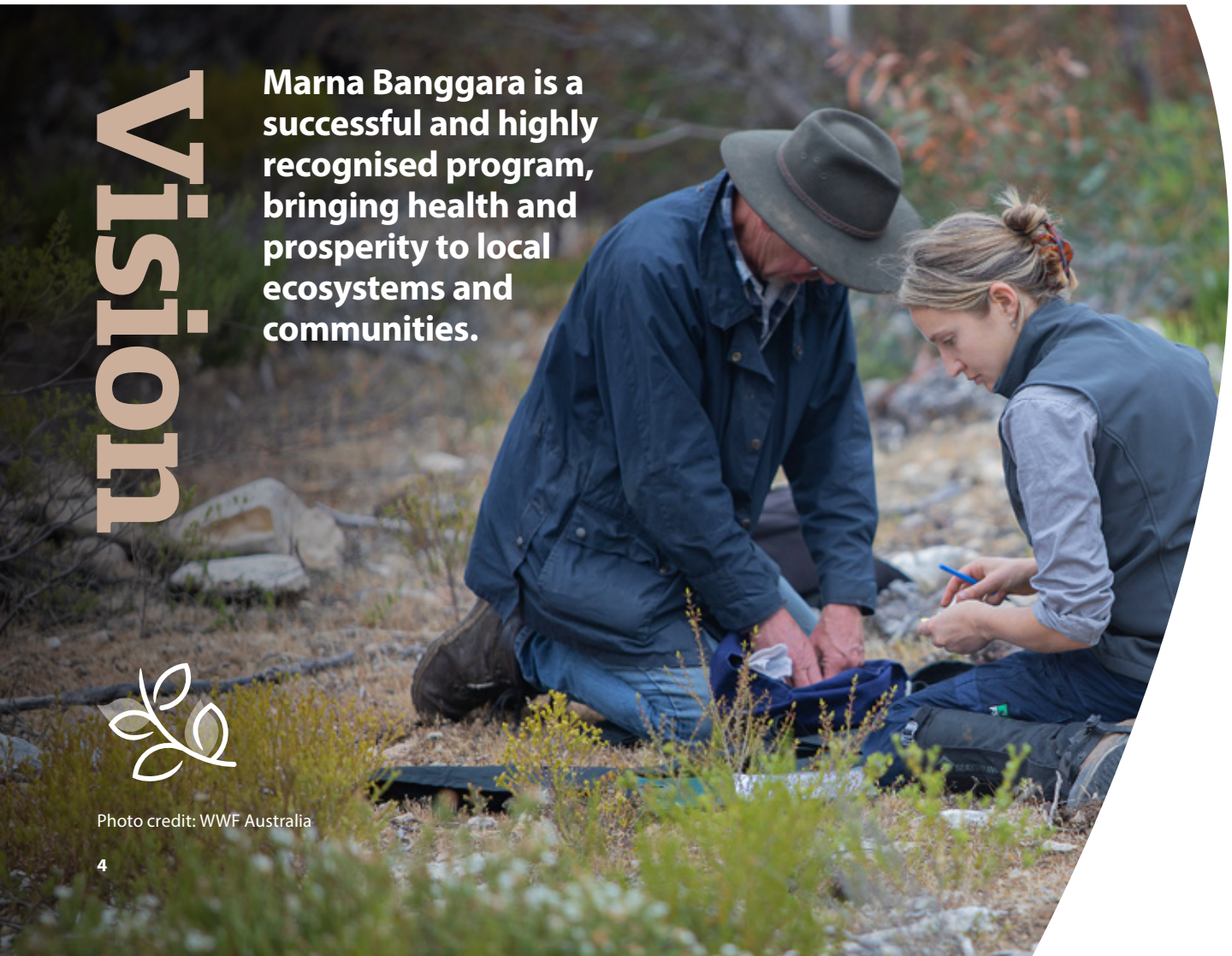


Photo credit: WWF Australia

The story so far

2002 Establish 1080 fox baiting program in Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park (DGINP)

2004-2006 Reintroduction of Tammar wallaby to DGINP

2008 Baiting for Biodiversity program established – 60,000ha

2013 Baiting for Biodiversity program expansion – 100,000ha

2010-2016 Conservation Action Planning 'Naturally Yorke' – rewilding premise born

2018 'Great Southern Ark', project launched

2020 Feral cat management integrated into predator control program, program renamed Marna Banggara to honour Narungga custodianship of Country

2021 Predator management fence completed

2021-2023 193 Yalgiri (brush-tailed bettongs) reintroduced to DGINP

2023 NYLB established as a Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partner with continued investment through the Natural Heritage Trust to 30 June 2028

2024 New introduced predator control technologies implemented with Celium trap alert and AI assisted cellular camera monitoring

