

Kingoonya District Plan

2024 – 2026



Last edited August 2024

Introduction

This plan provides an overview of the features of the Kingoonya district, the key opportunities and issues relating to landscape management, and priorities for the Kingoonya Landscape Group.

The Kingoonya district lies in the central-west area of South Australia, in the south west of the SA Arid Lands region. The district is generally flat to undulating and has a mixture of sand dune & sand plain country, stony country and salt lake environments. The district population is mainly concentrated in Roxby Downs & Woomera townships. Other population centres are the settlements of Andamooka, Pimba, Glendambo and Kingoonya. The bulk of the population is associated with mining and defence industries while majority of the land managed by the pastoral community. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation is widespread across the district and there are many culturally significant sites particularly around lakes and mound springs.

Linked bioregions: Bioregions are geographic areas defined by the combination of their climate, geology, landform patterns, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The Kingoonya district is primarily comprised of the **Gawler bioregion**, with an area of the Stony Plains bioregion in the central northern part of district, and small parts of Great Victoria Desert bioregion also present. The Gawler bioregion features calcrete plains, gypsum dune-fields and ranges that drain into terminal salt lakes.

Size: 76,394 km² (15% of the SAAL region)

Towns (population): Roxby Downs – 3884 Andamooka (2016 census) – 316 Woomera (2016 census) – 146 (increased since 2001) Kingoonya – ~13 (2016 census) Glendambo – 77 (2006) Tarcoola – 38 (2006 census)

Aboriginal Nations: Arabana (north-east), Kokatha (south-east), Gawler Ranges (south-west) and Antakirinja Matu – Yankunytjatjara (north-west).

Land use: Mining and energy, pastoralism (predominantly sheep), military, tourism, conservation (public and private lands), recreation, service centres, towns

Catchment and key waterways: Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and part Lake Torrens catchment. Minor drainage into Lake Gairdner and other salt lakes to south. Upper portions of Margaret River and Chambers Creek feeding into Lake Eyre (Kati Thanda) South. No significant permanent waterways.

National Parks and Reserves: Part of Lake Gairdner National Park; part of Lake Torrens National Park

Key stakeholders:

- First Nations- Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation, Arabana Aboriginal Corporation, Antakirinja Matu – Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation
- Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)
- Pastoral community & other landholders
- Mines- BHP and Peak Mining
- Defence- Woomera Prohibited Area
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Arid Recovery

- Roxby Downs Council
- Ventia
- Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association
- Community and volunteer groups
- Town dwellers of Roxby Downs, Woomera, Andamooka, Glendambo, Kingoonya, Tarcoola
- Tourism- Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australia Tourism
- Local businesses and support organisations
- Local schools