2025 Species reintroduction strategy reviewed and new Strategic Plan drafted

Goals

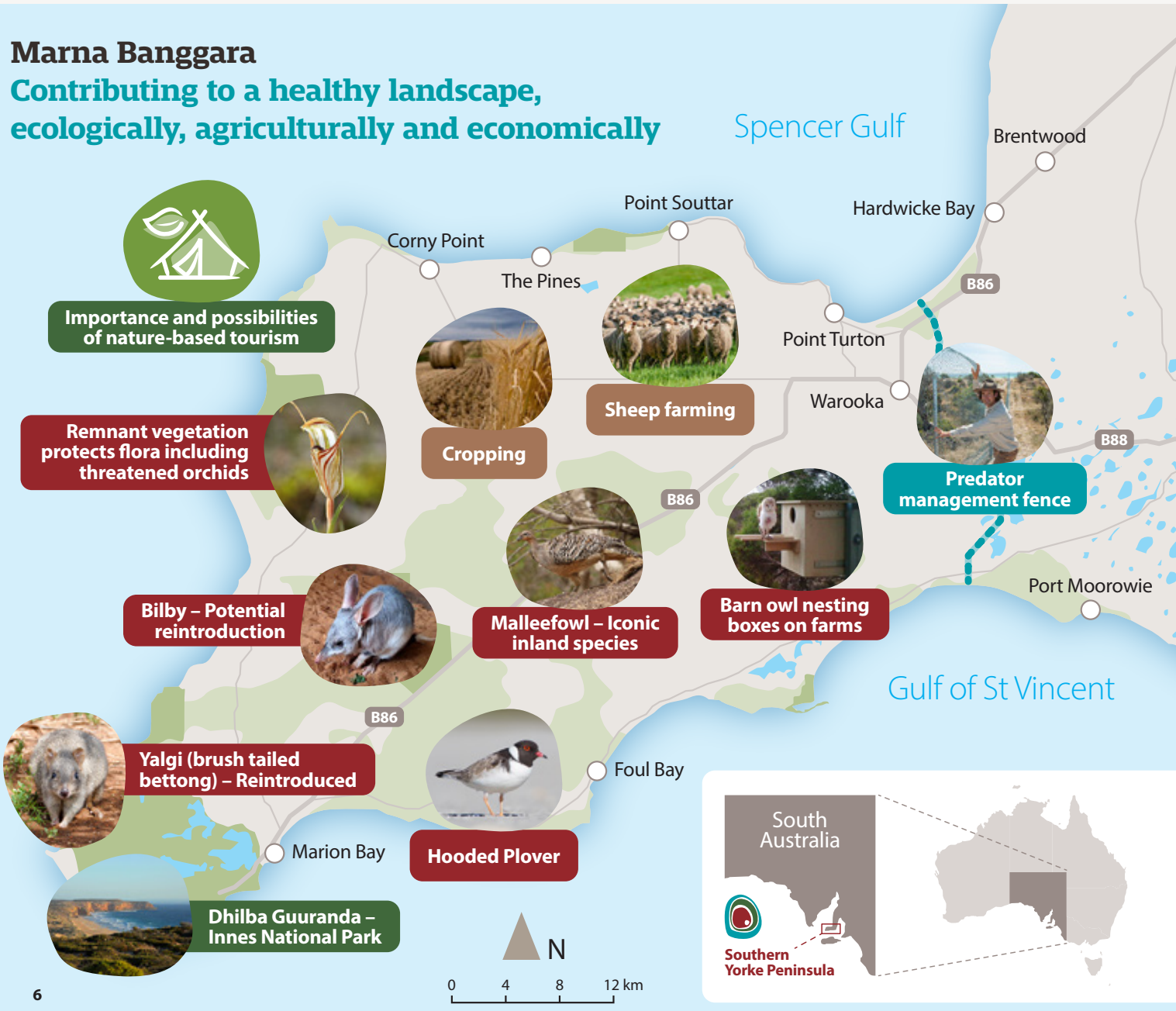
Over the next 10 years (2026-2035), the Marna Banggara project aims to reinvigorate foundational ecological processes and increase the ecosystem services delivered to the SYP community through landscape-scale strategies including fauna reintroductions, introduced predator management, and the protection and promotion of biodiversity.

The goals of the project include:

- Contributing to the conservation of Australian threatened species.
- The reinstatement of lost ecological processes, to ensure the conservation of the Peninsula's unique habitats.
- The improvement of ecosystem services with potential to benefit local agriculture.
- Providing low-impact nature-based tourism opportunities on southern Yorke Peninsula and contributing to the sustainability of the local economy.
- The ongoing participation and involvement of the local community in project planning and delivery.
- To support and promote Narungga cultural values and connection to Country, through meaningful employment and involvement in conservation planning and delivery

Marna Banggara

Contributing to a healthy landscape, ecologically, agriculturally and economically



Key partners

High level strategic direction is provided by the Executive Steering Committee, representing leaders in zoology, conservation, fauna research, animal welfare, Narungga culture and community and industry interests. The Project Management and Advisory Groups also host inspiring practitioners and experts to create a vibrant and innovative foundation to navigate challenges and deliver exceptional on ground outcomes.

Leadership

- Strategic leadership
- High level advocacy
- High level risk management
- Secure project funding and resources
- Information sharing
- Economic development

Executive Steering Committee

Trevor Naismith – Independent Chair
Tony Fox – General Manager, NYLB
Craig Nixon – Regional Manager, DEW
NNAC board rep – NNAC
Darren Grover – Principal Advisor, Thriving Biodiversity, WWF
Ian Smith - Director, Monarto, Zoos SA
Prof. John Rodger – FAUNA Research Alliance
Kathryn Galpin – Senior Manager, Policy & Projects, SATC
Nominated representative – CRG
Derek Sandow – NYLB (coordination)
New Funding Partners

Project Management

- Project planning
- Project delivery
- Contract and financial management
- Operations planning
- Permits/approvals/development
- First Nations liaison/involvement
- Pest animal/plant control
- Communication and engagement
- Translocation oversight
- Standards/ethics guidance
- Translocation plan development/ approvals guidance
- Risk management
- Research management

Project Management Group

Project Team

Derek Sandow (Chair) – NYLB
Ben Smith – NYLB
Claire Hartvigsen – Power – NYLB
Dylan Sortino – NYLB
Jack Hall – NYLB
Andrew Case – NYLB
Janet Moore – NYLB
Paul O'Leary – NYLB
Mark Davison – DEW
NNAC / PPAC
Contractors/partners

Translocation Team

Claire Hartvigsen – Power (Chair) – NYLB
Derek Sandow – NYLB
Dr Robert Brandle – DEW
April McInerney – DEW
Holly Whittenbury – DEW
Dr Matt Heard – DEW
Prof. David Taggart – Uni of Adelaide/FRA
Chloe Frick (PhD Candidate)
Mark Smith – Zoos SA
Paul Kotz – Zoos SA
PhD Supervisors
Technical Experts

Comms & Engagement Team

Suzi Moore (Chair) – NYLB
Derek Sandow – NYLB
Josh Strangways – NYLB
Claire Hartvigsen – Power – NYLB
Georgie Hetherington – Zoos SA
Nicole Pilkington – Zoos SA
Maddie Smitham – WWF
Cassandra Jones – NNAC
DEW
New partners

Advisory Groups

- Technical advice
- Scientific rigour / governance
- Research opportunities
- Strategic planning
- Project advocacy
- Community perspective and communications
- Input to planning
- Landholder and volunteer engagement

Advisory Group

Conservation Translocations Advisory Group

Claire Hartvigsen – Power – NYLB
Derek Sandow – NYLB
Dr Rebecca West – UNSW
Dr Katherine Moseby – Uni of Adelaide
Prof Chris Dickman – Uni of Sydney
Dr Matt Heard – DEW
Dr Saul Cowan – DBCA (WA)
Dr Pete Copley (ret)
Mark Cairns – FNPW

Community Reference Group

10 community members (representing local farmers and communities)
Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Point Pearce community member
Community interest group reps (i.e. Formby Bay Environmental Action Group)
Derek Sandow – NYLB
N&Y Landscape Board

Rewilding for a better future

Marna Banggara will build on three strategic pillars to drive our focus for the next five years.

Return to nature (Pillar 1 – Predators)

Project success will be underpinned by the ability to reduce the impacts of foxes and feral cats on a landscape scale, to a level that allows locally extinct native fauna to be reintroduced and to thrive.

Champions for wildlife (Pillar 2 – Biodiversity)

Conservation translocations will reinvigorate critically important ecosystem services contributing to the protection of threatened species and ecological communities.

Power of our people (Pillar 3 – Community)

A healthy, functional, and resilient landscape will empower local communities, the Narungga community and the agricultural sector to achieve a prosperous and fulfilling future.

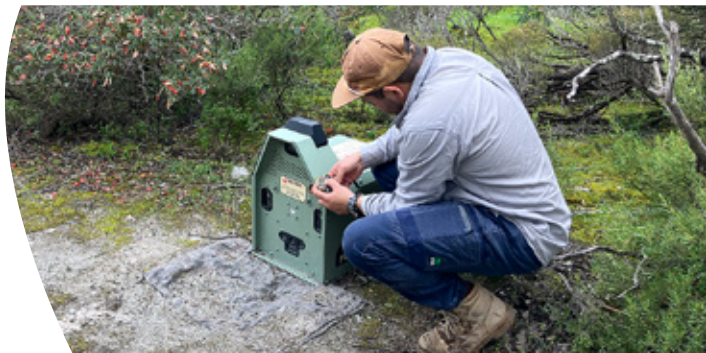
Return to nature
Pillar 1 – **Predators** – targeted, coordinated, collaborative

Fox and feral cat control is essential. Reducing their populations protects vulnerable native species and enables scientifically supported reintroductions of locally extinct, ecologically important fauna.

In addition to traditional methods such as fencing and trapping, the Marna Banggara Predator Control Strategy 2023-2028 identifies cutting-edge methods, strategies, and tools required to achieve this goal, along with monitoring and evaluation systems employed to ensure a continuous improvement and learning process. This strategy promotes research, development, and implementation of latest technologies that can have national and international applications.

Why It Matters:

- Southern Yorke Peninsula has lost over 80 per cent of its ground dwelling mammal species since European colonisation, with the primary drivers being habitat loss and predation by introduced predators.
- Successful predator management has formed the foundation for almost all reintroduction efforts of critical weight range (35–5500g) Australian mammals.
- Effective management directly supports federal, and state Threatened Species Recovery Strategies and Threat Abatement Plans.



Technology Taming the Predators

Investing in advanced feral cat and fox control technology is essential to achieving meaningful, long-term outcomes in landscape-scale threatened species programs. These invasive predators are among the leading causes of biodiversity loss in Australia, and traditional control methods such as baiting and trapping, while important, can be limited in scope. By investing in innovative technologies such as automated real-time monitoring and deterrent systems, smart trapping networks, and targeted control tools, the Marna Banggara predator control program can drastically increase efficiency and coverage. This technological investment enables economies of scale, reducing per-unit costs as deployment expands, and ensures sustained suppression of predator populations. In turn, native fauna and ecosystems can recover more rapidly and resiliently, delivering far greater conservation returns for every dollar spent.

Target 1.

It is estimated that private landholder participation rates could be tripled and introduced predator control coverage maximised with the establishment of a 25 hub Celium monitored trap network, employing up to 500 traps simultaneously across the project area.

The integration of Celium trap alert technology represents a major step forward in the efficiency and effectiveness of feral cat and fox control on a landscape scale. Celium's wireless trap alert system uses remote sensors to notify managers instantly when a trap is triggered, eliminating the need for time-consuming manual checks. This allows for faster response times, reduced animal stress, and significant savings in labour and fuel costs. The system also enables real-time monitoring over large, remote landscapes, improving coordination and data collection to support adaptive management and better decision-making in predator control programs.