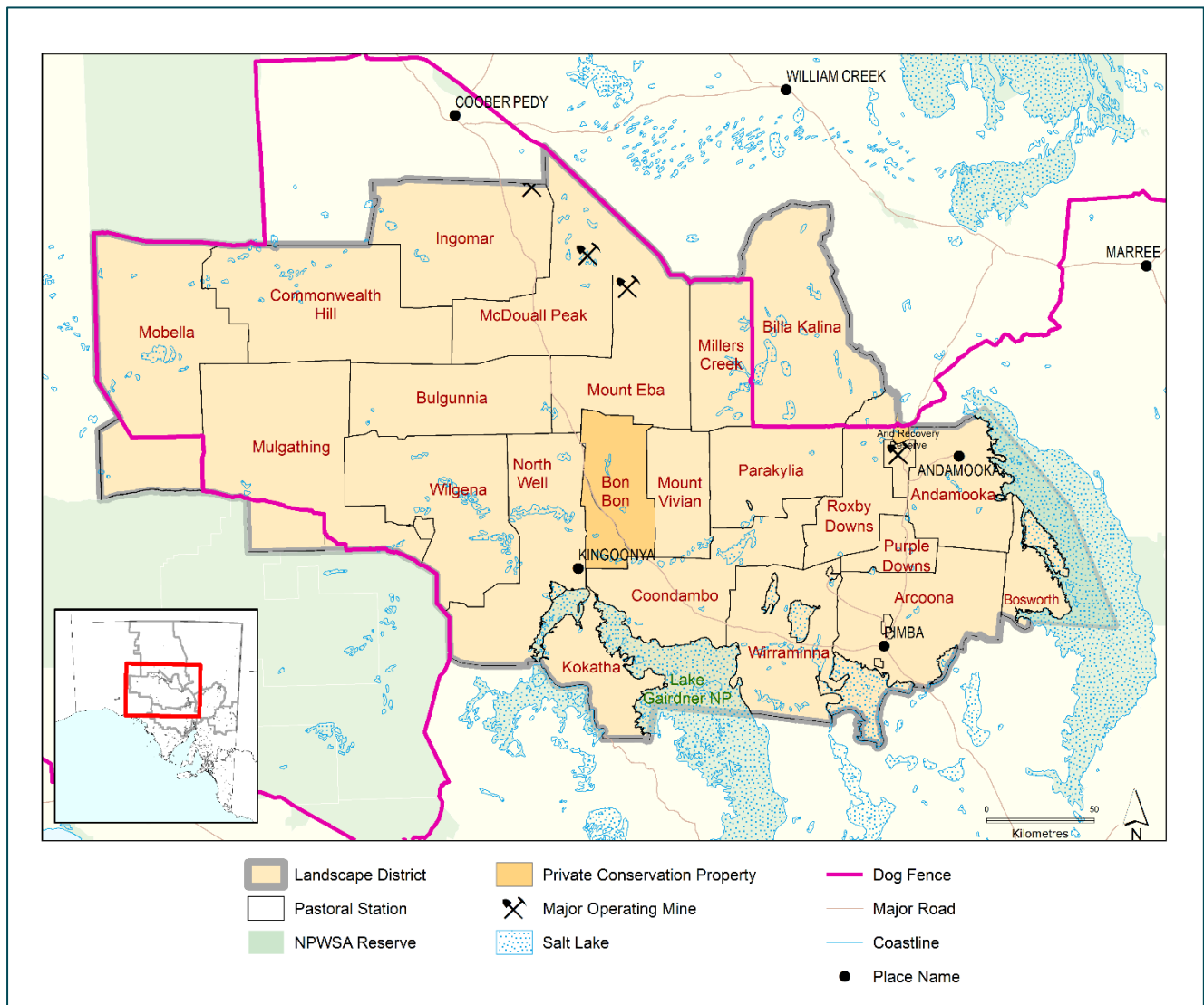


Figure 1: Map of the Kingoonya district

Role of the Board

Under the Landscape South Australia (LSA) Act 2019, the Board's role is to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources. Particular reference is given to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control. The Board operates as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities and works with the community in delivering its responsibilities under the LSA Act. Its roles include education and awareness raising aimed at practice change and adoption, encouraging and supporting legislative compliance, and enforcement when needed.

Role of the Kingoonya Landscape Group

Landscape Groups are an important conduit for community input to landscape planning and design of the Board's programs. Groups work with local communities, to support the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan and increase community awareness of Board programs within a Group's area.

Landscape Planning Framework



How this plan was developed

This plan was developed with involvement of the Kingoonya Landscape Group across a number of planning sessions in late 2021 and last reviewed in late 2023. Information was drawn from past planning documents, current projects and stakeholder knowledge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This district plan will be revised each year with the Kingoonya Landscape Group to evaluate past actions and plan for the next year of activities.

SA Arid Lands regional priorities



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

Resilient landscapes, communities and enterprises are mitigating and adapting to climate change

- C1** Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all Board business
- C2** Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- C3** Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

- W1** Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
- W2** Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems
- W3** Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- L1** Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems
- L2** Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure
- L3** Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

- B1** Managing key threats to protect natural values
- B2** Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery
- B3** Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes.

- P1** First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes
- P2** Supporting Landscape Groups to lead community action and education
- P3** Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature
- P4** Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes

Kingoonya District priorities for landscape management

Priorities*	Landscape impacts	District Ranking^	Alignment to Regional Priorities**
Supporting innovation and diversification of land use in a changing climate	Climate change predictions for the district are for higher temperatures, declining rainfall and more extreme weather events. Support opportunities to adapt to a highly variable climate, diversify livelihoods and offset carbon emissions.	High	
Managing over-abundant kangaroos/ excessive total grazing pressure	Remediation of land, habitat & species, agricultural productivity where over-grazing occurs.	High	
Feral cats	Predation of native fauna by cats leads to biodiversity declines. Feral cats can also spread zoonotic diseases such as Toxoplasmosis, Toxocariasis and Sarcocystosis disease to other fauna.	High	
Buffel grass control	Opportunity to form dense monocultures and outcompete native species. Also considered potentially useful pasture species by some landholders.	High	
Supporting community action and education	Build community capacity and community-led action through training, events, and grants.	High	
Managing visitor impacts, access & mining	Weed spread, erosion, biosecurity issues, mental health impacts of people on the land (road safety impacts). Unauthorised visitors can cause damage to vegetation, tracks or other infrastructure, and upset stock.	Medium	
Excessive water extraction	Draw down leading to vegetation die off, land degradation, habitat & species loss.	Medium	
Sustainable livestock grazing practices	Land rehabilitation, habitat & species regeneration, enhancing agricultural productivity.	Medium	
European Rabbit Management	Rabbits compete with native wildlife and impact vegetation health. Removal of their apex predator such as Feral Cats can see an influx of rabbit numbers if left unmanaged.	Medium	
Change in flow regimes	Land rehabilitation, habitat & species regeneration	Low	
Other weeds and emerging biosecurity issues (pests and disease)	Outcompete native species. May reduce pasture productivity or have adverse impacts on production depending on species. Spread of disease to stock, native animals and humans.	Low	

Foxes	Predation of native fauna by foxes leads to biodiversity declines. Can also affect production due to attacks on lambs.	Low	
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[^]Priority ranking considers the **magnitude** of the threat or opportunity (how **severe/influential** and how **widespread/relevant**) it is, as well as the **reversibility** of its impacts.

^{**} Some district priorities may not be regional priorities for the Board.

Kingoonya - Current and upcoming programs

District priority	District Ranking	Current and upcoming programs	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
 Climate Resilient Region					
Supporting innovation and diversification of land use in a changing climate	High	<i>Building Pastoral Sustainability project</i>	Complete /2018-2023	SAAL LB	C2
		<i>Soils project</i>	2024		
		<i>Weather station network (on-going)</i>	Current /on-going	SAAL LB	C2
		Projects involving drought resilience	Current /on-going	SA Drought Hub	C2/C3
		<i>Carbon Farming workshops</i>	Potential	SAAL LB, MLA	C2, C3
 Water Management					
Excessive water extraction	Medium	<i>Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan</i>	Current /on-going	SAAL LB	W1
Change in flow regimes		<i>Application of Water Affecting Activities Control Policy (on-going)</i>	Current /on-going	SAAL LB	W3
 Sustainable Land Management					
Over-abundant kangaroos/ excessive total grazing pressure	High	<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership</i> <i>Kangaroo management survey</i>	Ongoing /2021-present <i>Reapplied for and were successful LPF</i>	SAAL LB Bush Heritage & RMIT	L2
Sustainable livestock grazing practices	Medium	<i>Building Pastoral Sustainability project</i>	Complete /2018-2023	SAAL LB	L3,C2
		<i>From the Ground Up</i>	Complete /2024	SSAL LB	L3, L2, C2
Managing visitor impacts, access & mining	Medium	<i>Road and track restoration (targeted projects)</i>	Current / on-going	APOMA, Kokatha AC,	B1, P3

District priority	District Ranking	Current and upcoming programs	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
				Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Assoc.	
Other weeds and emerging biosecurity issues (pests and disease) e.g. flies and mosquitoes	Low	Cochineal biological cactus control program	Current / on-going	SAAL LB	L1
		Landholder education on cactus control	Current / on-going	SAAL LB	L3
Wild dog control	N/A	Biteback wild dog control program	Current /on-going	SAAL LB/ PIRSA	L1
		Dog fence rebuild	Current /2021 -2024	PIRSA	L1
 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity					
	N/A	Private conservation - Native habitat and fauna recovery programs	Current / on-going	Arid Recovery, Bush Heritage	B2
Feral cats	High	Landholder education on cat control options FeralScan	Current / on-going	Roxby Council Arid Recovery	B1,P4
		Cat control program (around townships)	Potential	SAAL LB, OCA	B2
Buffel grass control	High	Roadside weed control	Current / on-going	SAAL LB	B1
		Coordinated Buffel Grass Management		Bush Heritage SAAL LB, AW LB, EP LB, N&Y LB	L1, B1
Foxes	Low	1080 baiting on Parks and bait injection services, aerial baiting FeralScan	Current / on-going	SAAL, DEW, Arid Recovery Landholders	B1
Rabbits	Low	FeralScan – Rabbit Scan	Current / on-going	SAAL, PIRSA, Landholders	
 People and partnerships					
Supporting community action and education	Medium	Grassroots Grants for local projects	Current /on-going (annual)	SAAL LB	P4
		Family day	Upcoming	SAAL LB, FRRR	P1, P3, P4