Target 2.

Strategic appointment of 10 Felixers in the project area would increase protection for at least 3 endangered species such as hooded plovers when they most need it during the summer nesting season in areas difficult to manage with conventional control techniques.

Felixers, on the other hand, are automated, target-specific control devices that use sensors and artificial intelligence to detect, identify, and humanely dispatch feral cats while avoiding non-target species. By operating continuously and independently, Felixers extend control coverage across vast and difficult to access sites, maintaining constant pressure on introduced predator populations. Together, Celium and Felixers create a powerful, technology-driven control network that improves efficiency, scalability, and animal welfare, delivering more effective and sustainable outcomes for threatened species recovery at the landscape scale.

One of the greatest assets to the Marna Banggara team is the predator management fence bisecting and complimenting the geography of the SYP. While the 25 km fence is designed to be 'leaky', meaning it is open at all major roads and throughfares, its true value lies in limiting the potential for foxes and cats to migrate back into the predator suppressed project area. New and emerging technologies such as smart-gates and AI assisted audio-visual or olfactory predator deterrents for use at throughfares promise to maximise the value of the fence into the future.

Target 3.

Smart-gates offer an innovative solution to allow native fauna to pass through the predator management fence while still restricting movement of feral cats and foxes.

Where Expert Support meets Game-changing Research

Ultimately, project success is underpinned by the ability to reduce the impact of predators on a landscape scale. Emerging specialised techniques and research driven adaptation offer value adding potential, particularly when employed in areas where traditional techniques are impractical.

Target 4.

Detector dogs and other specialist techniques such as thermal assisted pest animal control does not replace traditional broadscale control but can make the all the difference during the establishment phase of translocations.

High tech remote sensor, cellular-capable cameras utilising real-time AI assistance improve the program's efficacy by enabling real-time, low-labour wildlife monitoring across large and hard-to-access areas. The system can automatically detect and classify species, filter out false positives, and transmit actionable data instantly, allowing efficient responses to threats from introduced predators and critical habitat disturbances. By reducing manual image review and increasing detection accuracy, AI-assisted camera networks provide faster insights, support data-driven decision-making, and ultimately strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts.

Target 5.

Establishing a 120 camera monitoring network utilising the latest AI assisted technology will reduce staff driving time by up to 30% and provide more real-time location data on both predators and threatened species across a greater area.

Research improves understanding of the impacts of foxes and feral cats on vulnerable native fauna and species being considered for reintroduction. Well designed and funded research programs assist in evaluating control programs and can investigate complex interactions between introduced predators, prey (native and introduced), fire, and other environmental variables, to develop holistic management strategies.

Target 6.

Research partnerships and student development opportunities are foundational to the projects vision and structure, with fox and feral cat research directly contributing to improvements in efficacy of control actions and animal welfare outcomes.

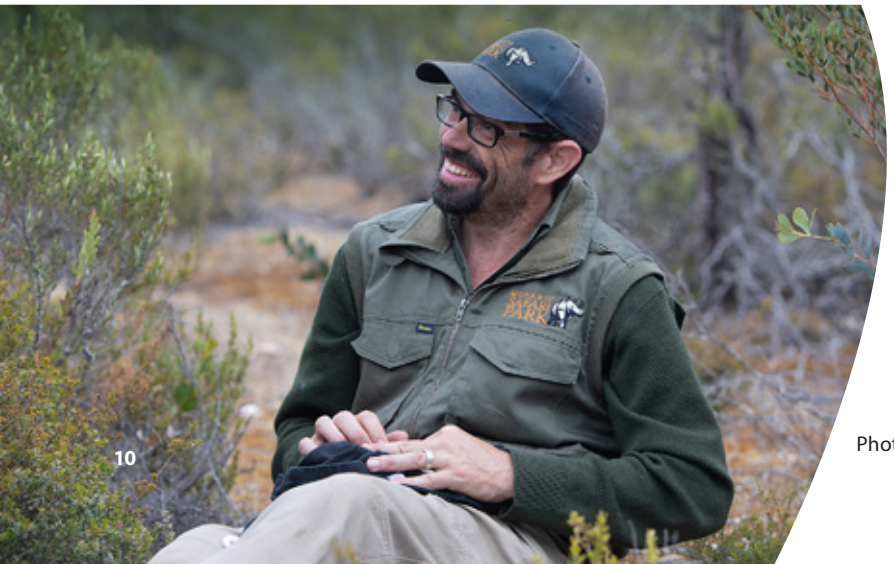


Photo credit: WWF Australia

Champions for wildlife

Pillar 2 – **Biodiversity** – protected, improved, resilient

Respecting, restoring and enhancing ecological processes and safeguarding fragile ecosystems will provide a springboard for community-based conservation initiatives and carefully planned translocations of a suite of locally extinct, functionally important, and iconic native fauna species. Systematic conservation translocation planning is overseen by a panel of experts within the 'Strategic Framework for Marna Banggara Conservation Translocations'.

Working together with all stakeholders, Marna Bangarra provides the best chance and a scientific approach to allow our native species to flourish and to foster natural resilience, vitality and productivity in one of the most unique regions in the country. In pioneering new ground and breaking down misconceptions, this is a unique opportunity to become a champion for wildlife and align with a positive future for the SYP community.

Foundational priorities:

- To make a tangible contribution to the conservation of Australian threatened species providing direct action to improve the trajectory of species prioritised for recovery efforts as part of the Commonwealth Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032.
- The reinstatement of ecological processes, to safeguard conservation of the peninsula's unique habitats, and improve resilience in a changing climate.
- Enhance the influence of ecosystem services to local agriculture, to improve both sustainability and productivity.

Reintroducing native fauna, particularly "ecosystem engineers" like bettongs, is a powerful, science-backed strategy to restore lost ecological processes. In Australia, the loss of these small, digging marsupials has led to degraded soils, decreased nutrient cycling, and reduced biodiversity. Reintroducing these species acts as a technique that repairs ecosystems from the ground up, and in this context; the 'rewilding' goals of Marna Banggara align with restoring lost ecological functions rather than returning the landscape to its pre-European state.

Rewilding today for a resilient tomorrow

Future reintroductions will be informed by scientific guidelines, ecosystem requirements, species' conservation status, and environmental, cultural, and community values. The proposed timeline for species will concentrate on establishing native soil engineers (e.g., bilbies) and seed dispersers (e.g., native rodents) in the earlier stages, leading up to predators (i.e., phascogales and quolls) in the longer term.

Target 1.

Conservation translocations are complex multi-staged interventions requiring compliance with state, national, and international guidelines, with most translocations demanding many years of commitment to maximise potential of success.

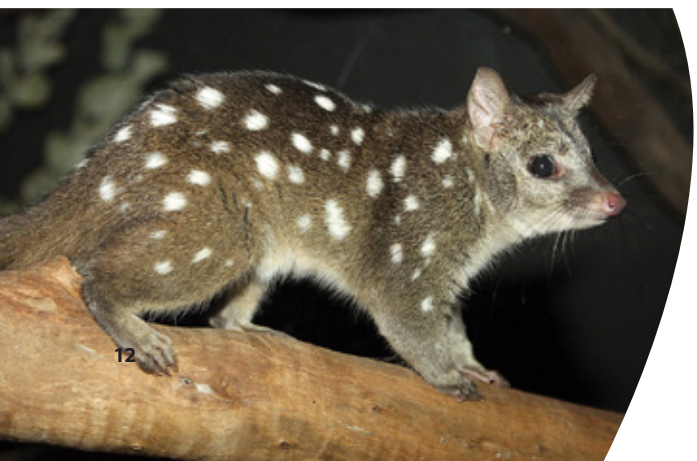
Target 2.

Bilbies are listed as 'Vulnerable' nationally, with predicted changes to climate likely to negatively affect their current distribution and long-term recovery. Robust habitat assessments on the SYP will form a critical component of the species reintroduction proposal.

Contingent on completion of feasibility studies and learnings within the adaptive management framework, species being considered for translocation or supplementation include:

- Southern brown bandicoot (Soil Engineer)
- Bilby (Soil Engineer)
- Bush rat (Seed Disperser)
- Mitchell's hopping mouse (Seed Disperser)
- Heath mouse (Seed Disperser)
- Brush-tailed possum (Seed Disperser, Pollinator)
- Bush-stone curlew (Extant, Seed Disperser, Nutrient Cycling)
- Numbat (Termite Regulation, Nutrient Cycling)
- Dunnart spp. (Mesopredator)
- Red-tailed phascogale (Mesopredator)
- Western quoll (Apex Predator)

Both southern brown bandicoots and bilbies are outstanding diggers, contributing to soil health, dispersing seeds and fungi, and bilby dens provide increasingly important refugia for a wide range of resident fauna. Both species are at risk of extinction and threatened by habitat loss, and predation by feral cats and foxes. As important soil engineers, both species are identified as high priority rewilding candidates in the short term.



Safeguarding beloved wildlife

Although an important focus of Marna Banggara is to bring back ecologically important missing fauna, the SYP remains home to an array of iconic flora and fauna in need of urgent protection. Hooded plovers are an iconic beach-nesting resident of the SYP, found both inside and outside of the project area. Population monitoring, engagement, and education has been supported by NYLB and Birdlife Australia, but the iconic species (and other beach nesting and visiting shorebirds) need more protection now than ever before with emerging threats such as bird flu (H5N1) and algal blooms.

Target 3.

Emerging local, national, and global threats such as the algal bloom and bird flu highlight the importance of landscape scale initiatives such as Marna Banggara that are prepared to respond and reduce impacts on threatened species and ecosystems when resources allow.

Twenty years ago, tammar wallabies were reintroduced to Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park (DGINP), with the success of that release paving the way for the development of the Marna Banggara rewilding concept. Research to assess population numbers and genetic health of the species in DGINP and nearby Wardang Island (Narungga IPA) will provide valuable insight for management of the species into the future and allow us to better understand longer-term progress of local mammal reintroductions. Malleefowl, another iconic and culturally important species is threatened nationally and is critical for the health of local ecosystems as they recycle nutrients and refresh the soil while tending giant compost-like nests.

Target 4.

Climate change has been identified as a major long-term threat to malleefowl with declines in populations in lower rainfall areas already being observed. Improved monitoring of the species will provide valuable insight into the potential of Marna Banggara and the SYP to provide a climate refugia for the species in the future.

Knowledge gaps exist to improve capacity for conservation of the cryptic and endangered mallee whipbird, of which the SYP is home to one of three remaining subpopulations, along with gaps in understanding how to conserve threatened orchid species and the values of unique ecological communities. Other beloved species such as bush stone-curlews, western pygmy-possums, and even echidnas which are rarely sighted will benefit from the threat mitigation measures and conservation initiatives instigated through the project.

When we listen to nature, we learn how to restore it

Measuring improved and sustainable outcomes in conservation and ecology transcends traditional environmental monitoring protocols alone, success is also to be measured socially and culturally. The project yearns to impart an important legacy of vitality and well-being of land, air, water, flora and fauna for future generations, however this can be difficult to capture on the balance sheet.