District priority	District Ranking	Current and upcoming programs	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
		<i>Women's retreat</i>	Upcoming	SAAL LB	P4
		Education Programs; School of the air	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	P4
		Workshops and training opportunities	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	P4
		Grassroots Grants for local projects	Current /Ongoing (offered annually)	SAAL LB	P4

Kingoonya Landscape Group Actions

District priority	Opportunity	Action	When	Collaborate	Status
Climate Resilient Region					
Supporting innovation and diversification of land use in a changing climate	<i>Build community knowledge and capacity</i>	1. Share information about carbon markets and nature repair markets when available. 2. Share information about drought preparedness. 3. Share and promote education material about changing climate.	1. Hold a workshop 2. Anytime 3. Anytime	SAAL LB, SAAL Carbon Outreach Officer, Drought Hub, Landholders,	Ongoing
Water Management					
Managing water in the landscape: changing flow regimes, excessive water extractions	<i>Building capacity and connecting community to knowledge</i>	1. Host a workshop. 2. Share any information/webinars with district.	1. Early 2025 2. Ongoing	SAAL LB, Sustainable Ag team	Ongoing
Sustainable Land Management					
Over-abundant kangaroos/ excessive total grazing pressure	<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership</i>	1. Support/promote kangaroo management activities/trials	Anytime	SAAL LB Bush Heritage Landholders	Ongoing
Livestock grazing practices	<i>Building capacity and connecting community to knowledge</i>	1. Share information/webinars to community. 2. Identify potential demonstration sites for "stickybeak" day.	Early 2025	SAAL LB, SAAL Sustainable Agriculture team	Ongoing
Livestock grazing practices	<i>Awareness building about the importance of soil health and the positive effect it has on vegetation</i>	1. Promote soil health webinars. 2. Look at a soil specific workshop.	Ongoing	SAAL LB, SAAL Sustainable Agriculture team	Ongoing

District priority	Opportunity	Action	When	Collaborate	Status
Other weeds and emerging biosecurity issues (pests and disease)	<i>Helping to reduce the spread of detrimental plants, pest and disease</i>	1. Promotion/ awareness raising	Anytime	PIRSA, Roxby Council, SAAL Biosecurity Officer	Ongoing
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity					
Feral cats	<i>Share current information</i>	1. Share information on feral cats and control options for landholders and community. 2. Cat Management Working group – facilitated by Roxby Council.	Ongoing	Thylation SAAL Arid Recovery OCA Roxby Council BHP Bush Heritage	Ongoing
Buffel grass	<i>Share current information</i>	1. Promotion/ awareness raising through community education. 2. Buffel Busting BBQ – workshop. 3. Reporting weeds through promotion of Weed Scan.	1. Anytime 2. Hold a workshop 3. Anytime	Roxby Council Arid Recovery SAAL LB Bush Heritage AW LB	Ongoing
Foxes	<i>Share current information</i>	1. Promotion/ awareness raising/ 2. share any relevant information/webinar with Kingoonya district	Ongoing	Roxby Council SAAL LB Arid Recovery Bush Heritage Landholders	Ongoing
People and partnerships					
Supporting community action and education	<i>Education on building capacity for continued rangeland regeneration</i>	1. Sharing ecological literacy resources. 2. Linking community to relevant board staff for technical advice.	Ongoing	SAAL LB and Sustainable Ag Facilitator	Education resource in development
Inappropriate visitor access	<i>Educational campaign to raise visitors' awareness of appropriate practices</i>	1. Identify key issues and locations in the district.	Anytime	SAAL LB FROSAT SATC OCA	Ongoing

District priority	Opportunity	Action	When	Collaborate	Status
		2. <i>Support roll out of educational campaigns – (e.g. Outback travel code)</i> 3. <i>Promote district's features and appropriate travel practices at (e.g.) tourism events</i>			

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For more information, contact:

T: 0408 807 498

E: victoria.love@sa.gov.au

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board



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