Robust and carefully crafted ecological monitoring and research are foundational to success and provide the evidence base needed to guide decisions in a dynamic and uncertain system. By tracking key ecological indicators (i.e. species population trends, predator–prey dynamics, habitat condition, and ecosystem function), managers can adjust strategies in response to new information, emerging risks, or changing environmental conditions, including climate variability.

This knowledge not only reduces ecological and financial risk but also strengthens accountability to partners, funders, and communities, including Traditional Owners. In doing so, monitoring and research support learning, transparency, and continuous improvement, helping Marna Banggara deliver enduring ecological, cultural, and conservation outcomes over the long term.

Target 5.

Cultural burning, guided by Narungga traditional ecological knowledge, should form part of a long-term management strategy to conserve threatened mallee bird populations such as the Mallee Whipbird, and promoting resilient and sustainable ecosystems.

Photo credit: Tom Hunt

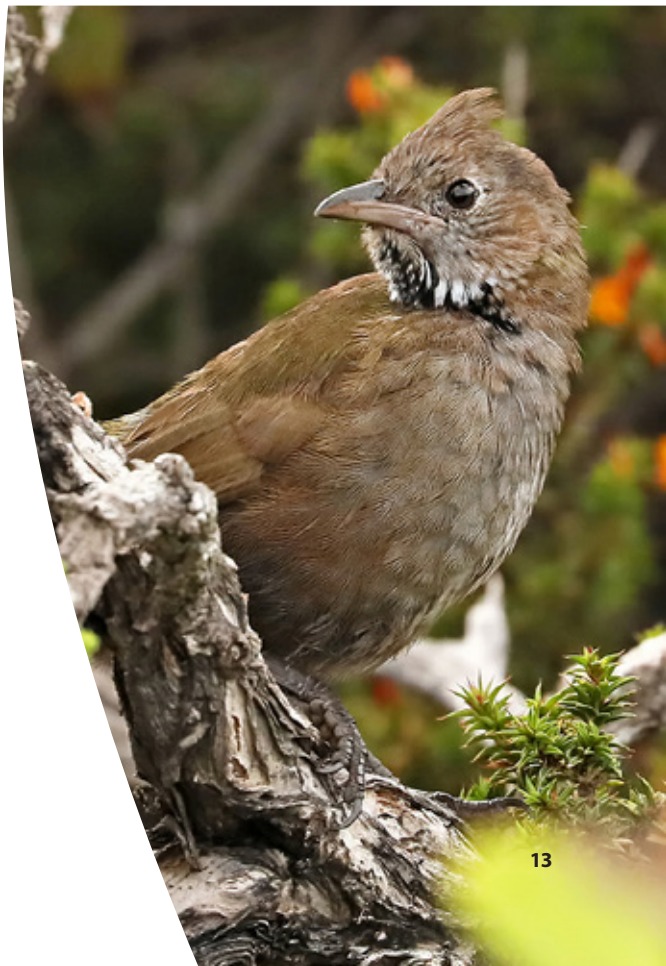


Photo credit: WWF Australia

Power of our people

Pillar 3 – **Communities** – empowered, resilient, healthy

As a truly landscape scale rewilding project, Marna Banggara sets a course to bring together Narungga cultural connection and stewardship for the land and sea, community values, farming goodwill, and economic opportunity, to promote a prosperous future for all. Built on a foundation of collaboration and mutual respect, conservation efforts are aligned with traditional ecological knowledge and reconciliation, achieving equitable benefits for local communities, and building resilient natural ecosystems.

Our values:

- Recognition of Country and Narungga custodianship, and incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge in land management and decision making.
- The project is embedded as an integral part of Narungga Healthy Country Plan identified outcomes.
- Empower and inspire investment in local employment opportunities and enterprise development, contributing to the sustainability and growth of the local economy.
- Provide meaningful contributions to sustainability and educational awareness goals from a local to global scale.

Healthy, prosperous Country

There is very strong alignment of Marna Banggara goals and ambitions with Narungga Healthy Country Plan targets to keep Country healthy. Restoring and nurturing native fauna, flora, and ecosystems are key elements but just as important are elements for employment, economic development and cultural knowledge sharing. While project activities are focussed on the SYP, opportunities for collaboration with Narungga to progress Waraldi (Wardang Island) restoration objectives are a high priority.

Target 1.

Helping to progress training and development opportunities that have been delivered during the project to date into employment and economic development for Narungga will be a focus of the project team during the next stage of the project.

Knowledge into nature-based solutions

As a scientifically and community driven project, Marna Banggara aims to bridge the perceived gap between economic and environmental sustainability. Recent studies have provided strong evidence that 'people's lack of connection to nature' is both a symptom and driver of the biodiversity crisis, and rewilding proposes a solution to reverse this trend.

Target 2.

Connecting classroom learning with real world local community needs can be encouraged through a Marna Banggara rewilding education package, covering topics from responsible cat ownership, local ecology, to sustainable land management.

At its very heart is an education program fostering environmental awareness, community pride, and driving grassroots biodiversity outcomes. Empowering our younger generations can support local ecosystems, enhance outdoor learning, and inspire stewardship for Marna Banggara, strengthening ties between young people and nature for a healthier, more sustainable regional future.

Target 3.

To date, Marna Banggara has sparked strong interest across the fields of conservation, agriculture, and social sciences. The working landscape of the project area offers unique and diverse research potential as a multi stakeholder natural capital roadmap case study.

Local livelihoods prosper with healthy landscapes

Operating across a productive dryland agricultural landscape, some benefits to local farmers through reduced stock predation rates are obvious. Other benefits, particularly through integrated feral cat and fox control are less obvious but equally important and include improved birthing rates (reduced instances of *toxoplasma gondii*), and improved carcass value (reduced impact of sarcocystosis).

Further investigation into the wider benefits of restoring ecosystem services to the agricultural sector are essential with some positive indicators already observed. A Cambridge University study into the scavenging role of the Heath goanna found that when present they were more effective at reducing blowfly larva on carcasses than foxes and cats.

The humble Barn Owl: another keystone native predator, has been shown to feed almost exclusively on house mice and a pilot study has demonstrated the ability to rapidly increase owl numbers through the provision of nest boxes, offering hope for farmers looking to reduce the impact of house mice on crop yields.

Broadscale and transformative conservation projects present an unrivalled regenerative nature-based tourism opportunity. Facilitating tourism investment for the project will foster broader public sentiment for conservation outcomes and the region, offering economic opportunity and leveraging long term project self-sustainability. This will lead to direct reinvestment of funds into the project – demonstrating a diversified income stream, creating job opportunities and promoting Marna Banggara for the extraordinary and successful project that it is.

Target 4.

Construction of Barn Owl nest boxes through local community groups (i.e. men's shed) and installation on farms has very strong community support, with dozens of landholders expressing interest.

Case studies

Woylie to Yalgi cultural exchange

In a landmark effort to restore ecological balance and cultural connection to Country, the Marna Banggara project marked a major milestone with the successful reintroduction of the brush-tailed bettong (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*), known as yalgi (plural yalgiri) in Narungga and woylie to the Noongar People of Western Australia. Once extinct on South Australia's mainland, these small but remarkable marsupials are vital to the health of Country, playing a crucial role as 'soil engineers' that dig and turn over vast amounts of soil each night as they forage, supporting plant regeneration, water infiltration, seed and spore dispersal, and nutrient cycling.

Yalgiri are the first species to be reintroduced as part of Marna Banggara, with carefully managed translocations occurring over two years from Wedge Island in the Spencer Gulf and two separate populations in Western Australia into Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park on the southern Yorke Peninsula.

This process was about far more than species conservation and ecological restoration, it was also a profound cultural journey.

At the heart of this achievement is a unique and respectful collaboration between the Narungga people of the Yorke Peninsula and the Noongar People of south-western Western Australia. Recognising the deep cultural significance of yalgi/woylie to both communities, the Marna Banggara team facilitated a cultural exchange, forging strong relationships grounded in mutual respect, storytelling, and shared stewardship of Country.

Across two translocations, Narungga representatives travelled west to connect with Noongar custodians, sharing cultural practices and knowledge. Each exchange culminated in a powerful moment of unity: the ceremonial transition of the species' custodianship, as Noongar representatives accompanied the woylie on their journey east, symbolically and physically transferring their guardianship to Narungga. It was during this journey that woylies became yalgi, once more reclaiming their place in Narungga Country, language, and landscape.

The Marna Banggara project team is committed to continuing this integrated approach, working closely with the Narungga community to ensure that future conservation translocations are co-designed and culturally appropriate. The return of the yalgi marks not just the re-establishment of a species, but the strengthening of bonds between people, place, and purpose.

Photo credit: WWF Australia Think Mammoth

Local Landcare Champions - Formby Bay Environmental Action Group

In 2024, the Formby Bay Environmental Action Group (FBEAG) launched a community led feral cat control program in the Corny Point area. Spearheaded by local champion Murray Williams in collaboration with residents, farmers, Yorke Peninsula council, and the NYLB, the initiative exemplifies the holistic approach to environmental, social, and agricultural sustainability envisioned by Marna Banggara.

Environmental Benefits

Feral cats are a significant threat to native fauna, with the Hooded Plover being of significant concern in the Corny Point area. Through liaison with the local community and neighbouring farmers, the program was able to capitalise on local insights to undertake humane trapping and has been able to remove over 100 feral cats.

Social Benefits

Within a short timeframe the project has fostered strong community engagement with many locals supporting the project and in turn, learning more about rewilding project and the impact of feral cats on wildlife. The program also improved public health by reducing the risks associated with feral cats, including the spread of toxoplasmosis and flea-borne diseases. Additional benefits are provided to sheep farmers through improved birthing rates (*toxoplasma gondii*) is a major cause of abortion in small ruminants), and reduced instances of sarcocystosis which impacts carcass value for meat producers.

The FBEAG feral cat control program is far from reaching its full potential yet but is an example of how community-led initiatives can deliver broad, lasting benefits, and can act as a model for other community groups aiming to deliver grassroots environmental and social outcomes.

“Many farmers are passionate about bird life and native species. And many farmers and residents are responsible cat owners. We’re not targeting them. We’re targeting cats that have been dumped, bred in the wild and prey on the very species we want to protect.”

Murray Williams
Formby Bay Environmental Action Group

Indicative timeline

Yalgi / Brush-tailed bettongs (2021-23)

Bandicoots / Bilbies (2026-30)

Native rodents (2028-32)

Mesopredators (2030-35)

High order predators (2035+)

Extant species (ongoing monitoring, supplementations as guided by science, and conservation strategies implemented annually)

Biodiversity strategy (in development)

Predator strategy reviewed annually and research programs initiated (i.e. ARC collaboration 2026-32)

Align Marna Banggara goals within Narungga Healthy Country Planning outcomes (2026-2035+)

Celium and Felixer networks expanded 2026-35

Develop and implement advanced geographic and data information management systems

Community driven introduced predator strategies (community group trapping, hooded plover protection, detector dog networks)

Implementing the Strategy

Marna Banggara is primarily funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners Panel. Significant co-investment and contributions from key partners including the Department of Environment and Water, the World Wildlife Fund, Zoos SA, Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation, and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife have enabled the project to achieve landscape scale improvements

Our next generation of landscape management investments will strengthen strategic alliances with existing and new investors across philanthropic, corporate, and international markets. We will enable the adoption of sustainable finance models, including natural capital investments and green and climate bonds, while improving coordination across funding bodies to unlock larger-scale, long-term capital.

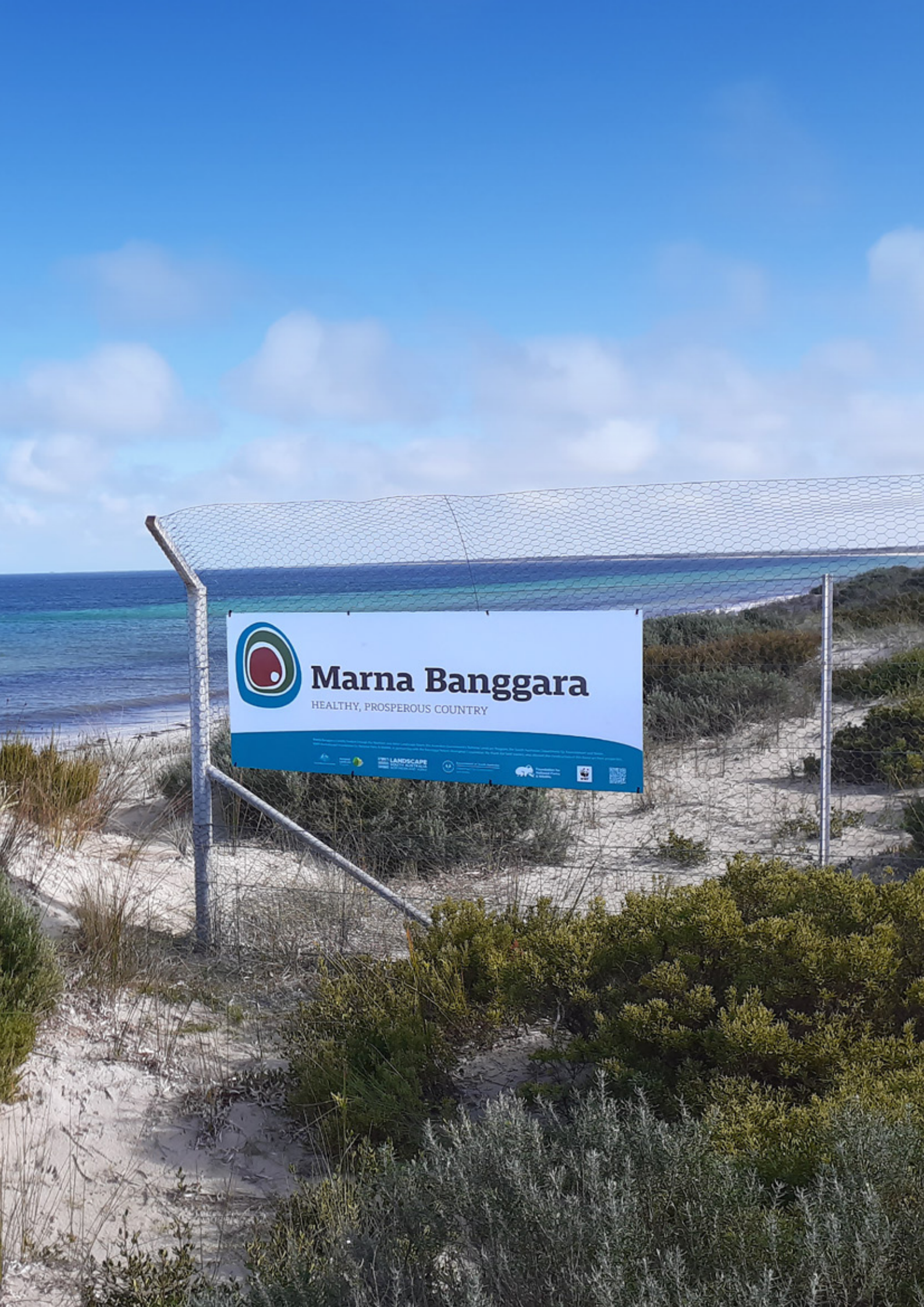
Project success will take many forms including:

- Initial and ongoing reduction in feral cat and fox impacts.
- Improved research into our ecosystems and individual species leading to better conservation and translocation outcomes here, nationally and internationally.
- Improved trajectories for extant and translocated fauna populations.
- Restored and improved soil and ecosystem services.
- Improved community and cultural involvement, engagement and connection through a variety of ground-level initiatives.
- Productive and positive partnerships between Government, non-Government, business and community organisations.
- Economic opportunities through eco-tourism opportunities and uplifts in farm production through environmental enhancement and predator management.
- Increased community awareness and ongoing education and participation.
- More resilient and rewarding natural environment and improved quality of life for residents.
- Rewarding nature-based experiences for visitors to the region.

Looking to the future, Marna Banggara aims to consolidate and expand rewilding efforts, connect and protect habitats, and inspire communities to continue leading the way in landscape-scale restoration.

Together, these efforts will ensure that the SYP becomes a place where wildlife flourishes, ecosystems function naturally, and people feel proud to be part of nature's renewal.

marnabanggara.com.au


Marna Banggara
HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY

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